DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

The Indian EXPRESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020, KOLKATA, LATE CITY, 12 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE **SINCE 1932**

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CASES:

KEYSTATES

Gujarat

Delhi

Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu

West Bengal

CONCERN

TAMIL NADU:

It has the fastest

doubling time

among states with

high caseloads

Rajasthan

TOWATCH

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

TOTAL

CASES

23,401

8,542

7,639

8,002

3,883

2,063

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

RECOVERED: 22.454 | DEATHS: 2.293 TESTS: 17,59,579 | DOUBLING RATE: 11.78**

SURGEIN

24HRS

1.230

348

406

798

174

124

CAUTION

DELHI: Reported

13 deaths on

Monday, instead

of the usual two

or three.

Amid tension on

Ladakh LAC, IAF

sent Su-30s, Army

Based on daily data released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments

7-DAY AVG.

GROWTH*

7.03%

5.68%

6.56%

12.31%

3.76%

7.31%

Calculated over 7-day growt

A GLIMMER

KARNATAKA:

Recording 30-40

cases daily, and has

one of the slowest

growth rates

DOUBLING

RATE**

10.24

12.69

10.98

5.85

19.13

9.85

LET'S BE VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL: SELF-RELIANCE KEY, SAYS PM

CONTOURS OF LOCKDOWN 4.0 WILL COME BEFORE MAY 18

LAND, LABOUR, LIQUIDITY, LAWS **FOCUS OF ECONOMIC PACKAGE**

Dosage: ₹20 lakh crore

In address to nation, PM stresses on five pillars: big leap in economy, infra, demography, tech, supply-demand

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, MAY 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced that India's combined economic package would be worth Rs 20 lakh crore or 10 per cent of GDP, which would make India self-reliant and position it for the post Covid-19 world.

With the third phase of lockdown ending on May 17, the Prime Minister said the fourth stage will be new in form - and the details, which will be drawn up on the basis of suggestions from the state chief ministers, would be announced by May 18.

The details of the Rs 20 lakh crore package, which would help every section including workers, farmers, middle class and industrial units, would be announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the coming days, the Prime Minister said.

"I announce a special economic package today. This will play an important role in the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-reliant India Campaign). The announcements made by the government over Covid earlier, decisions of RBI, and today's package totals to Rs 20 lakh crore. This is 10 per cent of India's GDP," Modi said.

The Prime Minister emphasised on India becoming self-reliant, a point he has been stressing in almost all speeches he has made since the crisis began.

According to him, self-reliance would be based on five pillars – an economy that takes quantum jumps, not incremental gains; modern infrastructure; a technology-driven system; vibrant demography; and a de-

mand and supply chain. tance of local manufacturing and local supply chain, which met our demands and saved us during this crisis. Brands that are global were once local, but it became branded when people CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Passengers queue up at Howrah station as the first train leaves for New Delhi after nearly two months, on Tuesday. Over 1,000 passengers boarded the train after undergoing thermal screening. Express REPORT, PAGE 4

On the table: Safety net for the poor, MSMEs, tax breaks, land assets

SUNNY VERMA, AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SANDEEP SINGH

among the worst impacted sec-NEW DELHI, MAY 12 tors; a push to the process of monetisation of surplus land assets held by Ministries and PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of a Rs 20 lakh Central PSUs; a state-led easing of labour regulations and addicrore package to help cushion tional tax breaks for companies the Covid economic impact and set the stage for "self-reliance", investing above a certain thresh-

The math: It's 10% of BUSINESS AS USUAL GDP but about half is **By UNNY** already factored in **PVAIDYANATHANIYER** NEW DELHI, MAY 12

> THE Rs 20-lakh crore package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi sounds big but will burn only a small hole in

the governfiment's large nances A

First day at New Delhi station: Long queues and Aarogya Setu

SHIVAM PATEL & SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, MAY 12

MORE THAN 4,000 passengers boarded the first three special 'Rajdhani trains' from New Delhi on Tuesday as the Railways resumed services, which had been suspended for over a month under the coronavirus lockdown.

The New Delhi-Bilaspur train which left at 4 pm with over 1,000 people on board was the first passenger service of the Railways to start. The other two were to Dibrugarh in Assam and Bengaluru in Karnataka.

Outside the New Delhi Railway station on Tuesday, there was a steady flow of passengers – students, migrants and professionals from within and outside Delhi - eager to return to their families.

"We are doing thermal screening of passengers as they come into the station and only asymptomatic persons are being CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

fighters took to the air, tensions remain high in the region. Troops on either side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have been on high alert though there has been "disengagement" after the incident on May 5-6 night near an area known as Finger 5 STIMULUS AS % OF GDP on the northern bank of JAPAN 21.1 Pangong Tso. 13.0

12.0

10.7

10.0

9.3

7.3

The area under Indian control is manned by an infantry battalion but additional troops remain on alert for any contingency. The Chinese, sources said, too augmented their strength in the area once tensions rose late April.

SUSHANT SINGH &

MAY 12

NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA

A WEEK after Indian and Chinese

troops came to blows in a dis-

puted area near Pangong Tso, a

lake in eastern Ladakh, and IAF

The Indian Army on its pa

says no build-up The LAC cuts through Pangong Tso, with the 45-km long western portion of the lake under Indian control and the rest under Chinese control. It lies in the path of the Chushul approach - in Indian assessment, it is one of the main approaches China may likely use during any offensive.

The mountains on the lake's northern bank jut forward in major spurs, which the Army calls "fingers". India claims that the LAC is co-terminus with Finger 8, but it physically controls area only up to Finger 4.

Chinese border posts are at Finger 8, while Indian border posts are located close to Finger 3. The Chinese claim that the LAC passes through Finger 2. The area between the two differing perceptions is the disputed territory which both armies try to dominate through regular patrolling. Sources said that "no Chinese soldier is on Indian territory in the area as per our percept

ate ofter state XPLAINED

'NOT SURF IF WF'LI REACH HOME OR DIE ON WAY' **OPPOSITION PARTIES REACT TO PACKAGE** PAGES 5,8

Centre plans to take states' views in categorising zones

ABANTIKA GHOSH NEW DELHI, MAY 12

AFTER SEVERAL chief ministers demanded more authority in classifying zones in their jurisdiction during the video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, the Centre now plans to involve states and seek their views in drawing up the list of green, orange and red zones.

'We have asked states to share their inputs and views with us. These will be factored in the next list," a senior govern-

ment functionary who was present in the Monday meeting told The Indian Express. Some states are still pushing for full freedom in zoning districts in their jurisdiction, with the Centre only deciding the broad principles.

On Monday, while the PM-CMs meeting was still on, a fresh list was circulated, only to be recalled within minutes, said sources

Many states are also in favour of designating smaller areas rather than entire districts - as red or orange zones. A similar suggestion was also received CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

old in technology-intens could pivot around measures that the government is set to untors like pharma, medical deveil in a staggered manner startvices and telecom equipment. ing Wednesday.

Over the next few days, "Land, labour, liquidity and Finance Minister Nirmala laws" – that was how the PM Sitharaman will provide details defined the key themes of the of the package that is likely to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** package. This is likely to trans-

PAGE 6

WORLD

late into: steps to bolster liquid-

ity for the Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs),

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LET STATES LEAD

PANDEMIC FIGHT BY MILIND SOHONI

FACE OF VICTORY

AGAINST RUSHING

TO REOPEN THE U.S.

EXPERTS WARN

PAGE 10

part of it, or as much as Rs 8.04 lakh crore, is additional liq-

uidity injected into the system by the Reserve Bank of India through various measures in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LG gas leak: FIR blames 'some smoke

CHINA SOUTH KOREA Source: Ceyhun Elgin,

US

SWEDEN

INDIA

SPAIN

ITALY

UK

FRANCE

GERMANY

has clarified that there is no 5.0 build-up of troops in the area. 3.8 Army PRO Colonel Aman Anand 2.2 said Tuesday: "There is no continuing faceoff at Pangong Tso. Columbia University There is no build-up of armed troops in the area.'

the LAC".

In a statement, the Army said "incidents of faceoff and aggressive behaviour occur on LAC. Patrols disengage after locallevel interaction and dialogue. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Vivek Kumar had written to the Centre

with bad smell,' names no company staff remaining people were admitted in hospitals as in-patients."

Incidentally, the death toll mentioned here is five when 10 had already been confirmed dead by the time the FIR was filed.

The FIR does not mention Styrene despite the fact that police officials had confirmed the presence of this gas by then. The FIR also does not name anyone from the company.

The FIR was registered under Sections 278 (Making atmosphere noxious to health); 284 (Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance), 285 (any act with combustible matter to endanger life), 337 (Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Bengal health secy moved out after he differed with state govt's Covid data

ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, MAY 12

AMID A row between the Centre and the West Bengal government over coronavirus-related data from the state, the state Health Secretary has been replaced, officials said on Tuesday.

Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Vivek Kumar has been made the Environment Secretary, according to a notification dated May 11.

Narayan Swarup Nigam, a 1998-batch IAS officer who held charge of the Transport Department, will replace Kumar.

Nigam will be replaced by Prabhat Misra, while Kumar will assume Misra's erstwhile position, it was informed.

While the reason for Kumar's sudden transfer is not clear, a source in the state Secretariat said it may have been the upshot of the 1990-batch IAS officer having found himself embroiled in a controversy over Covid-19 data in the state.

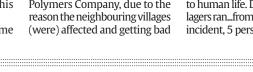
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Gas leaked before dawn on May 7. Reuters File

smoke came out from the LG Polymers Company, due to the reason the neighbouring villages (were) affected and getting bad

smell and the smell is endanger to human life. Due to fear, all villagers ran...from the houses. In the incident, 5 persons died and the



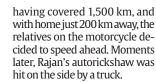
PAGE 1 'Made it so far... now I'm going back with bodies of wife, kid' ANCHOR

On way home from Mumbai, UP migrant's autorickshaw is hit by truck

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, MAY 12

THE FAMILY had been on the road for three days – Rajan Yadav, 35, driving the autorickshaw he had bought only six months ago, with his wife, two children and a nephew. Two relatives were trailing them on a motorcycle.

Around 7 am on Tuesday,



Rajan's wife Sanju, 33, and daughter Nandini, 6 – who were sitting on that side of the vehicle - were killed. Rajan survived with minor injuries, as did his son Nikhil (9) and nephew Akash (16).

Auto rickshaw was hit by a truck in Fatehpur district. Express





when they saw a truck go past. "We had come together all the way, but nearing home, we thought we would speed a bit," Bhole Shankar said. The accident happened in the

brushing their teeth by the road

Khaga police station area of Fatehpur district. Inspector Satyendra Singh said that when the truck hit. "The woman and daughter fell out of the autorickshaw and came under the truck's



Sanju's brother Bhole Shankar, 45, and Rajan's nephew Rajan said Sanju had been dozing with Nandini on her lap Mukesh Yaday, 19, who were on when the truck hit. Speaking to the motorcycle, said they were

bulance carrying their bodies

home to Mokalpur village in

Jaunpur, he said, "We were all

exhausted after travelling for

autorickshaw in Mumbai for 13

years that Rajan had saved

enough to buy one last year.

However, the lockdown broke

his back. "I have not earned any-

thing in the past month-and-a-

It was after driving a rented

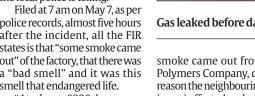
three days

half. We borrowed what we could, but now everyone is struggling. We left after taking Rs 3,000 from neighbours and The Indian Express from the amfriends

Rajan added that they were tired of waiting for a train. "Around 10 days ago, we had our medical examination done and got a certificate from the local administration, but there was no news of any train. We asked everyone.'

With little hope of "autorickshaws being allowed to run in Mumbai in the near future", they **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**





"At about 0330 hrs some

Visakhapatnam before dawn on May 7. The Andhra Pradesh government set up a high-level probe committee. But the FIR on the gas leak registered at the Gopalapatnam police station by **CLUSTERS ACROSS** the local police is telling. **ASIA SHOW FLEETING**

SREENIVAS JANYALA

ELEVEN PERSONS were killed

when Styrene gas leaked from

the LG Polymers factory at

HYDERABAD, MAY 12

police records, almost five hours after the incident, all the FIR states is that "some smoke came out" of the factory, that there was a "bad smell" and it was this smell that endangered life.

2 THE SECOND PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM DOWNLOAD APP 🛓 EXPRESS Q AUDIO VISUAL STORIES DAILY BRIEFING #The hulter COPIESS 8 BLACK DEATH: HOW JEWS WERE BLAMED FOR THE PLAGUE AND MASSACRED PODCASTS WEB How India's getting its What sparked the furore was a rumour, that somehow spread through the continent, of Jews poisoning the CUSTOMIZABLE **NEWS EXPERIENCE** wells of Christians, leading to their widespread suffering and loss of lives. trains back on track Indian Express ******** 4.6 **NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** Today's top news **VIDEO OF THE DAY** CORONAVIRUS In today's episode of 3 Things we look at **TEMPORARY JOB. MP TEENS DIG WELL TO** the Indian Railways getting back on track **FIGHT WATER CRISIS PERMANENT HERO** after the lockdown and its fallout in states **Bored during the** How a safai karamchari like Bihar, that is seeing an influx of people Virat Kahli reclaims top position in ICC Test Baiting Bankings SCAN THIS QR CODE TO lockdown they decided saved the day at an DOWNLOAD THE APP to help their village **Assam hospital**

FROM PAGE ONE

Long queues

allowed inside. Only those who have a confirmed ticket would be allowed into the station. The Aarogya Setu application is mandatory for passengers and we are asking those who do not have it on their phones to download it," said a Northern Railway spokesperson.

The special trains have only air conditioned First AC and AC2- and 3-Tier coaches. Tickets were only booked online through the IRCTC portal. Passengers were asked to bring their own food and blankets.

Ladakh LAC

Temporary and short duration faceoffs occur as the boundary is not resolved. Troops resolve such incidents mutually as per established protocols".

The situation on the ground in the Pangong Tso area, sources said, had been brewing for over two months when the PLA started objecting to movement of Indian patrols up to Finger 8.

PLA troops even tried to physically stop Indian patrols beyond Finger 2. For the Indian side, Finger 1 acts as a bottleneck and they pa-

trol on foot beyond that point. The Chinese usually patrol on a motorable road in two-three light vehicles. This 5-km road inside Indian territory along the lake's bank was built by China during the Kargil War in 1999, when India was fighting Pakistani intruders in the Kargil-Dras-Batalik

region After the Chinese attempted to restrain Indian patrols, the Indians responded by asserting their claim with PLA patrols which led to tensions between the two side.

Around six years ago, the Chinese had similarly tried to undertake construction at Finger 4 which was stopped by the Indians. pandemic, also alleged that the government is fudging data. Kumar is the third senior IAS

officer to be transferred in recent weeks. Earlier, Manoj Agarwal, who was Principal Secretary, Food and Supplies; and Subrata Gupta, Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, were transferred to Fire and Emergency Services and Food Processing and Horticulture de-

partments, respectively. District magistrates of Darjeeling and Paschim Burdwan

were also transferred in the same three-week period. As news of Kumar's transfer

emerged, the BJP on Tuesday criticised the state government and alleged that Kumar had been made a scapegoat BJP national general secretary

and West Bengal unit in-charge Kailash Vijayvargiya tweeted (translated from Hindi) on Tuesday: "This is called passing the blame to someone else. Why was Kumar removed when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is also the (state) health minister? She should have admitted her own mistakes. Owning up mistakes does not belittle anyone.'

Anirban Ganguly, member of BJP's central policy research wing, tweeted: "Having abdicated her responsibilities as Health Minister @MamataOfficial makes her Health Secretary Vivek Kumar the scapegoat.'

Arjun Singh, BJP's Lok Sabha MP from Barrackpore, posted on social media, "Didi continues to give competition to Tughlaq and beat him hands down...Vivek Kumar transferred as he failed in covering up the lies of WBgov, as was ordered by his boss @MamataOfficial.

TMC spokesperson and Lok Sabha member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a doctor by profession, rubbished the BJP's allegations and said: "It must have been a routine transfer because there is no question of deficiency, negligence, and poor performance on the part of the Health Department. Our Health Department is doing better than many other states on multiple parameters." A senior official of the state government said on the condition of anonymity, "There was speculation (in state bureaucracy) that Kumar would be in trouble because he had opposed Chief Secretary Raiiva Sinha and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on constituting a death audit committee. He also expressed his displeasure at the Health Department's functioning, and on the process of sending data to the Centre." The official said that Kumar had "expressed his displeasure and volunteered for a transfer" three weeks ago. While senior bureaucrats in the state, including the Chief Secretary, declined to comment on the development, multiple officers in the state Secretariat maintained that Kumar was transferred since the state government was unhappy with his performance. After Kumar's April 30 communique to the Centre, the state Information and Culture Department had stated in a message. "The enclosure to the letter written by the State Health Secretary to the Union Health Secretary mentions some numbers of cases that need correction." No subsequent information, however. was issued. A source in the Secretariat said Kumar was the "main author" of the new and elaborate health bulletin, which was "appreciated by Central officers but top officers of the state government were not happy with it".

Pandemic dosage: ₹ 20 lakh crore

used it and promoted it. We should now be using local and we should be vocal about local,"

Modi said. The Prime Minister's fifth address to the nation came a day after his marathon video conference with chief ministers, which could not reach a consensus over a complete lifting of the lockdown on May 17. Modi said the economic

package would focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws, and it will cater to various sections including cottage industries, MSMEs, labourers, the middle class, industries, among others. "One virus has destroyed the

world. This is an unprecedented crisis. But we cannot get exhausted, give up or break. We have to protect ourselves and

February, March and April.

Add to this the Rs 1.7 lakh

crore fiscal package announced

by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on March 27. The

balance of the economic pack-

age, details of which are not yet

known, then stands at Rs 10.26

lakh crore. It is expected that the

Finance Minister will announce

the details at the earliest since

this has a bearing on the bond

cussions within the govern-

ment said the fiscal outgo may

not be more than Rs 4.2 lakh

crore during the year, taking

cues from the revised borrow-

ing calendar announced just

three days back. "On May 9, the

Sources familiar with dis-

markets.

move ahead as well. Our resolve should be bigger than the crisis," Modi said.

Several bold reforms would have to be undertaken to make the country self-reliant so that the impact of the global pandemic could be negated, he said. Self-reliance will prepare India for tough competition in the global supply chain. "This has been kept in mind while preparing the package. It will not only increase efficiency in various sectors but also quality," he said. This echoes what the PM has

been emphasising in his various previous addresses - to his council of ministers, panchayat sarpanches, etc., in the last few weeks. He has repeatedly said that the pandemic has taught a very good lesson with a strong

message, i.e., we have to be selfreliant and self-sufficient.

Modi pointed out that India has converted the crisis into an opportunity. "Not a single PPE kit was being made in India before the crisis. Now we are manufacturing two lakh PPEs and N95 masks each daily.'

Asserting that India has the resources and talents, Modi recollected the Gujarat earthquake damage. "During Kutch earthquake, there was rubble wherever vou looked. Nobody could contemplate back then that things would improve, but Kutch revived. If we take a pledge, no target is impossible, no route is too tough, and today, we have the will." he said However, India's self-re-

liance is different from others,

he said. "When India speaks of self-reliance, it does not advocate for a self-centered system. In India's self-reliance, there is a concern for the whole world's happiness, cooperation and

> peace.' The PM reminded citizens that one has to live with corona for some time "But it is important to ensure that our life does not revolve only around it." He said people must follow social distancing protocols strictly. "Our fourth stage of lockdown is going to be different. Its contours will be completely different from those seen yet. On the basis of recommendations received from the states, new rules will be framed and the information about it will be communicated before May 18," he said.

government in showing a big

Further, the government can also recapitalise banks, helping their capital adequacy. "Again, we just have to account for the interest to be paid on the recapitalisation bonds, which also does not amount to any substantial outgo," said a government official. who did not wish to be quoted.

The government, officials

cremation will be held on Wednesday.

The autorickshaw, its roof ripped off. bloodstains on the side. stands at the Khaga police station. Rajan said he would return to pick it up. "I don't know if I will take it back to Mumbai. Maybe I will just stay here."

Safety net

manufacturing, help improve India's competitiveness in a global economy, and provide relief to the distressed poor, labourers and hapless migrants.

had, on April 24, indicated the possibility of setting up a Rs 1 lakh crore revolving fund for MSMEs. The government's plan is expected to ensure higher working capital limits, clearance of pending dues and credit guarantee against loan losses to MSMEs so

Speaking to The Indian Express, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said: "You will see a spate a reforms now, as you have seen in case of labour reforms in the states.(The PM) is bent upon turning this crisis into an opportunity, and I think this is what will happen."

Asked if the government has the fiscal space for such a package, Kumar said: "Even the sternest of fiscal hawks have stopped asking that question...If you get the GDP to grow, the fiscal space gets created. On the other hand, if GDP stops growing, then same fiscal expenditure becomes much bigger (as a percentage of GDP), the ratio(fiscal deficit) becomes much bigger.

The Centre is also likely to push the privatisation of some stateowned enterprises, a senior government official said.

nine states have already tweaked

Targeted Long Term Repo Operations 2.0: Rs 50,000 crore (0.25% of GDP) Refinancing of Sidbi, Nabard and NHB: Rs 50,000 crore (0.25% of GDP) APRIL 27

Special liquidity facility for mutual funds: Rs 50,000 crore (0.25% of GDP)

FISCAL STIMULUS MARCH 27

Rs 1.7 lakh crore fiscal package announced by Finance Minister Nirma

economic package, the actual cost to the exchequer will probably be a couple of thousand crores of rupees.

explained, cannot really afford a huge stimulus. "It is intended to provide relief and get the patient out of the ICU... There is no fiscal space to increase expenditure substantially," the official said. Even in the first fiscal pack-

age of March 27, money transfers

immediately effected would add

include measures to boost local MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari

adversity. Zones from experts, including from the World Health Organisation, sources said. Meanwhile the total number that banks lend to them.

of cases of Novel Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) went up by 3,604 to 70,746, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The total number of deaths, including the 87 over the last 24 hours, now stands at 2,206. A total of 22,454 people have recovered.

financial institutions. On April 27, it opened a special liquidity facility

for mutual funds amounting to Rs

50,000 crore after Franklin

Templeton announced the wind-

ing up of six credit risk schemes

leading to redemption pressure in

debt funds. The central bank, along

with the government, is expected

to continue the momentum in im-

proving liquidity in the economy.

India's package is now in line with

the stimulus given by many other

G-20 countries including the US.

This is also higher than the Rs 5-

10 lakh-crore package being de-

manded by various industry asso-

ciations to fight the Covid

At 10 per cent of the GDP,

In the meeting on Monday, Punjab Chief minister Amarinder Singh was the first to forcefully raise this issue. As the principal authority responsible for containment operations on the field, states were best placed to decide the treatment each district required and the extent of relaxations that could be allowed, he said. Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa (BJP), Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (AAP) and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot (Congress) too proposed substantially different zoning procedures, compared with

On the labour reforms front, what exists today.

When the existing list was first

MONETARY STIMULUS FEBRUARY 6 Liquidity injection through RBI measures: Rs 2.8 lakh crore (1.4% of GDP)

MARCH 27

Liquidity injection through **RBI** announcements: Rs 3.74 lakh crore (1.8% of GDP) Targeted Long Term Repo **Operations or TLTRO:** Rs 1,00,000 crore CRR cut by 100 bp to 3% of net demand and time

The Math: 10% of GDP but half already factored in THE MATH OF RS 20 LAKH CRORE PACKAGE

APRIL 17

The Chinese eventually vacated the area but on August 15, 2017. this area witnessed fisticuffs and stone-throwing between Indian and Chinese patrols — at that time, the two armies were locked in a tense faceoff in Doklam. On the night of May 5-6. as re-

ported by The Indian Express there was a physical fight between the soldiers of the two armies. At least two senior officers of the Indian Army were among the dozens injured in assaults by Chinese troops using bats, batons with nails, and metal rods. Indian soldiers retaliated, leaving many Chinese soldiers injured.

Before this incident, an Indian Army helicopter carrying a senior officer came in close vicinity of two Chinese military helicopters in the area. Sources said the Chinese helicopters came dangerously close to the Indian helicopter and the Chinese personnel on board made aggressive gestures.

After the incident, two Su-30MKI of the IAF from the Lehairbase were also airborne in the area. IAF sources maintained there was no airspace violation by either side, and it undertook routine training flying in the area on May 5. Under the existing arrangement between India and China, no fighter aircraft can come within 10 km of the LAC without prior intimation to either side. For helicopters, the distance to be maintained from the LAC is 1 km.

Bengal official

The ruling TMC called it a "routine transfer"

The development comes days after Kumar had written to the Union Health Secretary on April 30 and given the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the state at 931, even as his own department had put the number at 744 in the same day's health bulletin. After the letter became public,

BJP, principal opposition in the state, accused the Mamata Banerjee government of fudging coronavirus-related data. Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, engaged in a running feud with the state government since before the

Following this incident, Kumar was said to have been shunted out of the core group of officers of the Chief Minister.

Earlier, among senior IAS officers transferred was Subrata Gupta, then the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs. Gupta had recommended a group of officials

government revised its estimated market borrowings to Rs 12 lakh crore from Rs 7.8 lakh crore as announced in Budget 2020-21... In a way, this puts a ceiling to the size of the fiscal package at 2.1 per cent of the GDP (Rs 4.2 lakh crore)," the

source said. The RBI statement on the borrowing calendar said the revision had been necessitated on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In other words, the cash handout the government could afford – given this ceiling – to extend to the poor, vulnerable and migrant workers, may be limited to Rs 4.2 lakh crore. But if this is innovatively leveraged. the multiplier impact on the economy could be significant, particularly when the Indian economy would have lost almost 47 days of output in the

as administrators at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) after the five-year tenure of the elected mayor-in-council (MIC) ended. Outgoing Mayor Firhad Hakim subsequently took over as KMC administrator and MICs became committee members.

Gupta had sought the change to be brought in as an ordinance but the state government had quashed that proposal. He was subsequently sent to the Food Processing and Horticulture

Department. Food Secretary Manoj Agarwal. a 1990-batch IAS officer. was sent on compulsory waiting on April 17. On May 6, he was posted Principal Secretary, Fire and Emergency Services. Chief Minister Banerjee was ostensibly not happy with his handling of public distribution system in the state.

Parvej Ahmed Siddique replaced Agarwal as Food Secretary.

Vizag gas leak

(Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 304-II (Knowledge that the act had likelihood of causing death) of IPC.

Accommodation under marginal standing facility hiked from 2% of Statutory Liquidity Ratio to 3%: Rs 1.37.000 crore

full year. Most global financial services research houses have estimated the Indian economy to contract by 0.4 per cent in 2020-21.

Sources said that money which remains after making cash transfers to the most needy was likely to be used in a way that it vields maximum gains. "For instance, if the government accepts the first 10 per cent loss in case of default by companies in specific sectors, it will incentivise banks that much more to lend. The big problem today is risk aversion of banks to extend credit," said another source. This

When contacted, Joint Chief Inspector of Factories, Visakhapatnam, J Siva Shankar Reddy, told The Indian Express that the "responsibility of reopening the factory safely" after the lockdown was that of General Manager and Director of Operations, LG Polymers, P P Chandra Mohan Rao.

"But he was not present in the factory on the intervening night of May 6-7 when it was decided to restart operations," he said.

Despite several calls, Rao was unavailable for comment.

"None of the senior managers was present. There were 24 people in the factory at that time, half of whom were workers on contract. There were a few engineers under whose supervision they were working. They did not have the experience to handle the situation," Reddy said.

Asked why no one was named in the FIR, Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Meena said: "Even if the FIR does not name anyone, the investigation will find out the role of each person responsible in running the factory. The high-powered committee and the experts commit-

Sitharaman (0.85% of GDP) TOTAL: 4.8% of GDP or Rs 9.74 lakh crore BALANCE: 5.2% of GDP or Rs 10.26 lakh crore

may not involve making a big allocation in the Budget but will go a long way in providing credit to companies worst affected by the pandemic.

Similarly, the MSME package devised by MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, for instance, involves the government to insure a revolving fund of Rs 1 lakh crore put together by banks and financial institutions. "The government just provides guarantee to the fund... its a kind of insurance, which does not entail huge outgo from the Budget," said the source. While the Rs 1 lakh crore helps the

> City Police Commissioner R K Meena as members and AP Pollution Control Board membersecretary Vivek Yadav as member-

> > The committee members are taking the help of the directors of Indian Institute of Petroleum at Dehradun and Visakhapatnam, and of NDRF experts on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies.

'Made it so far…'

left the city on Saturday, he said. "We packed some rotis and aaloo sabzi and started.'

Rajan said he was unable to catch the number plate of the truck in the commotion following the accident. Police are yet to identify the vehicle. A case has been lodged under IPC Sections 279(rash driving) and 304-A (causing death by negligence).

"My wife and I had come so far and then the accident happened. Now, I am going back home with her and my daughter's bodies," Rajan sobbed, his son and nephew with him.

They reached home around 9.30 pm, delayed by the post mortem and other formalities. The

laws to increase working hours. Madhva Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have also announced suspension of labour laws for new companies for a period of nearly three years. An overhaul of central labour laws is also expected to follow suit.

Provident Fund contribution waiver for more small and medium companies is expected by expanding the ambit which already covers establishments with up to 100 employees with 90 per cent or more earning monthly salary less than Rs 15,000.

To provide wage support for organised sector workers, the government has been collating data for companies which have filed their returns under the EPF scheme but have deferred the payment of their contribution of dues. Similar support measures could be extended for migrant workers with the government already having collected identification details for over 22 lakh workers. Other reforms Modi indicated include those related to supply chains, rational tax system, simple and clear laws, capable human resource and a strong financial sys-

tem. The Prime Minister said that in a globalised world, self-reliance is different from being self-centred, suggesting that the government will take steps to attract foreign investment, too.

While fresh measures are yet to be announced to provide liquidity in the economy, on March 27, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had announced three liquidity measures: targeted long term repo operations (TLTRO), cash reserve ratio cut of 100 bps and increase in marginal standing facility (MSF) to 3 per cent of the statutory liguidity ratio (SLR). The RBI said these would pump in Rs 374,000 crore to stabilise the financial system that was hit by the pandemic.

Three weeks later, the RBI stepped in again to release additional funds of Rs 1 lakh crore - Rs 50,000 crore refinance facility to banks for lending to NBFCs through a new TLTRO 2 and a Rs

FULL STORY ON www.indianexpress.com

the senior managers.' Emails sent to President and Managing Director of LG Polymers, India, Sunkey Jeong and convenor. Technical Advisor Dongoso Kim Diaz, elicited no response. Neither

of these two officials was present at the factory the night of the inci-On May 9. LG Polymers broke

its silence to issue a statement offering "condolences and apologies

dent.

to all who have been affected by the incident."

Admitting that the cause prima facie was the "leaking vapour from Styrene Monomer storage tank," the company said it was working with the government to ensure that all those affected are "taken care of." No com-

pensation has been announced by the firm yet. To probe the incident, the state

government constituted a committee headed by Special Chief Secretary (environment and forests) Neerabh Kumar Prasad and four others: Special Chief Secretary(Industries&Commerce Department) R Karikal Valaven; Visakhapatnam District Collector



Vinay Chand and Visakhapatnam

row extra. tee are also examining the roles of

up to only Rs 61,380 crore over the next three months: Women Ian Dhan account holders - Rs 10,000 crore; widows, elders, and the disabled - Rs 3.000 crore farmers - Rs 17,380 crore; and,

building and construction workers - Rs 31,000 crore from the Welfare Fund.

The Rs 17,380 crore to be released to farmers was not an additionality, but already budgeted for in 2020-21. The government was only frontloading the payment of the first tranche of Rs 2,000 (of the budgeted Rs 6.000 per farmer a year under the PM KISAN scheme). Similarly, the money for construction workers did not require the government to bor-

prepared on April 30, several states had voiced their displeasure. In her letter to state chief secretaries on April 30, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan had explained the rationale for the classification of districts into red, orange and green zones.

"The districts were earlier designated as hotspots/red-zones, orange zones and green zones primarily based on the cumulative cases reported and the doubling rate. Since recovery rates have gone up, the districts are now being designated across various zones duly broad-basing the criteria. This classification is multifactorial and takes into consideration incidence of cases. doubling rate, extent of testing, and surveillance feedback to classify the districts. A district will be considered under Green Zone, if there are no confirmed cases so far or there is no reported case since last 21 days in the district," Sudan wrote in her letter.

While making the point that the list was dynamic and would be revised every week, Sudan also said that states may designate additional districts to the orange and red zones."However, states may not relax the zonal classification of districts classified as red/ orange as communicated by the Ministry," she said. At that point, there were 130 districts in the red zone, 284 districts in orange and

319 districts in the green zone. A state government functionary who was present in the Monday meeting with the Prime Minister said, "All states have asked for this flexibility since we know the ground realities better. One positive case in a major municipality or corporation will push the whole district into a red zone making it difficult for us to open shops, offices and businesses. May be a ward of that municipal area is enough to contain it. Except in containment zones which require strict controls, states should have the freedom to prescribe restrictions based on the specific circum-

50,000-crore refinance support to

stances.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 THE ()UTBREAK WEST BENGAL 5

THREE-MONTH CONTAINMENT PLAN CM's new plan: red zone to be divided into 3, no quick relief

100-day work scheme to restart in non-containment zones: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE, KOLKATA, MAY 12

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday underscored the need for a threemonth plan to deal with the Covid-19 crisis, and announced that areas in red zones would be soon given more relaxations while the 100-day work scheme would be restarted in non-containment areas.

"Don't think we will get relief from the Covid-19 crisis anytime soon. We should have a threemonth short-term plan in place to tackle the situation," Banerjee told reporters after a review meeting with state officials.

The Chief Minister said the red zones would be divided into three categories, and added: "Steps would also be taken to restart the 100-day work scheme in the non-containment areas." Banerjee lambasted the Cent-

re's nationwide lockdown plan, saying people were facing problems because it was "poorly planned". Her remark came less than 24 hours after her video conference meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which she criticised the Centre for politicising the state's response to the pandemic.

She also defended her administration's decision to set up a death audit panel, which has been disbanded. "Accusations were made against us with regard to the audit panel and comorbidity deaths. Now, the Centre has approved [tallying of] comorbidity deaths, and other states are doing it too.'

The CM said the state's testing numbers were low because it has only four laboratories. She added that her administration had sought the Centre's permission to set up more laboratories.

MAMATA LAUDS **NURSES' ROLE**

Kolkata: On the occasion of the International Nurses Day, CM Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday praised the contribution of nurses who are putting themselves and their families at risk while leading the efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Banerjee said nurses were selflessly attending to the patients during this crisis. "Nurses are playing an important role in our fight against the coronavirus. We salute all those nurses who are selflessly attending to the patients in this time of crisis. putting themselves and their own families at risk,"

Banerjee said that before every meeting with the Prime Minister she expects the state to receive some central assistance, but always ends up emptyhanded. She also reiterated her government's demand for payment of pending GST dues.

she tweeted. PTI

"We are not blaming anyone but whenever there is a meeting with the Prime Minister we expect that we will get something [financial aid], but we don't get anything. The Centre has a banking system, power of tax collection. We collected tax and gave it to the Central government. Centre should give us our dues. But they are not giving that. We

are not begging, we just want to get our dues from GST and Central schemes. They are yet to clear our dues of Rs 52,000 crore," said the Chief Minister.



Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee addresses a press conference at Nabanna on Tuesday. Express

Eight more die, count of recovered patients rises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY 12

THE CORONAVIRUS disease (Covid-19) has claimed eight more lives, the state government announced on Tuesday, even as more patients were discharged since the day before compared to the positive cases detected.

The toll rose to 126, but if deaths due to comorbidities are counted the total is 198. Till 9 am, 110 more positive cases had been detected, pushing up the

count to 2,173, according to the government. The Department of Health and Family Welfare said 113 more patients were discharged, taking the total to 612.

"The number of discharged persons is increasing in the state. It is now 28% of the total number," said Home Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay.

The active case count fell from 1,374 to 1,363, according to the health bulletin

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told the Home Secretary and Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha that the health bul**STATE COUNT** 10 TOTAL CASES 2,173 NCREASE | DEATHS 110 126 612 RECOVERED SAMPLES

letin should keep mentioning the deaths due to comorbidities. "Bengal always thinks about such matters before others. Now, many states are making separate columns for comorbidity," she said.

TESTED TILL MAY 12

According to the health bulletin, 5,007 samples were tested in the preceding 24-hour period, while the cumulative numbers of specimens examined till Tuesday morning was 52,622. The government said 4.13% of the samples examined till date had tested positive.

The health department said 6,978 people were still in government quarantine, while 24,296 people were in home isolation.



Mannequins with masks at a cloth store that opened in Barasat, North 24 Parganas, on Tuesday. Shashi Ghosh

In message to BJP, CM warns those 'trying to spread riots'

KOLKATA, MAY 12

in Malda and Hooghly districts, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lashed out at the BJP at a press conference on Tuesday.

fighting this pandemic. They are trying to spread riots, and are putting it out on Twitter," Banerjee said without naming the Opposition party.

The police have arrested 42

clashes in Malda's Harishchandrapur block, and Hooghly's Telenipara area on Sunday night. The violence in Harishchandrapur occurred after the residents of a village were barred from entering a neighbouring hamlet, whose market they depend on, because 12 villagers tested positive for the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). The 12, who are from a particular community, had returned from Rajasthan last week.

In Telenipara, the clash broke out after a group raised objections

people in connection with the about people from a particular community allegedly roaming in public even though five people had tested Covid-19 positive.

Responding to questions about the Telinipara violence, the CM said, "I have told the police to take the strictest action. Those who violated the lockdown and indulged in communal clashes will be tried under the National Disaster Management Act. No one will be spared. We will not see whether the person belongs to which community." She also warned those spreading "fake news on Twitter" to create a "rift between Hindus and Muslims". "Do you indulge in religious profiling of coronavirus patients or SARI patients? If some people think during the pandemic they will foment communal troubles, we will not allow this," she said. "Those who are talking big, I

want to urge them to go help the frontline Covid warriors. Why not help the cleaning staff, the medical staff and the police? It is easy to vandalise and torch police vehicles. We will not allow this," Banerjee told reporters.

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Service points	Rs. 157.68 lacs	Rs. 3.15 lacs	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 1000/-	4. Last date of receipt r	of application is 06 Jun 2020. Date for interview will be
(Approx 78)					intimated separately on	mobile/tele/email. On behalf of Station Commander, Stn
Raj.Samwad/C	2/20/135		General M	anager (Admin)	HQ Rangia, PIN 900421	5, C/b 99 APO,

45 days of lockdown, factories cautious, services stalled, markets choppy

Tracking the impact of Covid on the financial markets

HC allows KMC administrators' board to function till July 20

Tuesday ordered that a panel of administrators headed by Mayor

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court would function for four weeks. In the interim order, Justice Subrata Talukdar directed that



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE A COUPLE of days after violence

"In this time of crisis, we are

Firhad Hakim would act as the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's caretaker board till July 20.

The order extending the board's term was passed by a division bench of Justices IP Mukerji and T Ghosh. On May 7, a single-judge bench had directed that the board of administrators, appointed by the state government following completion of its five-year term,

Jute industry lost Rs 1,250 cr following lockdown: Industry body

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA, MAY 12

THE IUTE sector has incurred an estimated loss of Rs 1.250 crore because of the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), an official of an industry body said on Tuesday

The sector is very crucial for the state economy as it employs 40 lakh farmers and three lakh workers at jute.

Mills, and contributes Rs 6,500 crore to the state GDP said Indian Jute Mills Association chairperson Raghavendra Gupta.

"Around 1.5 lakh tonne of jute goods production, with an estimated value of Rs 1,250 crore, has already been lost. Some mills have managed to reopen but are functioning with 5 to 10 per cent of their workforce," Gupta told PTI.

With dwindling cash flow, jute mills were facing hardship and would have "no alternative but to close units" if the situation continued, he said.

The jute industry's loss had been seen as a gain for the plastic sector, said Gupta, adding that dilution of mandatory jute packaging had taken place during the lockdown.

the caretaker board would have to look after KMC's daily operations to ensure that the civic body's functions were carried out smoothly during the extraordinary situation arising out of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. This was challenged by petitioner Sharad Kumar Singh before the division bench. PTI

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 19^o May 2020 to consider and approve *inter alia* (i) the Audited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) and (ii) recommendation of dividend (ii any), of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of the above referred Regulations, the said Notice may be accessed on the Company's website at <u>www.tatapower.com</u> and also on the website of the respective stock exchanges at <u>www.bseindia.com</u> and <u>www.nseindia.com</u>. For The Tata Power Company

H. M. Mistr Company Secretar

Date: 12.05.2020

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2020 [OJEE - 2020]

lace: Mumbai ated : 11th May 2020

No: OJEE2020/132 NOTICE FOR SPECIAL OJEE FOR B.TECH.

In view of the COVID -19 (Coronavirus) pandemic situation, there have been modifications in the scheduling of entrance examinations and also in the academic calendar for 2020-21. As it is not feasible to conduct the 2nd / Special OJEE in this session because of time constraint, it has been decided to conduct, as an integral part of OJEE - 2020, a Special Entrance Examination for admission into 1st year B.Tech. courses of all Government and Private Engineering Colleges of Odisha against the vacancy seats left out after 1st phase OJEE counseling only for those students, who have not been / are not able to appear in the JEE (Main) -2020 examination due to some reason or other.

Candidates, who have already appeared or are going to appear in JEE MAIN 2020 for B.Tech. admission are not required to appear the Special OJEE 2020 for B.Tech.

Schedule:

- 1. Online Application Starts : 12.05.2020
- 2. Last Date of Application : 31.05.2020
- 3. Last Date of Fee Payment : 05.06.2020

Detailed instructions and terms and conditions for online application will be like other forms as per the Information Brochure available in the website, i.e., www.ojee.nic.in.

The Entrance Examination for the B.Tech. will be done through CBT (Computer Based Test).

The detailed schedule regarding revised dates of downloading of Admit Cards and of the Examination will be notified in due course of time, on assessment of the situation after 17.05.2020 only.

The counseling for this merit list will be done for the vacant seats left over after 1st phase counseling (using JEE MAIN merit list). Detailed modalities will be published during OJEE counseling.

For details, please login to www.ojee.nic.in

Sd/-CHAIRMAN, OJEE, ODISHA



Presents



with

Nilesh Shah

Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra AMC, Part-time Member, PM's Economic Advisory Council and Chairman, Association of Mutual Funds in India

Join us for a discussion with Nilesh Shah to understand the impact of the pandemic on businesses and markets. What are the expectations of the markets?

Mr Shah will be in conversation with

P Vaidyanathan lyer Executive Editor (National Affairs), The Indian Express

Sandeep Singh Associate Editor, The Indian Express



07:00 рм



To register, SMS - IEEXP <space> "PD" <space> "Your name and email ID" to 56161 Confirmation SMS will be your registration.



IndianExpress.com/apps

E twitter.com/IndianExpress



THEOUTBREAK WEST BENGAL

Day 49 of lockdown: First train leaves for New Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY 12

NEARLY 50 days after the nationwide lockdown was imposed, a special passenger train, carrying over 1,000 passengers, departed from Howrah station for Delhi on Tuesday. The train left around 5 pm and is scheduled to reach the national capital around 10 am Wednesday. Passengers reached the station much earlier than the scheduled departure time and were al-

lowed to enter the premises after 2 pm. They underwent thermal gun screening and were provided with masks and sanitisers. After a medical check-up, they were asked to wait at platform No. 9. At

norms were followed and the entire process was monitored by Divisional Railway Manager

safety measures," Khan said.

Contracto

Class

Class -

Eastern Railway CPRO Nikhil Chakraborty said, "We are making preparations for the coming days when more trains will arrive."

Ready-to-eat food items, tea and coffee will be provided to the passengers who were allowed to board the train one hour before the scheduled departure. This special train will return to Howrah on May 14.

"I am happy to return home after almost two months. I had come to Kolkata for some work and got stranded due to lockdown. The moment railway services resumed, I bought a ticket to Delhi," said a passenger

Meanwhile, two special trains carrying 2,342 people arrived in West Bengal from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

In the morning, a special 22coach train from Bengaluru

had departed from Bengaluru on May 10 with 1,200 passengers. At 5 pm, another 24-coach train from Katpadi at Vellore in Tamil Nadu reached the Howrah station with 1,142 people. The passengers mainly comprised patients and their relatives who had gone there for treatment. Apart from them, migrant labourers

and students also took the train. The passengers who arrived at Howrah station underwent medical check-ups. They were then sent home in buses and other vehicles, arranged by the state government.

Passengers at Bankura station also underwent medical check-up and were given refreshments. About 100 state-run buses were arranged to transport the returnees to their native places in Jhargram, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Birbhum, Malda and Murshidabad districts.

4 policemen attacked while trying to enforce lockdown curbs in S-24 Parganas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY 12

FOUR POLICEMEN were injured after they were attacked by local residents of Subhasgram in South 24 Parganas district on Tuesday, while they were trying to enforce lockdown. Nearly 15 people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Police said some residents had been violating the lockdown norms in Subhasgram area by assembling outside their homes. When the policemen tried to enforce the lockdown, some people beat them up, police said.

"Police found some residents violating lockdown norms in the area and asked them to go back home. However, a verbal altercation soon broke out between them. Later, the residents launched an attack on the policemen and four of our personnel were injured. Even police vehicles were vandalised. We have arrested 15 people in connection." said a senior police officer of South 24 Parganas district. According to him, police are looking for some more poeple who were also behind the attack. Meanwhile a civic volunteer

was thrashed in Malda's English Bazar for stopping people from violating lockdown norms. Sources said, two persons were riding a

scooter without wearing masks

and an on-duty civic volunteer

had stopped them. Following a

verbal altercation between them,

the two persons thrashed the

civic volunteer. Police have seized

the vehicle and started a search

Last month, nearly 10 people

were arrested for assaulting two

policemen at Tikiapara in

Howrah district. They were in-

iured on Belirius Road in

Tikiapara after a mob launched an attack on them for enforcing

The incident triggered a war

for the offenders.



CT/GD PRAKASH CH MEENA BIOM KIRANDUL BIOM KIRANDUL 13-05-2012



CT/GD JAYANTA DAS CT/GD KAILASH CH BIOM KIRANDUL 13-05-2012

CT/GD SUBHASH

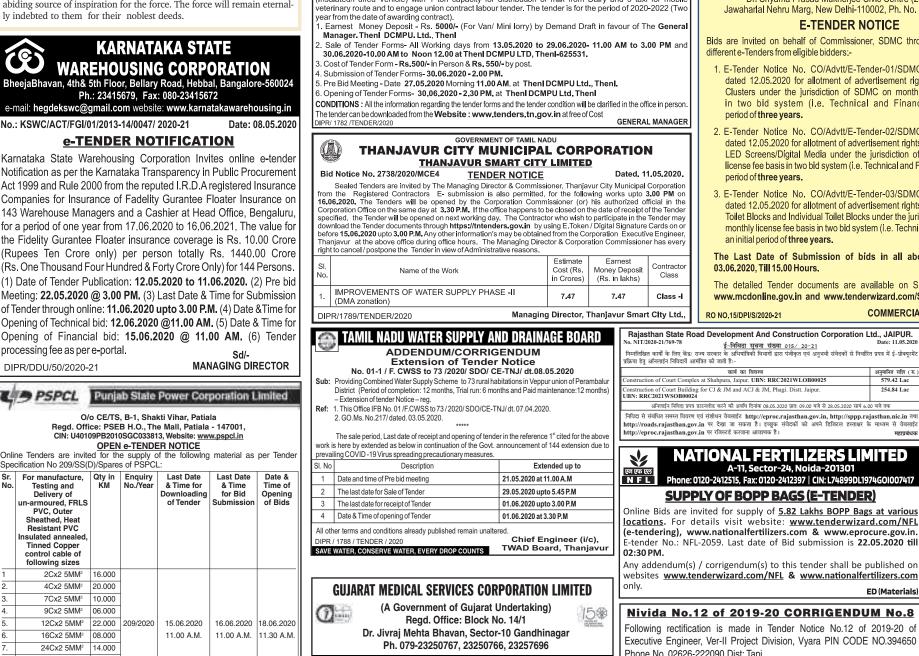
CHANDRA

BIOM KIRANDUL

13-05-2012

MEENA BIOM KIRANDUL 13-05-2012

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the LWE outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.



Migrants cycling from Odisha on their way to Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, Tuesday Shashi Ghosh every step, social distancing

"We have started the railway services from today after taking

acabin" THENI DISTRICT COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LIMITED, THENI - 625 531

TENDER NOTICE Sealed Tenders are invited under two Cover System (Technical Bid & Commercial Bid) by the General Manager, TID -483 Theni District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited, Theni for plying of 4 Van (2.0 to 3.0 M.T. Capacity), 7 Mini Lorry (3.1 to 5.0 M.T. capacity) to collect milk from Villages of Theni District to Theni Main Dairy and plying of (Insulated/Puffed Vehicle), 3 Ton capacity 3 Vehicle and 2 Vehicle

Insulated/Puffed Vehicle) with 1 ton capacity for distribution of milk from Dairy and 3 taxi for mobile

all precautions and adhering to As many as 150 RPF person-

different e-Tenders from eligible bidders:-

period of three years.

period of three years

an initial period of three years.

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NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED

A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301 Phone: 0120-2412515, Fax: 0120-2412397 | CIN: L74899DL1974G01007417

SUPPLY OF BOPP BAGS (E-TENDER)

03.06.2020. Till 15.00 Hours.

RO NO.15/DPI/S/2020-21

कार्व का विवर

who wished not to be named.

reached Bankura station. The train

(DRM), Howrah, Ishaq Khan.

boarded the train.

nel were deployed at the station, while seven RPF personnel

ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre (25th Floor)

Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002, Ph. No. 011-2322-7212

E-TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC through following three

1. E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advtt/E-Tender-01/SDMC/2020-21/NIT/D-08

dated 12.05.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Unipole

Clusters under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly license fee basis

in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial

dated 12.05.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Clusters of

LED Screens/Digital Media under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly

license fee basis in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial

dated 12.05.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Clusters of

Toilet Blocks and Individual Toilet Blocks under the jurisdiction of SDMC on

monthly license fee basis in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for

The Last Date of Submission of bids in all above e-tenders is:

The detailed Tender documents are available on SDMC's website i.e.

COMMERCIAL OFFICER, ADVT.

अनुमानित राशि (रु 579.42 Lac

254.84 Lac

ED (Materials)

A

www.mcdonline.gov.in and www.tenderwizard.com/SouthDMC

3. E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advtt/E-Tender-03/SDMC/2020-21/NIT/D-10

2. E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advtt/E-Tender-02/SDMC/2020-21/NIT/D-09

CT/GD RANJIT SINGH

KR VERMA

13-05-2012

BIOM KIRANDUL 13-05-2012

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9.	4Cx4MM ² 02.000				R NOTICE : 09/2020-21		Event	Old Date	New Date		Airports Autho	ority of India inv	vites item rate
EMD	TOTAL 100.00 6,24,000/- num EMD 1,56,000/-		Instrume	ents Surgical	ed online for Medical Equipment / items & other Miscellaneous Industrial ternet) from reputed manufacturers. For	<u>1</u> 1	2 Online Tender	3 08/01/2020 to 08/05/2020	4 08/01/2020 to 20/0	/	Asst. Genel.	gh the e-tende Mgr (Engg-Ele , AAI from	ct) on behalf
De site h Th of an It i COR	tailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from f http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. e prospective bidders may contact customer care of abd y difficulty. s Informed that in case tender process is not complete RIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details rec en on PSPCL e-tendering website <u>http://eproc.punjab.g</u> Sd/ 2020 C-815/Pb Dy. CE/Sub-Station Desi	ove cited website in case d due to any reason. No arding corrigendum may <u>ov.in</u> . gn, PSPCL, Patiala	importe appointe company requeste tender o <u>http://gn</u> wesite <u>h</u>	d materials ed either by y should sul ed to submit documents o nscl.nprocure	Authorised representative / dealer parent manufacturer or its subsidiary bmit their offer. Interested bidders are the tender through e-tender process. All can be downloaded free from website e.com. Detail tender Notice is avalable on nprocure.com / http://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in	3		Up to 18.00 Hrs. Up to 15/05/2020 at 18.00 Hrs. 16/05/2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai at 12.00 Hrs.	Up to 18.00 H Up to 30/05/20 at 18.00 Hrs 01/06/2020 in the of the Superinte Engineer, Ukai 0 (Civil), Ukai at 12.	O20 S. Office nding Circle 00 Hrs.	I."RMO othe nstallations a during 2020-2 & Preventive/ all Iron Remo bump motor s & M equipme bumps. feed electrical in	r the following r Electrical & at NSCBI Air 2022. Sub Hea Breakdown ma wal Plants, va sets. IRP Units ents. LT Pane er pillars inc stallations e	Mechanical bort, Kolkata ad: Operation aintenance of rious type of & relevant E Is. Bore-well luding allied tc." for an
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4	Office of the Executive Engineer, Division, Bengaluru - 560		1.		Y HUMIDIFIER COMPATIBLE WITH VENTILATOR	2	TAMII NANI	WATER SUPPLY AND	DRAINAGE BO			(Twenty Four) 2020 AAI 47	
	EE/MDP/TEND/05/2020-21	Date : 12-05-2020	2.	HIGH FLOV		4	ADDENDUM/	CORRIGENDUM - Extens	ion of Tender Noti	ce	Re-Call)	r Electrical 8	
(T The beh	VITATION FOR SHORT TERM ivo Cover System) (Through GoK e-Procure Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, F alf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites Item Rate tractors for the below mentioned works. Name of the Work /	ement Portal only) BBMP, Bengaluru on	Duration 11/05/20 Last date Last date	of Download 20 to 18/05/20 for Submission for Physical S	ding Tender (online):)20 upto 15.55 hrs. on (online) 18/05/2020 upto 16.00 hrs. Submission on: 19/05/2020 upto 12.00 hrs. rechnical Bid (online): 20/05/2020 on 12.30 hrs.	Tha 12 r Ref 2. 0	: Providing Combined Wa njavur District (Period of of nonths) – II Extension of ter : 1. This Office IFB No.11/ :0.Ms. No.193/ dated 15.04	CWSS to 134 /2020/ SDO/ Cl ater Supply Scheme to 134 Rural H completion: 18 months, Trial run: der Notice – reg. F. CWSS to 134 /2020/SDO/ CE-TN. 4.2020 3.This Office Tender Notic .GO.Ms.No.217/dt.03.05.2020	abitations in Kumbakona 5 months and Paid mai //dt.13.03.2020	m Union of ntenance :	nstallations during 2020-2 Lagoons and Colony Electr estimated co Excluding (at NSCBI Air 2022. Sub Hea CMC of IRP. S ical Installation ost of Rs. GST) with a 4 (Twenty Fo	oort, Kolkata ad: O & M of TP. Lagoons. ns etc." for an 1,58,12,249/- a period of
SI. No.	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)	INF/82/20	-21	MANAGING DIRECTOR		k is here by extended as be	te of receipt and opening of tender in elow in continuation of the Govt. ann eading precautionary measures.	the reference 3 rd cited fo ouncement of 144 extens	r the above sion due to	Fender ID: 20 ast date and locument for	20_AA1_4780 I time of subm or the both	63_1 lission of Bid tenders is
	Construction of SWD Drains in					SI.		Description	Extended up to 0.05.2020 at 11.00 A.M			oto 1800 hours	
	Garudacharpalya W. No 82, Construction and repairs of solid waste management building in W.No.82 Garudacharpalya, Drilling of Borewells	Rs.2,62,500/- (1.00 Lakh through		OFFICE O	ERNMENT OF ODISHA F THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IGATION DIVISION, KEONJHAR		The last date for rece	of Tender 2' ipt of Tender 2'	7.05.2020 at 11.00 A.M 7.05.2020 upto 5.45 P.M 9.05.2020 upto 3.00 P.M 9.05.2020 at 3.30 P.M		e-Procuremen etenders.go www.aai.aero	nt Portal refer ov.in/eproc	ence https:// ure/app or
	and Providing and Laying pipelines in Ward e-procurement No.82 Garudacharpalya, Construction of SWM and remaing works in Garudacharpalya Works in Garudacharpalya			NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-Procurement Bid ID No. 03 EEMID (KJR/2020-21) Dt. 04.05.2020			All other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered. DIPR / 1787 / TENDER / 2020 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS TWAD Board, Thanjavur Will be notified through e-procureme portal at https://etenders.gov.leprocureme portal at https://etenders.gov.leproc						
	Construction of SWD Drains at Shetty layout in Garudacharpalya W.No.82. Package-1 Rs. 175.00 Lakhs	through BG)	Governor procureme	of Odisha invi	Vinor Irrigation Division, Keonjhar on behalf of the ites online percentage rate tender through 'e' ed in online mode for the the works as detailed in infree.	10	का ह⁄लोक निर्माण/निवि	and the second se				सागर विनोक : 1	1.05.2020
	Development and Maintenance of Burial grounds in Ward No. 82, Garudacharpalya, Providing and		Name of w	vork	Civil Construction work 14 (Fourteen) Nos.			निविर एगली के अंतर्गत म.प्र. लोक	त आमंत्रण				
	laying UGD Missing bits at Garudacharpalya W.No. 82, Providing and Laying UGD Pipelines and Missing bits in Garudacharpalya W.No.82,	Rs.1,80,000/- (1.00 Lakh through	Estimated Tender Pa	Cost	Rs. 795.60 Lakh Mentioned in Column No. 6 of Tender call notice 06 (Six) & 09 (Nine) calendar month	Ť	ल.जी.जो. से निष्नति	रणाता क अंतचरा म.प्र. ताक तेखित निर्माण कार्यों हेतु अ enders.gov.in पर देखा	निलाइन निविदा अ				
2	Providing Public Toilets and septage maintenance at Garudacharpalya W.No.82, Construction and repairs of Solid Waste Management work in Garudacharpalya	e-procurement and remaing Rs.80,000/- through BG)	Availability Document	y of Bid s receipt of Bid	From 14.05.2020 to 27.05.2020 during office hours in Website (<u>www.tendersorissa.gov.in</u>) From 14.05.2020 to 27.05.2020 through online.	10	त, टेंडर क.	कार्यं का नाम एवं ख्यान	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	अमानत राशि (रुपचे में)	निविदा प्रपन्न का मूल्प	समयावधि वर्षाकाल सहित	निविदा आमंत्रण
	W.No. 82, Roads and Footpaths Maintenance in Ward No. 82 Garudacharpalya. Package-2 Rs. 90.00 Lakhs	<i>,</i>		ening of Bid	At 11.00 A.M. on 28.05.2020 in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Keonjhar	1	. 2020_UAD_ 87582	बार्ड क. 05 में स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स निर्माण कार्य ।	134.50	68000/-	12500/~	12 माह	प्रथम निविदा
	endar of Events: (1) Tender Documents may		Digital Sig Certificate Date of lot	of Bidder	The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III 05.06.2020 from 11.00 AM to onwards	1	88280 UAD_	चार्ड क. 03 में सामुदायिक शापिंग कॉम्प्लेक्स निर्माण	कार्य ।	\$3000/*		12 माह	্রথ্রম নিত্রিরা
4.00 time and time may day	Ke-Procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.go D PM. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting: 21-05-2020 at 3.00 e for submission of Queries: 27.05.2020 within 3 time for receipt of tenders: 28-05-2020 upto 4. e for opening of Technical Bid: 29-05-2020 at 4.33 y be obtained from the above office during offic s or from website https://eproc.karnataka.gov Sd/- Executive Engineer, Maha Pay development charges, help to devel	PM. (3) Last date & .00 PM. (4) Last date 00 PM. (5) Date and 0 PM. Further details be hours on working .in devapura Division	conducted valid bidd Name and OIT	l among the ers Address of the		10 10 10 10	ो दिनांक 14.00.2029 को तक जमा कर सव रत्तावेजों का लिफाफा ग्रागर संभाग सागर कें हा संशोधन केंवल वेब	। ऑनलाइन वेवसाहट wwo o को शाम (15:30) को तेक ! हते हैं । आनलाइन निविदा ि त्योड पोस्ट ढारा अधवा स्वर कार्यालय में दिनांक 19:06. !साइट पर प्रदर्शित किया जा I सेतीय रोहित) यस	हय किये जा सकते श्वांक 18.06.2020 हे निकाय कार्यालय 2020 को झाम 05::	हें ऑनहाइन को खोली ज अथवा कार्पप 90 बजे तक उ	निथिता 16. तवेंगे । २. नि तना यंत्री नग तमा करा सव संशोधन प्रव (मुख्य मुख्य नगर	06.2020 को विदाकार अप सीच प्रजासन जो है। S. फि	श्ताम ०५:३७ ने फिलीकल एवं विकास सो भी प्रकार त्या जावेगा। () प्रकारी

EASTERN_RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. TRD-WC-T

2020-21-01, dated 11.05.2020. E-tende

s invited by Sr Divisional Electrical Enginee

TRD, Eastern Railway, Asansol for th

following work from required tenderer

having valid trade licence and capable to

complete the following work financially

Tender Case No. : TRD-WC-T-2020-21

01. Name of the Work : Hiring of 03 nos

of truck for transportation of TRD men and

materials for 03 nos. of depot i.e. ASN

MDP & UDL. Tender Value: ₹ 18,10,620/-

Earnest Money : ₹ 36.200/-. Date and

Time of Opening : 25.06.2020 at 11.00

nrs. Complete details can be seen in the

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.ir

ASN-28/2020-2

Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in**

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण

lockdown amid COVID-19 out-Re-Call) 2 "RMO other Electrical & Mechanical break. The incident had taken Installations at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata place when a police patrol during 2020-2022 Sub Head O & M of reached a minority-dominated Lagoons and CMC of IRP. STP. Lagoons. area after receiving information Colony Electrical Installations etc." for an estimated cost of Rs. 1,58,12,249/ that a large number of people (Excluding GST) with a period of had gathered at a market violatcompletion 24 (Twenty Four) months ing lockdown and social distanc-Tender ID: 2020_AA1_47863_1 Last date and time of submission of Bio ing norms. document for the both tenders is 28.05.2020 upto 1800 hours. of words between the ruling For detailed information log on to CPF Trinamool Congress and the BJP. e-Procurement Portal reference https://

Further clarification / corrigendum if any Promote Class 11 will be notified through e-procurement portal at https://etenders.gov.in/ students of

Bengal boards, schools told

Kolkata: The West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has asked its affiliated schools to promote all class 11 students as their annual exams could not be completed due to the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

In a letter dated May 11, council president Mahua Das said as decided by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee all class 11 students should be declared promoted to the next class.

The council provides the question papers for the class 11 annual examinations, while the exams are conducted by the schools and papers are checked by internal examiners. Around 11.10.000 students will be promoted from class 11 to class 12 this year with the government's decision, a council source said. PTI

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 5 THE ()UTBREAK NATION



CORONA WATCH



Medical workers give protection kits to police officials in Lucknow on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastava

UTTAR PRADESH Official warned as video of him kicking migrant goes viral

Lucknow: A senior revenue official in Pratapgarh district was issued a "serious warning" after a video showing him purportedly kicking a migrant worker went viral on social media Monday. In the video, Chief Revenue Officer (Pratapgarh) Shriram Yadav can be seen purportedly kicking a migrant worker while the latter is in a queue to board an Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus. ENS

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Police station sealed after cop tests positive

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh police sealed a police station in Kangra district after a head constable there tested positive for Covid. among the seven new cases reported Tuesday. The tally of cases has now increased to 67. A police spokesperson said the premise of the Panchrukhi police was sealed and the staff quarantined. Officials said five fresh cases, including those of a doctor and the cop, were reported from Kangra and two from Hamirpur. PTI

Late-night tweet, no prelude: How Rlys made Aarogya Setu must for travel

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR & DEEPTIMAAN TIWARY NEW DELHI. MAY 12

THROUGH JUST a tweet past midnight and catching many of its key officials off guard, the Railways on Tuesday became the country's first transport entity to make Aarogya Setu, the government's contact-tracing app, mandatory for travel. Sources told The Indian

Express that the decision took key officials by surprise Tuesday morning as there had been no discussions about making the app a precondition to travel on Monday, a day before 15 Rajdhani-type trains resumed passenger operations to and from Delhi. The decision was communicated verbally to zones on Tuesday hours before the first set of trains departed, officials said. The IRCTC website started flashing the message and even sent messages to ticket holders. The app, however, was not

mandatory for those travelling by Shramik Special trains, a Railways spokesperson said.

"Indian Railways is going to start few passenger trains services. It is mandatory for passengers to download Aarogya Setu app in their mobile phones, before commencing their journey," the tweet posted from the official Railway ministry handle at

12.24 am said. The Ministry of Home Affairs came out with the Standard Operating Procedure for running the special trains Monday and it did not have any mention of the app. The Press Information Bureau's release about the trains said passengers would be "advised" to download the app. Home ministry sources told The Indian Express that there was no MHA direction to Railways to

make the use of the app mandatory.

Key officials in zonal railways told The Indian Express that they had not been infimated about the move before the tweet and zonal general managers on Tuesday passed down the message verbally. There had been no discussions from the ministry about making the app a must for travellers, they said.

The tweet, from the publicity department of the ministry, came after a day of policy directives about the operations of the trains. Aarogya Setu was the second last point in the "Protocol regarding entry and movement of passengers" issued by the ministry to its zonal railways Monday. It simply said: "All passengers to be advised to download and use the Aarogya Setu application."

Sources added that given the last-minute nature of the deci-

sion, passengers, who were anyway supposed to report to the stations 90 minutes prior to departure, would have ample time

to download the app then and there. An official of the publicity department said passengers who did not have the app on their phones would be helped by railway functionaries at stations and trains to download. Officials said

there were no cases on Tuesday of passengers being denied travel for not having the app on their phones. It was unofficially pointed

MANOJCG

try a "headline".

Indian Express.

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would benefit."

HEADLINE".

different

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

out within the ministry by some that the developers of Aarogya Setu were rolling out a featurephone (non-smartphone) version of the app as well. Civil society activists have

raised privacy-related concerns regarding use of the app, a charge the government has denied.

Maharashtra to release half the state's prisoners

SUSHANT KULKARNI

AFTER OVER 180 positive Covid cases were detected across Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail, the Maharashtra Prisons Department has decided to increase the number of prisoners being temporarily released in the state from 11,000 to 17,000. This is around half the pre-lockdown population

Court directives to lay down steps the wake of the Covid pandemic, Road Jail – which include 158 incase was detected in Byculla Jail. Home

government had announced that nearly 11,000 inmates - both undertrials and convicts incarcerated for lesser and non-henious of

Divergent views in Cong; TMC, Left say

will wait for details

PM ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC PACKAGE

Party MP Manish Tewari tweeted, "@PMOIndia 's speech can be summed up in one word -Headline Hunting. Anumber – 20 lakh crores. No details."

OPPOSITION PARTIES on Tuesday reacted cautiously to the Prime The Trinamool Congress was sceptical. "We saw the box today. Minister's announcement of a Rs 20-lakh-crore economic pack-We saw the wrapping paper toage, with the Congress, the day. But what is in the product, we Trinamool Congress and the Left don't know. For that, we have to parties maintaining that they will open the package tomorrow or wait for finer details before comday after. He (Modi) said 20 lakh ing up with an elaborate response. crores, 10 per cent of GDP, but (there was a) little asterisk there Divergent views emerged from the Congress, with some saying some conditions apply.," leaders welcoming the package

party leader Derek O'Brien said. and others saying the Prime He asked how the Centre will Minister has only given the counraise Rs 20 lakh crore. "How is all this going to be paid for? A bor-"We welcome the Prime rowing? Where are the details for Minister's announcement of the the borrowing?... Because if you are going to borrow Rs 20 lakh economic package and stimulus of Rs 20 lakh crore. We will wait crore, what happens to the state? for the details, but hope that it will How will states then borrow? No details. Are you going to raise provide much needed relief to the stressed micro, small and taxes?. we have to wait for the medium sector, especially for supdetails because the devil is in

port towards payment of workers the details.' wages and a healing touch to the O' Brien also slammed the migrant workers, labour and the Prime Minister for not giving any poor.," senior Congress leader assurance to states on their de-Anand Sharma told The mand for payment of GST dues and an increase in borrowing Rajasthan Chief Minister limit under the Financial Ashok Gehlot tweeted, "The fi-Responsibility and Budget

Management Act, 2005. nancial package announced by PM Modi ji was much awaited. CPM general secretary Sitaram Better late than never. We wel-Yechury said it was difficult to come this. Now when details comment on the package or the emerge, we would know exactly fourth phase of lockdown in the absence of details. He, however, sectors said it was unfortunate that the Congress communication de-Prime Minister did not speak partment head Randeep about providing relief to the crores Surjewala tweeted that the Prime of migrant workers. "We were all Minister's address has only given expecting the Prime Minister to "the country and the media a announce some facility or relief for them. But there was no word... "When the 'blank page' is filled And what about the lakhs of peowith 'Heartfelt Help of People', the ple who are hungry."

"The four big problems connation and Congress party will respond. The mammoth heartfronting India: distress of mibreaking human tragedy of migrants, resources that States need, grant workers walking back home Hunger and Unemployment were needed compassion, care & safe not addressed at all," Yechury said. return. India is deeply disap-

"We will wait to see details of the package. We hope this money will go in the pockets of the poor and the hungry, not to help more defaulters....

PM declared world's largest holistic relief package: Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 12

TERMING IT as the world's largest holistic relief package, BJP president J P Nadda welcomed the economic package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and said his message has "laid foundation stone for implementing" 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India)

In his fifth address to the nation amid the ongoing Covid pandemic, the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening announced a relief package of Rs 20 lakh crore and urged the country to strive for achieving self-reliance and

self-sufficiency. "In the times of COVID 19, Hon PM @narendramodi is leading the country from the front. The 21st century will be defined by India, Hon PM's message today has laid foundation stone for

implementing tis. #AtmanirbharBharat is our Mantra for driving the country towards new change," Nadda tweeted shortly after the PM's address.

"Today, our Hon'ble PM has declared the world's largest holistic relief package. The Modi govt has given financial packages of Rs 20 lakh cr to support every section of the society. It is around 10 % of Indian GDP. Hon PM's proactive approach will build a #AtmanirbharBharat," said

Nadda in another tweet. "Self reliance is a panacea to fight COVID19," he said while thanking the Prime Minister for

the announcement. He added: "Rooted in our ethos of Vasudev Kudumbakam, self reliance will not only benefit us but the whole world.'

The rules for bringing Indians

back were spelt out in the first

phase itself. However, sources said

that there could be some modifi-

country will also have to fulfill a

specific criterion. Outbound-trav-

ellers also have to fulfil conditions

imposed by destination countries.

may be some changes in rules for

medical college hospitals here.

the 700 plus new cases on

Tuesday and 4,882 have so far

been infected in the state capital

charged, 39 died and 4,093 are

been discharged and on Tuesday

alone 83 people were sent home

after they recovered from the ill-

ness, the bulletin said. As many

as 6,520 were the active cases.

returned from Abu Dhabi and

Dubai tested positive in Kerala

on Saturday, hours after the State

declared that it has flattened the

coronavirus curve, Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had

said the new cases were "a warn-

ing to those coming back from

abroad and for other states to be

Meanwhile, two people who

Of this number, 749 were dis-

Till date 2,134 people have

alone

active cases

Chennai accounts for 510 of

outbound travellers also.

According to sources, there

There are about 1.4 crore

Those who want to leave the

cations in the second phase.

HE HE HE HE

A PAUSE, IN THEIR HONOUR

Nursing staff of the Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur light candles to observe International Nurses Day on Tuesday. Rohit Jain Paras

ICMR starts household survey to gauge prevalence of coronavirus

PUNE, MAY12

in prisons across the state. A high powered committee, constituted according to Supreme

to decongest the state's prisons in held a meeting on Monday after 185 cases were detected in Arthur mates and prison staff - and one Minister Anil Deshmukh told The Indian

Express on Tuesday was taken based on the recommendations of the committee On March 26, the Maharashtra

pointed by your utter lack of empathy, sensitivity & failure to address the woes of millions of migrant workers," he tweeted.

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, MAY 12

THE INDIAN Council of Medical Research is conducting a household-level antibody testing of 24.000 adults in select districts to "estimate the prevalence of (Covid-19) infection" among people.

This new research comes on the heels of another facility-level pooled testing of all districts of the country.

Both mark an enhanced level of testing surveillance from previous studies focused on Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI).

"This is a household-based survey of adults to look for presence of infection across the

irrespective of reporting of cases currently. It will look for presence of IgG antibodies that usually appear 10 to 14 days after infection," ICMR researcher Dr Tarun Bhatnagar told The Indian Express.

> He said SARI surveillance is a separately ongoing testing of hospitalised patients using RT-PCR test that goes on as part of routine testing to detect new coronavirus cases. Immunoglobulin G, or IgG, is

a common type of antibody, which protects the body against infection. The sample group is spread

across 69 districts, covering four different district strata categorised by their case count. In

each district, 400 random house-

holds in 10 clusters will have one country in a systematic manner adult individual tested for Covid-19 antibodies in what is called a 'sero survev"

This test result reveals if an individual has had Covid-19, although the efficacy of antibody tests has been put into question.

In a separate, recently announced study, individuals from all districts of the country will be randomly tested.

In each district, 10 health facilities – six public and four private – will select 100 healthcare workers. 50 outpatient attendees who do not have influenzalike illness, and 50 pregnant women to undergo RT-PCR and antibody tests.

In the last ICMR research study on syndromic SARI sur-

veillance, released April 18, out

of 5,911 SARI patients randomly tested for coronavirus from February 15 to April 2, a total of 104(1.8 per cent) tested positive for the virus across 52 districts in 20 states and Union Territories.

The percentage of random positive samples of Covid-19 among SARI patients across the country showed an increase incrementally over this period.

On March 20, the SARI surveillance was expanded to include all SARI patients, not only random sampling.

The study also found 36 districts in 15 states with cases that had no history of contact with a known case, or any international travel. "These districts need to be prioritized to target COVID-19 containment activities." the research stated.

fences that attract less than seven years of maximum sentence would be released.

In a video on Twitter on Tuesday, Deshmukh gave further details. "... To avoid spreading of such infection in other jails, state government has decided to release 17,000 of the inmates from the (pre-lockdown) population 35.000. Of them. around 5.000 undertrials have already been released. We will now be releasing around 3,000 prisoners who have been sentenced to less than seven years of imprisonment. And 9,000 more inmates who have been undergoing sentence of more than seven years, will also be released."

He added that the move will not apply to those incarcerated under serious crimes, heinous crimes, serious or large-scale fraud and those booked under stringent acts such as MCOCA or MPID.

Vande Bharat mission phase 2: 149 AI flights to 31 countries

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MAY 12

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to operate 149 repatriation flights to 31 countries between May 16 and May 22 during the second phase of the Vande Bharat mission to bring back home Indians stranded abroad amid the coronavirus-triggered lockdown, sources said on Tuesday.

The scope of the second phase is much larger than the first.

As part of the ongoing first phase. AI and its subsidiary Air India Express are operating 64 flights from May 7-14 to bring approximately 15,000 Indians from

12 countries home. Passengers are paying for the journey.

In the second phase, flights will be operated from European countries like France, Germany and Italy, Ireland and South-east Asian countries like Indonesia. Philippines and Thailand aside from Russia and Central asian nations like Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Kvrgvzstan, Georgia, Taiikistan and Belarus. Other countries in the schedule also include Canada, Australia, Japan, Armenia, Nepal and Nigeria.

Indians overseas, at present. So far, Flights to destinations from about 3 lakh Indians have registhe first phase such as UAE, USA, tered from the Gulf region alone. Singapore, Malaysia, UK. but sources said Indian embassies Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, will ascertain those who have and Bangladesh will continue. "compelling reasons" to return.

SURVEY WORK BEING CARRIED OUT AT ELECTION BOOTH-LEVEL In bid to battle virus better, Karnataka starts preparing health register of senior citizens

and segregation from others are

essential. The purpose of the sur-

Dr K Sudhakar recently stated on

Department has carried out risk-

assessment surveys of areas with

Covid-19 patients after cases

were detected, which, in many

Until now, the Health

social media.

JOHNSON TA BENGALURU, MAY 12

IN AN effort to raise the state's preparedness in tackling any fresh bout of Covid-19 outbreak. the Karnataka government has started creating a health register of citizens with specific focus on identifying people above the age of 60 with underlying health problems.

Survey work to gather data for the register has begun across the state at the election boothlevel – state officials, carrying area voters' lists, are at present going house to house to find out about elderly persons in each household in the jurisdiction of a

said, is to ensure quick identification of people at high risk of being affected by Covid-19 in case the virus s to new localities outside the existing red zones.

In a circular titled like symptoms, their treatment

particular election booth. The aim of collecting data for the health register, state officials

vey is to identify high-risk households, to build capacity to reach households without sending a health worker or any other government functionary." "COVID-19 has demon-

An audit of 17 of 31 coronavirus deaths in Karnataka has revealed that those above the age of 60 with comorbidities have mostly been victims of the virus. a 'Health Registry of Citizens'," state Medical Education Minister

"Surveillance plan to check spread of Covid 19 virus", state Health Commissioner Pankaj Pandey has stated: "Early detection of Covid-19(cases) and persons having ILI/SARI/Covid 19instances, set off attacks on health workers by local residents.

The fresh health risk-assessment and outreach survey, which is on since May 5, is collecting data specifically on those above the age of 60; people above 60 with cardiac, high strated that comprehensive pubblood pressure and diabetes lic health data is the key to act problems; pregnant women in decisively and swiftly. Our goveach household; and people ernment is planning to maintain with fever, breathing problems, cough and cold.

While those reporting fever and breathing problems will be contacted immediately by health workers, others will be monitored in the event of a coronavirus outbreak in their locality, officials said. Camps of migrant workers will also come in

each camp considered a household.

Pointing out that this is a household-level survey, the Health Commissioner said, "No details of individuals other than the head of a household are collected.'

A household heath risk assessment app has been developed, which links households to an election booth area to assess people's health once the health

8 die, 4 Vande Bharat Mission returnees test positive in TN and Monday in government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHENNAL MAY 12

EIGHT PEOPLE with co-morbid conditions died of coronavirus in Tamil Nadu and as many as 716 fresh cases were reported, pushing the tally to 8,718 in the state,

Days after the Centre's 'Vande Bharat Mission' kicked in for bringing stranded Indians from abroad, four among those who returned tested positive.

"Four passengers who returned from other countries reported positive today," a health department bulletin said and added that they have been housed in a guarantine facility here. The country of their origin was, however, not known immediately. Among the returnees on Monday were 180 people from Malaysia and 171 from Kuwait on Sunday.

The returnees have been accommodated here in hotels and the premises of an educational institution after screening.

So far, a total of 927 people have arrived here and at Tiruchirappalli airports since May 9.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, a total of 716 people tested positive, of whom 427 were men and 288 women and the aggregate number of cases stood at 8.718 in Tamil Nadu.

All the four men who died in the state were aged between 63 and 75 years of age, while the women who succumbed to Covid-19 were aged between 43 and 58 years.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute respiratory distress syndrome and diabetes mellitus were among the co-morbidities the eight had, the bulletin said.

They died between Sunday on the alert".

register is compiled.

Karnataka reported 63 confirmed cases of coronavirus on Tuesday – a single-day high so far in the state - taking the total

the purview of the survey, with authorities said on Tuesday.

number of cases in the state to 925.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE Wherever the real power in a Government LIES, THERE IS THE DANGER OF OPPRESSION. - JAMES MADISON

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

HEED THE DIFFERENCE

Strategies to exit lockdown must rely more on, and respond more to, regional needs and specificities

STHE THIRD phase of the lockdown winds to a close, several states have reportedly argued against a complete easing of restrictions. At a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, the chief ministers of at least four states - Maharashtra, Telangana, Punjab, and West Bengal - were of the view that the lockdown should be extended beyond May 17. The CMs of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh expressed reservations about the resumption of passenger trains. But even as they are wary about the virus - justifiably so - the state governments also do not want to lose any time in getting the economy back on the rails. As Arunachal CM Pema Khandu said: "The fight to contain the coronavirus must not have a compromising effect on the economy". The two imperatives might seem conflicting. But the key to resolving the impasse lies in recognising that different states have different needs and demands, and they should be given a greater say in decisions on which areas to open up and how after May 17.

While announcing the third phase of the lockdown, the Union home ministry allowed the resumption of economic activities in districts that had not seen a single COVID-19 case in the last three weeks of April, the green zones, permitting markets to re-open, factories and industrial units to resume operations, and e-commerce in non-essential items to re-commence. The ministry also relaxed the lockdown in non-hotspot districts, the orange zones, continuing with stringent restrictions in the districts with high caseload, the red zones. Some states, notably Punjab and Delhi, opposed this district-centred containment approach at the outset. At the latest video conference, their reservations were amplified, with several other CMs, across party affiliations, adding their voice to them. Punjab CM Amarinder Singh's plea that the authority to slot areas into red, orange and green zones be delegated to states had the backing of BJP-ruled Haryana. And as Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal pointed out, the district-wise formula is impractical for densely-populated areas such as the country's capital. Kejriwal's demand to do away with the green, orange, red zones, and cordon off only the containment areas, found support from his Karnataka counterpart, BJP's BS Yediyurappa.

A major lesson from the nearly two-month-long battle against the coronavirus is that the country's demographic, economic, and cultural diversities do not allow for a onesize-fits-all approach. Successful strategies to take on the pathogen - for instance, in Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, parts of Rajasthan and Telangana - have relied on and responded to the local officials' knowledge of regional specificities. The exit strategy should be based on the understanding that these officials are attuned to the situation on the ground. While the Centre could frame the broad principles, micro-planning - including deciding which areas to open up - should be left to the states.

BUILDING TRUST

The new guidelines for data handling in Aarogya Setu system are a welcome first step. Supporting legislation must follow

ROM CLAIMING THAT the Aarogya Setu app is unhackable, to suggesting that it must be the safest app ever because millions are downloading it - they are compelled to, actually - to issuing fresh guidelines to safeguard the privacy of users, the government has come a long way, tacitly acknowledging the trust deficit and the need to address it. Trust is an essential ingredient for the success of Aarogya Setu in helping to contain the pandemic, because it must acquire a critical mass of users to be of any use. On Monday, an order by the empowered group on technology and data management, set up by the national executive of the Disaster Management Act, established the protocol for handling data by the various bodies involved in the management of the COVID-19 outbreak. Outside that circle, the data may be shared only with the research community in anonymised form. Breaches will attract penalties according to relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act, besides other applicable laws. The government has fixed security flaws in data handling detected by a French white hat hacker, limited the purpose of data collection to dealing with the pandemic, and restricted the types of data which may be collected and the period for which it may be held. And crucially, by promising punitive measures, the order sets to rest public anxieties about privacy. Problems about technology are not adequately addressed by technology by claiming that software is hacker-proof, for instance. It is best addressed by the law, by the certainty of liability and the penalties thereby attracted. But perhaps this order should be read as a first step towards a law, as a letter of intent rather than a compact. Justice BN Srikrishna, who headed the committee which had produced the first draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, has pointed out that the order is not lawful - supportive legislation is required by Aarogya Setu, rather than merely an order by the executive. On May 1, the ministry of home affairs had made the app mandatory for employees in the public and private sector, and in government. Local authorities were urged to secure complete coverage in containment zones. The Noida police then extended it to everyone, threatening imprisonment and fines for non-compliance. These may be emergency interventions, but the app now requires legislative backing. In the absence of an underlying law, it would remain vulnerable to legal challenge.



Living with the virus In Phase II of epidemic, states must build empirical and

analytic foundations of systems of delivery

MILIND SOHONI

"WE HAVE TO learn to live with the virus", said Lav Agarwal, joint secretary, Union health ministry, on May 8. Hopefully, this will turn out to be a watershed moment in India's fight with the corona epidemic. For, it marks the realisation that as the virus spreads across India, a centralised strategy of containment and elimination is no longer viable. The stage is now set to move to the states as they find effective ways to manage the epidemic. And in this, it is the community and regional institutions who must play a crucial role.

So far, the welfare costs of the measures and regulations were weighed against the infinite benefits that would accrue if we were to eliminate the virus. This provided the justification, at least in the minds of the people, for such measures. The legal basis has been extremely draconian laws: The infamous Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 and its amendment, and a very lop-sided interpretation of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005. While the Act requires various plans to be produced at the national, state and district levels, no such documents are available. In principle, the Act could have served to marshal our scientific institutions into undertaking useful studies. Instead, it has largely been used by the Centre to issue guidelines to the states, and to concentrate power into the hands of the elite bureaucracy and a few central scientific agencies. No reports or studies have been cited in most of the guidelines issued under this act. The most recent one, issued on May 9, on resumption of manufacturing activities, creates a bonanza for factory inspectors.

Containment and elimination is an option for small, well-governed countries with considerable technical and financial heft, and, that too, in the very initial stages of an infection. For a country which has not been able to provide drinking water to its people, containment is an overreach. It has quickly exposed our limitations, of poor testing capacity and poor access to public healthcare facilities. The logic of containment may also have been one of the reasons for the ordeal of our migrant workers. Firstly, they were forced to stay put. Now, their movement is restricted by a scientific bureaucracy which is unable to test them or move them. There just aren't enough tests to go around. Also, Today's risk perceptions, taboos and practices have arisen from an urban salaried upper class which can work from home and not from those who need to run a shop, work in a unit or on a farm. The morbidities of the disease in rural or partlyrural societies may be quite different and behaviour change may need a different plan. The analysis would help in ensuring that procedures match risks and respect material constraints. The simplest example is that hospitalisation and testing of every case may not be feasible. Managing the disease under these constraints requires a sound empirical basis.

the ministry of railways is perhaps overwhelmed by the logistics of operating hundreds of trains on a new schedule and coordinating with regional agencies.

Containment was also destined to fail in many poor urban neighbourhoods of our cities. Extreme densities and irregular dwellings made it impossible to maintain social distance. Little surplus at home, dependence on daily wages and frequently changing schedules caused mobility and crowding that further aggravated the situation. Finally, poor per capita availability of medical care led to delays in response. This and the collective punishment of block quarantine created both guilt and stigma that led many symptomatic patients to delay reporting to the hospital. But by then, it was too late. These are problems not of behaviour change but of poor planning and misplaced priorities.

Hopefully, we will now transition into a more systematic and scientific approach to managing the disease and improve preparedness at the level of the village and the city wards. There are several tasks which our scientific agencies need to do.

The first is to uncover the regional parameters of the disease, its prevalence in the community, and typical trajectories. This will help in both clinical and logistical matters. This must be done through careful documentation of the cases, their geographies, their socio-economic background, and their clinical response. As of now, this data is not available. Perhaps, it is not even being recorded.

This analysis would help people understand the actual risks and mortalities and make compliance and participation easier. It will provide the basis for designing village level guidelines on returning migrants, quarantine rotations and accessing common resources, for example, drinking water or sanitation, in times of infection

Today's risk perceptions, taboos and practices have arisen from an urban salaried upper class which can work from home and not from those who need to run a shop, work in a unit or on a farm. The morbidities of the disease in rural or partly-rural societies may be quite different and behaviour change may need a different plan. The analysis would help in ensuring that procedures match risks and respect material constraints. The simplest example is that hospitalisation and testing of every case may not be feasible. Managing the disease under these constraints requires a sound empirical basis.

The other area which needs better design s the logistics of preparedness. This includes hospital beds and their distribution, ambulance services, public transport, and the provision of basic amenities and welfare services. Periodic assessments and analysis by regional institutions would ensure that obvious lacunae are overcome and any shortfalls of equipment or manpower are met in a structured manner, through the support and contributions of community organisations. A dashboard of the key parameters of preparedness and their live status would instil confidence and enable collective action.

Sadly, our central network of elite scientific institutions has largely been in a self-imposed quarantine. Their contributions so far, either in concepts or in methods, have not been commensurate with the prestige and place that they have in the national ethos. They have preferred the safety and security of their campus and old ways of working, over an opportunity to wrest a place for themselves and their mofussil brethren, the regional and state institutions, in the destiny of the nation. Their masters, the elite bureaucracy, have obliged.

Thus, as we enter Phase II of the epidemic, it is in the interest of the states to build the empirical and analytic foundation of systems of delivery and to talk to each other and share experiences. It is for us to deepen the scientific and political understanding of our people and to bring them to expect well-reasoned arguments and matching actions, and not merely hope to be beneficiaries of an expertocratic administration. The corona epidemic has once more shown the inherent inequality and instability of Big Science and the inability of the global economy to ensure welfare. It is time that we develop more regional and more convivial and vernacular models of managing our societies. The epidemic provides us a unique opportunity to move in this direction.

The writer is with Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, IIT Bombay. He is currently on deputation to IIT Goa



SEEING A NEW CITY

What stories will we tell of this pandemic? Who will be allowed to tell them?

BCCI won't

Pointing to the pandemic, the world's richest cricket board has shut the coffers

IXTEEN-YEAR-OLD CRICKETER SIDAK Singh is sheepish about taking calls from his family as he dreads the moment when they ask him if he has received the outstanding dues from the Indian cricket board. In these COVID-stricken times, with his father's cloth business under threat, it's his money the family depends on to tide over the crisis. Twenty-eight-year-old Harpreet Bhatia, captain of Chhattisgarh Ranji team, awaits the arrears of players' shares from Indian cricket's annual earnings. Bhatia is just one of the 950 first-class cricketers cooped up at home, waiting for some good news. Forget the accumulated money from the revenue pie, several first-class cricketers haven't got their last season's match fees yet. Several umpires and other match officials still await their dues from games held in January, February, and March. Welcome to the lockdown, where the world's richest cricket board has shut the coffers.

The official reason given by the BCCI is the nationwide lockdown to contain the pandemic. But it doesn't explain why players, umpires and referees have been waiting for up to three years for their earnings and rightful share of the revenue. Many haven't got anything from the beginning of 2020. Most players are wary and embarrassed to raise the issue. But in these vulnerable times, several cricketers, especially the juniors and those in domestic cricket, are coughing politely.

These players can't work from home, and a nagging apprehension about the future is descending on them. Sachin Tendulkar has recently told this newspaper that he hopes the BCCI would have an open mind in helping out those countries which have been financially worst hit by the COVID crisis. It's a good sentiment, but the first step should start at home - not as an act of charity, but as acknowledgement of a right.

Amrita Dutta

"ARE YOU keeping records of the way your hearts and minds are reacting to this strange new way of living?" In a letter to his students, the American novelist George Saunders urges them to pay attention to the world and themselves, as it lurches to a bewildering halt. To see, as writers and artistes can, the invisible inches by which we rearrange the deepest parts of our lives, how we get turned into history's playthings. So, what are the stories we will tell of this pandemic?

By freezing up the world, the novel coronavirus has made us look at it anew. Like the sudden views of the Himalayas from Saharanpur or Jalandhar, we unfog our eyes and look at the architecture of our lives. Working from home, we now experience the mountain of work at home - never considered real work, because women can be paid a pittance (or not) to do it. The cult of productivity is suddenly shamefaced. In this pause, we put on music, watch films, see children calm themselves as they paint – the arts and artists stepping in to heal, as we wait to emerge on the other side.

Not blessed with a writer's serendipity, I can see only as far as ghostly, emptied streets. Out on a grocery run, my eyes seek out strangers, a pang of joy at the sight of fellow humans - after weeks of lockdown, panic has given way to this hunger. We live and think surrounded by the hum of other The countless images of men and women, abandoned by the state, walking hundreds of kilometres away from the hostile city, hiding themselves in trucks and cement mixers, following the compass of rail tracks to a cruel death is the most damning evidence of inequality to confront us since liberalisation. Who will tell the stories of this pandemic? For, which stories are told, and which matter, is a function of power.

voices; we swim, especially in this country of a billion, in a river of people. This stifling unease we have been lugging around, locked in homes we are lucky to possess, is also a longing for others. For the lives of others. their gaze that holds us in shape, the public sphere that gives the private corner meaning. It reminds me of a question once posed to Ramana Maharishi. "How do we treat others?" His reply: "There are no others."

The coronavirus has underlined this interconnected-ness of human life. It has also dangled a test: Do we choose solidarity or suspicion? In India, the muscle memory of caste superiority has kicked in, making it easier to suspect, police and distance the lessprivileged. History will also remember this as a time when the Hindutva project of turning Muslim citizens into second-class subjects, and re-imagining them as uber-outcastes, did not pause for a public health emergency but gathered pace. What will emerge on the other side of this animus?

It wasn't just lofty mountain ranges that swam into view in this upheaval. Gazing down from dizzying heights, several drone cameras brought us visuals of empty metropolises, drained of its people, noise and squalor. It was a fantasy, like all top-down views tend to be – especially for the middle class, which had retreated into apartment complexes and behind N95 masks. On the ground, the invisibles had emerged, mak-

ing but one claim on the city they had helped build with their labour: Send us home. Since the 1990s, the dream of an aspiring metropolitan India has been a dazzling, exponential graph, making even our cinema turn away from the tales of the poor. But the countless images of men and women, abandoned by the state, walking hundreds of kilometres away from the hostile city, hiding themselves in trucks and cement mixers, following the compass of rail tracks to a cruel death is the most damning evidence of inequality to confront us since liberalisation. Who will tell the stories of this pandemic? For, which stories are told, and which matter, is a function of power. It is that power that has made the city's voice heard over the village and the kasba, the national over the provincial. A hobbled, angry state speaks for the poor but will not factor their needs while planning a national shutdown. It is also the privilege of people like us that allows us to see migrant workers only as benighted victims.

When history accounts for this great exodus, it will see the uncommon resilience, dignity and agency of lakhs of workers, who chose a path – as all heroic humans do in the face of great adversity - even if it leads to the unknown. Will we listen to these storytellers of the pandemic?

amrita.dutta@expressindia.com



MAY 13, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

AASU TALKS

THE ALL-ASSAM STUDENTS Union president, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said that the AASU was always prepared to hold negotiations with the prime minister or any representative of the Centre to find a solution to the foreigners issue. He, however, said any meaningful talks must be preceded by withdrawal of all repressive measure. He reiterated that the current agitation in Assam was directed solely against foreigners and not any religious or linguistic group.

IRAN HARDLINERS WIN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN Party and its hardline clerical allies have won a majority

in the runoff round of the Iranian parliamentary election, Teheran radio said. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appeared to be tightening controls over the military and the press. The Iranian revolutionary leader has said the new parliament will decide fate of the American hostages. Many Islamic Republicans say that the captives should go on trial as spies if the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in exile in Egypt, is not returned to Iran to face charges of murder and corruption.

DRY BANDA

IN THIS PARCHED land of the Bundelkhand region, Banda, water has become the dear-

est commodity. Here, the women of Patha villages find a pitcher of water dearer than their husbands. "Gagariya na phoote khasam marijaaye" is a folklore which translated into English means "the husband may die but the pitcher of water should not break". The women have to go as far as 10 km to get a pitcher of water. In the villages of Rukma, Daderi, Baberu, Mau, and others, even the dead have to go without their traditional last rites. So acute is the water crisis that instead of bathing the body, the village people just open the person's mouth and put in a few drops of water. The large number of tanks that had been deepened in Banda in the hope that rains would fill them are dry.







THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

Dear fellow parents and teachers

The 'bois locker room' incident has underlined an important lesson: We need to act now, nudge policymakers, and schools, to ensure our children receive gender education from early on



Simantini Ghosh

I WRITE TO all of you today in anguish and fear in the wake of the "Bois locker room" incident. I am scared as a mother of a six-yearold boy. I am scared for children irrespective of gender. I am afraid that if we don't act now, a few years later, my son, any of our sons, could be in such a group degrading their female peers.

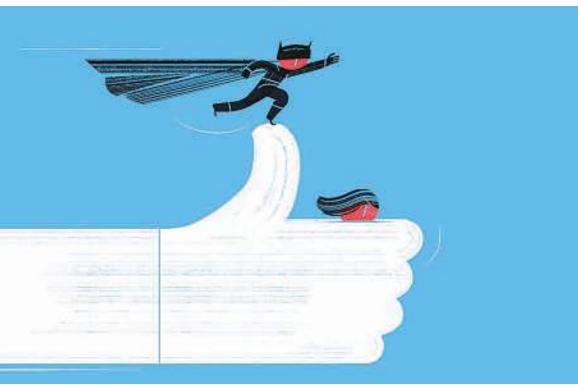
Parents and teachers need to wake up to two deeply disturbing yet pervasive truths. One is cyberbullying, which is recognised to cause depression, anxiety and extreme stress very similar to real-life stressful events. In the locker room incident, cyberbullying intersects with violence against women, unfortunately also guite familiar in India.

India does a splendid job of telling its women to cover themselves up and make themselves invisible outside their homes. We routinely shame survivors of violence while perpetrators go free. Women are binarised to good women, who don't cross boundaries thrust upon them, and bad women, who don't conform, and violence against them is legitimised by framing it as a punishment for their transgressions.

This is also reflected in cyberspace. Outspoken women are natural targets of sexually-charged threats online. Most women can testify to personal experiences of online sexual harassment, sometimes serially. Despite the perpetrators being repeat offenders, the usual recourse left to the victims is to remove themselves from the groups and communities. The perpetrators are seldom held accountable for their actions after harassing multiple women, instead are enabled by benevolent community members, who somehow seem to consider rape threats and jokes to women as affable and harmless fun.

Unless one experiences it first-hand, it is hard to understand the extent of damage relentless virtual harassment can inflict. Women who have irked the religious/nationalist right have suffered sustained violent threats of lynching, rape and death. Trolls usually outcompete each other trying to describe innovative ways deviant women should be mutilated and violated for the opinions they dare to express. By and large, Indians on social media have adapted and learned to take this in their stride. Despite increasing media coverage, actual actions taken against perpetrators are few and far in between. The onus is on women to steer clear of trouble or face the music

The public outrage in this instance is probably because no one expected educated boys from the best city schools to act like internet trolls. Whether it is a rational assumption will probably stay unasked. There is also some effort to explain away such behaviour as displays of teenage desire. Since sociobiology became fashionable in the 1960s, a lot of research effort was directed to explain violent behaviour by biological determinism. Testosterone, the warrior gene, the super male, all received disproportionate media attention and most were later disproved, either partially or fully, by more careful, controlled research. But in popular consciousness, testosterone became one with violent male aggression, especially if it was sexually fuelled. Let us explore a few popular myths, and weigh them against factual evidence. First, educated boys from good families do



not abuse women.

All the boys so far connected to the group are from four or five elite schools of Delhi NCR and Noida and purportedly hail from educated, socioeconomically well-to-do families. Contrarily, a large body of evidence suggests social privilege and power confers entitlement and impunity in Indian social structures. The brazen casualness with which sexual violence is bandied around is likely a product of these

Second, boys will be boys. Or, blame it on testosterone.

Yes, testosterone has been linked with male aggression. Male aggression is a hallmark of primate societies like chimpanzees, our closest ancestors whose social interactions are rife with violence against females by males and alpha dominance. However, genetically speaking, we are equally similar to another group of primates - the bonobos, who have a feminist and egalitarian society. So, the idea that violence is hard-wired in human males is deeply flawed.

Behaviour is determined by an interaction of biology and environment. About 12,000 years of cultural and cognitive evolution has to be accounted for when it comes to social behaviour.

Adolescence alone cannot explain the callousness that is evident in the screenshots. These adolescents could not have been insulated from the media coverage around highprofile rape cases or violent crimes committed against Indian women. That they converse so casually about sexual violence and express such rabid misogyny, when conversations are exploding all around about gender and conC R Sasikuma

As parents, how do we halt this toxic masculinity that is devouring our boys, and through them causing irreparable damage to girls? We cannot simply mark the boys involved as deviants, mark them for punishment, and move on. Every major rape case in India is followed by a public outcry to hang the rapist. And hung they have. Rape accused been killed in police encounters. Yet data has consistently shown that the death penalty does nothing to reduce violence against women anywhere, anytime. Since India allowed the death penalty in case of rapes/gang rapes involving minors, they have been rather liberally doled out in lower courts.

However, the recent incident is yet another demonstration, the problem does not end with hanging the "othered" rapist, because rape lives within us. Our society enables it and permits it, and passive silence strengthens rape culture. This is rape culture, full and frontal.

Two approaches are urgently needed. Gender and sex education should be made part of the primary school curriculum. Schools need to urgently conduct cyber-bullying, gender sensitisation and genderedabuse workshops with parents, teachers and students regularly. I entreat especially the parents of boys to abolish the sense of entitlement which is common to every Indian male child. Rather than telling our girls to stay home and cover themselves up, tell our boys not to rape. We should teach children the meaning of consent. All of the above will still fail if parents do not lead by example. Indian men have largely not grown up witnessing any form of gender equity, rather the opposite. Children learn by imprinting and modelling behaviours they see in adults around them. It is crucial to break gender stereotypes if respect across genders is to be fostered in children. Stereotyping creates precisely the hierarchy in the family, where the position of one gender subsumes the other. My sincere hope, as a university educator, citizen and parent is that we will take our share of responsibility for this collective failure. We need to act now, nudge policymakers, and schools, to ensure that our children receive gender education from early on. Unless we acknowledge the flourishing rape culture all around, safety and dignity will be a long way off for Indian women.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Taxpayers have a right to know how and where their money is being spent in the efforts to buy ventilators, masks and other essential supplies... While the work of government continues, citizens are losing a fundamental right to transparency. That's a threat to good government and democracy.

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Kerala way

State's investment in social sectors is helping combat Covid-19. It must build on gains, turn crisis into opportunity



KERALA IS an outlier among other Indian

states in terms of social indices and its suc-

cess is often touted as an "experience" or

a "lesson". The Kerala story has been

widely talked about even by scholars such

as Amartya Sen. There is a renewed sense

of pride among a large section of people

in Kerala that the state's social indicators

are at par with those of Nordic countries

and that the state has outsmarted even

rich Western countries in combating

combat COVID-19 when the world at large

appeared ill-prepared to respond to this

health emergency? Kerala has the lowest

mortality rate as well as the highest recov-

ery rate with respect to coronavirus infec-

tions. The initial statistical projection of

cases and deaths became redundant due

to the organic method adopted by Kerala.

The number of tests conducted in Kerala is

just 10 per cent of the figures for countries

such as the US. But aggressive contact trac-

ing and keeping a large number of people

under observation helped Kerala in pre-

venting community spread. Ninety per

cent of the positive cases were detected

among people who were kept under

Comparative analysis will invariably

become the premise for understanding

the experiences of various countries. The

experiences of New York and Kerala are

compared to highlight the stark difference

in the approach of two systems. The pop-

ulation of Kerala is 33 million whereas

that of New York is 19 million. The per

capita income of Kerala is \$2,937 while

that of New York state is \$88,981. There

are 1.8 hospital beds for every 1,000 peo-

ple in Kerala whereas the corresponding

figure for New York is 3.1 beds. Kerala has

1.7 doctors per 1,000 persons, New York

is credited with 3.8 doctors. However, the

total corona positive cases in Kerala as on

May 11 was 512 and the state had reported

just four deaths. On the corresponding

date, New York had over 3.4 lakh corona

positive cases with more than 27,000

deaths. The credit should go to Kerala's ro-

How is it that Kerala could effectively

COVID-19.

observation.

nels and in mainstream newspapers of all ideological persuasions, and in seminar rooms. We say in a lighter vein that Kerala

of discussion worldwide - on TV chan-

consumes a heavy dose of politics. Indeed, politics pervades all aspects of life in the state. A positive aspect of this is that there is a close interconnect between the layers of administration and people. Real-time auditing, which becomes handy when mammoth exercises, like fighting a pandemic, is in place in the state.

The Left has always been decried for its redistribution-oriented economic model and blamed for its "skewed" nurturing of the public sector. The Left Democratic Front governments have always laid emphasis on public education and public health. Official numbers from the period – whenever the Left has been in office - confirm a preference for staterun institutions over private enterprises. Since people have gained massively from such measures, even the rival political formation would not dilute the Left's peoplecentric policies for fear of a popular backlash when it is elected to office.

The message from Kerala is that the world should be prodded to do business in the state, especially in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, education, health, biotechnology and IT. Kerala's weather, friendly people, stable law and order are clearly pluses for investors. There are millions of people across the world who are curious about this small patch of land and they can be induced to have an interface with state. Moreover, the entrepreneurship of those Malayalis who would be returning with vast expertise and experience, can be channelised for productive purposes. Take the tourism sector. If each Malayali brings one tourist home, the loss the state suffered on account of the pandemic can be compensated to a large ex-

It is not an exaggeration to say that Malayalis get an adrenaline rush during a crisis and plunge into humanitarian efforts. But he or she often squanders opportunities to make the state proud on normal occasions. This is another Kerala paradox! The Malayali has a penchant to dwell on controversies, which often result in administrators and decision-makers wasting their time over trivial matters. Paul Antony, a former chief secretary of Kerala, once said the only industry that was thriving in the state was that of controversv!

Kerala cannot afford to the miss new opportunities coming its way in this fast-

sent is even more alarming.

Third, what is the problem with a bit of good harmless fun?

Wrong question. Here are a few better ones. How is brutal violence supposed to elicit fun, and how exactly is it harmless? Has anyone tried to assess the trauma of the women whose pictures have been used? Where does this sort of entitlement on female bodies come from? What makes one so utterly and wilfully ignorant of consent? How can someone imagine brutally violating a peer he might have known for months and derive pleasure out of it? Have we normalised violence against women to this extent that we now add planning of gangrapes on women to acceptable discussion topics in Boys' Locker Rooms? Is this how we plan to foster fraternities and coming of age rituals?

to the group are from four or five elite schools of Delhi NCR and Noida and purportedly hail from educated, socioeconomically well-to-do families. Contrarily, a large body of evidence suggests social privilege and power confers entitlement and impunity in Indian social structures. The brazen casualness with which sexual violence is bandied around is likely a product of these.

All the boys so far connected

The writer is assistant professor of psychology, Ashoka University

bust local governance, effective social structure and well-knit multi-layered public health structure. The state may be a laggard in industrial production, but its human development indices are stellar.

The world is once again discussing the Kerala story. It has acquired a halo thanks to its efficiency and resilience in successfully battling infectious diseases and natural calamities over successive years. In recent years, the state government, in close collaboration with its people, managed to minimise human and economic losses due to floods, the Nipah virus outbreak and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Unsurprisingly, the results have attracted worldwide attention. Kerala is now a topic

changing world unless it wants to miss the bus of progress and development. Late US President John F Kennedy is reported to have said: "The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis'. One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger but recognise the opportunity." Kennedy may have misunderstood the Chinese characters, but Kerala should lean on the second brush stroke he spoke about and turn the present adversity into opportunity.

The writer is managing director of Kairali TV, and media advisor to the Chief Minister of Kerala



Science with heritage

NDA government is trying to align Ayurveda with modern knowledge

BALENDU PRAKASH

AYURVEDA SHOULD have become the forerunner of India's great medical heritage, but we started despising our culture, heritage, and scientific traditions. As a result, people in the country lost their connection with nature - ayurveda went away from us. For many years, when India wasn't free, numerous attempts were made to destroy the country's cultural heritage

But even after Independence, successive governments did not give special attention to ayurveda. After the Narendra Modi government assumed office, the task of reviving this system of knowledge got a new lease of life. The Centre has undertaken several initiatives in this respect.

Ayurveda is not just a medical system, it is a manifestation of our symbiotic relationship with nature. It has helped cure serious diseases and many foreign companies have patented important ingredients used in ayurvedic remedies. But they have introduced these ingredients to the world without acknowledging ayurveda. In the process, many such remedies have gone out of our reach.

In his messages to the country, during the course of the nation's battle against

COVID-19, PM Modi has highlighted the beneficial impacts of ayurvedic practices on the immune system. These practices prepare the body to take on this serious disease without causing any side effect. Modi deserves praise for taking yoga into people's homes - he should also be lauded for bringing ayurveda into the limelight.

In reviving ayurveda, PM Modi has tried to make it more scientific and employmentoriented. The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) became a fullfledged ministry in 2014. Modi's efforts have led to June 21 being declared as the International Yoga Day. In 2016, the AYUSH ministry declared Dhanteras, Dhanvantari Pujan, celebrated a day before Diwali, as Ayurveda Day.

Previous governments treated Ayurveda in a step-motherly manner. The budget for the development, promotion and dissemination of ayurveda was negligible compared to that for the modern system of medicine. But the Modi-led NDA government has ensured adequate funding to the AYUSH ministry. The budget for AYUSH, only Rs 1,069 crore in 2014-15, has almost

doubled to Rs 2,122 crore 2020-21.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was established in Delhi in 1956. Before Modi became PM, there was no dedicated space for ayurveda sciences in the AIIMS campus. The Modi government established the All India Ayurveda Institute at a cost of Rs 157 crore in an area of about 10.015 acres in Delhi – this has given the discipline a distinct identity.

The efforts of saints and scholars of ayurveda did push the previous governments to establish the department of Indian System of Medicine under the Union ministry of health. Posts up to the level of secretary were also created for the department. But it was never accorded the same importance as modern medicine.

PM Modi appointed an ayurvedic doctor in place of an IAS officer as secretary of AYUSH. The result of his visionary and courageous decision has been extraordinary. Rajesh Kotecha established new standards in education, medicine, and research of ayurveda. His efforts have ensured that the project for the scientific development of Rasaushadhi, developed by my late father Chandra Prakash between 1997

and 2000, is being implemented after 20 years. This treatment has been found to be effective cure for acute an promyelocytic leukaemia, a type of blood cancer

PM Modi has also made his intentions clear in the latest episode of Mann Ki Baat. His efforts have created awareness among people about ayurveda. The prime minister has also encouraged the practitioners of ayurveda to combine the fundamental principles of the system with some of the diagnostic methods and standards of modern medical science. This will undoubtedly create many employment opportunities.

The teachings of Swami Vivekananda have left an indelible mark on PM Modi. Swamiji wanted India to become a world guru. By supporting ayurveda, and reiterating its importance in the fight against the pandemic and other diseases, PM Modi has taken important steps to fulfill Vivekananda's vision. We wish him and all of us a prosperous, proud, and empowered India.

The writer is an Ayurveda practitioner. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROTECT WORKERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Don't call it reform' (IE, May 12). It rightly points out the so-called reform in labour laws that industry and government want to implement. This approach will denigrate the life of the true nation builders workers. In fact, some industries mete out cruel treatment to workers, particularly in the unorganised sector. Abysmal wages and overwork in unhygienic, unsafe conditions make the life of employees unbearable. Any move to increase working hours will take a toll on employees' mental and physical health. Governments should not take any hasty decisions on labour laws.

Sarierao Narwade, Sangl

UNFAIR FARE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Back on the rails' (IE, May 12). The recent resumption of passenger trains is a step in the right direction as the railways are the lifeline of our nation. But as the price of fuel in the international market has decreased dramatically, the fact that train fares have not come down in proportion is disappointing. Given that the common man is suffering from a shortage of funds due to the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19, their mobility should be enabled, not made unaffordable. This will only help the economy

Aamil Lodhi, Gandhinagar

IDEAS ONLINE ONLY IN THE EXPRESS • THE IDEA OF SOUTH **ASIA:SANJAY KATHURIA** REIMAGININGWORK AND FAMILY: **GITANJALI PRASAD**

www.indianexpress.com

SEE THEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An older injustice' (IE May 12). Even though there are 41 million migrant labourers in India, the media seldom highlights their issues on a regular basis. Little is being done to alleviate their suffering, caused by the lockdown. The main problem is our collective failure to see them as human beings with dignity and inalienable rights. In normal times, we conveniently view them through the lens of being cheap labour, remittance providers, and perpetrators of crime. The first step in ending their present misery is to recognise them as our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Sunil Macwan, Ahmedabad

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 **8** THE OUTBREAK NATION

MP borders on edge as migrants try to reach UP, Bihar

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, MAY 12

WITH THOUSANDS of distressed migrant workers, mainly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, passing through Madhya Pradesh on their way home, the entry and exit points in the central Indian state have witnessed chaotic scenes over the last few days.

Workers enter MP from Bijasan Ghat in Sendhwa tehsil of Barwani district and arrive in UP after covering hundreds of kilometres, following three different routes -Bijasan-Dewas-Guna-Shivpuri, Guna-Shivpuri-Gwalior-Bhind and Dewas-Sagar-Chhatarpur – to reach the border areas.

Last week, the MP government stopped workers at Bijasan after the UP government did not allow them to enter the state. The UP government changed its decision after 48 hours but it added to the miseries of migrants, some on foot or bicycles, and some just lucky to have managed rides on vehicles after shelling out big amounts of money.

Many have died in road accidents while several others have died of heat and due to exhaustion. Many of these migrants have also been cheated by vehicle drivers who drop them midway, hundreds of kilometres before their destination.

A senior police officer posted in Gwalior said chaos has reigned at the UP border over the last few days. Despite the two state governments having discussed the matter, the authori-

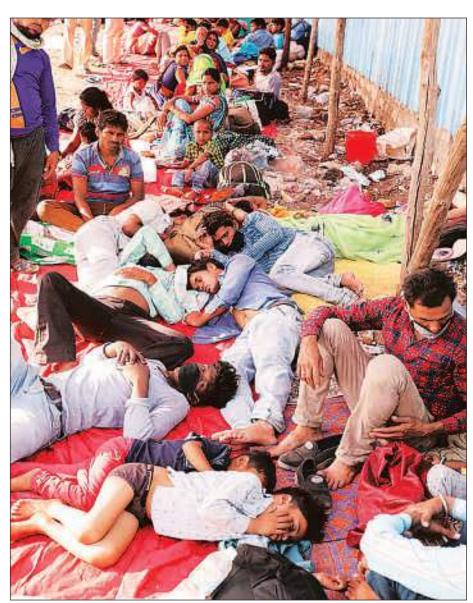
ties in MP have had to persuade their UP counterparts to let the migrants in. "It goes through the day but things eventually fall in place," the officer said, admitting that though food and tents have been arranged on this side of the border, the screening facilities are far from satisfactory.

Bijasan was one of the busiest entry points in the country till recently with things improving only marginally on Tuesday. Even on Monday, hundreds of workers got on top of crowded vehicles in MP after being dropped there by buses arranged by the Maharashtra government

Khargone (DIG) Tilak Singh said the crowd started thinning from Monday from the figure of 35.000 to 40,000 till a week ago. He said those arriving on foot have stopped but some are coming in vehicles.

The MP government Tuesday announced that it had arranged 375 additional buses to transport migrants to the borders of their respective states and districts. The government claimed that payment for 70 per cent of the buses has been made in advance.

Madhuri However, Krishnaswamy of the Barwanibased Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan accused the MP government of failing to do its part. She said while the Maharashtra government dropped workers in buses at Bijasan border, the MP government did not live up to the job. "Migrants travelled with families and infants atop trucks in heat and putting their lives at risk."



BETWEEN HOME AND A HARD PLACE

Stranded migrants assemble at the Wagheshwar Parking Yard near Wagholi in Pune every day as police facilitate their return by supervising private bus operations to areas in Marathwada and Vidharbha. While fares are as high as four times than usual, migrants are queueing up to secure a seat by undergoing primary screening on the spot. Arul Horizon

Virus spread slowing, till May 10 key R-number was 1.23

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, MAY 12

BETWEEN APRIL 13 and May 10, the Covid-19 transmission rate (represented by the basic reproduction number or R-number) remained steady at 1.23, even after some of the lockdown restrictions were eased on May 4, according to a study done by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai.

The transmission rate is driven mostly by outbreaks in a few states, while most states saw contained growth.

At the beginning of lockdown, the R-naught (indicating the initial transmission rate) for March 27-April 6 was 1.83.

In the study of infectious disease, the basic reproduction number(R0 in the beginning, and then R-number) is used to assess the severity of an outbreak. This number is an average, reflecting the number of people infected by one infected person. The current Rnumber of 1.23 means that a Covid-19 patient is infecting 1.23 other people on an average.

'There has been remarkably little variation in the rate April 13 onwards," said researcher Sitabhra Sinha.

The new data captures the trend a week after some restrictions were eased on April 20, and then again on May 4.

At this current pace. India may see 70,000-80,000 active cases by May 17, Sinha said. The number of active cases on Tuesday was 46,008

The states which are seeing exponential case growth are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi and West Bengal. Among the 10 states which

have the highest case count (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab), Tamil Nadu has the highest Rnumber at 2.01. The state saw its numbers surpass that of Delhi this week, primarily due to a cluster in Chennai's Koyambedu market as well as an expansion of testing to 3.37 tests per thousand people.

Punjab has also seen a surge to a 1.32 R-number, partly due to the pilgrims who returned from Nanded testing positive; the state's testing figures stand at 1.42 per thousand people.

In this group, four states with the largest outbreaks -Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Delhi-account for two-thirds of India's case load.

While West Bengal's total case count remains relatively low (2.063), the state has seen a fluctuating R-number - 1.51 in Aprilend, 1.14 in May-beginning, 1.34 till May 10. The state also has a low testing rate (.45 tests per thousand

the "power to issue instructions

in any matter pertaining to the

grant of licenses, permits, passes

or authorisations under the Act

fered to ease overcrowding and

Kantilal Umap said that plans

were to initiate home deliveries

Commissioner

ensure social distancing.

Excise

as it deems proper".

Barring Tamil Nadu, the other southern states have seen almost linear growth. For example, although Andhra Pradesh is in the top 10 states by case count, it has curtailed its growth with a high testing rate (3.47 per thousand people). Kerala is also now a wellknown example of a flattened curve.

Some states with a large number of active cases - Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are showing "sub-exponential" growth, meaning moderate spread. Rajasthan's testing proportion is moderate (2.15 per thousand), but Uttar Pradesh (.58 per thousand) and Madhya Pradesh (.92 per thousand) are testing relatively fewer people.

In the east, Bihar and Odisha have seen recent upswings, partly due to cases among migrants arriving home. Bihar's testing proportion remains low(.29 per thousand) while Odisha has steadily increased its capacity (1.37 per thousand).

While the third phase of the lockdown is scheduled to end on May 17, Sinha cautioned that "in the absence of other containment measures, a lockdown by itself may be insufficient to prevent the epidemic from growing again once the stringent restrictions on movement of people are removed."

Kerala wants public transport within state after May 17

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Principal Secretary (Excise) Valsa Nair-Singh said the home MAY 12 delivery option was being of-

KERALA WANTS to resume passenger trains and domestic flights within the state, and bus services, metro rail, auto-taxi and restaurant services within districts when the third phase of the lockdown ends on May 17.

During his meeting with the chief ministers on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked the states to share a broad

'Not sure if we'll reach home or die on way'

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR, MAY 12

"WE HAVE been feeding ourselves using money sent from home. At the railway station, police cane us...some even demanded money...to let us board the train even though our registration was complete 12 days ago. With no way out, we decided to go home on a bicycle. Not sure if we will reach home or die along the way.

As Brij Kishore (21) expresses his fear and helplessness at Puniah's Phagwara he had already travelled 150 km, with nearly 1,500 km yet to cover to reach his home in Bathani Tola village of Bihar's Bhojpur district. Kishore, who worked at a thread mill in Amritsar district and was part of a group of over 29 migrants on cycles, said, "My father borrowed and sent Rs 1,000.



A group of migrants cycling back home. Anju Ag

office to enquire about the train, and the police send us back to our rooms without any clarification. Now we are going home on cycles," said Santosh, who left Hoshiarpur's Tanda town on Tuesday morning.

While Shramik trains have been running from Jalandhar and Amritsar districts for over a week, migrants from all eight districts of Doaba and Majha regions were found walking and cycling to their homes in UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand in large groups.

The entire stretch from Kartarpur in Jalandhar to Phagwara was full of such mi-

Ram Nivasan from Bihar's Saharsa district said, "When no one is telling us anything with clarity, how long can we wait here in uncertainty? ... no one was helping us, so we started our long journey to home."

"Police caned me when I went to the railway station to enquire about the train from Hoshiarpur. After such treatment. I decided to start on my own," said Bholu Ram, who came to Punjab to work as a construction labourer.

The allegation of money being demanded to let migrants board the trains was brought up

Maharashtra nod to liquor home delivery from May 14

SANDEEP ASHAR MUMBAI, MAY 12

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Tuesday gave its approval to allow home delivery of alcohol in the state during the lockdown

Days after long queues outside liquor shops raised an alarm, leading to a shutdown of such stores in Mumbai, the Uddhav Thackerav government from May 14. Late Tuesday, the commissionerate finalised invoked a special provision (Section 139) of the Maharashtra guidelines for the move's imple-Prohibition Act, 1949, to order mentation. For the time being, the excise commissioner to prothe government has permitted vide the home delivery option The order was needed since home delivery of liquor is not legal under normal circumstances in the state, with the Act itself containing provisions that disallow soliciting the use of liquor and banning advertising or publishing leaflets related to it. Under mits as many customers are yet Section 139, the government has

I used Rs 800 to buy a secondhand bicycle. I have been riding for the past three days and it will take 12 more days to reach my village. Our feet are badly swollen..."

Tanda town in a group of 100 migrants on bicycles on their way to Bihar.

"No trains are being run from our district. We are not even Santosh Kumar arrived in aware whether they would run... Phagwara from Hoshiarpur's We walk 10 km daily to the DC

grants on Tuesday.

"Whatever we had with us here is finished... Our families back home had been supporting us by sending money. So is it not better to go back rather than asking them to send money," said Vikas, another migrant who left Beas in Amritsar for his home.

CHANDIGARH, MAY12

Tuesday evening.

ment divested him of his addi-

tional charge of Financial

Commissioner (Taxation) late on

A Venu Prasad, Principal

Secretary (water resources, mines

and geology) and CMD, PSTCL, was

given the additional charge of

(Taxation). As Prasad is on casual

Commissioner

by another worker from Amritsar. "We went to the railway station after getting a message and there they are demanding Rs 500 to Rs 700 to board the train. We don't have even a single penny..." said Amrish Sahu. who reached Phagwara, cycling to Bihar from Amritsar

only neighbourhoo stores to carry out home deliveries.

to obtain the same

strategy on how they wanted to "The option of permitting tiedeal with the lockdown regime ups with e-commerce operators after the third phase. also being explored,' Kerala Chief Minister Nair said. The government said Pinarayi Vijayan said the state it is also looking into the issue of providing online drinking per-

wants to allow intra-district bus service with social distancing norms for passengers. Number of passengers have to be limited and a hike in bus fare would be allowed due to the reduced number of commuters. Buses have to ensure social distancing of passengers and violation of norms would result in suspension of permit, he said.

The Chief Minister said the state also wanted to allow operation of trade and industrial establishments outside containment zones. People should be allowed to dine at restaurants, after observing social distancing norms, the Chief Minister said. Kerala also wanted to allow auto-rickshaw service with the passenger in-

mula to get Finance Minister take limited to one. Manpreet Singh Badal and As part of easing the curbs, around 5,000 toddy shops will Technical Education Minister Charanjeet Singh Channi on board open to customers in the state on Wednesday.

Kerala has 524 Covid-19 cases.

After 'conflict of interest' storm, Punjab Chief Secy divested of additional charge leave till May 20, Finance Secretary While the government moved **KANCHAN VASDEV** Anirudh Tewari has been asked to

officiate in his place till then. On Monday, CM's Advisor A DAY after a controversy sur-Amrinder Singh Raja Warring had rounding Chief Secretary Karan alleged that the CS must come Avtar Singh, the Punjab govern-

clean on his son's alleged involvement in liquor trade. He claimed there was a conflict of interest between Singh's additional responsibility as Financial Commissioner (Taxation) and his son's alleged business links with liquor trade.

The order to relieve Karan Avtar Singh from Excise Department was issued by the Chief Secretary.

swiftly amid 'conflict of interest' allegations, Karan Avtar Singh went about his business as usual as the state's Chief Secretary. He attended office Tuesday and also held a meeting with DCs and SSPs through a video link.

Punjab ministers had Monday unanimously refused to attend any meeting with Karan Avtar Singh's participation. The charge against Singh was led by Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, who was backed by other ministers, over the Chief Secretary's behaviour at Saturday's Cabinet meet

to bury the hatchet with the CS. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

movement is flashed inside the

Integrated Command and

the nearest police station and

outpost so that police personnel

can immediately look into the

all those in quarantine are dis-

played as colour-coded circles.

In the control room, names of

An alert message is passed to

Control Room.

matter

that discussed giving relief to

liquor contractors. According to

sources, the government took the

decision to divest Singh of the

Sources close to Chief Minister

charge amid growing pressure.

said that to further defuse situa-

tion the government was adopt-

ing a wait-and-watch-policy and

working on a compromise for-

Disaster Management Act and

"But no such action has been initiated against anybody so far. We are giving a warning... Not many people are violating norms. People are generally following the rules," said Lokieet Singh. Superintendent of Police (Crime).

may increase when more people return from other states.

For those without smartphones, Anganwadi and ASHA workers have been directed to ensure monitoring and home quarantine.

In Bihar, panchayat mukhiyas keep an eye out for migrants skipping quarantine

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA MAY12

FOR THE last 10 days, Sudhanshu Kumar, mukhiya of Nayanagar panchayat area in Bihar's Samastipur district, has been moving around with a microphone and asking people to inform about any migrant returning to a village without staying in quarantine for 21 days.

Kumar has been receiving calls from villagers across the panchayat regarding the movement of migrants.

"Such is the level of aware ness now that villagers would send them to the local police station or block camp right from outside the village. Our job is to monitor that no exceptions are made. In the last seven days, 25 migrants have returned to our panchavat and 24 of them went to quarantine centres. One person who resisted was handed over to the police," said Kumar.

The mukhiya has also made it mandatory for villagers in the panchavat area to wear masks before stepping out.

Following several instances of migrants fleeing quarantine centres, the state Panchayati Raj department issued an order on April 30, making it mandatory for all mukhiyas, sarpanchs and ward members to inform the po-



Sudhanshu Kumar (right), mukhiya of Nayanagar panchayat area in Bihar's Samastipur district.

quarantine period," he said.

Kamal Kishore Singh were

moving around to spread

Kundan Krishnan told The Indian

Express, "Mukhiyas have been

doing a good job. In 90 per cent

cases, people are visiting quaran-

tine centres. Some people com-

ing to villages on bicycles or foot

are also being identified."

Additional DGP(civil defence)

awareness.

"Village youths have turned into corona warriors," said Dinesh Rai, mukhiya

lice if any migrant reaches a village without going through the process of registration, health check-up and quarantine.

Kumar said, "We are trying to fully comply with the order because it concerns the safety of all of us. With cases surging now, the message is loud and clear to all villagers.'

Dinesh Rai, the mukhiya of Oasimpur panchayat under Patna, said Covid-19 is the only

point of discussion now. "Village **LALMANI VERMA** youths have turned into Corona DEHRADUN, MAY 12 warriors. There is hardly any in-

Financial

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES in cident of a migrant reaching Dehradun are using a mobile aphome without completing the plication to track the movement Sonu Kumar, a resident of of those put in home quarantine Ramchua village under Bana, after their arrival from another said their village mukhiya district or state during the Sarojini Devi and her husband lockdown

Officials hope the app will substantially help in monitoring the large influx of migrants when the Uttarakhand government brings people from other states via trains. More than 1.79 lakh people have registered to return to their homes in Uttarakhand by trains, buses and personal vehicles. More than 23,000 have already returned.



An alert is generated for suspected cases of violation, inside the Integrated Command and Control Room in Dehradun.

Teams of the district administration ensure that an application called IGiS Geo-Locator is



depending on their health condition, and these colours change as per the health updates made by individuals on the Aarogya Setu app installed on their phones.

installed in the smartphone of As per norms, if a person vievery person who enters olates quarantine guidelines, ac-Dehradun. When a person put in tion can be initiated under the

Dehradun using app to monitor home quarantine home quarantine moves 50 metres beyond their residence, an Epidemic Diseases Act. alert is generated and their

Dehradun District Magistrate

Ashish Kumar Srivastava said more than 2,000 people under home quarantine in the city were being monitored using the application and this number

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 **L**EXPLAINED THE OUTBREAK

90 @ieExplained #ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

EXPERTS EXPLAIN

How households are coping under lockdown

Three scholars assess lockdown's impact on Indian households, who are hit hardest, and how long they expect to be able to manage with their current resources

Himachal Pradesh

Puniab

Haryana

Rajasthar

Chhattisgarh

Maharashtra

Andhra Pradesh

Telangana

Karnataka

Kerala

Gujarat

Delhi

SOME STATES HAVE BEEN HIT HARDER

Proportion of households reporting income loss

Uttarakhand

Odisha

Benga

Bihar

Jharkhand

Assam

Tripura

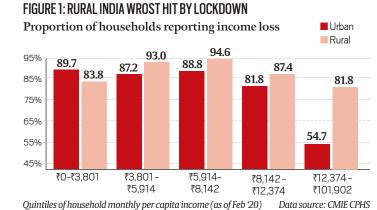


MARIANNE BERTRAND, KAUSHIK KRISHNAN & Heather Schofield

THE SPREAD of Covid-19 and the economic lockdown enacted in response by the Government of India have resulted in significant economic hardship. These effects are both substantial and widespread. Eighty-four percent of Indian households report decreases in income since the lockdown. A third of Indian households report not having enough resources to go on for more than a week before facing distress.

These headline statistics, which are drawn from our analysis of a nationally representative survey of Indian households conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) between April 18 and April 30, 2020, should be a call to action for Indian policymakers as they try to best balance a public health crisis and an economic crisis.

Importantly, the data also reveal that the economic impact of the lockdown has not been equally distributed across people and places. About 85% of the households earning



a monthly per-capita income of less than Rs 3,801 before the lockdown, corresponding to being in the lowest quintile of the percapita income distribution, have experienced a fall in income. At the other end, only 66% of the households earning more than Rs 12,734 before the lockdown, corresponding to being in the highest quintile of the per-capita income distribution, have experienced a fall in income. While both numbers are exceptionally high, more than 90% of households with incomes in between this range have experienced a fall in income.

Smaller lockdown-induced income losses among those in the highest per-capita income quintile in India are consistent with what has been observed in other countries:

higher-income earners are more likely to be employed in occupations that enable remote work and hence to be able to continue to earn a living despite the stay-at-home orders. The somewhat smaller impact among households in the lowest income quintile compared to second and third quintiles may reflect their greater representation of occupations that have continued despite the lockdown in that quintile (e.g. agriculture, food vendors). However, it might also reflect that India's existing safety net and income support programmes do not adequately target households in these quintiles that have experienced dramatic job losses due to the lockdown.

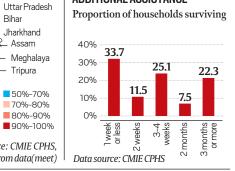
While economic losses due to the lock-

amil Data source: CMIE CPHS, Shape file from data(meet) Nadu down are widespread among both rural and urban households, rural households have been hit the hardest, with 88% of them reporting a fall in income under the lockdown, compared to 75% of urban households. As seen in Figure 1, this difference is driven by the fact that higher income levels pre-lockdown are mainly protective for households living in urban areas. Again, we conjecture that this a reflection of occupation sorting and greater availability of remote work options among salaried work-

ers in urban settings. Our data further reveals substantial variation in income losses by state of residence (See map). The five most affected states are Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

FIGURE 2: MANY WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE



Haryana. Notably, economic impact by state does not strongly track the extent of the outbreak. Rather, we conjecture that income per-capita and occupational composition before the lockdown, lockdown severity, and effectiveness of the delivery of aid are likely contributors to this cross-state variation.

In contrast to much of the variation described above, we do not find much evidence of differential impact of the lockdown based on households' religion, with roughly similar share of Hindus and Muslims being negatively affected across income quintiles.

Given the widespread income losses documented above and the low baseline wealth of many Indian households, it should come as no surprise that a very large share of Indian households state that they will be unable to continue - even over relatively short periods - without additional assistance (Figure 2).

Across India, 34% of all households report being able to survive for no more than one week without additional assistance. Among households earning less than Rs 8,142 per month per-capita before the lockdown, nearly a third report being able to survive for no more than 7 days without additional assistance. Crucially, 14% of the sample is already out of funds and risks immediate and severe deprivation if they are unable to borrow or receive additional benefits.

These figures suggest that continued rapid distribution of in-kind or cash transfers is needed to prevent a sharp increase in malnutrition and severe deprivation. By promoting demand and fostering health, such transfers will also likely promote a more robust recovery as the country is able to reopen.

Marianne Bertrand is Chris P Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and Faculty Director, Chicago Booth's Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation and UChicago's Poverty Lab.

Kaushik Krishnan is Chief Economist, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

Heather Schofield, is Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine and The Wharton School.

Smoking and Covid: recent claims, and new findings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 13

ON MONDAY, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a statement underlining the perils of smoking, and referring to "unproven claims that tobacco or nicotine could reduce the risk of Covid-19". This came days after researchers had published a hypothesis that nicotine may obstruct the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

Also on Monday, researchers from British and Saudi Arabian institutions published a study associating smoking with Covid-19 deaths.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD THE WORLD 227,735 United Kingd 139,771 221.216 172,812 232,243 **1,354,504** 110.767 170.582 TOTAL CONFIRMED: 4,222,968 DEATH COUNT: 288,368 Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on May 12

Are doctors, nurses getting

Aarogya Setu: Who all can access your data, and when?

Reading the newly released protocol, which lays down guidelines for sharing of data collected by the app with government agencies as well as third parties

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, MAY 12

ON MONDAY, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology issued a data-sharing and knowledge-sharing protocol for the Aarogya Setu app, laying down guidelines for sharing such data with government agencies and third parties. Prior to this, the only legal shield around the mechanism was the app's privacy policy. The executive order issued on Monday came amid concerns expressed by a number of experts over the efficacy and safety of the app. Experts have now said that while on the one hand a decision of such nature should be backed by a personal data protection law, the loosely worded nature of the protocol too is an area of concern. Currently, India's personal data protection bill is in the process of being approved by Parliament.



infected without knowing it?

IT IS ALREADY known that many people can show no symptoms after getting infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Now, a study has found hospital staff may be carrying the virus without realising it. The study covered

staff in hospitals under the UK National Health Service (NHS), and was published in eLife. University of

Cambridge researchers swabbed and tested over 1,200 NHS staff at Addenbrooke's

Hospital, Cambridge

University Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust,

throughout April. The

samples were analysed

positive for the coronavirus. Around one in five reported no symptoms. two in five had very mild symptoms that they had dismissed as inconsequential, and a further two in five reported Covid-19 symptoms that had

stopped more than a week previously.

In NHS hospitals, areas caring for Covid-patients are marked "red" areas. The study found that despite wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), "red" area staff were three times more likely to test positive than staff working in areas free of Covid-19.

NEW RESEARCH

PAPER

CLIP

using the PCR technique. At the same The researchers noted, however, that time, staff members were asked about relevant coronavirus symptoms, the university said in a statement.

Of the more than 1,000 staff members reporting fit for duty during the study period, 3% nevertheless tested

greater rates of transmission from patients to staff in red areas: Staff may have transmitted the virus to each other or acquired it at home.

it is not clear whether this reflects

Source: University of Cambridge.

slands 33

730

414 12

1275 152

INDIA COUNT: 70,756 (2,293 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES	REST OF INDIA Andaman and Nicobar Is
1,877 Punjab 3,988 Rajasthan 4,7,233 Delhi 3,573 UP 4,3,785 8,541 Gujarat 2,063 West Bengal 23,401 Maharashtra 2,018 Andhra Pradesh 8,002 Tamil Nadu	Arunachal Pradesh Arunachal Pradesh Assam Bihar Chandigarh Dadar Nagar Haveli Goa Haryana Himachal Pradesh Jammu and Kashmir Jharkhand Karnataka Kerala Ladakh Manipur Meghalaya Mizoram Odisha Puducherry Telangana Tripura

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, May 12. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. 22,455 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 32 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

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

Why has the government issued these guidelines?

The executive order issued by IT Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney, who is also the Chairperson of the Empowered Group on Technology and Data Management (one of several empowered groups constituted by the Home Ministry to deal with various aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic), says that "in order to formulate appropriate health responses for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, data pertaining to individuals is urgently required". Here, individuals means persons who are infected, or are at high risk of being infected, or who have come in contact with infected individuals.

To fulfil this purpose, and ensure that data collected from the app is gathered, processed and shared in an appropriate way, the government has issued these guidelines. "Various advisories and statements have been issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and other Ministries of the Government of India and State/ Union Territory Governments on precautionary measures such as social distancing and treatment of individuals who are affected or at-risk. In order to ensure their effective implementation, there is a need to ensure efficient data and information sharing among the different Departments and Ministries of the Government of India as well as those in the State/Union Territory Governments," the order reads.

What data can be collected and shared?

The data collected by the Aarogya Setu app is broadly divided into four categories - demographic data, contact data, self-assessment data and location data. This is collectively called response data. Demographic data includes information such as name, mobile number, age, gender, profession and travel history. Contact data is about any other individual that a given individual has come in close proximity with, including the duration of the contact, the proximate distance between the individuals, and the geographical location at which the contact occurred. Self-assessment data means the responses provided by that

Prior to guidelines, the only legal shield around the app was its privacy policy. AP

individual to the self-assessment test administered within the app. Location data comprises the geographical position of an individual in latitude and longitude.

What entities will be able to access this data?

According to the protocol, the response data containing personal data may be shared by the app's developer - National Informatics Centre (NIC) – with the Health Ministry, Health Departments of state/Union Territory governments/ local governments, National Disaster Management Authority, state disaster management authorities, other ministries and departments of the central and state governments, and other public health institutions of the central, state and local governments, "where such sharing is strictly necessary to directly formulate or implement an appropriate health response".

The protocol also lay the ground for sharing the data with any third parties – "only if it is strictly necessary to directly formulate or implement appropriate health responses". Further, for research purposes, the response data can be shared with Indian universities or research institutions and research entities registered in India. The guidelines also empower universities and research entities to share the data with other such institutions, "only if such sharing is in furtherance of the same purpose for which it has sought approval to access such data from the expert committee".

What are the checks and balances?

The protocol says the response data that can be shared with ministries, government departments and other administrative agencies has to be in de-identified form. This means that, except for demographic data, the response data must be stripped of information that may make it possible to identify the individual personally; it must be assigned a randomly generated ID.

Further, the NIC shall, "to the extent reasonable", document the sharing of any data and maintain a list of the agencies with

which data has been shared. This documentation will include the time at which data sharing was initiated, with which entities it was shared. the categories of such data, and the purpose of sharing the data.

The protocol also calls for any entity with which the data has been shared to not retain the data beyond 180 days from the day it was collected. The protocol reads back to the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to establish the penalties in case of violation of the protocol. It also has a sunset clause, which calls for the empowered group to review the protocol after six months; unless extended, it will be in force only for six months from the date of issue.

What are the concerns being raised?

Legal experts have stressed the need for a personal data protection law to back the government's decision to make the app mandatory for everyone. "They are going the Aadhaar way. This cannot be done via an executive order, especially since there are a number of privacy concerns with the app," said Prasanth Sugathan, volunteer legal director at SFLC.in.

Sugathan said the data being shared with third parties was one of the biggest areas of concern. "They should have listed the third parties with which the data can be shared," he said, adding that it was left open-ended and had a possibility of misuse. Further, he said the process of de-identifying the data should have been detailed, given that reversing de-identification was not difficult.

The protocol, in fact, seeks to disincentivise reversal of de-identification. "Any university or research institution/ entity which accesses anonymised response data... shall not reverse anonymise such data or re-identify individuals in any manner. If any person knowingly or unknowingly, takes any action which has the effect of such data no longer remaining anonymised, any rights granted to them under this protocol shall stand terminated, and they shall be liable for penalties under applicable laws for the time being in force," it reads.

What has WHO said?

Its statement said it is constantly evaluating new research, including research that examines the link between tobacco use, nicotine use, and Covid-19. "There is currently insufficient information to confirm any link between tobacco or nicotine in the prevention or treatment of COVID-19." it said. It did not specify who had made unproven claims about nicotine reducing Covid-19 risk.

So, who has made such claims?

There has been a hypothesis, by researchers from a number of leading French institutions (The Indian Express, May 5). In hospital data, they found that the proportion of smokers among Covid-19 deaths (4.4-5.3%) was much lower than the proportion in the general population (25.4%). They hypothesised that the reason might be in protein structures, called nAChR, that are found in the nervous system, muscle and certain tissues. Nicotine is known to bind with nAChR; the hypothesis is that if nicotine is already present on human cells, it may block SARS-CoV-2. To test the hypothesis, the researchers are conducting human trials.

Does this not go against the conventional view?

The widespread view in the scientific community is that smoking is harmful for Covid-19 patients. A few recent studies have suggested various reasons why. The newest paper, published in PLOS ONE on Monday, reviewed databases to look at the prevalence of smoking – as well as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) in Covid-19 patients. It found current smokers were 1.45 times more likely to have severe complications compared to former and never smokers. Also, critically ill Covid-19 patients with COPD had a 63% risk of severe disease and a 60% risk of mortality, while critically ill patients without COPD had only a 33.4% risk of severe disease and 55% risk of mortality.

The researchers added, however, that the study was not able to examine whether there was an association between the frequency of COPD exacerbations, or severity of COPD, with Covid-19 outcomes.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 **10** THE ()UTBREAK THE WORLD



A baby is given the measles vaccine to a baby in Tangerang, Indonesia. AP

INDONESIA

Toll crosses 1000, those under 45 urged to resume work

Jakarta: Indonesia's death toll from the novel coronavirus passed the 1,000 mark on Tuesday, even as authorities signalled they were poised to ease some social restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the virus in the country. Despite social restrictions scheduled to run until the end of May, the head of Indonesia's coronavirus response taskforce Doni Monardo said on Tuesday that people under 45 would be permitted to return to work in designated sectors. The Indonesian government has been criticised by epidemiologists for pushing to prematurely ease social restrictions without compelling evidence the country is flattening the coronavirus curve, or showing a slower rate of infection. **REUTERS**

RUSSIA

Moscow:

avirus.

has

spokesman

Putin's

spokesman

hospitalised

President Vladimir Putin's

spokesman says he is hos-

pitalized with the coron-

Peskov told the Interfax

news agency on Tuesday,

"Yes, I've gotten sick. I'm

being treated." Peskov, 52,

spokesman since 2008,

but started working him

with in the early 2000s.

been Putin's

Russian

Kremlin

Dmitrv

WATCH Corona clusters across Asia show fleeting face of victory

THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK, MAY 12

AS THE world confronts the pandemic, several nations in Asia have been hailed for curbing the spread within their borders. But in the face of the coronavirus, victory can be elusive and fleeting. And as several countries make moves to lift measures aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus, officials from the World

Health Organization are urging governments and the public to maintain "extreme vigilance" to avoid a new wave of infections.

Singapore, once a model for its speed and efficiency in tracing the contacts of infected people, has seen its cases balloon to more than 23,000 as the virus spread in dormitories for foreign workers.

Officials in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the outbreak began and which celebrated its recent emergence from more than two months in lockdown, said it would test all 11 million residents after six new cases were confirmed this week. The new cluster of cases, the

first recorded there since April, were linked to a man who fell sick in March but was not tested. He recovered, then fell ill again last month.

The notice ordering the testing, which has not been made public, was reported by The Paper, a state media outlet. Wuhan has already tested

large numbers of residents. Many employers required that



Workers disinfect a nightclub in Seoul, South Korea, after authorities detected dozens of coronavirus cases linked to club goers. Yonhap via Reuters

their workers be tested before returning to their jobs last month. The new round of testing reinforces fears that the outbreak can re-emerge from hidden cases

More than 3,800 people have died in the city, according to the official tally. China has faced questions about the accuracy of its coronavirus numbers and whether it has divulged the true extent of its outbreak.

The head of the street committee for the area with the new cluster was removed from office for poor management after the cases were reported, the state-run The United States has yet to

curb its outbreak, but already

And in South Korea, which has been a pioneer in using technology for contact tracing, more than 100 new cases have emerged after an infected man visited bars and clubs in a Seoul nightlife district. The mayor ordered nightspots closed indefinitely.

scientists are warning that the feared "second wave" could instead consist of a series of smaller waves breaking soon across the country. On Monday, Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the W.H.O., warned that only a "slow, steady lifting of lockdowns" could ease economic pressure while keeping infections at bay.

"Until there's a vaccine, a comprehensive package of measures is our most effective set of tools against the virus," he said.

'US not out of the woods': Fauci, CDC chief warn against reopening too fast

THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK, MAY 12

DR ROBERT R Redfield, the director of the US's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned the Senate Health Committee on Tuesday morning that "we are not out of the woods yet", a day after President Donald Trump declared, "we have met the moment, and we have prevailed".

Dr Redfield was one of four top health officials testifying remotely by video, three of which are in some form of self-isolation after exposure to a White House official who tested positive for the coronavirus, including Dr Anthony S Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert.

Dr Fauci on Monday said he would tell the panel that there could be "needless suffering and death" if the country opens prematurely, but steered clear of that language during the early part of the hearing, instead saying, "the consequences could be really serious." Mr. Trump has pushed for states to reopen and at times has encouraged people to defy governors' orders.

More than 80,000 people in the United States have died from the virus, and Dr Fauci cautioned that the number is likely higher and will grow even more if some areas if some areas of the country reopen prematurely.

"If that occurs there is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control," Dr Fauci said, adding cumstance.'



Donald Trump stands next to coronavirus testing machines in the Rose Garden at the White House on Monday. Reuters

that it would not only lead to deaths but would set the economic recovery back as well.

The two-hour hearing, benignly titled "Covid-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School", is the first chance lawmakers have had to publicly question the officials in Congress since Mr Trump declared a national emergency two months ago.

The Trump administration officials did not have a quick answer to a question from Senator Bernie Sanders, Independent of Vermont, about whether a free vaccine will be available for everyone. The assistant secretary for health, Adm. Brett P Giroir, said people "should gain access to it," but that he was not in control of that aspect. "I will certainly advocate that everyone is able to receive the vaccine regardless of income or other cir-

Washington: The White House on Monday ordered all West Wing employees to wear masks at work unless they are sitting at their desks, an abrupt shift in

White House orders

staff to wear masks

policy after two aides working near the president – a military valet and the vice president's spokeswoman – tested positive for the coronavirus last week.

In an internal email obtained by The New York Times, people who work in the cramped quarters around the Oval Office were told that "as an additional layer of protection, we are requiring everyone who enters the West Wing to wear a mask or face covering."

Officials said the new requirement was not expected to apply to Mr Trump or to Vice President Mike Pence. NYT

WHO sees 'potentially positive data' on virus treatments

EMMA FARGE GENEVA, MAY12

THE WORLD Health Organization said on Tuesday that some treatments appear to be limiting the severity or length of the Covid-19 disease and that it was focusing on learning more about four or five of the most promising ones.

"We do have some treatments that seem to be in very

ity or the length of the illness but

we do not have anything that can

kill or stop the virus." spokes-

woman Margaret Harris told a

briefing, referring to the body's

so-called Solidarity Trial of drugs

itive data coming out but we

need to see more data to be 100%

confident that we can say this

treatment over that one," she

added, saving more research

Harris did not name the

treatments. Gilead Science Inc

GILD.O says its antiviral drug

remdesivir has helped improve

outcomes for Covid-19 patients.

was needed and planned.

"We do have potentially pos-

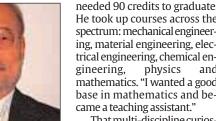
against the disease.

Man behind N95 works to make masks reusable

SRIRAM VEERA MUMBAI, MAY 12

PETER TSAI couldn't sleep. The 68-year-old Taiwan-born scientist. world-famous as the man behind the present-day N95 respirator - the last defence against the Covid-19 virus for healthcare workers around the world – had retired last year.

However, this January, he was flooded with emails and



He took up courses across the spectrum: mechanical engineering, material engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, physics and mathematics. "I wanted a good base in mathematics and became a teaching assistant."

That multi-discipline curiosity would later help him in fortifving the respirator.

"I didn't invent the N95 mask. The charging method that



Xinhua news service reported. In the north of China, the city of Shulan near the Russian border has been declared "highrisk" after 15 people were infected, cases that were traced to a 45-year-old woman. But how she caught the virus is still unclear.

Russians who have the virus but light or no symptoms of illness are allowed to stav home, and it wasn't immediately clear if Peskov's hospitalization reflects the gravity of his condition or was an extra precaution. AF

SPAIN

Two-week quarantine for travellers

Madrid: Spain ordered a two-week quarantine for all travellers arriving from abroad from this Friday in a bid to curb the coronavirus as the country emerges from a national lockdown. Health emercoordinator gency Fernando Simon said now that Spain had managed to bring the outbreak under control and was relaxing its internal restrictions on movements, it was time to control people coming from other countries. REUTERS

phone calls that had a common refrain: could he suggest a way to make the N95 mask reusable? Since the masks could only be used once in vulnerable environments like hospitals before it lost its virus-stopping potency, the world remembered him again.

Tsai decided to come out of retirement and now believes that he has cracked the case. 'You know the funny irony in all this?" Tsai tells The Indian Express from his home in the US. "The charging technology that I had used in 1992 to make N95 capture the virus was called

'Corona charging'. Now, he was called to stop

the coronavirus. The technique he used in 1992 was the electrostatic charging on the microfibres on the mask that improved the filter efficiency ten times, allowing it to stop the sub-micronsized microbes. "I couldn't sleep when the

calls and mails started to pour in. In fact, the last two months I haven't slept much, but now I think I can relax a bit," Tsai says. "Heat treatment is the best of the solutions that I have come up

with now. Heat the mask at 70 degrees for 60 minutes. That should deactivate the virus, and

make the mask resuable. There are other solutions like steaming etc but this heating holds the most promise. FDA and others are looking at it now. There was talk about using UV rays but I suspect it can degrade the polypropylene material of the mask."

Peter Tsai

Tsai might have cracked the puzzle in short time, but it had taken him a long time to solve it in 1992. "Five long years. We knew it had to do something with charging the microfibres on surface of the mask and we tried everything.'

Tsai has always found a way out of a crisis. The son of a poor rice farmer, he had to struggle to achieve his goals. "I worked for five years after graduating college in Taiwan in 1975. We didn't have much money at all. I had to save up for travel and studies in America. I was working in textile industry in quality management when I realised that the country lacked research and development work. All we did was production; technology and equipment came from Japan or US or Europe. I went to Kansas State University to study."

He astonished many there by signing up for 500 credits, though a PhD student only

increased its filtration is my contribution. I combined two technologies - melt blowing and electrostatic charging - to produce a layer of melt-blown fabric that is at the core of the respirator mask.'

Melt blowing turns fibers into nonwoven fabric with very fine pores. The electrostatic charging gives the fiber electric charge that traps and stops the sub-micron viruses and bacteria "My initial respirators were for construction and painting workers and painting workers. It was later used for healthcare mask.'

It's now the major shield in the Covid-19 world. In 2018, he had come up with hydro triboelectrification process for air purifiers. "You apply the same to N95 to reduce half its material and importantly, it increases the filtration ten times more."

Tsai is a hero in the medical world now. "I am so glad that my invention has helped to save lives. You know some of my professor friends jokingly say that I should get a Nobel prize. You know what I tell them? I should get the 'NoBelly' prize as I have lost all my stomach-fat due to sleepless times in the last two months," he says.

early studies limiting the sever-

WE DESERVE BETTER'

Nurses and nursing staff protest at the German Health Ministry in Berlin, demanding higher pay and better working conditions on Tuesday, observed as International Nurse Day. Reuters

Sick man of Europe? Criticism mounts as UK toll tops 40,000

ANDY BRUCE LONDON, MAY 12

THE UNITED Kingdom's COVID-19 death toll now exceeds 40,000, by far the worst yet reported in Europe, raising more questions about Prime Minister Boris Johnson's handling of the coronavirus crisis. Figures published by the

Office for National Statistics for England and Wales brought the United Kingdom's official death toll to 38,289 as of May 3, according to a Reuters tally of death registrations that also includes Scotland and Northern Ireland. Since then, at least 2,251 peo-

ple have died from Covid-19 in English hospitals, according to the latest daily data, bringing the true death toll as of Tuesday to just over 40,000.

While different ways of counting make comparisons with other countries difficult, the figure confirmed Britain was among those hit worst by a pandemic that has killed more than 285,000 people worldwide.

The data came a day after Johnson set out a gradual plan to get Britain back to work, including advice on wearing homemade face coverings - though his attempt to lift the coronavirus lockdown prompted confusion. The leaders of the devolved

nations - Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - said that advice given by Johnson only applied to England. They told people to stay at home still. Such a high UK death toll in-

The WHO official sounded a creases the pressure on Johnson. note of caution around expecta-Opposition parties say he was too tions for a vaccine, however, sayslow to impose a lockdown, too ing coronaviruses in general are slow to introduce mass testing 'very tricky viruses" that are "difand too slow to get enough proficult to produce vaccines against" tective equipment to hospitals.

In March, Britain's chief scientific adviser said keeping deaths below 20,000 would be a "good outcome". In April, Reuters reported that

government's worst the case scenario was a death toll of 50,000. REUTERS

Harris said that the Americas were the current "centre" of the pandemic, although she also noted rising cases in Africa. However, she said the continent had a "big advantage" over other countries with little experience of disease outbreaks. REUTERS

OTHER TOP GLOBAL STORIES

Day of violence: 40 killed in 2 Afghan attacks Pak reconstitutes minority commission

AGENCIES

KABUL, JALALABAD, MAY 12

GUNMEN DISGUISED as police attacked a hospital in Kabul, on Tuesday, killing 16 people including two newborn babies from a maternity clinic run by international humanitarian organisation Doctors Without Borders.

In a separate attack the same day, a suicide bomber struck the funeral of a police commander, attended by government officials and a member of parliament, in the eastern province of Nangahar, killing at least 24 peo-



Security forces at a hospital in which 16 were killed. Reuters

ple and injuring 68. Authorities said that toll could rise. There was no immediate

claim of responsibility for either attack. The Taliban, denied involvement in both.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said he was ordering the military to move to 'offensive mode', away from a defensive stance it had taken as part of efforts to reduce violence in the war-ravaged nation.

"In order to provide security for public places and to thwart attacks and threats from the Taliban and other terrorist groups, I am ordering Afghan security forces to switch from an active defence mode to an offensive one and to start their operations against the enemies," he said in a televised speech.

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, MAY 12

THE PAKISTAN government has reconstituted a commission to protect the rights of minorities, including the Hindus, and promote inter-religious harmony in the country, days after a human rights report revealed that they continued to face forced conversions and persecution under the controversial blasphemy laws in 2019

The Human Right Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), in its annual report, on Thursday

said that religious minorities remained unable to enjoy the freedom of religion or belief guaran-

teed to them under the country's Constitution. "For the minority Ahmadiyya community in Punjab, this in-

cluded the desecration of several sites of worship. Both the Hindu and Christian communities in Sindh and Punjab continued to report cases of forced conversion," it said.

The formation of the National Commission for Minorities was announced on Monday by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

According to the ministry's notification, the commission will have six official and 12 non-official members.

The number of members in the commission earlier is not clear as it was dormant.

The commission will formulate a proposal for development of a national policy to promote peace and interfaith harmony in the country.

According to a report in the Dawn newspaper, it will formulate proposals for amending laws/policies which are reported to be discriminatory towards re-

ligious minorities, recommend steps to ensure maximum and effective participation by the members of minority communities in all aspects of life, ensure effective participation and association of minority communities with their religious and cultural festivals and celebrations.

The commission will also look into the grievances and representations made by the members of any minority community.

Its terms of reference also include ensuring that worship places of non-Muslim communities are preserved and kept in a functional condition.



SILVER

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nternational market data till 1900 IS

(to) look at fiscal space in a dy-

namic sense. If you get the GDP to

grow, the fiscal space gets created.

stops growing, then same fiscal

expenditure becomes much big-

ger (as a percentage of GDP), the

ratio(fiscal deficit) becomes much

bigger. I think rather than asking

this question (on where is the fis-

cal space), one should ask the

question "how is this extra fiscal

push being used to accelerate the

economy". My believe is that with

the bold reforms, this will help to

boost the productive capacity and

the productivity of the economy.

Bharat indicate that we are not

keen on foreign investment?

manirbhar but not atmakendrit.

we have to be self reliant in a

globalised world. He said we will.

therefore, work with global value

chains and become a better part

of it on the basis of our competi-

Not at all. He kept saying at-

Does focus on Atmanirbhar

On the other hand, if the GDP

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 31,371.12 ▼ 190.10 NIFTY: 9,196.55 ▼ 42.65 NIKKEI: 20,366.48 ▼ 24.18 HANG SENG: 24,245.68 ▼ 356.38 FTSE: 5,993.53 ▲ 53.80 DAX: 10,851.17 ▲ 26.18

PANDEMIC IMPACTS PRODUCTIVITY ACROSS SECTORS Industrial output contracts by record 16.7% in Mar; shrinks 0.7% for full FY20

The data collected tele-

phonically did show increase

in prices of certain important

commodities like milk prod-

ucts, fruits and vegetables in

said, "the General CPI and in-

dices at State/UT level are not

being released for the month

down, the collection of data

on prices for CPI through

personal visits of price col-

lectors was suspended from

March 19. In April, price data

was largely collected by tele-

phonic enquiry from desig-

nated outlets. **PTI**

On account of the lock-

However, the release

April over March.

of April, 2020."

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHL MAY 12

FACTORY OUTPUT contracted by a record 16.7 per cent in March as the impact of the nationwide lockdown to counter the COVID-19 pandemic reflected in sharp contraction of manufacturing, capital goods, consumer durables and consumer nondurables output, which is expected to translate into a sharply lower GDP growth for 2019-20 and a contraction in 2020-21.

For the full financial year 2019-20, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a contraction of 0.7 per cent as against 3.8 per cent growth in the previous year.

Factory output growth was recorded at 4.6 per cent in February and 2.7 per cent in the same period last year. The data is likely to be revised due to lower response rate from the units from which data is collected, the National Statistical Office said.

BRIEFLY — '₹3-4Lcrboost for businesses'

New Delhi: Industry body Ficci and consultancy firm Deloitte have, in a report, proposed that banks provide Rs 3-4 lakh crore in government guaranteed credit to sustainable businesses.

₹100-cr corpus by ICAI

New Delhi: With an aim to strengthen the future of students pursuing chartered accountancy, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has set up corpus fund of Rs100 crore and earmarked it to provide them scholarships. ENS

Jubilant, Gilead ink deal on drug

Bengaluru: Jubilant Life nces I td said on Tuesday it had signed a non-exclusive licensing agreement for selling Gilead Sciences Inc's experimental COVID-19 treatment remdesivir in 127 countries, including India.

Apr inflation figures not released as lockdown prevents data collection

New Delhi: The government did not release the April CPI inflation data on Tuesday as the nationwide lockdown prevented officials from collecting price data at various centres However, the Consumer

Price Index (CPI) data that could be collected telephonically has been released, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in a release.

Usually, price data is collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages through personal visits by field staff of Field **Operations Division of NSO** on a weekly roaster.

by 6.8 per cent as against a Manufacturing sector output growth of 2.2 per cent in March contracted 20.6 per cent compared to a growth of 3.1 per cent 2019. Mining sector output rein the same month a year ago. mained flat compared to a growth of 0.8 per cent earlier. Electricity generation declined

Production of capital goods, an indicator of investment, declined by 35.6 per cent as against a contraction of 9.1 per cent in the same month last year.

As per use-based classification, primary good registered a contraction of 3.1 per cent, intermediate goods (-)18.5 per cent and infrastructure/construction goods (-)23.8 per cent this March over the same period last year.

The consumer durables output fell 33.1 per cent, while nondurables production slipped 16.2 per cent in March.

Economists said the fall reflected a pause in investment intentions and deferral of non-essential consumption and the drag on sectors such as manufacturing, construction, trade and hotels is going to continue in the coming months.

"With the y-o-y performance of many lead indicators of manufacturing and services portraying an unfavourable trend in the just-concluded quarter, driven by the COVID-19 related disruptions, GDP growth is expected to

1.9%:

FOR FY21, REVISED

DOWNWARDS BY IND-RA

slide to 2.0 per cent in Q4 FY2020 from 4.7 per cent in Q3 FY2020, despite the anticipated improvement in agricultural GVA growth in that quarter. Overall, we expect that the GDP growth moderated to 4.3 per cent in FY2020," Aditi Nayar, principal economist, ICRA, said.

"Given the likelihood of mismatches in labour availability as well as the possibility of supply chain disruptions, we expect the drag from sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and trade, hotels and transport etc, to linger for a large part of May 2020, with a further delay in the return to normalcy for a large cross-segment of these sectors.

"However, we continue to expect the healthy rabi crop and a pickup in government expenditure to provide some cushion to economic activity in Q1FY2021. ICRA projects Indian GDP to contract in a range of 16-20 per cent in Q1FY2021, which would translate to a contraction of 1.0-2.0 per cent in FY2021," Nayar added.

'Bold, not incremental reforms, will help to boost the productive capacity, productivity of economy' RAIIV KUMAR. Vice Chairman. question. Yesterday, I had a meeting with leading economists and they were saying that you have

₹

RUPEE

GOLD

₹41,705

INTERVIEW WITH VICE CHAIRMAN, NITI AAYOG

 \bigcirc

OIL

§26.15

Note: Spot gold markets shut due to lockdown in major states; Indian basket as on March 19, 2020

NITI Aayog, said the financial package heralds "bold reforms all across the range" that aims at India achieving global competitiveness. In a interaction with SUNNY VERMA after the Prime Minister's speech on Tuesday. Kumar said the steps to be announced in the coming days would focus on ensuring that India does not shut itself out from the global economy, even as it promotes self reliance. Excerpts:

What are your comments on Prime Minister's

announcement of a package? The financial package along

with the two announcements that it's now time for bold reforms all across the range, and the fact that India will achieve global competitiveness and not shut itself out from the global economy while remaining self reliance – these three together are what everybody was looking for. Although I will wait for the details, the Prime Minister has shown he is fully cognizant of what the situation is and willing to take the bold steps.



Rajiv Kumar. Express file

He said bold and not incremental(steps)... this is really what it is. You will see a spate a reforms now, as you have seen in case of labour reforms in the states. He is bent upon creating this crisis into an opportunity, and I think this is what will happen. You will see that all the sectors are covered, and this talk about that "businesses will not be helped," I think all of that will be proven wrong.

One question is whether the government has fiscal space for such a large package?

Even the sternest of fiscal hawks have stopped asking that

tiveness Self-reliant India Mission: Total package includes reliefs

earlier announced by govt, RBI ment's "fiscal" package, even

ON WEDNESDAY, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country should view the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to achieve economic self-reliance. In his address to the nation, he stressed on the importance of promoting "local"

age towards this aim, which, after including the earlier reliefs announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the RBI, than Rs 12 lakh crore. That's because RBI has been

coming out with long term bond

buying operations (long term repo

operation or LTRO, to infuse liq-

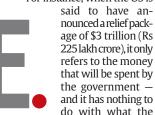
uidity into the banking system)

comes out with another LTRO of

If, for argument's sake, RBI

worth Rs 1 lakh crore at a time.

though only the government controls the fiscal policy and not the RBI (which controls the 'monetary'policy). Government expenditure and RBI's actions are neither the same nor can they be added in this manner. Nowhere in the world is this done, clarifies Prof NR Bhanumurthy of NIPFP.



Rs 1 lakh crore, then the overall fis-For instance, when the US is cal help falls by the same amount. said to have an-Why shouldn't RBI's nounced a relief packpackage be included in age of \$3 trillion (Rs 225 lakh crore), it only the overall package? refers to the money

That's because direct expenditure by a government - either by way of wage subsidy or direct benefit transfer or payment of salaries or payment for construction of a new hospital etc - immediately and necessarily stimulates the economy. In other words, that money necessarily reaches

'Liquidity woes to intensify for MEC segment in FY21' The mid-size and emerging corporate (MEC) segment may

witness a 6 per cent dip in their turnover and up to 1.25 per cent contraction in profit margins in FY21, India Ratings said

CHALLENGES FOR MECs: <750 crore: Revenue of businesses that are included Low ability to withstand mid-size and emerging disruptions corporate (MEC) segment

2.85x: Downgrade to upgrade

ratio in MEC segment in FY20,

previous figure; expected to

~25%: Share of investment

grade rated MEC issuers who

for debt servicing in FY21

continue in FY21 as well

Severely constrained access to funding

Tepid growth in non-priority sector advances by banks to MECs

Bigger portion of revenues may report cash flow shortfall that of large corporates

Low chance of positive rating actions: The likelihood of positive rating actions "remains low" as it will take some time before trend of impairment in credit quality reverses

which more than doubled from

attributable to exports than

Fall in liquidity profiles: A major fall in industrial activity will translate into significant deterioration in liquidity profiles

3-12%: **GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT EXPECTED CONTRACTION IN** (GDP) GROWTH ESTIMATE **CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS IN FY21 COMPARED TO FY20 LEVELS**



UDIT MISRA NEW DELHI, MAY 12

products. He called it Atmanirbhar Bharat EXPLAINED Abhiyan (or Self-reliant India Mission)

and said that in the days to come, his government will be unveiling the details of an economic pack-

Source:

Ratings/PTI

India

Federal Reserve (US central bank) might have done. So will the actual would be worth Rs 20 lakh crore

Growth forecast cuts likely: IMF

Washington: IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva said Tuesday it was "very likely" the Fund would cut global growth forecasts further as the coronavirus pandemic was hitting many economies harder than previously projected. **REUTERS**

Finance Ministry begins annual exercise to review guarantees against loans, aims to 'avoid default'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MAY 12

THE FINANCE Ministry on Tuesday asked all government Tuesday. departments and ministries to Financial advisers of respec-

review guarantees against various loans issued by them. The Ministry said that gov-

ernment guarantees are "contingent liabilities and need to be monitored properly to avoid event of default" by the borrowing entities, "The monitoring or review undertaken should examine whether the borrower is discharging repayment obliga-The review is also done to tions or interest obligations as per monitor the repaying capacity for terms of the loan agreement," the loan and guarantee amount of Ministry said in an official comthe borrowers munication to ministries on

In terms of Article 292 of the Constitution, the central government gives guarantees for the retive ministries have been asked payment of borrowings, and the to submit annual review of govgovernment can provide up to ernment guarantees to the 0.5 per cent of GDP (Gross budget division in the Finance Domestic Product) for incremen-Ministry. For guarantees given tal guarantees in a particular fiagainst external loans, the nancial year. Department of Economic Affairs

The stock of contingent liabilities in the form of guarantees given by the government has increased from Rs 1.07 lakh crore

in 2004-05 to Rs 4.47 lakh crore at the end of 2018-19, as per latest available data from the Finance Ministry.

During the year 2018-19, the net accretion to guarantees was Rs 66,811 crore, amounting to 0.4 per cent of GDP, within the outer limit of 0.5 per cent.

The government typically provides guarantees against oans taken by government entities for executing projects that have social and economic benefits. This helps improve viability of the projects and lowers their

cost of borrowing

 $-\,\mathrm{or}\,10\,\mathrm{per}\,\mathrm{cent}\,\mathrm{of}\,\mathrm{GDP}\,\mathrm{in}\,\mathrm{FY20}.$

Is this a new package? Not entirely. While the PM did

not give the details, he did specify that this calculation of Rs 20 lakh crore includes what the government has already announced and the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This means the total amount of additional money - that is over and above what the government would have spent even in the absence of a COVID crisis - will not be Rs 20 lakh crore. It would be substantially less.

Why?

That's because the PM has included the actions of RBI, India's central bank, as part of the govern-

amount spent by the government be less the people – either as someone's salary or someone's purchase. than ₹20 lakh crore? If so, by how much?

A rough estimate suggests that the RBI's decisions have provided additional liquidity of Rs 5-6 lakh crore since the start of the COVID-19 crisis. Add this to the Rs 1.7 lakh crore of the first fiscal relief package announced by the Centre on March 26. Together, the two already account for 40 per cent of the Rs 20-lakh crore package. That leaves an effective amount of Rs

12 lakh crore However, if the government is including RBI's liquidity decisions in the calculation, then the actual fresh spending by the government could be considerably lower

67% of workers lost jobs

during lockdown: Survey

lend to the broader economy - is not like government expenditure. That's because, especially in times of crisis, banks may take that money from RBI and elsewhere and, instead of lending it, park it back with the RBI. This is exactly what is happen-

But credit easing by the RBI -

that is, making more money avail-

able to the banks so that they can

ing right now. At the last count, Indian banks had parked Rs 8.5 lakh crore with the central bank. So in terms of calculations, RBI has given a stimulus of Rs 6 lakh crore. But the reality is that it has received an even bigger amount back from the banks.

Sebi eases compliance norms on consolidated results for banks, insurers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY 12

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday liberalised guidelines governing publishing of results and other compliance norms for listed entities as it eased norms pertaining to the requirement of sending physical copies of annual reports to shareholders, proxy forms for a general meeting and dividend varrants or cheques

The regulator has relaxed the stipulation for listed banks and insurance companies for publishing consolidated financial results for June guarter now as "voluntary basis" in the wake of COVID-19.

Further, Sebi said in a circular, that the exemption given to listed companies from publication of advertisement in newspapers about their board meetings, financial results and other events has been extended till June 30. Earlier, the exemption was till May 15.

"Listed entities which are banking and insurance compa-



With regard to the require-

with temporarily, in case of meetmode only," Sebi said

ance requirement related to dividend warrants or cheques.

The norms prescribe the issuance of 'payable-at-par' warrants or cheques in case it is not possible to use electronic modes of payment. Further, in case the amount payable as dividend exceeds Rs 1,500 the 'payable-at-par' warrants or cheques shall be sent by speed postage.

ending June 2020 on a voluntary must continue submitting standalone financial results, it added.

ment of sending physical copies of annual reports to shareholders, Sebi has dispensed with this norm for listed entities who conduct their AGMs during calendar year 2020 (till December 31, 2020). "The requirement ... is dispensed

ings held through electronic

It has also eased the compli-

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY12

Finance Ministry.

LIFE INSURANCE companies have posted a 32.60 per cent decline in first year premium income in April, due to the lockdown. Total first year premium income fell to Rs 6,727 crore in April 2020 from Rs 9,981 crore in the same month last year. Life Insurance Corporation's first year premium income fell 32.01 per cent to Rs 3,581 crore from

will conduct a review. This is an

annual exercise done by the

year premium

income of

life insurers

Rs 5,267 crore a year ago. The total first year premium income of private insurers fell by 33.26 per cent to Rs 3,146 crore from Rs 4,713 crore. ICICI Prudential's first year premium income declined to Rs 256 crore from Rs 633 crore and HDFC Standard's to Rs 668 crore from 1.422 crore. SBI Life managed to arrest the fall with a new premium income of Rs 917 crore as against Rs 913 crore a year ago, while Bajaj Allianz reported a 43 per cent increase to Rs 314 crore during April.

China's new list of US Anil Agarwal to 32.6% fall in first imports eligible for waivers

KJMVARMA

BEIJING, MAY 12

CHINA ON Tuesday released a list of 79 American products which will be exempted from the second round of retaliatory tariffs imposed at the peak of the bilateral trade war, as it faced fresh pressure from the US to import more to end the bruising dispute.

This is the second list of American goods to be excluded from the second round of tariff

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA

basic income scheme to make the

lockdown work, noted French

economist Thomas Piketty said on

potential to become the global

He also said that India has the

NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Tuesday.

'Need basic income scheme to make lockdown work'

democratic leader of the 21st century if it manages to address the issue of inequality.

"I think the government INDIA NEEDS to come out with a would be well advised to introduce a basic income scheme, and more generally to develop a safety net in India. I do not see how a lockdown can work without a system of income maintenance."

take Vedanta private, buy out countermeasures against the US public shares Section 301 measure, according to a statement from the Customs for ₹16,200 cr Tariff Commission of China's State Council. The exemption will be

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA NEW DELHI, MAY 12

fallen over 40 per cent this year, houses commodity as well as oil and gas business.

It had a market value of under Rs 33,200 crore going by Tuesday's closing price of Rs 89.30 on the BSE. At the offer price of Rs 87.5, Agarwal's Vedanta Resources will have to shell out Rs 16,218 crore to acquire all of the public shareholding.

In a regulatory filing, Vedanta said it has received a letter dated May 12, from Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL) expressing intention to acquire all fully paid-up equity shares of the company that are held by the public shareholders.

by Azim Premji University **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, MAY 12

ABOUT TWO-THIRDS, or 67 per

areas, with 84 per cent of them

losing employment, compared

with 76 per cent salaried workers

and 81 per cent casual workers. In

rural areas, 66 per cent casual wage workers reported loss of employment, followed by 62 per cent of salaried workers and 47 per cent of rural workers.

cent, of workers lost employment Average weekly earnings for non-agricultural self-employed during the ongoing lockdown to counter the COVID-19 pandemic, workers who were still employed with urban India posting loss in fell by over 90 per cent from Rs employment for 8 in 10 workers 2,240 to Rs 218. For casual workers and almost 6 in 10 workers in ruwho were still employed, average ral areas, as per initial findings of a weekly earnings almost halved from Rs 940 in February to Rs 495 phone survey of nearly 4,000 respondents conducted by Azim during lockdown, the survey Premji University in collaboration noted. Half of all salaried workers, with 10 civil society organisations. or 51 per cent, saw either a cut in The survey was conducted in their salary or received no salary.

Nearly half (49 per cent) of Andhra Pradesh. Bihar. Delhi. households reported that they did Gujarat, Iharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra not have enough money to buy (Pune), Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangeven a week's worth of essential items, while 80 per cent of urban ana, and West Bengal to gauge the impact of the lockdown on emhouseholds and 70 per cent in ruployment, livelihoods and access ral areas reported consuming less food than before. As per the surto government relief schemes. Loss of employment was the worst for self-employed in urban

vey, over one-third, or 36 per cent, of vulnerable households in urban India received at least one cash transfer from the government, while 53 per cent of rural households received this benefit.

ment, semiconductor parts, medical disinfectants, and a range of precious metals, chemical and petrochemical products. PTI

Piketty told PTI in an interview.

valid from May 19, 2020, to May 18, 2021, it said. There are 79 products in total on the list published on Tuesday by the Ministry of Finance that included rare earth mineral ores, aircraft radar equip-

ANIL AGARWAL Tuesday announced plans to delist his Indian flagship Vedanta Ltd by buying out nearly 49 per cent of public shareholding at Rs 87.5 apiece. Vedanta Ltd, whose shares have

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 12 SP()RT

FIFA U-17 WC in India slated for Feb 17 - Mar 7

The postponed FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India was on Tuesday rescheduled to next year from February 17 to March 7 after the world body made a 'thorough assessment' of the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Everyone has a camera phone, I just need to source them ... You can be at home and also on television'

Star head Uday Shankar delves into the challenges and opportunities in cricket broadcasting without fans at the stadium

WITH DOUBTS being raised about the October-November T20 World Cup in Australia, BCCI officials says that IPL now has a window. Star and Disney India chairman UDAY SHANKAR, while insisting that the tournament should only be played when it's safe, talks about the creative challenge of broadcasting of what looks like the first 'closed doors' IPL. Speaking to SANDEEP DWIVEDI, the man on the top of world cricket's power list explains the importance of imagination in dealing with this unique COVID-19 crisis, the fundamental changes in media business and how working from home has made him sharper and focused.

You must be thinking hard these days ... how are you spending your days?

These days, we all are at home. Being home is more productive. You are much more focused as you know you can only communicate electronically. I'm also thinking sharply because there are no distractions. And because there's a crisis, every team member is trying to think out of the box. On the downside, there is no distinction between workplace and home. You start in the morning and just keep going on, so it's exhausting.

Sports broadcasting is all about understanding the minds of fans. But in these unusual times, do you know what a fan wants to see?

The most important priority globally is for people to be safe. Only when it is safe to have a tournament, we should have (it). We have a lot of business riding on live sports but nothing is even remotely in the same zone as the safety of people.

That said, to say that people will only like something in a certain form is a very static way of looking at things. I believe that the society is always open to trying out new things. In fact, it is the business and the experts who are more stuck in their ways

When we were launching Hotstar, our streaming service, five to six years ago, about a million people told me: "What are you do-



Star and Disney India and also president of The Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific.

ing? The experience of live sports on a small mobile phone, this doesn't work. This tiny three-inch mobile phone, you will never be able to feel it, cricket is played with a small ball." I got all kinds of theories. And the rest, as they say, is history. More than 100 million people come to watch one game on Hotstar now.

So if for some time people can't go to a stadium, it is fine. Viewers will embrace the new experience. They know why it is happening.

It (empty stands) is not a concern at all. I don't buy it when people say, 'oh, the experience will be incomplete'. The presence of audience at the ground does help to create an atmosphere, so we will figure out ways of

creating and enhancing the atmosphere through graphics, audio, sound effects and all that.

Can you think of an innovation that recreates on TV the whole drama that used to be in the stands?

You watch sports at home? Whenever you're watching a tense moment, do you not have a very intense expression on your face? So, all we need to do is capture it. And today technology is ready for that. So, you can be at home but you can also be on television. Our ability to recreate the same atmosphere for the fan who are watching it from home is limited only by our imagination, otherwise the fan gives you enough opportunity to capture those moments of intensity and excitement. If this had happened 20 years ago, without broadband and hundreds of millions of smartphones with cameras, it would be a challenge. Today it's happening at a time when we're ready.

So, you are replacing the guy in the stands with the guy on the couch. Will there be webcam or go pro at homes?

Why will I need them, everyone has a camera phone, I just need to source them. So, we'll have to start thinking differently. It's a creative challenge, it's not a sporting challenge.

What about the changes on the field in terms of broadcasting the game?

I can't tell you all the details, the reason being we're still working on it. I don't have full clarity. Things evolve, say 'day cricket' became 'night cricket' and that in turn brought with it a new set of opportunities and challenges.

So that's the kind of game you love, you are in the habit of making new rules, new sports ...

Our biggest challenge is we have these fixed ideas in the head about how to do things. Not just in the way sports is played or produced; it's about everything. Earlier, no one thought we could operate without going to office. Every morning, we would get into our vehicles and go to office. We felt it was important. Now suddenly, no one is go ing to office and the world is okay.

We launched 'Disney plus Hotstar' in the middle of this lockdown. All our commercials for digital and our TV channels were produced in a decentralised manner and still everybody came to know about it.

We need to break our muscle memory. No matter which business you are in, those who are able to think differently and work backwards from the new reality, they will be able to create much more value.

In the coming days, foreign travel, in and out, will be tough. So, have you thought of going local or even hyper-local.

First of all, we all know that travel is going to be a bit of a challenge. But look, players can come in. Earlier, they used to come five days in advance; now they will have to come two weeks before the game. They will be in quarantine; they will have to be more careful when training.

You will also have to take hard decisions isn't it? You have got this huge network, in terms of your regional reach, like the very successful Tamil commentary initiative. You also have heavy-duty analytical shows like Dugout that cater to serious fans. Do you think you'll have to shrink operations?

It's tough for me to say that right now, we'll have to see the horizon for live sports. I don't like to take tactical decisions quickly. We are running a business, it's not a charity, we have to be profitable, or else we won't be sustainable. So, if something doesn't work, it doesn't work.

But just because there has been a disruption, I don't see a reason to downsize. Dugout is a very compelling product. It's the fine dining experience of cricket. And also, by talking cricket in regional languages, whether it is in South or elsewhere, we have widened the scope of cricket. I don't think just the dis-

ruption itself means that we should do less.

What about a larger correction, in terms of the kind of money that sports broadcasters pay for television rights and IPL salaries? Do you need to go back to BCCI in terms of renegotiating these

already existing deals? Look, first and foremost, we have a contract. We are an honourable company and we will honour it. But the sports bodies are also aware of the challenges in the market place ... the economy and incomes have taken a hit. And as far as Star and cricket are concerned. it is the goose that lays the golden egg. We have invested more in cricket than any other media company, any time in the world.

I think in my experience, all sports bodies and authorities value the fact that our commitment to cricket is so high. If there is a real problem, we will go to them and I'm sure we will get a fair audience.

There is no good time for a crisis. But take your five-year IPL deal, in business there are phases - first investment, followed by breaking even, and then profits. So, this economic slump after two IPL seasons, is it a good time or bad?

Of course, it was the wrong time for the whole world. But IPL has been very good for us. So have been the ICC and also the other cricket rights that we have. And you have seen after all this, we took New Zealand cricket rights and only recently we took the rights of South Africa cricket too.

So, it's not that we ever stopped. It has hurt us greatly; but it has hurt everybody. So, I won't read too much into this. For us, the two big challenging scenarios are: if cricket doesn't work or the economy's not good. But we know that cricket works; there is no question about it. The key question in our minds is the how the Indian economy will perform. How strongly and quickly it rebounds from the COVID setback.

During the 2008 slump, you focused on your core competence, which was

entertainment. It proved to be a good move. So, what is your core competence now - is it entertainment or sports or is it cricket?

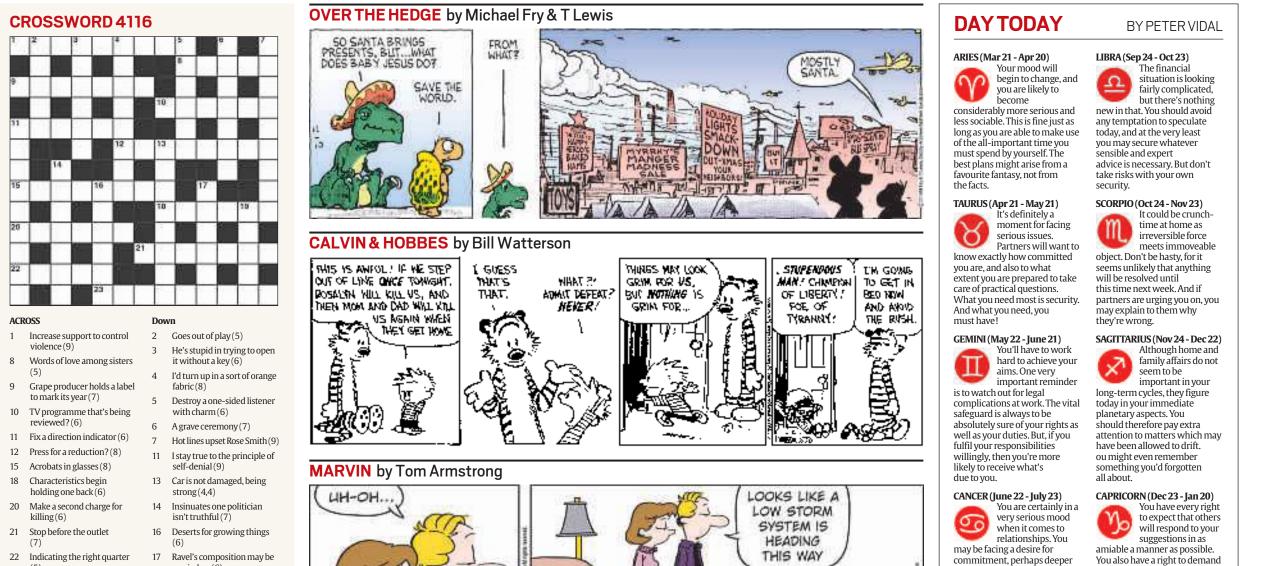
The big difference between 2008 and 2020 is that Star is far more diversified; it is much bigger and much deeper in this country. In 2008, we were just doing entertainment, nothing else. At that point, we had a sports business but that was a joint venture vith ESPN.

I think the core competence of the company, The Walt Disney and Star in India, is our ability to be creative, bold and disruptive. I think the media business is going through a very deep fundamental transition where it is becoming more and more disintermediated and leaning towards direct to consumer. Don't forget that we have about 200 million television sets in homes in this country and we already have more than double of that number by way of mobile devices, each with a screen and with data access. Over the next few years, we will be about 250 million TV sets and there will be about 700-750 million mobile screens. So right now, the biggest opportunity and the biggest challenge is how do we make sure that in countries like India, the mobile device becomes the default mode of content consumption.

We have a sustainable economic model. Our subscription service 'Disney plus Hotstar' and the way we have invested in technology and consumer experience should hold us in good stead.

How big is the logistical hurdle of holding cricket behind closed doors? Like we are seeing in European football, things like testing, isolation and keeping players away from their families.

It will be a challenge and we are required to deal with it for the first time. But it will get easier. Look, on Day 1 of lockdown, even using sanitiser and mask was a big disruption. I heard so many people say that they were not able to breathe properly. Now everybody is wearing masks. We will get used to it.

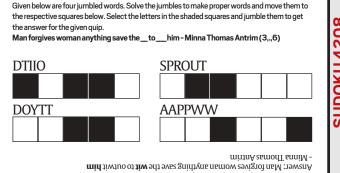


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	12 15	Press for a reduction? (8) Acrobats in glasses (8)	11	I stay true to the princip self-denial (9)				
	18	Characteristics begin holding one back (6)	13	Car is not damaged, bei strong (4,4)				
	20	Make a second charge for killing(6)	14	Insinuates one politicia isn't truthful (7)				
	21	Stop before the outlet (7)	16	Deserts for growing this (6)				
	22	Indicating the right quarter	17	Ravel's composition ma				

(5) carried on (6) 19 Fitting end for a piece of 23 Italian girl in disorderly style on arising(9) wood(5)

Solutions Crossword 4115: Across: 11 Laertes, 4 Crawl, 7 Nile, 8 Alsatian, 10 High-handed, 12 Creeps, 13 Allows, 15 Single room, 18 Abridged, 19 Asps, 20 Sinew, 21 Squalls. Down: 1 Lynch, 2 Eulogies, 3 Silent, 4 Crane flies, 5 Avid, 6 Landaus, 9 Shop window, 11 Colossal, 12 Compass, 14 Agrees, 16 Moses, 17 Bran

JUMBLED WORDS



WA9WA9, SOLUTION; IDIOT, DOTTY, STUPOR, PAWPAW

Difficulty Level 2s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle SUDOKU 420

every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in	79
each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.	8
Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =	5 7 8
Genius	1.1.1

۱ <u>ج</u> ۱	6	3	7	4	5	9	1	8	2
IZ	7	1	3	2	4	6	5	9	8
	2	4	6	9	8	5	7	3	1
ž	9	8	5	3	1	7	6	2	4
SOLUTION SUDOK	8	7	2	5	3	4	9	1	ß
15	3	5	1	6	9	8	2	4	7
	4	6	9	7	2	1	8	5	3

5 2 8

9 4 8 6 2

7

3

6 9 4

8 2

commitment, perhaps deeper than vou've known for some while, but it may be impossible to freeze feelings at a particular moment in time. But, then, perhaps that's not what you really want.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You may put the

spotlight on money, especially on joint business ventures or investments. However, always bear in mind that financial decisions are all too easily swayed by what others want, or by what you feel is expected of you. You will gain by doing the

right thing. VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The approaching sober Sun-Saturn picture suits your efficient Virgoan temperament, and you should spare no time for sloppiness and unpunctuality, least of all in vourself. If others fail to live up to your expectations, that's their problem, not yours.

achievement, now is the time to lay yourself on the line. Someone who has misunderstood you will soon mend their ways. PISCES (Feb 20 -Mar 20) Now that the Moon is aligned with your sign you can martial your emotions and channel your

to say what you think.

that partners observe financial

propriety. If they let you down,

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) You're now at a

peers for a personal

- and loudly.

you will be entitled to complain

professional and

public turning-point

and, if you ever had any desire to be praised by your

energy in a positive manner. Self-control will be a vital quality, although you don't want to tip over the line into self-inhibition. I mean, you have

R.N.I. No. WBENG/2005/20789 VOL. XVI No.85

2

8

5

5

9

3

9

4

5

10

9

2

5

6

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