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PUBLIC TRANSPORT, DOMESTIC HELPS,
liquor shops allowed in green, orange zones

PRIVATE OFFICES CAN FUNCTION WITH
33% strength in red zones; so can private vehicles

CENTRE ALLOWS RLY TO RUN TRAINS
to take stranded migrant workers home

More green than red as lockdown extended

2 weeks more of curbs, says Centre, lets states reorder zones; 77 deaths on Friday in biggest single-day toll

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE CENTRE on Friday extended the nationwide lockdown for the second time, for two weeks starting May 4, but announced considerable relaxations in green and orange zones, including movement of private and public transport within a state, and further opening up of the economy.

Some of the key relaxations in green and orange zones are: opening of markets (barring malls) and offices; operation of factories and industries; movement of public (with some restrictions); services of domestic helps, barber shops and all other self-employed people; e-commerce delivery of non-essential items.

In red zones, barring containment areas, private offices can function with 33% strength, and standalone liquor shops will be allowed to open.

However, "movement of individuals for all non-essential activities shall remain strictly prohibited throughout the country, irrespective of the zone. These include travel by air, rail, Metro and inter-state movement by road; opening of schools, colleges, and other educational and

CORONA COUNT

35,365 CASES | 1,152 DEATHS

9,065 RECOVERED

9,02,654 samples have been tested as on May 1

INSIDE

FULL LIST OF WHAT'S ALLOWED, WHAT'S NOT IN THE ZONES
PAGE 5

training/coaching institutions; hospitality services, including hotels and restaurants; places of large public gatherings, such as cinema halls, malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes etc; social, political, cultural and other kinds of gatherings; and, religious places/places of worship for public.

"However, movement of persons by air, rail and road is allowed for select purposes, and for purposes as permitted by MHA," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

In green zones — districts which haven't reported a fresh case of COVID-19 in 21 days — buses can ply with 50% seating capacity while private vehicle movement is allowed even for "non-essential" work. Social

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A special train leaving Friday night from Nashik railway station with 332 migrant workers bound for Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. They were among the 1,900-odd stranded in relief camps across Nashik. Prashant Nadkar
REPORT PAGE 6

Few in know before Govt clears 6 'Shramik Specials'

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

EVEN AS the nationwide lockdown was extended by another two weeks, the government allowed six special passenger trains to transport migrants, pilgrims, tourists and others stranded across the country to their home states Friday.

Named Shramik Special, the

six trains are from Lingampalli (Telangana) to Hatia (Jharkhand), Aluva (Kerala) to Bhubaneswar, Nashik to Lucknow, Nashik to Bhopal, Jaipur to Patna, and Kota to Hatia. With Railways in talks with other states, more trains are expected to run in the coming days to evacuate those stranded. The decision to run the six trains — shrouded in secrecy till the first train departed at 5 am

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EXPLAINED: Trains ahead of extension

WITH MAJOR urban centres still under considerable restrictions for an additional fortnight, the government would have found it difficult to contain migrant unrest. This could explain the change in plans to allow trains, the optimal means to transport large numbers.

'Officials told us at 11 pm, we packed clothes, rushed'

SREENIVAS JANYALA & ABHISHEK ANGAD
HYDERABAD, RANCHI, MAY 1

VASUDEV SINGH was sleeping when the announcement came. Officials came to the makeshift labour colony at Sangareddy, some 40 km from Hyderabad, around 11 pm Thursday and told them to pack their bags; they were going home. "We packed a

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

Next year revise RAJ Budget and Merge Union Budget with it.

THE SIX ROUTES

Firms told to ensure 100% of their staff have Aarogya app

DIPANKAR GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE NEW guidelines issued by the government on COVID-19 management make the download of the Aarogya Setu app must for all employees at a workplace, whether public or private. While thus far the use of the app was "encouraged", now onus has been put on the heads of respective organisations to "ensure 100% coverage".

Under the Disaster Management Act and Section 188 of the IPC, violations of any government guidelines in containment zones can attract penal provisions, going up to two years in prison.

The guidelines for containment zones, to come into force from May 4, also state that local authorities too must ensure 100% coverage of Aarogya Setu among the residents.

As per the new "national directives", "It shall be the responsibility of the head of the respective organizations to ensure 100 percent coverage of this app among employees."

Developed by the government, the app is meant to track

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EXPLAINED: FIGHTING VIRUS WITH PHONES
PAGE 11

India Inc says relaxed norms give them some relief but need more to open up

AASHISH AARYAN, PRANAV MUKUL & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

IN ITS guidelines for the extended lockdown issued Friday, the Centre has allowed private companies to operate with up to 33% staff on their premises across all three zones, including in red zones outside containment areas, and

permitted cab aggregators and taxis in orange and green zones.

On paper, these moves are expected to trigger partial resumption of operations in the services sector. But, on the ground, a number of companies, especially those operating in red zone districts, are not so sure.

These firms point to insufficient availability of commuting options and the risk of spread of the disease among employees as

reasons for economic activity continuing to stay on hold. The guidelines also prohibit movement of individuals for all non-essential activities between 7 pm and 7 am.

While allowing a section of the staff to work from offices could be a big relief for the services sector, top executives of leading firms in red zones said they were unlikely to implement the relaxations, terming them "too

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Badly hit to very good: how TN rode the crisis

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MAY 1

ONE OF the worst-hit states around mid-April, with the largest numbers after Maharashtra and with 37 of its 38 districts reporting coronavirus, Tamil Nadu has since turned a corner. With a similar population as Gujarat, it has nearly half its cases and one-eighth its deaths. Just five-six districts are now reporting cases, while Coimbatore, which once had the most patients, has had no fresh cases for about a week.

What has helped the state keep the numbers relatively low (2,526 cases, 28 deaths, as of Friday evening), after a sudden surge, is its health network. Starting from welfare policies in the 1950s, and despite bitter transfers of power between parties, the state has in place a system of quality and affordable healthcare.

Of its 203 cases reported on Friday, 176 were from Chennai alone. The city also accounts for 16 of its total 28 deaths. On Thursday, a 27-year-old pregnant woman died in Chennai.

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THE WORLD



TRUMP HINTS AT TARIFF ON CHINA OVER CORONAVIRUS

SOUTH AFRICA ENDS STRICT LOCKDOWN
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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

FEAR, HOPE AND CENTRAL BANK
BY MANISH SABHARWAL
PAGE 8

Extra cost, empty OPDs: Covid hits revenue model

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA & PRABHA RAGHAVAN
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE PREMISES of Southern Kolkata's Remedy Hospital wears a deserted look, with stray staff attending to a few patients in the OPD.

There isn't any crowd either at the 681-bed Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences (RTIICS).

"Compared with about 1,000 patients visiting the hospital on a

regular basis, only around 50 patients are coming now," said RTIICS CEO R Venkatesh. Most private hospitals have witnessed a huge drop in footfall of patients in emergency as well as OPDs, and almost all patients have rescheduled their elective surgeries.

From large hospital chains to smaller nursing homes, the lockdown and the Covid pandemic have reshaped operations: revenues have

dipped by 70-80 per cent, operating costs have jumped with hospitals required to provide

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Halted by sealed Delhi-Gurgaon border: Doctors, health staff, crucial surgeries

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOMYA LAKHANI & SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

ON THURSDAY night, cancer surgeon Dr Mandeep Malhotra had to reschedule a surgery for a patient suffering from throat cancer after he realised he won't be able to make it to Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj from his Gurgaon residence the next morning.



A long queue of vehicles at the NH-8 border-crossing on Friday, first day of sealing. Abhinav Saha

couldn't make it to Narayana Superspecialty Hospital in Gurgaon.

With the Delhi-Gurgaon border sealed starting Friday morn-

ing, healthcare workers who live in the two cities were among those who found themselves stranded. Apart from the long queues at border checkpoints,

healthcare workers said they had to deal with police personnel, who didn't let them pass despite their ID cards and explanations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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NEET/JEE HELPLINE: (6 AM - 11 PM)

As lockdown is extended, city cases still high: 223 on Friday

Govt issues order asking how healthcare workers got infected, suspends it later

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE NATIONAL capital reported 223 coronavirus cases on Friday, taking the tally to 3,738. The toll stood at 61, including two deaths being reported Friday.

Meanwhile, hours after the Delhi government asked heads of medical institutions to seek an explanation on how healthcare workers got infected with coronavirus, it suspended the order. The order, issued by Delhi Health Secretary Padmini Singhla on Friday, had asked medical directors to obtain a written explanation from all staff members who have been infected "as how these persons got infected or become a contact in spite of wearing required protective gears, maintaining safe distance and following precautions prescribed for health care workers". The order was suspended soon afterwards — amid criticism.

3 cops lie about virus exposure, suspended

New Delhi: Three Delhi Police constables posted with the Metro unit were suspended after they allegedly lied that they came in contact with an officer who tested positive for COVID-19, officers said Friday.

Police said that the men were posted at Shastri Park Metro station and had claimed that they came in contact with a Sub-Inspector, who tested positive on April 28, at the station.

"They said that they performed duty with the sub-inspector, and as a result, should be quarantined. We sent them for medical examination, following which they were sent back to their own homes. Later when we checked, we found out that they were not on duty with the SI. They lied to skip duty," said DCP (Metro) Harendra Kumar Singh.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer said that "three other police constables, who actually worked with the infected SI, have been tested and are in quarantine." **ENS**

BRIEFLY

NE Delhi riots: Chargesheet against three

New Delhi: Delhi Police has filed a chargesheet against Shahrulkh Pathan, who allegedly shot at a policeman, and two others for their role in the Northeast Delhi riots.

Plea: Club Sharjeel cases

New Delhi: Supreme Court Friday sought Delhi Police reply to a plea by JNU student and activist Sharjeel Imam seeking clubbing of all FIRs registered against him. **ENS**

7 Kashmiris returning home stranded once again — now at Jammu border

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

WHEN SEVEN Kashmiri women boarded a bus from Delhi Thursday to return to their families, they heaved a sigh of relief because home wasn't too far anymore.

Little did they know that this joy will be short-lived as they were stopped at the Lakhanpur border in Jammu by the Jammu & Kashmir police on Friday morning.

Till late Friday night, the women — who were preparing for competitive exams, and stayed



Over 300 health workers have tested positive in Delhi. Praveen Khanna

There are 38 Delhi government hospitals, and two — Lok Nayak and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality — have been authorised to treat COVID-19 patients. The order had also directed non-COVID hospitals to constitute a team of doctors to assess how the person tested positive.

"It is reported that many doctors, nurses, paramedics and other staff in non-COVID hospitals are ei-

ther getting infected or reported as contact to infected person, and medical directors of respective hospitals are indiscriminately sending them in quarantine either at hotels or their homes for 14 days. This practice is causing unnecessary shortage of doctors and staff at the hospitals. It seems it is happening because either hospitals are not following standard SOPs or such persons are not following guidelines prescribed for healthcare workers," stated the order.

Over the past few days, several healthcare workers employed in the non-COVID hospitals have tested positive for coronavirus. These include Babu Jagjivan Ram, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Delhi State Cancer Institute, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and GB Pant.

As private hospitals, nursing homes and clinics are running on a restricted basis, the patient load is largely being managed by the doctors at the government sector. Resident doctors across the city have been highlighting

the substandard PPEs. Even on Friday, an official from the health department rejected 41 PPEs as they did not meet standards.

"The government should stop blaming the healthcare worker for the poor quality of PPEs. Every hospital should be asked to provide details of PPE utilisation per healthcare worker. It will be clear who is at fault. The poor planning and execution has resulted in spread of infection to healthcare workers," Dr Srinivas Rajkumar T, general secretary, RDA, AIIMS, said.

Dr Anant Bhan, a researcher in global health, bioethics and health policy, said: "They are indirectly assuming that healthcare workers would willingly want to contract the transmission by not wearing PPEs... If you are a health worker and are found to be infected, before you worry about your health or that of your patients and loved ones, you need to worry about providing a written explanation of how you got infected?"

'Wanted to get students back sooner but hands were tied'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DELHI government has sent 40 buses to bring back students of the city stranded in Rajasthan's Kota, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Friday.

The students are likely to return by Saturday and will have to self-isolate themselves for two weeks, said the CM. Arrangements for sending migrant workers back to their states are being worked out, he added.

"We were receiving calls from stranded students, but our hands were tied as we did not want to act without the Centre's approval. The Centre has now granted clearance. So, 40 buses have left for Kota from Delhi today. We are hoping the students will return by tomorrow," said Kejriwal.

Around 700-800 students from Delhi are at Kota, a coaching hub which attracts engineering and medical aspirants from across the country.

On Wednesday, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had di-



Kejriwal addresses the press meet Friday

rected the states and Union Territories to develop protocols for sending and receiving stranded migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students, and others.

Kejriwal said Delhi was in touch with other states in working out the modalities of sending workers back: "We will share... our final plan once it is ready."

The Delhi government is treading cautiously, with the city having witnessed chaos in the last week of March when thousands of migrant workers had gathered at bus terminals bordering Uttar Pradesh, demanding arrangements for their return.

During the webcast, the CM said since Delhi was conducting a "lot of tests", nearly 2,300 per million population, there was also an uptick in the number of cases.

"The national average of tests per million is around 500. That is why it appears that cases are rising in Delhi. But on the brighter side, around 1,100 patients have recovered. There have been 59 deaths, less when compared with many other states," Kejriwal said.

He also said that initial trends of plasma therapy have been good: "The first patient from Lok Nayak Hospital under plasma therapy has recovered. There was some confusion over a statement from the Centre... The Centre had merely stated that only those with approvals should undertake this treatment on a trial mode."

Meanwhile, this month, PDS beneficiaries in the city will get 10 kg ration each. The Centre had in March announced that under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana, every PDS beneficiary will have their monthly allotment doubled from 5 kg to 10 kg — free of cost — for three months.

May day signal from city's workers: Lockdown has sent us back many years

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

A 200-sq-ft room with an injection moulding machine, a gas cylinder and a bed. This is Hari Narayan's toy-making unit and home, which he shares with his wife and four children at Jhilmil Industrial Area.

On May Day, he was supposed to celebrate the one-year anniversary of opening his own toy-making unit — a significant stride which took Narayan 20 years. To get here, he worked in many factories before accruing the technical know-how, an investment of Rs 3 lakh and, above all, the courage to open his own unit.

His daughter is in the final-year of a computer science course from a private college, and the other three children are studying in private schools. But the lockdown has undone two decades of progress. "I took a loan to pay for my daughter's education. She is the first woman in my family to attend college. I fear now she will end up making toys like me for a living," Narayan said.

The Jhilmil Industrial Area is a hub of engineering goods, plastic items, wires and other units churning out household appliances. There are over 600 units employing at least 7-8 skilled workers each. Most are machine operators who took two years to learn their trade and have, over the years, made enough to be able to afford college education for their children, buy a TV, and stay in two-room-set flats in the area.

The factory owners will find it difficult to operate even during a partial lockdown since most of the units are interdependent, said Jatinder Singh, secretary of Jhilmil Industrial Area Association (Block-A). "There are electricity



A worker at the Jhilmil Industrial Area, Friday. Amit Mehra

and machine upkeep costs to pay. We have no idea how the workers will be paid. So far they have been given ration to survive. The government has to think about how to revive the industry. In this lockdown, if a unit makes household cables, then it can't sell unless construction work is allowed. Everything is connected."

Most labourers work 12-hour shifts, earning Rs 15,000-20,000. With the pandemic wiping out their savings, some feel ashamed standing in food lines and sad when their children offer to help.

Manoj Kumar (25), who makes oxygen tank readers, was 15 when he first began work at a salary of Rs 1,200. He now earns Rs 12,000, and has been teaching a new employee, Rupesh. Both of them have been staying inside their factory unit since the lockdown. Manoj said, "I have three children, and all of them go to a government school. I had ensured they all get private tuitions, but I can't afford to pay anymore. How will they progress in life?"

Rakesh Kumar (33), who makes pressure cooker parts and earns Rs 12,000 per month, brims with joy when he mentions his

daughter is a final-year BA student from Delhi University. He started with a salary of Rs 3,500 when he began working here eight years ago. Since the lockdown, his employer paid him his salary and Rs 5,000 every two weeks for ration. "My employer is a very kind man. He also supported my daughter's education. I just hope she gets a job now."

May Day is a grim reminder for Ram Babu (33), who lost his job at a plastic manufacturing unit years ago for asking a leave on this day. He currently works as a foreman for Rs 17,000 a month, while his wife and three children are in Allahabad. He has Rs 2,500 left and fears standing in a line: "I am not poor. I make enough to put my eldest son in a private school. It is a shame he will have to go to a government school when all this is over."

Kaliram (70) makes tea kettles for a living. His two sons, who work in a private company in UP, lost their jobs recently. "For 50 years I made kettles only so that my family can survive. They will not find a job for months now. *Kaafi saal piche chale gaye,*" he said.

Former HC judge to assess riots damage

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DELHI High Court appointed a retired judge, Justice Sunil Gaur, as Claims Commissioner to estimate and investigate liability of public and private property damaged during the Northeast Delhi riots. Based on the court's decision, the Delhi government has issued formal order for his appointment.

The High Court appointed the Claims Commissioner, in pursuance to the Delhi government's March 9 letter seeking its intervention with reference to a Supreme Court judgment, which held that damage to public and private property must be recovered from perpetrators.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Delhi High Court Registrar General Manoj Jain said Chief Justice D N Patel has been pleased to appoint "Justice Sunil Gaur (Retd) as Claims Commissioner in terms of the law laid down by the Supreme Court..."

Jain further said that on March 18, they informed the Delhi government's Special Secretary (Home) of the decision.

The riots in February resulted in the deaths of over 50 people, injuries to hundreds of persons and loss to government and private properties. As per court records, about 750 cases were registered.

As per the letter written by the Delhi government, "during these anti-CAA/NRC protests, there has been massive and extensive damage of public and private property including public transportation, causing huge losses to government exchequer".

The Claims Commissioner will make a report to the High Court or Supreme Court, which will determine the liability after hearing the parties.

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Vehicles queue up at the Delhi-Gurgaon border on NH-8, Friday. Among the few exempted from restrictions are vehicles transporting essential items, ambulances, ATM cash vans, and those with passes issued by the Centre or Haryana government. *Abhinav Saha*

COP, MCD WORKER STOPPED: 'HAVE DIABETES, NEED TO GET HOME'

Gurgaon seals out essential Delhi

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, MAY 1

ON FRIDAY, assistant sub-inspector Sunil Dutt, deployed at Delhi's Vasant Kunj police station, found himself stuck at the Delhi-Gurgaon border, unable to return home. Dressed in his uniform, he appealed to his Gurgaon counterparts at the checkpoint to let him pass. "I am an insulin patient and need injections, which I get from my son. My family is in Gurgaon and I have taken leave to go home because I am not well, but the personnel here are not letting me pass," he said, standing in the sweltering heat, looking for personnel he could approach to let him through.

Dutt was among hundreds of people who had a hard time at the border, with the Gurgaon administration practically closing its doors at 10 am to everyone coming in from Delhi — MCD workers, police personnel, bank employees, hospital staff, supermarket employees. While many were caught unawares, others said they were under the impression that 'essential services' would not be hit.

Additional restrictions have been imposed across all borders of Gurgaon following directions from the District Magistrate, wherein he stated that it had become "imperative" to take additional measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In the order, he directed that those working in Gurgaon but living in Delhi and vice-versa would have to make living arrangements at or near their workplace to avoid cross-border movement.

Gurgaon now has the highest COVID-19 cases among the districts in Haryana, with six more people testing positive Friday. It has recorded 63 cases and 38 recoveries.

Among the very few ex-

WHO IS ALLOWED — AND WHO ISN'T



PROHIBITED

- Police personnel
- Bank employees
- Doctors and other medical professionals
- Media personnel
- Employees of any private companies or factories travelling across border for work

ALL THOSE TRAVELLING ACROSS GURGAON BORDERS FOR WORK DIRECTED TO MAKE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AT THEIR WORKPLACES



EXEMPTED

- Those issued restricted movement pass by authorised officers of the Government of India or Haryana government
- Vehicles transporting essential items such as vegetables, medicines, fodder for animals, and PPEs, but only if they have just one driver and one helper or security guard
- Ambulances, ATM cash vans, LPG and oil containers and tankers

DIRECTIONS FOR THOSE ALLOWED ENTRY

- Install and use Aarogya Setu application
- Undergo thermal scanning and symptomatic screening at border check posts when entering Gurgaon
- Undergo rapid testing facility if found to be symptomatic during entry to Gurgaon



The orders came into effect at 10 am on Friday. *Abhinav Saha*

EXECUTION ON GROUND

30

checkpoints set up

2,500

police personnel posted at the borders

30

Duty Magistrates deployed

10

Duty Magistrates kept in reserve

empted from such restrictions are vehicles transporting essential items, ambulances, ATM cash vans, and those with movement passes issued by the Centre or the Haryana government. People entering the city, the order stated,

will also have to download the Aarogya Setu app and undergo thermal scanning and symptomatic screening at the border.

Earlier in the day, Delhi resident Shyam Shankar Prasad had left on his motorcycle for Khandsa,

where he works at a mask-manufacturing company. At the Delhi-Gurgaon border, police told him his ID card or the pass issued by the district administration would no longer suffice. "They are not letting us go to work, my employer

says we won't be paid if we don't turn up. What are we to do?" said Prasad. "Most such companies operate out of UP or Haryana."

Dharmendra Kumar, a resident of Mahipalpur who works as a fireman at a gated condo on

M G Road, cycled to the border on the Expressway Friday afternoon. Despite repeated requests, he too was turned back. "Who will manage if a fire breaks out in one of the buildings?" said Kumar, who has been making the trip from Mahipalpur to Gurgaon for the last 14 years. "Staying at my workplace is not an option — I can't leave my wife and daughters alone," he said.

Among vehicles parked near the border was an Innova belonging to the Medanta group. Guddu Pal, the passenger, said he had travelled from Medanta Hospital in Lucknow to Gurgaon to pick up PPE kits, masks, gloves, and other equipment from its Gurgaon facility. "I have my ID card and hospital papers, which got me through all the checkpoints from Lucknow till here. But police are not letting me through. What is so special about Gurgaon that papers that work everywhere else have no value here?" he said.

Among those who faced trouble travelling to their homes was a woman employed with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, who was travelling with three colleagues. "All of us live near Rajiv Chowk and are returning from duty, but police are not letting us through. Our homes are in Gurgaon. If we cannot pass, where do we go?" she said.

Officials insisted the situation will become more manageable in some time. Gurgaon Police Commissioner Mohammad Akil said, "2,500 personnel were deployed at the borders to enforce additional restrictions. The situation was manageable today and will become smoother in terms of execution with time."

"Today being the first day of restrictions, there was bound to be some confusion. The situation will become better and implementation smoother as awareness spreads," said ACP Karan Goyal at Sirhul border on the Expressway.

To prevent another migrant exodus, Delhi seals borders

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DELHI government Friday directed the complete sealing of inter-state borders, citing "intelligence inputs" that attempts are likely to be made to "incite and provoke" stranded migrant workers, amid talks with other states over sending them back.

Separately, the government also appointed 12 nodal officers for coordinating movement of stranded workers, students and pilgrims in accordance with directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The officers will coordinate with other state governments in this regard.

"Certain intelligence inputs have been received that in view of the aforesaid order of MHA (on movement of migrants), certain anti-social elements may try to incite and provoke the stranded persons, particularly migrant workers in the undesirable hope of creating some tensions and conflict besides attempting to violate the lockdown measures, which shall have devastating consequences in the fight against COVID-19 disease," the order issued by Chief Secretary Vijay Dev said.

A senior official said the order has been issued to prevent a repeat of last month, when thousands of workers had gathered in places such as the Anand Vihar Bus Terminal, demanding arrangements to go back to their native places. "Since the details of the plan to transport them back

are still being worked out, this order has been issued to prevent any possible chaos," the official added.

Accordingly, Dev, in his capacity as chairperson of the state executive committee on corona prevention, directed the Delhi Police Commissioner and district magistrates to take all necessary measures to prevent any unlawful assembly of people.

"Adequate number of pickets should be set up in all areas where migrant workers are residing to prevent their movement. The inter-state borders must be completely sealed and a strict vigil should be maintained on inter-state movement of goods carriers too, lest they become a vehicle for illegal transportation of stranded persons."

"Any vehicle found transporting stranded persons should be impounded and strict punitive action as per law should be taken against violators. It should be ensured that no movement of such stranded persons should be allowed at the inter-state borders without following the protocol prescribed by the MHA and GNCTD," the order states.

The Delhi Police special commissioner (intelligence), special commissioners (law and order) have also been directed to gather intelligence from all "corners of Delhi and inter-state borders" on movement of migrant labourers, tourists and pilgrims.

Meanwhile, on Friday, police registered a case against a man who allegedly spread rumours about inter-state travel facilities in Shahdara.

Restrictions hit services at Covid hospital, several healthcare workers refused entry

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, MAY 1

THE EMPLOYEES' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital in Gurgaon, a designated COVID-hospital for the district, was among facilities hit by restrictions on the border, with many staff members being unable to make it to work.

"Around 10% of our staff, including the X-ray technician, radiographer, pharmacist and some administrative staff, come from Delhi and Faridabad. Some managed to make it today, but even they have been told they will not be allowed from tomorrow," said hospital medical superintendent Shubhra Gupta.

Among those refused entry was RS Mehra, Assistant Director (Finance), who lives in Dwarka;



At the border on Friday. *Abhinav Saha*

"I usually show my ID and come through, but today police first asked me my designation. When I told them the nature of my job, they said I would not be allowed entry."

Anita Suresh, Deputy Director General (Branch), a resident of

Faridabad, was similarly stopped at the Gurgaon-Faridabad border. "Faridabad Police first allowed me to travel some distance, but then I was stopped at another checkpoint, and they refused to let me pass on the basis of my ID," said Suresh. "Even if the hospital makes arrangements for us to stay, I can't. My mother-in-law has just had an operation for cancer. She has to be looked after."

Officials at the hospital said at least 20 employees travel to Gurgaon from Delhi and Faridabad, and all are "critical" and needed on the premises. "This is a COVID-hospital and everyone is on duty. All roles are critical and needed in this situation," said Gupta.

On accommodation of staff at the hospital, she said, "I am forwarding any such requests to the office of the Civil Surgeon. For

instance, our cook has said to make arrangements, and we are sending the request to the office. What else can we do? We have not received any communication from the administration so far."

Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri offered reassurance that a solution would be worked out: "We will work it out to ensure unhindered operations."

On Wednesday, several members of the staff at the Faridabad branch of ESIC, including those involved in testing samples for coronavirus, were unable to reach work as additional restrictions were imposed at the district's borders. The administration later announced that Haryana Roadways buses would be arranged to transport those travelling to the hospital from other districts.

With 17 cases, Noida records highest single-day Covid spike

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, MAY 1

NOIDA RECORDED its highest single-day spike in cases on Friday, with 17 persons testing positive. Medical authorities however, said the situation is under control and contact tracing is on. Till Friday evening, Gautam Buddha Nagar district had reported 155 cases, 80 recoveries.

According to officials, 10 patients between aged between 10 and 32 hail from the Sector 8, where a case linked to the fire safety firm in Sector 135 had emerged earlier. The other patients are from sectors 9, 10, 55, 76, 150, and from Greater Noida's sector Pi and Bisrakh village.

Dr Deepak Ohri, CMO Gautam Buddha Nagar, said, "Eight of the patients who tested

positive were already in quarantine. The new cases are being given adequate treatment. None of them are on ventilators. The number of people discharged is more than the active cases, which is a good sign."

One of the 17 cases is a 27-year-old woman from rural Noida who was tested at a private lab in Ghaziabad, an official said.

"We have deployed 16 extra teams in Sector 8 and adjoining areas, which are carrying out intensive tracing and surveying. A camp is being held for two hours, which I inspect daily. In the camps, a list is being prepared of suspected patients. Accordingly, tests and quarantine measures are being taken," said Dr Ohri.

In Gautam Buddha Nagar, so far, 3,618 tests have been performed. Currently, 697 persons are in quarantine. As per MHA

guidelines, Gautam Buddha Nagar is seventh in the 'red zone' list of Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, in Ghaziabad, a 60-year-old woman died on Thursday hours after she tested positive for COVID-19. Officials said she had several co-morbidities. Till Friday evening, Ghaziabad reported 62 cases and 48 recoveries.

The Ghaziabad administration Friday unsealed eight hotspots that saw zero cases over 28 days. These include Gyan Khand 1 in Indirapuram; Shipra Sun City; 2B Vasundhara; Shalimar Garden Extension 2; SSC Sappire Society; Sector 6 Vaishali; Khata Shyam Duha; and Oxy Home in Bhopura.

As per the hotspot list, Ghaziabad has been categorised under the 'orange zone' due to less frequency of cases.



CORONA
WATCH

AAP MLA tests positive

New Delhi: Karol Bagh AAP MLA Vishesh Ravi Friday said he and his brother have tested positive for COVID-19. He said he is under home quarantine.

6 more personnel contract virus

New Delhi: Six more policemen tested positive for COVID-19. Two of them are from the Crime Branch team probing the case against the Tablighi Jamaat. **ENS**

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