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**STEP**  
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India should open its economy in a measured way: Raghuram Rajan  
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Ensure three-month loan moratorium is followed, SC tells RBI  
page 8



Joe Biden under pressure to address sexual assault charge  
page 12



Legendary Indian footballer Chuni Goswami passes away  
page 14

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## NEARBY



Confusion in Punjab over curfew relaxation

KHARAR  
After Punjab permitted the opening of shops on rotation for four hours every morning from Thursday, a state of confusion prevailed among shop owners in many parts of the State. They said the government should issue clear instructions.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Bihar seeks non-stop trains for migrants

PATNA  
Bihar on Thursday urged the Centre to run special non-stop trains to bring back 27 lakh people of the State stuck in distant places because of the lockdown. The appeal came a day after the Centre issued an order allowing the States to bring back students, migrants and tourists.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

R.V. Smith: Delhi loses its favourite chronicler

NEW DELHI  
Noted author and columnist Ronald Vivian Smith, who is best known for his writings on Delhi, breathed his last at a hospital here on Thursday. He was 81. Smith was suffering from age-related ailments for the past four months, his family said. He was admitted to hospital after he complained of breathing problems on Monday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## Recovery rate rises to 25%, says govt.

Fatality rate touches 3.2% with 65% male and 35% female patients; average doubling rate stands at 11%

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India reported 1,823 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 33,610 on Thursday with 8,373 recoveries. An additional 71 deaths have now taken the total number of fatalities to 1,074.

The deaths since Wednesday include 32 from Maharashtra, 16 from Gujarat, 11 from Madhya Pradesh and three from Uttar Pradesh, the Union Health Ministry said.

According to Ministry data, the highest number of confirmed cases in the country are from Maharashtra at

### Measuring the spread

The graphs depict the number of days taken by COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries in India to progress from one milestone to another. The milestones are spaced out equally to measure the increases in a consistent manner



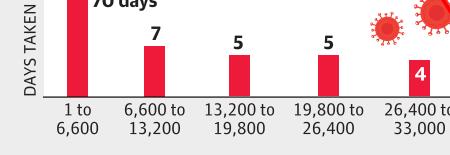
persons under 45, 34.8% in the 45-60 age group. Co-morbidities were found in 78% of COVID-19 fatalities, Joint Secretary Lur Agarwal said at the daily press briefing.

He added that case fatality for those over 60 years is 51.2% which includes 42% for those between 60-75 years. For those above 75 years the rate is 9.2%.

The Ministry added that analysis of doubling rate across the country has revealed that the national average is 11 days presently as

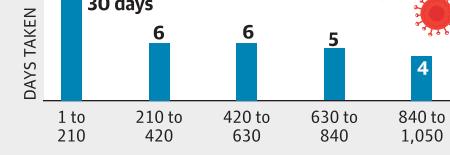
### Progression of cases

The first set of 6,600 cases occurred in 70 days. The latest set happened in 4 days



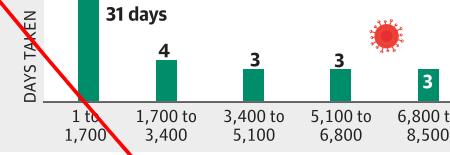
### Progression of deaths

The first set of 210 deaths occurred in 30 days. The latest set happened in 4 days



### Progression of recoveries

The first set of 1,700 recoveries occurred in 31 days. The latest set happened in 3 days



compared to 3.4 days before lockdown.

States/UTs having doubling rate between 11 and 20 days include Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Those having doubling rate between 20 days to 40 days are Karnataka, Ladakh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Kerala.

Assam, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh have a doubling rate of more than 40 days, as per data released by the Health Ministry.

Data from State Health Departments reported a nationwide death toll of 1,150 with 34,789 overall and 24,647 active cases.

The Ministry said no health facility should prescribe additional COVID-19 testing for non-COVID patients, causing unwanted delay in treatment for critical patients, and that testing should be as per the protocol issued by the Health Ministry.

"States are advised to ensure that all health facilities, especially in the private sec-

tor, remain functional and provide critical services so that such patients who need these critical services do not face any difficulty. States are also informed that it is noticed that many hospitals in the private sector are hesitant to provide critical services like dialysis, blood transfusion, chemotherapy and institutional deliveries to their regular patients which is not acceptable," said Mr. Agarwal.

### Post-lockdown steps

Replying to a question on the Ministry's recommendation to end the lockdown, Mr. Agarwal said: "We have to ensure that physical distancing becomes a norm so that the chain of transmission is broken; equally important are containment measures for the disease."

The Ministry reiterated that as of now there is no confirmed treatment protocol for COVID-19 and that Remdesivir is one protocol which is being examined.

"There is no conclusive study to prove its effectiveness and we are waiting for larger evidence to take meaningful action. We have, however, issued a detailed advisory on the use of hydroxychloroquine as prophylaxis 19 and availability of HCQ is being ensured," Mr. Agarwal said.

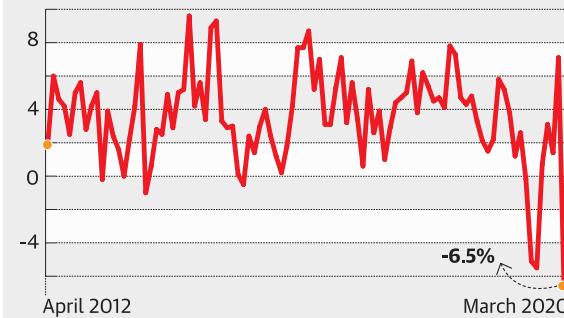
"States are advised to ensure that all health facilities, especially in the private sec-

## March core sector output slumps 6.5%

Sharper contraction likely in IIP

### A new low

The year-on-year growth of the production volume of the eight core industries contracted 6.5% in March 2020, a near eight-year-low



### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Output at India's core sector contracted by 6.5% in March, Commerce Ministry data show, reflecting the early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent nationwide lockdown.

The index of eight core sector industries, which account for almost 40% of the weight of the index. Cement production crashed 25%, while natural gas production slid 15%, the data showed. Fertiliser production also fell 12%, while crude oil production slipped 5.5%.

Coal was the only core sector which saw some growth, with output up 4%. The largest component of the index – refinery production – also dipped by only 0.5%.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Parliament project gets panel nod

Meeting held despite members requesting for postponement

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The government's plan to construct a new Parliament building was approved by the Central Vista Committee at a meeting on April 23 with the suggestion that the design be "in sync" with the existing Parliament House, according to the minutes of the meeting sent to its members on Thursday.

The committee, which is chaired by Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Additional Director-General (Works) Anant Kumar, met through videoconferencing. None of the non-government members from the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) and the Institute of Town Planners was in attendance.

"It is placed for record here with that some members, through email, expressed their inability to join the meeting on grounds of travel restrictions in view of COVID-19 and owing to lack

The committee said the design should be in sync with the existing building. ▪ PTI

of technical capacity at their end to join online web-based conference facility," the minutes stated.

These members had requested for the meeting to be postponed, "however, keeping in view the importance of the project in nation's interest and time scale for its implementation the meeting was held as per issued meeting notice", the minutes said.

The "proposed new Parliament building at Plot

## NIA arrests ex-Shopian sarpanch

### VIJAYA SINGH NEW DELHI

A former sarpanch, aligned to the BJP, from Shopian in south Kashmir has been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a case registered in January, after a J&K police officer Davinder Singh was caught travelling in a car with a Hizbul Mujahideen militant.

The suspect, Tariq Ahmad Mir, 36, was arrested on Wednesday. An official said his name cropped up during the interrogation of Naveed Mushtaq Shah, the Hizbul militant. Shah reportedly told interrogators that Mir was involved in providing weapons to other terrorist groups.

An official said the NIA had raided multiple locations in February and Mir's house was one of them.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Icon of romance takes a final bow

Rishi Kapoor dies in Mumbai hospital after two-year battle with leukaemia

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

One of Indian cinema's leading stars, much loved for his youthful musical romances, Rishi Kapoor, passed away on Thursday after being on ICU support for a week at the Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre in Mumbai. He died at 8.45 a.m. after a two-year battle with leukaemia.

Kapoor is survived by wife Neetu Kapoor, and children Ranbir Kapoor and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni.

His last rites took place on Thursday afternoon at the Chandanwadi crematorium in Mumbai in the presence of his family, close relatives and friends.

Kapoor, 67, was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2018, following which he had gone to

New York for treatment. He was last seen in Jeethu Joseph's *The Body*.

The second son of legendary actor-director Raj Kapoor, and Krishna Raj Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor showed his acting genes in his debut film *Mera Naam Joker* (1970) for which he won the National Award for the Best Child Artist.

The "proposed new Parliament building at Plot

His first film as a leading man, *Bobby* (1973), was a superhit and established him as a youthful, romantic icon. All through the 1970s and 80s he kept setting the hearts flutter with his musical romances and the trademark dance moves in many a catchy film song.

Manmohan Desai's paean to secularism, *Amar Akbar Anthony* (1977), and Subhash Ghai's musical reincarnation thriller *Karz* (1980) were the two landmark films of that phase.

President Ram Nath Kovind mourned his loss in

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 14



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DELHI

FRIDAY, MAY. 03
RISE 05:41 SET 18:57
RISE 12:21 SET 01:28
SATURDAY, MAY. 02
RISE 05:40 SET 18:57
RISE 13:26 SET 02:13
SUNDAY, MAY. 03
RISE 05:39 SET 18:58
RISE 14:31 SET 02:55

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 39 25  
Safdarjang 39 25  
Palam 40 24

**Delhi Palam Today**  
39°C A very warm weather with partly cloudy sky to prevail. Night will be comfortable.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
39°C A very warm and cloudy sky to prevail. Chances of light spell of duststorm and thundershower.

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## Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	138	Gurugram	166
Ghaziabad	124	Faridabad	169
Noida	114	Greater Noida	111
Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate	■ Poor
0-50	51-100	101-200	201-300 >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

## IN BRIEF

## North body impounds 250 stray cattle

**NEW DELHI**  
Nearly 250 stray cattle have been impounded by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation following an intensive five-day drive near Azadpur Mandi, the civic body said on Thursday. FIRs have also been lodged against at least 11 illegal dairy owners under relevant IPC sections, it added.

# Migrants feel returning home is a more suitable option for them

Their wait to return is getting longer as there is no communication from officials

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

Outside a food distribution centre in the city, migrant workers queued up for their daily meals under the scorching sun. All of them have been out of work for over a month now. Hailing mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, they said returning to their villages was a more suitable option for them rather than living under poor conditions in the Capital, where they came in search of livelihood. But their wait to return is getting longer day by day as there is no communication from the authorities.

For Gandhi Mandal and Ravidas, both from Bihar, a journey to the national capital every few months was a normal affair. But this time they got "stuck" in the city.

"For the last 10 years we have been coming to Delhi and most of us are daily wage labourers. We stay here for a short while – between four to nine months – and then return to our villages. The constant need to look for work is what drives us to the Capital. We got stuck here this time," said Mandal, who reached Delhi a month before the nationwide lockdown came into force. A resident of Kathihar district in Bihar, Ravidas said, "We want to return as soon as



Migrant labourers in Srinivaspuri on Thursday.

• SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

## Govt. in touch with other States: Jain

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said the government was in touch with other States for sending people back to their own places. He added that the government will screen people before sending them back.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Home Affairs al-

lowed inter-State movement of stranded tourists, pilgrims, students and migrant workers following which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the government was in the process of formulating a plan regarding the movement of migrant workers to their respective States.

willing to help us, we have not received any direct communication from authorities."

"Whether we will return or not is something to be thought later. First we need to save ourselves from this situation," Mandal added.

## Registration woes

Some workers residing in Srinivaspuri claimed that the police had refused to get their names registered when approached during a registration drive in neighbouring Nehru Nagar. Displaying his government ID, Dilip Paswan, a resident of JJ Indira Camp said: "We have made a list of over 100 people who are willing to return home and have kept documents like aadhaar cards ready. But no one has come to us for the registration. When we heard about registration drive in Nehru Nagar, we went there. But the police refused to register us citing some jurisdiction issue."

At a government school near Masjid Moth, Seema, a 26-year-old daily wage labourer, said: "The government makes announcements but how do we believe unless we see the process start. If we manage to go back, there is no question of coming back in the near future. We can't take this risk again."

## 'Working on SOP for movement of labourers'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The police and the government are working on standard operating procedure (SOP) for the movement of migrant labourers and other stranded people after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued guidelines regarding the same, said officials on Thursday.

They are in regular contact with the officials of other States, the police said. The MHA on Wednesday issued a fresh set of guidelines to help migrant workers, students, tourists and pilgrims stranded in different parts of the country reach their respective home towns.

"The government and the police are finalising its modalities and working on the SOP," said Delhi Police PRO Mandeep Singh Randhawa. The inter-State movement of these people will be facilitated by the State/UT governments by road only, the order stated.

"People will have to register themselves so that their movements till their homes can be regulated. Till the time your SOP is being finalised, we request you to not pay attention to any social media posts. The police will take strict actions against people for spreading rumours," Mr. Randhawa said.

## Guidelines issued for home isolation of positive cases

'These are for very mild COVID-19 cases'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday issued guidelines for "home isolation" of people who have tested positive for COVID-19. For a patient to be treated at their house, the person should be clinically assigned as a "very mild case/pre-symptomatic case" by the treating medical officer or by the in-charge of nearby public health facility, the guidelines stated.

These patients do not need to get admitted to a hospital or any other facility and can be treated by a caregiver at their own houses. "Such cases should have the requisite facility at their residence for self-isolation and also for quarantining the family contacts," the guidelines read.

Also, the person will have a stamp reading – committed to home isolation – on his/her left hand with the date of release, which is 16 days from the date of sample taking. A sticker will also be pasted outside the patient's residence.

A health team under the supervision of a medical officer of the public primary healthcare facility will visit the house and also give a list of advisory. They will also make the person download Arogya Setu App on their mobile phone. The pa-

tients need to be active at all time on the app.

A caregiver should be available on a 24X7 basis. A communication link between the caregiver and hospital is a prerequisite for the entire duration of home isolation. The caregiver and all close contacts of such cases should take hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) prophylaxis as per protocol and as prescribed by the treating medical officer," the guidelines read.

lines read. A surveillance team will monitor the medical condition of the patient and caregiver over phone or any other mode which the District Surveillance Officer decides. On the 14th day of the home quarantine, another sample will be collected. If the person tests negative then 24 hours after this, he or she can visit the COVID-19 testing centre or hospital for another testing.

Two consecutive samples are to be tested negative for the home isolation to end. If the two subsequent samples tested are not negative then home isolation will be extended as per prevailing guidelines. "If tested positive on the 14th day, then a stamp on the right hand for an extension for another five days will be placed," it read.

## Ensure children are not malnourished: NGO to govt.

It calls for implementation of SC order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Executive Engineer, Kulu Division HP, PWD, Kulu on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HP, PWD, department.

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

A day after Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said the government had taken the "tough decision" to seal its borders with Delhi to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Gurugram District administration issued orders barring cross-border movement, except for essential commodities vehicles, ambulances and Central government officials. The orders will come into force from 10 a.m. on May 1.

The District Magistrates of Jhajjar, Sonipat and Faridabad also revised their earlier orders restricting the cross-border movement to essential commodities vehicles, ambulances and Central government officials. The orders will come into force from 10 a.m. on May 1.

As per the directions, commuting across the border would not be allowed and those who need to travel for work daily should make accommodation arrangements at their respective workplaces. The movement, except in case of exemptions, is allowed only with specific permission granted by the office of the Deputy Magistrate. However, even in case of exemptions,

the total cases in Haryana. Faridabad with 53 cases also recorded the first COVID-19 death on Wednesday. The district has reported seven new cases in a single day.

The four-page orders stated that despite the lockdown efforts there were still cases of COVID-19 with the contact history traced to cross-border sources.

Meanwhile, two nurses at Medanta Hospital and another woman tested positive for COVID-19 in Gurugram taking the total number of cases to 57. A total of 5,857 samples have been taken so far in the district and the results for 301 are awaited.

The district has 19 active cases. With 18 COVID-19 cases reported on Wednesday, Jhajjar has 24 cases. Sonipat has 25 cases so far.

organisation said and called for the implementation of a Supreme Court order of March 18 that had said: "the schemes for providing nutritious food to the children and nursing and lactating mothers are not adversely affected" during the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19.

Sumit Mishra, executive director, MC said thousands of people, including young children are living across construction sites, labour camps, temporary shelters, urban slums without access to basic food, health, safety and protection systems.

## DCP Rajan Bhagat retires

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

An IPS officer of the 2008 batch AGMUT cadre, Rajan Bhagat, who served the longest stint as the spokesperson of the Delhi Police, on Thursday retired after a career spanning close to four decades.

Mr. Bhagat, who joined the force as a Sub-Inspector in 1981 and was currently posted as ICP (Crime), received a President Police Medal for meritorious service in 2003 and a President Police Medal for distinguished service in 2011. He also received a National Award for being behind the Lost Report Application of Delhi Police for Innovative Use of Technology in e-Governance in 2011.

On Thursday, the university conducted a webinar on how to keep the teaching-learning process going smoothly during COVID-19 pandemic. "It is important that teachers learn how to use digital platforms. Post-COVID-19 too, digital plat-

forms are going to be important. Time has come to decide which part of education can be online and which can be in the class room. Online education is going to bring more flexibility and greater access to education," said JNU V-C M. Jagadesh Kumar. He also welcomed the UGC guidelines on examinations and academic calendar for the universities in view of CO-VID-19. "These guidelines emphasize the need to follow the measures taken by the government to contain the spread of COVID-19 while making sure that the educational processes continue by an effective use of various available technological options," the V-C added.

He said it makes sense to reschedule the academic calendar 2019-2020 because after the lockdown is lifted, it will take some time for the students to complete their examinations and move on to the next academic session.

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## IN BRIEF

**Telecoms should not charge during lockdown**  
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed before the Delhi High Court seeking directions to all telephone operators and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) not to charge any amount for offices, shops, business houses and factories that remained "compulsorily closed" due to 'lockdown'.

**BJP team demands removal of DMC chief**  
NEW DELHI

A delegation of BJP MLAs called on Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal here on Thursday to demand the immediate removal of Delhi Minorities Commission chairman Zafarul Islam Khan from his post and directions to the police to lodge an FIR against him. Citing a Facebook post by Mr. Khan, BJP MLAs alleged that he had endangered the unity and integrity of the country and tried to spread hatred among Hindus and Muslims.

**'Sikh body liable to pay more for delayed salary'**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stated that the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee is liable to pay an additional ₹10,000 for each month of delayed salary payment to teachers of its schools in the Capital.

Also, the Delhi government

# 3 deaths, 76 fresh cases reported in the Capital

Two more private hospitals to provide COVID-19 treatment

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three deaths and 76 new COVID-19 cases were reported here on Thursday, taking the total number of deaths to 59 and cases to 3,515, according to the Delhi government.

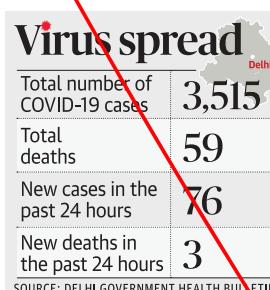
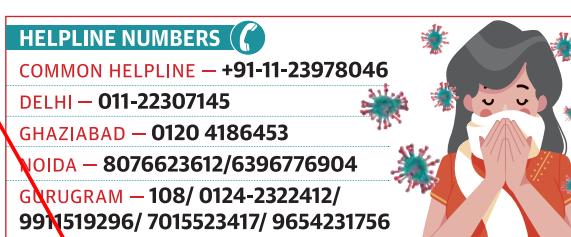
Of the 3,515 cases, 1,094 people have recovered and there are 2,362 active cases.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said that containment zones where no new cases have been reported for many days will be changed to orange and green zones.

The Delhi government decided to remove Vardhaman Apartment in east Delhi from the list of containment zones, as there was no new cases from here in the last four weeks. After Mansara Apartment, this is the second containment zone to be removed from the list.

Mr. Jain also said that the government was trying to resolve problems faced by people providing essential services while crossing the Delhi-Haryana border.

Also, the Delhi government



ment on Thursday declared two more private hospitals, Maha Durga Charitable Trust Hospital and Sir Gangaram City Hospital, as COVID-19 treatment facilities, as there is a "shortage" of isolation beds at private hospitals, according to an official order.

"Medical Superintendents of these two hospitals are directed to make isolation beds facility COVID-19 functional at their respective hospital

before May 3, 2020," an order issued by Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department, Padmini Singla, said.

In a related development, a doctor at GB Pant Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research was tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday. The doctor was working till Thursday morning. Six people who came in his contact have been identified.

A woman nurse working at Jeevan Nursing Home in Karol Bagh has also been tested positive, said health department officials. "The nursing home is sanitised and staff who came in contact with her have been placed under quarantine," the official added.

# Hospitals warned of action if essential services denied

'Delhi govt. will cancel registration without further notice'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday warned hospitals and clinics, which are non-COVID-19 treatment facilities, especially those in private sector, of cancellation of registration "without further notice" if they deny essential critical services to people.

Such services include dialysis, blood transfusion, chemotherapy, and institutional deliveries.

## Virus fear

An order issued by Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department, Padmini Singla, on Thursday said that some private hospitals are hesitating in providing critical services on account of "fear of contracting COVID-19" or are "keeping their hospitals, clinics closed".

"It has come to notice that some hospitals in the private sector, are hesitating in providing critical services, such as dialysis, blood transfusion, chemotherapy and institutional deliveries to their regular patients, either on account of fear of contracting COVID-19 or they are keeping their hospitals/clinics closed."

On April 24, the Delhi government had said that no patient who is reaching any non-COVID-19 hospital, other than with COVID-19 infection, should be denied treatment or admission.

On Thursday, the Secre-



A patient being escorted by family members to a hospital amid the nationwide lockdown in the Capital. ■ PTI

tary ordered all hospitals, clinics, especially those in private sectors, to remain functional and ensure no one is denied essential services.

"It has come to notice that some hospitals in the private sector, are hesitating in providing critical services, such as dialysis, blood transfusion, chemotherapy and institutional deliveries to their regular patients, either on account of fear of contracting COVID-19" or are "keeping their hospitals, clinics closed".

Meanwhile, four primary contacts of a staff at Rajan Babu Tuberculosis Hospital who had been found positive for COVID-19 was tested for the virus and the results are awaited.

**One more tests positive at Hindu Rao Hospital**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

One more nurse at Hindu Rao Hospital has tested positive for COVID-19, the spokesperson for the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, which runs the hospital, said on Thursday.

The hospital was closed on April 25, when a nurse was found infected, in order to sanitise the premises and undertake tracing of all the primary contacts of the nurse. The nurse found positive on Thursday was one of the 76 contacts of the earlier case.

The nurse who tested positive on Thursday had been admitted at a quarantine facility on Monday and tested on the same day, the official said. As many as 42 contacts have also been placed under either home or institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, four primary contacts of a staff at Rajan Babu Tuberculosis Hospital who had been found positive for COVID-19 was tested for the virus and the results are awaited.

# Delhi govt. scraps plan to distribute pulses

Shop owners complain of moisture in dal

PRISCILLA JEBARA  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's ration cardholders were supposed to have started getting their free 1 kg of pulses by now, as promised by the Centre in its COVID-19 relief package. However, a number of ration shop owners have complained to the Delhi Food Department that the chana dal delivered to them for distribution had a high moisture content and could not be used.

**Quality check**  
The Delhi government has scrapped plans to begin pulses distribution while it takes up the issue of a quality check with central agency NAFED. The central agency now says it will replace the 25 tonnes of stock that seem to have been affected, although NAFED officials maintained that the stock they had provided was of good quality, blaming the Delhi government for subsequent storage and transport conditions.

On April 15, the Delhi Food department directed the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to pick up the 1,750 tonnes of chana dal for the month of April from NAFED's designated delivery

points at Timarpur and Sirajpur.

"The whole quantity of chana dal is now lying ready in the fair price shops. But we got complaints from 15 to 20 FPS shopkeepers that the dal has too much moisture content and will not be usable," said Desh Raj Singh, assistant commissioner in the Food Department.

A senior NAFED official told *The Hindu* that complaints had arisen regarding only one truckload of the chana dal of the 68 trucks of stock that were sent.

"We take five samples from every truck, and one goes to Delhi government while two each stay with SGS and NAFED. How is it that only the Delhi government's sample shows high moisture content while ours is fine? Still, we do not want to tarnish the objective of the programme, so we will replace the 25 tonnes of stock," said the official.

# Four more traders from Azadpur Mandi infected

Total number of traders from the market to have tested positive for COVID-19 rises to 15

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

Four more traders from Azadpur Mandi, Asia's largest vegetables and fruits market, have tested positive for COVID-19, according to government authorities concerned.

The total number of traders associated with the *mandi* to be infected by the virus now stands at 15 even as offi-

cials from the Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) claimed that the "actual" figure in this regard is an estimated 27 which is yet to be "officially accepted".

According to officials, of the four fresh cases, one is a trader who tested positive on Tuesday and three tested positive on April 29.

All the 15 cases reported

from the *mandi*, according to official records, have surfaced between April 20 and 29 with traders demanding that the market has clearly turned into a hotspot and must be shut to prevent the infection from spreading, but to no avail.

"The district administration has confirmed the reports of 15 people associated with the market and the Dis-

trict Surveillance Team is in touch with them. As many as 13 shops have so far been sealed and 43 people have been placed under quarantine. The *mandi* administration has made arrangements and is providing food and essentials to such individuals," said APMC chairman Adil Ahmed Khan.

APMC member Anil Malhotra claimed the family

# Nizamuddin centre chief to get another notice

He never responded properly: police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police will send another legal notice to the head of Nizamuddin centre, Maulana Saad, as he has not responded properly to any of the notices and asked him to get COVID-19 test done at AIIMS, a senior officer said on Thursday.

The police said that Mr. Saad had responded to the notices but never answered to the questions asked in those. He has responded through a legal team, they said

"In a second notice, we

had asked Mr. Saad to get COVID-19 test done at AIIMS as they will only accept AIIMS report but he never responded. The legal team claimed that they had got him tested at a private lab and the report was sent to the police, but actually they had never sent any report," said the officer.

"The seven accused, including Mr. Saad, who were named in the FIR are untraceable. In response to the legal notices, they have not disclosed details of other bank accounts of the said centre," the officer added.

The police said that Mr. Saad had responded to the notices but never answered to the questions asked in those. He has responded through a legal team, they said

"In a second notice, we

# Living in the past

SUNALINI MATHEW



## TRIBUTE

The only time I met R.V. Smith was about a year ago in the office, when he came to tea one Saturday afternoon with his son, Rodney. I had been editing his copy for a few months, and had wanted to meet the man who wrote about Delhi through such a personal lens.

"Are you settled?" he asked, a question I managed to steer the conversation away from. Instead, we spoke of his family – his seven siblings and five children, and how his son Tony was born in a hotel where the family stayed, while Smith was away in Agra. The two other children slept, while a midwife from one of the galis in Old Delhi saw the birth through.

**Storified everything**  
Like his columns in the last year, when he hadn't kept very well, Smith storified everything in stream of consciousness manner even in the way he spoke. He talked of how a newspaper called The Englishman merged with The Statesman, of how

CM YK

R.V. Smith told Delhi's history from a people's perspective, and how their lives in the city's galis and mohallas intertwined with monuments, sometimes even djinns

exact cost of a quarter plate of korma: ₹4, 4 annas.

In some time he moved to another hotel in the area, where the proprietor was a poet, who had seven wives and 28 children! Perhaps he makes an appearance in his tales, because Smith's off-duty persona was no different than his on-duty one.

He also stayed in The Statesman flat in Daryaganj, living for several years in the area that his columns were set, before moving out to a DDA complex in Mayapuri.

He reels off names and likes like everything happened yesterday: We spoke about how he had Armenian, British, and Indian blood, and of his ancestor Col Salvador Smith, born in 1783, who joined the Gwalior forces.

It was he who bought the house in Agra where many generations grew up. The house is no longer in the family, but the last he'd heard, it still hadn't been consumed by flats. He could rattle of

dates, old names of roads, bus routes. I can barely remember what I ate for breakfast.

As we eat brownies and sip on tea (I had thoughtlessly bought muruku that he couldn't eat because he had no teeth), he talks of his early days at The Statesman, where the news editor had the luxury of a liveried waiter who appeared with a pot of tea and biscuits on a tray. They also got a three-course English lunch: soup, mains, dessert, and coffee, the cost of which was deducted from the salary.

After an hour or so, he took our leave, and called me later to tell me how much he'd enjoyed the afternoon. With his passing we have lost the voice of the man who brought history alive, and believed that "far away from the learned tomes of historians, there is a charm in what's often dismissed as gossip."

(R.V. Smith passed away on the morning of Thursday)

## ध्यान एवं -



Covid-19 से सम्बंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर- 104 पर संपर्क करें।

यदि आपको यह लक्षण हैं, तो तुरंत 104 पर सम्पर्क करें।

नज़दीकी स्पाइट्स केंद्र पर जायें

डॉक्टर से सलाह/उपचार लें

जिन लोगों के साथ आप निकट संपर्क में रहे, उनकी जानकारी डॉक्टर को दें

इसके अतिरिक्त स्पाइट्स सम्बंधित जानकारी के लिए गार्ट-एप नम्बर- 0179227328 पर संपर्क करें।



राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश



## Curbs gone? Confusion in Punjab

Administration should make public announcements about situation: shopkeeper

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
KHARAR

After Punjab permitted the opening of shops in a staggered way on rotation for four hours every morning from Thursday, a state of confusion prevailed among shopkeepers in many parts of the State.

Several shops in the markets at Kharar in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district were open between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. Though the owners said the curfew was "relaxed", the district authorities issued guidelines only later.

The order issued by Deputy Commissioner Girish Dayalan said that in rural areas all shops registered under the Shops and Establishments Act will be allowed to operate with 50% of employees. In urban areas, all stand-alone shops, neighbourhood shops and shops in residential complexes will be allowed to operate.

Single-multi-brand malls



Police officers requesting a shopkeeper to down shutters in Fatehgarh Sahib district on Thursday. AKHILESH KUMAR

or multiplexes or shops in market complexes shall not be allowed.

### Saloons to remain shut

"The shops that have been allowed to open are those which deal in goods only. Shops-establishments dealing in services like saloons and barbershops would remain closed..." the order said.

Attending to customers, Devinder Pal, owner of Pal

Boot House, said that after most owners opened their shops in his vicinity, he too did so. "I heard yesterday that the government announced relaxation in the curfew from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., and, therefore, I have opened my shop. I am not aware that shops are to be opened on a rotation basis or after taking permission. If the administration asks me to shut my shop, I'll do that," said Mr. Pal.

Supporting the government's decision to ease the curfew, Mr. Pal said the decision was welcome and the relaxation should continue. "A few customers came as soon as I opened the shop. For over a month, the business had been at a standstill. I have already suffered losses running into thousands of rupees. How long can one continue to suffer losses?"

Across the road, a man running a dry-cleaning shop and who did not want to disclose his name, said the government should give clear instructions. "There's a confusion among people about the curfew relaxations. The administration should make public announcements about the situation to clear the confusion," he said.

Meanwhile, Punjab reported one more COVID-19 death, taking the number to 20, and 105 fresh cases, an official statement said.

## AMU decides to send students home

No class, examination or entrance test scheduled for May and June, states notice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Following the Ministry of Home Affairs' order allowing students stranded in different parts of the country to move to their hometowns, Aligarh Muslim University has taken up the matter with the Uttar Pradesh government and started the process to safely transport the students to their respective homes.

In a notice issued on Thursday, AMU Registrar Abdul Hamid said: "The process of transportation of students will start from Friday and buses will be available at the Proctor's office."

The notice further said:

"Students are advised to avail of this facility as no class, examination and entrance test are scheduled for May and June and it is important to get all the students safely to their hometowns in view of the rising cases of COVID-19 in Aligarh district

and the consequent potential risk of COVID-19 infection in hostels."

Aligarh had at least 34 active cases on Thursday, including three junior doctors of AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital.

Mr. Hamid said the transportation of the students will be done as per the arrangements made by the U.P. government. "Initially, travel arrangements by buses for students residing in Uttar Pradesh are being made by the district administration and it will be followed for other States, including Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand etc," he said.

"The students are required to avail of this facility as the same may not be available in the future depending on the situation," the Registrar emphasised.

Later in the day, Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor, clarifying through an official

release, said: "The process of sending students is a continuous one... students are advised to be patient and not to panic unnecessarily."

Local sources said some students would like to stay back as the university premises allowed freedom of movement and food was available in the hostels.

### 'No compulsion'

University spokesperson Shafey Kidwai said there was no compulsion to leave immediately but the idea was that during Ramzan the students would like to be home. "Only foreign students would stay back," he said.

Meanwhile, M. Salman Intiaz, outgoing president of AMU Students' Union, said the move could be dangerous. "I have received messages from students expressing fear of infection or of turning into carriers of COVID-19... in light of fake narrative built around the

blighi Jamaat and the recent statements against JNMCH by leaders of the ruling regime, any natural incident could be used against the university students."

Taking strong objection to the move, Mr. Intiaz suggested that the university upgrade the health infrastructure and take precautions as recommended by the WHO.

In a related development, Haris M. Khan, Nodal officer and Chairman of Microbiology, JNMCH, said COVID-19 tests were being done under the prescribed protocol in three shifts. He was responding to the district administration's charge of delay in the reports from JNMCH. "Since samples that are tested positive require confirmation, the reports get delayed. Sometimes, samples received from the centres do not conform to protocol. It causes delay and inconvenience," he said.

## No withdrawal of curbs, says Tripura CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has said the State government is not considering withdrawal of the ongoing lockdown in near future but will weigh options to relax some restrictions in a phased manner.

He said it is impossible to resume inter-State bus, train or air services immediately after May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the date till which the nationwide lockdown has been extended.

"We do not find any way to withdraw the lockdown as it is the only viable mean to break the chain of the COVID-19 outbreak. It seems we have to continue with the lockdown and we have to withdraw some restrictions in a phased manner," Mr. Deb said on Wednesday evening after an all-party meeting.

## Governor's Rule in BTAD may impact Assam alliance govt.

BJP ally unhappy over non-extension of Council's term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The imposition of Governor's Rule in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) may impact the Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance government in Assam.

State Governor Jagdish Mukherjee had on April 27 "assumed to himself the administration" of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) that administers the BTAD comprising four districts of western and northern Assam.

The Governor is the constitutional head of a tribal council that falls under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The five-year term of the BTC expired on April 27. The elections to the council, scheduled on April 4, were deferred because of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic and guidelines for maintaining social distancing.

"Though we are in alliance with the BJP in the State, we are forced to reconsider our understanding. We are looking at other alternatives," BPF president Hagrama Mohilary said on Thursday, seeking the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP's national president J.P. Nadda.

The BJP rules Assam in alliance with the BPF and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). Mr. Mohilary had been the Chief Executive Member of the BTC since its creation in 2003 until its dissolution.

The BPF had been insisting on an extension of the council's term by six months in view of the "unprecedent-

ed health-related crisis in India and elsewhere on earth". But the BJP was in favour of the imposition of Governor's Rule.

### 'Petition filed in HC'

"In this time of emergency, people here need our government more. But instead of extending the term, the Governor has given the charge of BTAD to the Principle Secretary of Assam. We strongly oppose this decision and filed a petition in Gauhati High Court against the order," Mr. Mohilary said.

The BPF, however, is not worried by the development. "It is their call. We have not said anything about the alliance that can survive without them," party leader said, declining to be quoted.

## Hero returns



Sub-Inspector Harjot Singh, whose hand was chopped off by a Nihang, arrives at his home in Patiala after being discharged from hospital on Thursday. PTI

## 217 Odia migrant workers return from Surat by bus

Each of them had to pay ₹3,500 for the journey; all taken to quarantine centres in Ganjam district

SIB KUMAR DAS  
BERHAMPUR

Amid the continuing lockdown and COVID-19 threat, 217 Odia migrant workers from Surat in Gujarat reached Odisha's Ganjam district at midnight on Wednesday.

Without waiting for government measures to evacuate them from Surat, they had opted to hire buses to reach their home district. Their long journey was permitted by the Surat district administration. Each of these poor migrant workers, without employment because of closure of textile units in Surat, had to pay ₹3,500 for the bus journey.



Migrant workers arrive by bus in Odisha. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The district administration and the police were waiting for the arrival of these workers at Bhanjanagar. Their buses were taken to quarantine centres at Sheragarh and Dharkote under tight security. All of them underwent immediate thermal scanning. According to health department sources, as a precautionary measure swabs of some returnees with suspected symptoms have been collected for COVID-19 test.

As these migrant workers

returned from Surat, where COVID-19 cases are prevalent, Ganjam district Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange has ordered strict following of quarantine norms at the centres. Strict action will be initiated against persons trying to visit these quarantine centres, the Collector said.

On Thursday some more buses with migrant Odia workers have started their journey for Ganjam district. Akhila Padhi, a migrant worker from Hinjli block of Ganjam, boarded a bus for his home district on Thursday afternoon. He was working as an operator in a textile firm in Surat. When contacted over

phone, he said he had exhausted all his savings during the days of lockdown and did not have money to buy food. He could think of returning only when his family members sent him money to buy the bus ticket.

### 'No medical check-up'

According to him, there was no medical check-up in Surat when they boarded the bus. The bus in which he is travelling back has over 50 passengers that increases the possibility of infection. "I felt it is better to remain in quarantine near home than suffer in cramped rooms in Surat without proper food," he said.

## Not complete job freeze: Haryana CM

State government not to buy new vehicles to cut costs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has clarified that the moratorium announced on new recruitments in government jobs for a year in the State will apply only to certain posts in universities.

"In universities, where it's not needed, recruitment will not be done. Wherever the need arises, recruitment will continue," he said after his announcement earlier this week about a job freeze drew flak from several quarters.

Mr. Khattar said hiring for 12,500 posts for which candidates had already appeared was already in the pipeline.

"These recruitments will be made in due course, which will take total number of recruitments made in the past five years to nearly 86,000," he said, adding in all about 86,000 recruitments were made during 10 years of previous Congress government.

Separately, on Thursday, the Haryana government decided to put a complete ban on the purchase of new vehicles during the current financial year, except buses for public transport and vehicles used for emergency responses including ambulances, fire tenders.

The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister here.

"The Cabinet has also decided that even in case of very urgent need of a new car etc, outsourcing, hiring of the vehicles should be resorted to rather than outright purchase," said an official statement.

**Bus fare hike**  
The Cabinet also decided to increase the bus fare in Haryana for ordinary, luxury, and super luxury buses from 85 paise per passenger per km to ₹1 per passenger per km to partially meet the increased cost of operation of buses from ₹37.48 per km in June 2016 to ₹52.23 per km in December 2019.

## Illegal hand sanitiser unit busted in Haryana

Fake WHO certificate found on product; two arrested and stock seized

ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

An illegal hand sanitiser unit with a fake World Health Organisation certificate bearing the organisation's logo, besides several fake test reports and compliance certificates, has been busted at Pataudi here. A case has been registered under various acts, including Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and two persons arrested.

The company had sold sanitisers worth over ₹8 lakh over the past one month because of spike in demand due to COVID-19 outbreak. The raiding team, led by Drugs Control Officer Amandeep Chauhan, allegedly seized around 3,000 litres of sanitiser packed in bottles of different sizes and another 3,000 litres of raw material for making the sanitiser. The directors of the company, both si-



The illegal unit busted in Pataudi. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

blings, failed to produce any purchase record of the material.

The Gurugram Food and Drugs Administration department had earlier busted a similar illegal unit in Manesar and has recovered hand sanitiser worth ₹50 lakh in total. Similarly, face masks worth ₹1 crore and thermal scanners hoarded at different places were also recovered. Mr. Chauhan said Deputy Com-

missioner Amit Khatri and Police Commissioner Muhammad Akil had clear directions to curb illegal manufacturing and black-marketing of drugs and related goods.

Mr. Chauhan said the fake World Health Organisation-Good Manufacture Practice certificate with its logo was a matter of grave concern since the buyers were influenced by the document to purchase the product. The officer said only State Drugs Controller had the authority to issue the certificate. The directors of the unit, running from a fake address, also had Quality Management System Certificate, a Compliance Certificate and a fake Medical Devices Management System certificate when they were actually making sanitiser categorised as a drug and not a medical device.

The sanitiser was allegedly being made by the directors of the company, Sandeep and Sunderly mixing the ingredients in kitchen utensils under unhygienic conditions close to open sewage, and a toilet with the flies and mosquitoes swarming around.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of work	Amount in Lac
A 1	16/GM(R)/SM(WC-3)/2019-20	M/o Road (Repairing of footover bridge at road between sector 41 & 50), Noida	₹ 10.60
2	19/GM(R)/SM(WC-3)/2019-20	M/o Building (Renovation work at block-C market in Sector 41), Noida	₹ 21.36
B 3	25/GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2019-20	Maintenance of Road (Providing & Fixing Retro Reflective Signage Direction Board in Pocket-B-12A, B-14, Neeltili-I, II and Block-A,C Sector-34), Noida	₹ 17.31
C 4	41/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/o Stadium (Renovation of Toilets of Administrative block in Sector-21A), Noida	₹ 20.92

Which can be uploaded by Date:14-05-2020 upto 5.00 PM.  
Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date 15-05-2020 at 11.00 AM

D 5	10/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/o Stadium (Supply & Fixing of Sitting benches and Dustbin in Sector-21A), Noida	₹ 17.45
6	29/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/o Building(P/F Concertina Coil wire on boundary wall A-51 Plot along Nithari Road Sector-31), Noida	₹ 6.32

Which can be uploaded by Date:07-05-2020 upto 5.00 PM.  
Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date 08-05-2020 at 11.00 AM

**General Manager(R), Noida**

**CLEAN, GREEN**

## Homeward bound



**Miles to go:** (From top) Migrant workers who have undertaken a long and arduous journey sleeping on the road near Bhoraj check post in Adilabad district of Telangana; and another group sleeping on the footpath near the Fishing Harbour in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK & S. HARPAL SINGH

## Ordinance on salary gets Governor's nod

HC had stayed decision to defer 6 days' salary of Kerala govt. employees

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has cleared the draft Ordinance forwarded by the government for deferring six days' salary of government employees and teachers for five months, in the wake of the crisis triggered by COVID-19.

The Ordinance was issued after the High Court stayed the government's salary de-

ferment decision for two months on the premise that it lacked legal sanction. The Ordinance gives the government legal sanction to defer the salary.

Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac said here on Thursday that the impediment to deducting the salary had now been cleared and the disbursal will commence on May 4. The government was not on a collision course

with the employees and teachers, but was forced to take the decision in the wake of the grave crisis.

The deferred salary would be retained in a separate account and used only for virus containment efforts and not routed to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund, he said.

### Delimitation

Another Ordinance to amend the Kerala Panchayati Raj Act and the Kerala Municipalities Act seeks to relinquish the delimitation of wards before the local body elections in October.

Earlier, the government had amended the Acts to add one more ward each to the rural and urban local bodies. The Ordinance will empower the government to conduct elections on the basis of the existing wards.

The State tally touched

1,403 cases and 34 patients from Guntur (28), Anamalapur (3), East Godavari (2) and one in Visakhapatnam had recovered.

In Telangana, a cluster of cases was observed as the virus spread from two people

who work in Malakpet Gunj, Padahishareef to three shop owners and their family. Of the 1,038 cases reported till April 30, 568 were active cases, 442 had been discharged and 28 had died. From April 27 to 29, single digit cases were reported.

Andhra Pradesh, which added 71 new cases of infection on Thursday, provided a profile of its COVID-19 cases. About 75% of cases showed no symptoms associated with the disease and only 25% were symptomatic, the State's Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare said. The Department revealed the details till April 29 on Twitter.

Among asymptomatic patients, 44% were in the 20 to 39-year age group while 29% were between 40 and 59 years old. The rest were below 20 years of age and above 60 years, who were considered vulnerable.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that 14 patients had tested negative and had been put on the recovered list. Of the 497 COVID-19 cases reported so far, 11 were undergoing treatment in hospitals. A total of 383 per-

sons had recovered.

Kannur currently had the maximum number of COVID-19 patients, at 47. Kotayam had 18 patients, Idukki 14, Kollam 12, Kasaragod 9, Kozhikode 4, Thiruvananthapuram 2, Malappuram 2

and Belagavi reported 14 and Bengaluru Urban 10. Two cases were detected in Vijayapura, and one each in Dakshina Kannada, Tumakuru, Davanagere and Kalaburagi.

### Major spike in T.N.

On Thursday, Tamil Nadu recorded 161 more COVID-19 positive cases, the highest number since the first one was reported on March 7. Chennai alone had 138 cases.

With this, the State's total case count increased to 2,323. A total of 97 men and 64 women tested positive. The majority - 141 persons - were in the age group of 13 to 60 years, while there were 13 children aged 0 to 12 years and seven persons aged above 60 in the day's cases.

There were no deaths. As on date, a total of 1,035 persons (active cases) were under treatment in hospitals.

The number of districts that reported fresh cases increased to 11.

(With inputs from Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru & Chennai Bureaus)

### IN BRIEF



#### Minor fire at Satish Dhawan Space Centre

TIRUPATI

A minor fire was reported at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, located 100 km from here. Though the incident happened on Wednesday, it came to light only on Thursday. The accident took place at the Solid Propellant Plant, in which two panels were reportedly gutted. The staff manning the plant immediately doused the fire, though the cause and source of the accident were not immediately known.

#### 9 held for stealing liquor from distillery in A.P.

CHITTOOR

The Chittoor police on Thursday nabbed nine youth in connection with the theft of 110 liquor cases of various brands from a local distillery here over one month during the COVID-19 lockdown, when the factory remained closed. The management of the distillery noticed that the liquor cases were stolen between March 31 and April 25. A five-member gang who sneaked into the factory on Thursday was nabbed by the police. After questioning, four more were arrested.

#### Karnataka hikes PG medical and dental fees

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has hiked the postgraduate medical and dental fees for the 2020-21 academic year at a time when colleges and schools have been instructed not to increase tuition fees. According to an order issued by the Medical Education Department, PG medical and dental fees for institutional quota has been hiked by 30% in private medical and dental colleges. The hike in both medical and dental streams will be 20% for government quota seats in private colleges.

## Industries outside containment zones to open in Karnataka

Public transport will continue to remain off the road

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to grant permission to industries across the State, except those in COVID-19 containment zones, to resume production from May 4. The Centre's scheduled lockdown ends on Sunday.

This means industrial activities are expected to resume in industrial estates, industrial parks and SEZs in Bengaluru and other major cities from Monday. Only industries that are located in containment zones in urban areas are not allowed to function from Monday.

Public transport, however, will continue to stay off the road for the time being.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa cautioned that the COVID-19 crisis may last another two to three months. "But we feel that

the cases are reducing and coming under control in the State. In Bengaluru, not many cases have been reported in the last three to four days. If this continues, it will help us to open industries in and around Bengaluru," he told presspersons after chairing a Cabinet meeting.

A couple of days ago, the government permitted industries in rural areas of 14 districts to start production. Thursday's Cabinet meeting permitted all types of industries in rural and urban areas, except those in containment zones, to begin production from Monday.

While the owners of four-wheelers will have to pay a tentative fine of ₹1,000, the owners of two- and three-wheelers will have to pay ₹500, apart from executing a bond as required under Section 102(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Police asking migrant workers to maintain distance while waiting to receive food in Ernakulam. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

lakh migrant labourers using the KSRTC fleet to West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and other States is not feasible in the present condition, official sources told *The Hindu*.

Only non-AC buses can be used and only 22 can travel in a 50-seater bus as only one commuter can be accommodated in two seats. Moreover, per km running cost will come to ₹25, excluding salary. Each will have to shell out over ₹4,000 minimum as the bus fare.

The other hurdles are the four days' journey, COVID-19 hotspots, medical care, new

terrain for drivers, scattered migrant population and buses returning empty after dropping the commuters.

Taking these factors into account, the sources said special trains were the best option for the migrant labourers. However, Railway sources said no decision had been taken on the request of the State. Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Maharashtra have also demanded special trains.

## Virus claims three more lives in Telangana, one in Karnataka

Kerala reports two fresh cases, Andhra Pradesh adds 71 to its tally

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA

Telangana, recorded a fresh surge in COVID-19 cases as 22 new ones were detected on Thursday. Three people died taking the toll to 28 and 33 were discharged. All fresh cases were from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka reported the death of a 67-year-old woman from Bantwal from COVID-19 in hospital on Thursday. This is Karnataka's 22nd virus death, and the third fatality in the district.

The woman from Kasba village, who was on the ventilator, had Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes, the office of the District Surgeon and Superintendent of the hospital said. She was a neighbour of the first victim in Dakshina Kannada, a 50-year-old woman who died on April 19.

Andhra Pradesh, which added 71 new cases of infection on Thursday, provided a profile of its COVID-19 cases. About 75% of cases showed no symptoms associated with the disease and only 25% were symptomatic, the State's Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare said. The Department revealed the details till April 29 on Twitter.

Among asymptomatic patients, 44% were in the 20 to 39-year age group while 29% were between 40 and 59 years old. The rest were below 20 years of age and above 60 years, who were considered vulnerable.

Among the symptomatic patients, 81% were 20 to 59 years old, while 19% were 0 to 19 years old, and others more than 60 years.

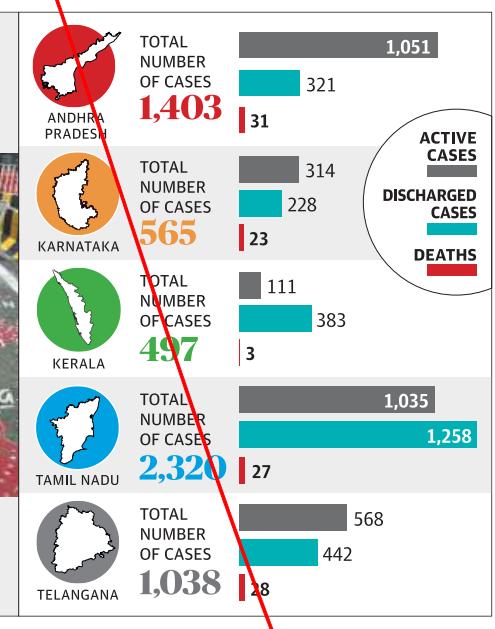
The State tally touched

### The big fight

Efforts are on in various States to increase awareness to prevent the spread of COVID-19



**Saying it with art:** A painting on a road near Dabagardens in Visakhapatnam seeks to depict the selfless service of medical fraternity. ■ K.R. DEEPAK



1,403 cases and 34 patients

from Guntur (28), Anamalapur (3), East Godavari (2) and one in Visakhapatnam had recovered.

In Telangana, a cluster of cases was observed as the virus spread from two people

who work in Malakpet Gunj, Padahishareef to three shop owners and their family. Of the 1,038 cases reported till April 30, 568 were active cases, 442 had been discharged and 28 had died. From April 27 to 29, single digit cases were reported.

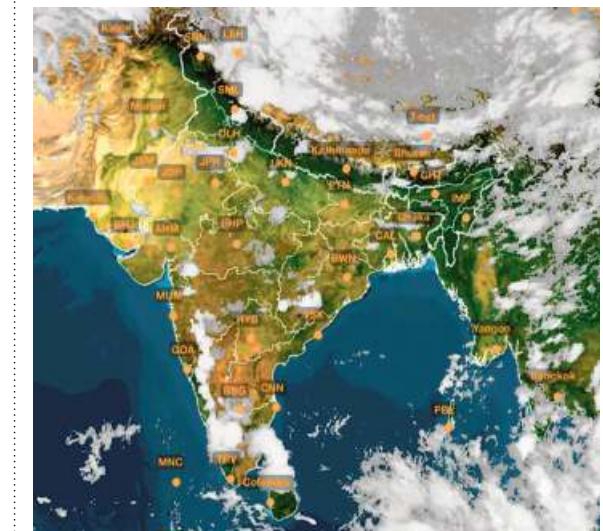
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Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that 14 patients had tested negative and had been put on the recovered list. Of the 497 COVID-19 cases reported so far, 11 were undergoing treatment in hospitals. A total of 383 per-

### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



**Forecast for Friday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning, hail and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; with lightning and gusty winds at isolated places over Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and with lightning at isolated places over West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

The police will also have to impose a condition that the owners will not violate the conditions again, the court said.

A

Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice Savanur Vishwajith Shetty passed the interim order on an application filed by the State government.

However, the court made it clear that the release of the vehicles was subject to the final outcome of the prosecution launched against the owners under the provisions of the IPC and the Disaster Management Act, 2005 before the jurisdictional magistrate.

While the owners of four-wheelers will have to pay a tentative fine of ₹1,000, the owners of two- and three-wheelers will have to pay ₹500, apart from executing a bond as required under Section 102(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

It was also pointed out in the application that sticking to the normal procedure would result in crowding of the magistrate's court and defeat the purpose of social distancing.

The government had sought authorisation for the police to release the seized vehicles by adhering to procedures of the CrPC and the Motor Vehicles Act, instead of following the normal procedure of the owners having to seek permission from the jurisdictional magistrate.

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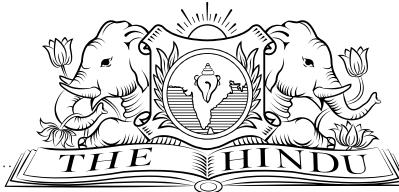
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## Religion and freedom

India must protect its freedoms, and come down heavily on religious violence

**R**eligious freedom is of paramount importance, not because it is about religion, but because it is about freedom. The characterisation by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) of India as a country of particular concern, in its annual report, is not entirely surprising, considering its dim and known views about sectarian violence and aggravating governmental measures over the last year. The Indian government not only repudiated the report but also ridiculed the USCIRF. The autonomous, bipartisan commission's influence over any U.S. executive action is limited and occasional but its presumption of global authority appears amusingly expansive. Whether or not the U.S. government acts on its recommendation to impose targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials depends on American strategic interests. The U.S. has used arguments of freedom, democracy, tolerance, and transparency as tools in its strategic pursuits, but there is no proof of any uniform or predictable pattern of enforcement of such moral attributes. The process can be selective and often arbitrary in spotlighting countries. Mirroring this pattern, India selectively approaches global opinions on itself, embracing and celebrating laudatory ones and rejecting inconvenient ones. The frantic, and relatively successful, efforts to raise its Ease of Doing Business ranking by the World Bank is a case in point. Many of these reports have a circulatory life – the USCIRF report quotes UN Special Rapporteurs to buttress its point on the discriminatory outcome of the National Register of Citizens in Assam. Overall, such reports contribute to the construction of an image of a country, and the Indian government is cognisant of this pattern. In March, the Indian government told Niti Aayog to track 32 global indices and engage with the bodies that measure them, to advance reform and growth.

India advertises itself as a multi-religious democracy and as an adherent to global norms of rule of law. It also aspires to be on the table of global rule making. For a country with such stated ambitions, its record on religious freedom as reflected through events of the last one year is deeply disconcerting. The catalogue of religious violence, incitement and wrecking of the rule of law in several parts of the country remains an unsettling fact. The partisan nature of the ruling dispensation is also difficult to wish away. Reputation is important for a country's economic development and global standing but beyond that instrumental perspective, rule of law and communal harmony are essential for any functioning democracy.

## Biden's bid

Biden has the support of most Democrats, but he must reach out to other sections too

**H**illary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee and former Secretary of State, has endorsed the presumptive Democratic nominee for the 2020 election, former Vice President Joe Biden. With her endorsement Mr. Biden now enjoys unequivocal support across the spectrum of Democratic Party heavyweights, including former President Barack Obama, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. The support of Mr. Sanders is especially critical to the Biden campaign. Young voters, voters of colour and a variety of other cohorts within the larger body of U.S. progressives through this year's campaign were, and possibly still are, vocal supporters of Mr. Sanders and his "democratic socialist" policy agenda for the middle class. These groups also backed Mr. Sanders in 2016, when he spoke of reining in the excesses of Wall Street, cancelling student debt, Medicare for all, expanding social security and a green new deal emphasising renewable and clean energy over traditional reliance on fossil fuels. While the then nominee, Ms. Clinton, went on to win over 65 million votes in the presidential election, her nomination campaign was hobbled by a long season of bickering with Mr. Sanders. In that regard Mr. Biden has already surpassed Ms. Clinton in securing the support of the most important voices in the Democratic pantheon.

As the nomination race draws to a close at the Democratic National Convention in August, his ground game must now move up a gear to take on incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump with a special focus on managing the COVID-19 pandemic. On the one hand Mr. Biden's most obvious line of attack will be to highlight a series of bungles that Mr. Trump has made in his handling of the crisis, from not heeding intelligence calls to take decisive action early enough when there were warning signs coming out of China, to playing politics with states desperately in need of medical equipment, and to making bizarre and reckless comments on untested "solutions". Yet, just like Ms. Clinton in 2016, Mr. Biden cannot win without paying heed to undecided and independent voters, especially in the swing states. If the 2016 election held any lessons for Democrats, it is to not underestimate the importance of economic issues, especially job losses. Indeed, in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, there have been numerous rallies across the U.S. where protesters have not only lashed out at Democrats for what they described as deliberate exaggeration and politicisation of the pandemic and its effects, but also appear to genuinely question the lockdowns that impact commercial activity. To win in November, Mr. Biden will have to balance his policies promoting mainstream values of his party with bipartisan outreach that brings a large swathe of the working population of middle America under the Democratic tent.

# The making of the modern public intellectual

Public intellectuals should be respected because they speak out against injustice wherever it occurs



NEERA CHANDHOKE

In Sophocles' powerful play, *Antigone*, the daughter of Oedipus defies the edict of King Creon of Thebes that her brother's corpse should be left on the road for birds and vultures to feast on. When Creon charges her with disobedience of the law – "And thou didst indeed dare to transgress that law?" – Antigone replies: "Yes; for it was not Zeus that had published me that edict: not such are the laws set among me by the Justice who dwells with the gods below; nor deemed I that the decrees were of such force, that a mortal could override the unwritten and unfailing statutes of heaven." Antigone articulates the fundamentals of a just law. Law is not the source of its own moral authority and legitimacy.

### A setback to democracy

Centuries later, M.K. Gandhi reiterated that a law is binding only if it satisfies the unwritten codes of public ethics. He spoke in the context of colonial rule. Surely democratic regimes ought to respect the right of citizens to dissent. In today's India, however, holders of state power refuse to tolerate ideas, reflection, debate, and discussion. Two years ago, the government arrested eminent members of civil society on charges that were clearly produced by conspiratorial imaginations. On April 14, two of India's well-known scholars/activists, Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha, surren-

dered before the National Investigation Agency. In early April, an FIR was filed by the Uttar Pradesh government against the editor of the news website, *The Wire*, Siddharth Varadarajan. The charges in these cases are flimsy. It is obvious that intellectuals are being penalised for taking on the government.

The arrests are a depressing commentary on the nature of the present government. Sophisticated societies respect intellectuals because they subject the present to historically informed investigation, interpretation, critique and prescription. This is integral to the idea of democratic politics as self-critique. Politics establishes rules that govern multiple transactions of society. It cannot be its own defendant, judge and jury. If politics is, as Aristotle put it, the master science (science for Greeks is knowledge), it has to accept reflective and critical activity. Politics is too important to be left to politicians alone.

While authoritarian societies breed court historians, mature democracies appreciate critical scholarship. But today intellectualism is dismissed contemptuously as elitist. Not only does this attitude foster a culture of mediocrity, intellectuals who hold a mirror to the state are hounded and arrested. This is a setback to democracy, because it forecloses engagement with structures of power. Without its public intellectuals, democracy slides into authoritarianism.

### The Dreyfus affair

The first public intellectual was, of course, Socrates. The modern notion of the public intellectual is, however, fairly recent. It took shape in the tumultuous days of what has come to be known as the 'Dreyfus affair' in France in 1894.



Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish army officer, had allegedly handed over important government documents to the Germans. He was convicted of treason amidst a roar of revolting anti-Semitism. When Dreyfus was stripped of his medals, the crowd shouted 'Death to the Jew'. The atmosphere was charged, mob mentality ruled, and sane voices were drowned in the din. Scholars, artists, and novelists could hardly keep away. They had to summon their knowledge to reflect on citizens' rights, the irrational behaviour of crowds, the ugly slogans that stereotyped an entire community, and the unholy glee with which crowds watched the humiliation of an army officer. The incident propelled Paris-based intellectuals into the mainstream of French politics. This was the time when scholars came out from their ivory towers and took sides, despite massive crowd hysteria that broke bounds of civility.

Dreyfus was later exonerated, but the affair split the French intelligentsia wide open. Emile Zola wrote an open letter, *J'accuse*, in support of the beleaguered army officer. Zola attacked injustice, prejudice and intolerance. He served for the intellectual the function that Socrates had reserved for the philosopher: stand

by the universal in the quest for truth and in the fight against injustice. Julien Benda, a noted Jewish intellectual, argued that the duty of the intellectual is to defend universal values over and above the politics of the moment.

But other scholars propagated anti-Semitism. In 1942, the philosopher Hannah Arendt wrote an account of the anti-Semitism directed at Dreyfus by right-wing intellectuals in France. Intellectuals who upheld Republicanism and basic rights were too weak to confront the power of the mob. Mobs are fickle, their rhetoric is blood-curdling, they hate debate, detest institutions, and hero-worship leaders. When intellectuals follow the mob or, worse, the leader, they pave the way for fascism, the destruction of institutions, the emergence of the hero, and pogroms of the minority. When intellectuals fail to live up to codes of public ethics, they uphold injustice. Their commitment to truth, reason and justice lapses; they become partners in injustice.

**Moral conscience of society**  
The Dreyfus affair legitimised the idea that a public intellectual has to denounce injustice despite the power of the mob. Since then it has been held that intellectuals are not defined by what they are – professors, writers, artists or journalists – but by what they do. Intellectuals have to be competent in their own field, otherwise they will not be taken seriously by anyone. But there is more to being an intellectual. Scholars have to be public intellectuals. They have to cast their scholarly gaze on issues that cause explosions, sift out the details, analyse, evaluate, and take a position. An intellectual has to be involved in public affairs.

Public intellectuals are the moral conscience of society, simply because they think. To think is to question, to call for freedom, and to invoke the right to discourse. Our intellectuals have to be reflective, philosophical beings, philosophical in the sense that they think about issues, addresses contemporary social problems and see them as the legacies of previously unresolved issues of social injustice.

It is precisely the unresolved issue of social injustice that has been taken up by Mr. Teltumbde, Mr. Navlakha and Mr. Varadarajan repeatedly and insistently. All three of them have battled the reproduction of injustice in their own ways. Mr. Teltumbde is a fine chronicler of the injustice that has been heaped on the Dalit community. Mr. Navlakha has fiercely castigated violations of civil liberties. And Mr. Varadarajan has exposed the horrific crimes committed by the merchants of hate. None of them has advocated violence, none of them has asked the Indian people to revolt against the elected regime. All they ask for is that the provisions of the Constitution be honoured by our leaders. Leaders wield the scalpel, they ought to be the healers. Their touch should nurse the wounds in the body politic. Public intellectuals are the conscience of our country. They should be respected because they speak out against injustice wherever it occurs, not be subjected to punitive action. Public intellectuals are of value because they bring the same, cool voice of reasoned reflection to bear on contentious and stormy public issues.

Neera Chandhoke is a former professor of Political Science at Delhi University

## Needed: a pandemic patent pool

This will give all countries the right to implement innovations without further permission from patent-holders



PRATHIBA M. SINGH

Every April 26, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day. This year, it was not a day for celebration, but one for reflection and dedication. It provided us an opportunity to reflect upon the role of intellectual property (IP) in the ongoing health crisis and dedicate IP to finding a solution.

### A long road ahead

The purpose of creating and recognising patent rights is for the common public good, i.e., innovation should be made public in exchange for a limited monopoly. Thus, patents need to be disclosed to the public in order to enable further research. Should pandemics such as COVID-19 be an exception to this?

For human life to become normal again, vaccines or medicines are the only permanent solutions. However, even by conservative estimates, it will take at least 6-10 months for any vaccine/drug to be available. Even when approval for marketing of a vaccine/drug is granted, it will be impossible for it to be made instantly available across the world. This is because even after approval for commercial production is granted, say, in

one country, in order for the product to be available to the rest of the world, approvals will be required in each and every country. Then countries will have to gear up for instant manufacturing and marketing of the drug. For this to happen, continuous dialogue has to take place among innovators, manufacturers and supply chains. This requires massive efforts by private players, governments and international organisations.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, there are several innovations. All these innovations may be the subject matter of patent applications around the world. It will be a few years before patents are even granted. However, friction already exists among various stakeholders. For instance, one country made attempts to obtain exclusive rights to a vaccine being developed. On the other hand, there are also collaborations taking place. However, the spirit of collaborative solutions is only on the anvil. The question that arises is whether the exclusivity that is recognised by patent rights will be detrimental to society. Will patents create roadblocks or is there a solution?

Pandemics need disruptive solutions. Governments and international organisations need to arrive at a consensus in advance to ensure that the system is ready. Procrastination would be disastrous. Creating hindrances through exclusivity claims, in the wake of a pandemic, will result in dividing



countries, corporations and international organisations. This will not benefit patients and the world as a whole. If patent owners create impediments on the strength of patent rights, the world will start despising patents and that is not a situation IP owners ought to be in.

Under the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) regime, there are several tools such as compulsory licensing that are available to ensure access to medicines. However, beyond the laws, society needs to respect innovation. To protect the sanctity and integrity of patent systems, and in order to ensure that an anti-IP sentiment is not generated globally, answers need to be found within the existing regime. In exceptional circumstances such as these, there is a likelihood that societies may resort to extreme steps to protect themselves. Before such ideas are floated, solutions should be created.

### Creating a patent pool

One method by which aggregation and dissemination of innovative products can be ensured is by creating a patent pool. Patent pools are usually effective in aggregating, administering and licensing patents related to specific areas of technology. Such pools are usually managed by a central agency and the patents which become part of the pool are readily made available for licensing. Some pools even publish the royalty rates payable for such licences. Anyone who wishes to obtain a licence will be able to approach the pool, agree to the terms, and begin to manufacture and sell the products. Such pools are prevalent in, for instance, standard essential patents related to telecom and digital innovations.

Such a pool needs the cooperation of not just countries and international organisations but also the hundreds of researchers, innovators, companies and universities involved. Concerns relating to patents and profits to be earned therefrom should be put aside. The world has to come out of this crisis quickly and patents ought to accelerate rather than impede the path. Combating the crisis and earning collectively is the need of the hour.

Pooling of patent resources is also in line with the Doha Declaration on Public Health which is a part of the TRIPS agreement. This declaration recognises the need for taking measures to 'protect public health' and 'promote access to medicines'.

Public-private partnerships (PPP) need to be scaled up. Creation of the 'PPP-pandemic patent pool' at a global level, to pool all innovations, is the way forward. Let us not wait any longer.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh is Judge of the Delhi High Court and was a member of the IP think tank that drafted India's Intellectual Property Rights policy

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Finally, going home

Merely allowing migrants to go home is not enough ("Home Ministry clears inter-State movement of stranded people", April 30). The State governments in coordination with the Union government must make proper arrangements for sending home the migrants, keeping in mind the practice of physical distancing. Recently, the U.P. government brought home more than 2,200 workers from Haryana in 82 buses. The government must avoid packing people into vehicles.

JITENDRA NATH NANDI,  
Kolkata

This announcement should have been made earlier, but

better late than never. India's migrants have had to face many hardships. Some even died on their way home. It was heart-rending to see how badly the government had planned the lockdown and how cruelly the police treated the migrants. At least now we must ensure that the migrants are treated in a humane manner.

V. PADMANABHAN,  
Bengaluru

Classroom learning There are many areas which still lack continuous Internet connectivity. As the author says, this denies many students the opportunity to access online classes ("Limitations of online learning", April

30). Further, some subjects demand face-to-face interactions. In Technical Education, for instance, a majority of the subjects involve practical training experience. Also, in a class of 60 students, if 10% of them are above average and 10% below average, the outstanding students who constantly exhibit a thirst for knowledge will somehow study. But teachers really need to invest time in helping the below average students, which is not possible via online classes.

ROY M. THOMAS,  
Kochi

A poorer film world Bollywood has been struck a twin blow with the loss of

Irrfan Khan and Rishi Kapoor. Both actors enriched the film industry with their talent, screen presence and charisma. While Khan was a Bollywood star who was also loved by Hollywood, and was known for his understated, yet impactful, performances, Rishi Kapoor was the evergreen heartbeat, the quintessential hero of Bollywood. Though very different in their craft, they both touched the hearts of millions across the world.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,  
Bengaluru

Among Rishi Kapoor's films, *Bobby*, *Amar Akbar Anthony*, and *Chandni* are my favourite. Though all of

Raj Kapoor's sons were talented, Rishi made a special mark not only with hard work but also his histrionics. His forthright views won him both bouquets and brickbats. Irrfan Khan seemed to know only one word: surrender. He could surrender to any role with ease and aplomb. He mesmerised us with his eyes and dialogue

M. SOMASEKHAR PRASAD,  
Hyderabad

modulation. He had scaled great heights in his career, but Irrfan never seemed to throw his weight around. Tributes show how much respect the film fraternity had for him. These are big losses for Indian cinema.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>In the answer to the first question of the interview titled "We cannot let down our guard till April or May next year: Srinath Reddy" (April 30, 2020), a sentence read: "And in a number of other areas like the non-availability of public health carriers, ...". It should have been "public health cadre".

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552663; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com





FROM PAGE ONE

## March core sector output slumps 6.5%

"Several of the core sector industries were given exemptions under the lockdown. Electricity and steel are continuous processes and have not been stopped. But movement of goods faced major restrictions, so it could be that they reduced production as much as possible to deal with reduced demand," said eminent economist Pronab Sen, a former chief statistician of India.

Going forward to April, he expected these trends to worsen slightly but within the same magnitude, noting that demand has fallen drastically in the power sector due to the full lockdown this month, and gas powered plants were likely to have been shut down. Coal may also dip for April, while cement production will fall sharply as all construction activity came to a halt, he said.

## NIA arrests former Shopian sarpanch

Gram panchayat elections are not fought on party symbols but candidates do get support from political parties. Mir was elected in 2011.

Panchayat elections could not be held in the district in 2018 due to prevailing law and order situation. Around 20,000 panchayat seats are vacant mostly in South Kashmir.

"Mir is an arms conduit, he was arrested and produced in court which granted six-day custody. Further interrogation is on," a senior NIA official said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Singh was arrested with Naveed, Rafi Ahmed Rather, another Hizbul militant and Irfan Shahi, a lawyer, on January 11 in South Kashmir's Kulgam. The accused were enroute to the residence of Naveed's younger brother Syed Irfan Ahmad in Jammu. A PhD scholar, Irfan was arrested on January 24 by the J&K police. The case was subsequently transferred to the NIA.

Another official said though Mir was not directly involved in Davinder Singh's case, he played an important role in providing weapons to several terrorist groups active in Kashmir Valley including the Hizbul.

Singh's arrest created a sensation as he was found in the company of Naveed Shah, a former police constable and one of the 'most wanted terrorists' in J&K. Police say that Shah was behind the killing of 11 truck drivers, non-local labourers and apple traders in south Kashmir after the August 5 clampdown in the former State after Parliament abrogated Article 370.

## SC directs RBI to implement moratorium

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that the central bank's March 27 circular directing banks and financial institutions to provide borrowers a three-month moratorium on loan repayments is implemented in "letter and spirit" amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana said the central banker should ensure that its freeze on loan repayments between March 1 and May 31 was not diluted and benefited the borrowers. The court told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that it appeared that the borrowers had not actually benefited from the RBI's gesture.

However, the Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and B.R. Gavai, which took up four PIL petitions on the implementation of the circular, said it was not intervening any further as none of the petitioners was actually an aggrieved party.

On March 27, RBI gave liberty to banks and financial institutions to allow moratorium in respect of loans outstanding as on March 1. It said the repayment schedule for these loans as well as the residual tenor would be shifted across the board by three months after the moratorium period.

Sources in RBI said the court order was a rap on the knuckles of the banks that were not extending the benefit to many customers.

(With inputs from Manoj Saha)

## EC vague on RTI asking if J&K is in Electoral College

Refer Article 54 of Constitution, it says

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has replied ambiguously to a Right to Information (RTI) query if the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be part of the Electoral College for the election of the President of India.

The RTI request by Shubham Khatri, a student, sought a list of the State and Union Territory Legislative Assemblies which were part of the Electoral College for election of the President. He also asked the EC to clarify if the newly-formed Union Territory of J&K was part of the Electoral College.

The EC sent a single-line response, merely saying "for the information, applicant may be informed to ref-

er Article 54 of the Constitution of India." Under Article 54, the President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the States and also of Delhi NCT and Puducherry UT. Article 54, thus, only specifically mentions NCT of Delhi and Puducherry as eligible to be part of the Electoral College. The J&K Reorganisation Act does not specify anything about whether the legislature would be able to vote in the election for a President.

A passing mention is made in Section 13 of the 2019 Act, which claims that J&K Legislature would have the same powers as its Puducherry counterpart.

## GI tag to Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta

Both the products have been in circulation for centuries and are important to their native cultures

SANDEETHA KANDAEL  
CHENNAI

Chak-Hao, which is a black rice variety of Manipur, and Gorakhpur terracotta have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Chinnaraja G. Naidu, Deputy Registrar, Geographical Indications, confirmed that the GI tag had been given for the two products on Thursday.

The application for Chak-Hao was filed by the Consortium of Producers of Chak-Hao (Black Rice), Manipur and was facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).

Expertly crafted: Gorakhpur has a centuries-old tradition of terracotta art. ■ T. SINGARAVELOU

was filed by Laxmi Terracotta Murtikala Kendra in Uttar Pradesh.

In the case of Gorakhpur terracotta, the application

Chak-Hao, a scented glutinous rice which has been in

cultivation in Manipur over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma. It is normally eaten during community feasts and is served as Chak-Hao kheer.

Chak-Hao has also been used by traditional medical practitioners as part of traditional medicine. According to the GI application filed, this rice takes the longest cooking time of 40-45 minutes due to the presence of a fibrous bran layer and higher crude fibre content.

At present, the traditional system of Chak-Hao cultivation is practised in some pockets of Manipur. Direct sowing of pre-soaked seeds

and also transplantation of rice seedlings raised in nurseries in puddled fields are widely practised in the State's wetlands.

The terracotta work of Gorakhpur is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like, horses, elephants, camel, goat and ox with hand-applied ornaments.

Some of the major products of craftsmanship include the Hauda elephants, Mahawatdar horse, deer, camel, five-faced Ganesh, single-faced Ganesh, elephant table, chandeliers and hanging bells.

The police filed the first charge sheet in December

2015 against the duo and five others – Rinku, Manoj, Raju, Ajay and Virendra Singh. Further investigation was kept open against Rinku, Manoj and Virendra. In September 2019, a supplementary charge sheet was filed against them.

Subsequently, Virendra filed a petition in the High Court seeking a fair probe. He alleged that he was framed. The court, in its judgment on February 7, 2020, ordered a CBI probe, stating that from bare perusal of the record and the proceedings conducted by the police, it appeared the personnel were involved in implicating the accused.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the probe into an Arms Act case following a Rajasthan High Court directive to look into the allegation that one of the accused was framed by police in Bharatpur.

The matter pertains to an FIR registered on October 28, 2015, at the Nadbai police station in Bharatpur against Suraj and Himanshu, who were arrested. An illegal country-made pistol with two live rounds was allegedly found in their possession.

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# Virus claimed 105 lives in West Bengal

Of them, 72 died of co-morbidities, says govt.; testing for virus increased by 13% in a span of 24 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

As many as 105 persons who tested positive for COVID-19 in West Bengal had died, and of these, 72 were due to co-morbidities, Chief Secretary Rajiv Sinha said on Thursday, referring to a report by a government audit committee.

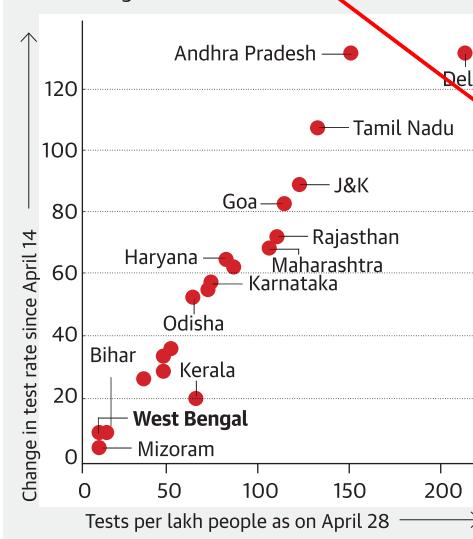
Meanwhile, the number of testing went up hugely – 13% – in a span of 24 hours from 14,620 to 16,525.

The committee was set up on April 3 for “conducting an audit of suspected deaths due to COVID-19”. It is only after its nod that a death gets reflected in the tally of fatalities in the official bulletin. If, after investigation, it feels that a death was due to “severe co-morbidity” – or due to other ailment – then the death is excluded from the list.

Till Wednesday, the number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 22. When asked whether the 11 deaths added to the official tally occurred within the past 24 hours, Mr. Sinha denied it. He said that only two deaths occurred in

## Poor testing rate

As of April 28, West Bengal had conducted 13.4 tests per million of its population, among the lowest in the country along with Mizoram and Bihar. Also, while other States have ramped up their testing rates compared to a fortnight back, West Bengal has recorded a minimal increase



**Lining up:** Porters and labourers queue up near a grain market in Kolkata to collect lunch parcels distributed by the city police on Thursday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

- As on April 14, 3,081 samples were tested in West Bengal. The number increased to 13,223 as on April 28
- State-wise testing data has been sourced from health ministries and directorate of information and public relations of respective States
- The latest population projections were sourced from Unique Identification Authority of India's Aadhaar saturation report

the past 24 hours and the additions were because the audit committee's recent report had approved 11 more deaths due to COVID-19.

Another role of the audit

committee, he said, was to look into the “treatment protocol” of COVID-19 patients.

Questions about setting up such a panel were raised in several quarters, includ-

ing Opposition political parties. Parties took to the streets during the day raising questions about Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remarks on Wednesday that

she had no role in setting up the committee.

## In Kolkata

The government said there were 444 containment zones, of which 264 were in Kolkata. Howrah had 72 and North 24 Parganas had 70.

Mr. Sinha said no relaxation would be allowed in these zones. There had been no case of COVID-19 in eight districts. Meanwhile, 37 fresh cases were reported in 24 hours. The total number of active cases had increased to 572. Over 1,900 samples were tested during the period, taking the number to 16,525.

In another development, the Health Department transferred the Superintendent of the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital after certain notifications were made public where it was stated that COVID-19 positive should not be mentioned in the circular. The Chief Secretary said he was not the one who issued orders of such transfers. They were done by the respective departments, he added.

The case fatality rate in Ujjain stood at 17%, the highest in the State. Indore, the most populous and the lar-

# M.P. reports 65 fresh cases, death toll increases to 137

Ujjain records highest fatality rate in the State at 17%

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh recorded 65 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, taking the tally to 2,625, the State Directorate of Health Services said. However, these figures do not include the latest data from Indore.

With four more deaths, the State-wide toll rose to 137. Bhopal, Ujjain, Khandwa and Hoshangabad reported one death each, the Directorate said.

The day saw 21 persons being discharged after treatment across the State. So far, 482 persons have recovered.

Most recoveries at 177 have been reported from Indore, where 1,486 cases and 68 deaths have been reported as on Wednesday. But Bhopal, which has a third of the cases of Indore, has notched a better figure proportionally at 162.

The case fatality rate in Ujjain stood at 17%, the highest in the State. Indore, the



**Taking no chances:** A health worker screening a person at Satpura Bhavan in Bhopal on Thursday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

gest city in the State, recorded a rate of 4.6%, whereas it was 3% for Bhopal.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Narottam Mishra said no patient as on April 30 was on ventilator support in Bhopal, whereas six were being given oxygen support in Indore.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said 65 samples out of 2,617 had tested positive, marking a test positivity rate of 2.5%. In Bhopal, 25 of 1,275 samples, in Jabal-

Odisha records highest spike with 20 cases in one day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The total number of COVID-19 cases in Odisha climbed to 142 on Thursday. The State saw the largest spike with 20 cases – 17 from Jajpur and three from Balasore district – reported during the past 24 hours, according to officials.

All the new cases reported from Jajpur were of those who returned from West Bengal and their close contacts, the State Health & Family Welfare Department said. The districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Balasore that are close to West Bengal have reported 74 cases so far, and most of them are of those who had managed to return during the ongoing lockdown and their close contacts.

The previous 24-hour spike with 18 cases was reported in Bhubaneswar on April 5. The city had reported 46 cases till a fortnight ago, and its total increased to 47 when family member of a COVID-19 case was found positive on Wednesday. Of the total 142 cases in the State so far, 102 are under treatment at different COVID hospitals, while 39 had recovered and one had died, according to the health department.

# Maharashtra's case tally crosses 10,000 mark

583 new cases, 27 deaths reported in the State in one day

STAFF REPORTER  
PUNE

The COVID-19 pandemic surged relentlessly in Maharashtra, as the State breached the 10,000-case mark on Thursday. It reported 583 new cases and 27 deaths, as the cumulative tally and the death toll surged to 10,498 and 459 respectively.

According to figures given by the State Health Department, 20 of the deaths were reported from Mumbai city, while three were reported from Pune city. Pune district authorities, though, reported five deaths today, including of a person hailing from Kolhapur.

On the other hand, 180 persons left hospitals on Thursday, taking the total discharged in the State till date to 1,773, said State Surveillance Officer Pradeep Awate.

Mumbai's death toll now stands at 290, while that of Pune district (the State Health Department's figure) is 88.

According to the Pune district administration, however, the district's death toll has now touched 90.

Nagpur reported its second death on Thursday and



**Hard trek:** Tribals carrying relief material at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai. ■ AADESH CHOURHARI

## 25 new cases in Dharavi

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Dharavi reported 25 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, bringing the total in Asia's largest slum to 369.

Of the 25 new cases reported in Dharavi on Thursday, some were from areas like Kalyanwadi, Kumbharwada,

Raigad district its first.

“Eighty-one per cent of the deaths reported had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma and heart disease. One of them was an

Kunchikurve Nagar and Muslim Nagar that had seen cases in the past. Besides, cases were reported from newer parts, including Chaughule chawl and Labour camp.

Total cases in Dharavi now stands at 369. With no death reported today, the tolls remains at 18.

HIV patient and one was suffering from cancer,” said Dr. Awate.

Information regarding comorbidities of four of the patients was not available as yet.

# Ahmedabad records over 3,000 cases, 149 deaths

249 new infections, 12 deaths reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

With over 3,000 COVID-19 cases and 149 deaths, Ahmedabad is the second city after Mumbai in number of cases and deaths.

On Thursday, the city added 249 new infections and 12 deaths. The city alone accounts for nearly 65% of total cases and 70% of deaths in Gujarat.

Despite stringent stay-at-home measures and even curfew in hotspots, the number of cases has been rising and so are deaths, with one of the highest death rates, around 5%, in the country.

Gujarat recorded 313 cases and 17 deaths on Thurs-

day, taking the total to 4,395 cases and 214 deaths. So far, 613 persons have been discharged, including 86 on Thursday.

“It is a community transmission in Ahmedabad with remnant contagion in congested areas and slums,” a top expert of infectious diseases told *The Hindu*, adding “with or without lockdown, Ahmedabad will only see higher infections and higher deaths.”

Data of cases suggest that the city has begun community transmission weeks ago and now cases are increasingly surfacing because of the aggressive testing strategy adopted by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

# 33 new cases in J&K, masks made mandatory

Over 92% of cases traced, say officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

As many as 33 new cases of COVID-19 infections were reported in J&K on Thursday, taking the total tally to 614.

The rising numbers forced authorities in Srinagar to make wearing a mask mandatory for all from May 1.

“All 33 cases were reported from Kashmir. The total number of positive cases is 614, with Jammu having 58 and Kashmir 556 cases,” said Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary (Planning).

South Kashmir's Anantnag recorded the highest number of cases with 12 and north Kashmir's Baramulla reported 11 cases.

Mr. Kansal said the UT's

testing rates continue to be among the highest while the percentage rise continues to be low resulting in a high doubling rate, which is over 12 days.

“Our mortality is just above 1%, which is quite low given the number of cases. The most notable part is that over 92% of the cases can be traced. All these are positive factors,” he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Sushma Chauhan said all reported 26 positive cases from the district have recovered. “It's indicative of being on the right course, nevertheless declaring the district COVID free, will be premature,” she said.



JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
धर्मसरोवर नगर, पुदुचेरी/Dhanvantri Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006

Phone: 0413 - 2296022 Website: www.jipmer.edu.in Date: 01.05.2020

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bibinagar (Telengana) is an Autonomous Institution, established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). JIPMER, Puducherry has been designated its Mentor Institute.

Online applications are invited for the following regular faculty posts at AIIMS, Bibinagar.

Departments	Name and Number of Posts			
	Professor	Additional Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Anatomy	1	1	2	6
Biochemistry	1	1	1	5
Physiology	1	1	4	4
Pathology and Lab Medicine	1	3	1	6
Pharmacology	1	1	1	4
Community and Family Medicine	1	1	1	7
Forensic Medicine & Toxicology	1	1	1	1
Microbiology	1	2	2	3
Paediatrics	1	1	2	3
Psychiatry	1	1	1	2
Anaesthesiology	1	2	2	2
Dermatology	1	1	1	1
General Medicine	1	-	2	4
Ophthalmology	1	1	2	2
Orthopaedics	1	1	1	2
ENT	1	1	1	2
General Surgery	2	1	3	3
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	1	2	3
Radio-Diagnosis	1	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>63</b>

Details of reservation, age, qualification, experience, fees and other conditions of eligibility etc., are available at [www.jipmer.edu.in/](http://www.jipmer.edu.in/) / [www.pmsy-mohfw.nic.in](http://www.pmsy-mohfw.nic.in)

Last date of receiving online application is 12th June 2020 till 05.00 PM.

DIRECTOR

## KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)  
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014, Tele: 0471-2945646, 2945600 Fax: 2945647

website: <a href="http://www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in

Trucks don't need passes, says Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry reiterated on Thursday that separate passes were not required for trucks and goods carriers to move across States.

In a letter to the States and Union Territories, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla asked them to ensure free movement of trucks, including empty ones.

The Ministry wrote to them on April 3 and 12 stating the same. "It is now reiterated that no separate passes are required for through traffic of trucks and goods carriers, including empty trucks, etc. This is essential for maintaining the supply chain of goods and services," it said.

The Ministry asked the States to convey it to district authorities and field staff to avoid ambiguity.

## 'Half-hearted bid to transport migrants'

Congress, other Opposition parties say Centre should have anticipated problems of stranded workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties have called the order of the Union Home Ministry allowing the State governments to ferry back those stranded outside their boundaries a hogwash and a measure to buy time.

Jairam Ramesh, Rajya Sabha member of the Congress, said that at best it was a half-hearted measure. "The fact that it took 36 days for the government to respond to the plight of the migrant workers shows both apathy and a lack of planning before the lockdown. Even now, it's a half-hearted attempt. Why aren't special trains being deployed? Many State governments have asked for it," he told *The Hindu*.

### 'No coherence'

Congress spokesperson and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari said the order showed utter lack of coherence or strategy. "How many inter-State meetings has the Ministry held so far? Does the government have data on migrant workers, about who from which district is stranded where? And is it safe to cover long distances in buses," Mr. Tewari asked.



**Long ordeal:** Migrants from Madhya Pradesh waiting for buses in Prayagraj on Thursday. ■ PTI

All these problems should have been anticipated when the lockdown was first announced on March 24.

Tirumool MP and former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi said that if the government was indeed serious, it would have considered trains and not specified that

only buses could be used. Whether the order would actually be implemented or not was anyone's guess.

"Buses are not the answer. This will only create confusion and not a solution. They are merely buying time. There was too much pressure on the Union govern-

ment to come up with a policy on migrant workers, so they brought out this order," he said.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury called the order condescending, coming after days of suffering for the migrant workers and others stranded miles away from their homes. He questioned the fact that the Centre had delegated it to the States instead of taking the initiative.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said the Centre had virtually abdicated its responsibility of helping the migrant workers or assisting the States in this time of crisis.

"In both the interactions the Chief Ministers had with the Prime Minister, the main issue of contention was lack of financial aid to the States. They can't deceive people who are in unimaginable misery. The hunger deaths are rising."

## Approach ICMR, SC tells NGO

People for Better Treatment submits plea on hydroxychloroquine

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked an NGO to approach the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with its reservations about seriously ill COVID-19 patients in intensive care units being subjected to "controversial, unproven, non-specific and potentially toxic off-label" use of anti-malarial drug Hydroxychloroquine and broad-spectrum antibiotic Azithromycin.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana stopped short of intervening on a writ petition filed by NGO People for Better Treatment, saying the court is not an expert. It asked Dr. Kunal Saha, president of the NGO, to submit his research to the ICMR.

People for Better Treatment had drawn the court's attention to an extraordinary bulletin issued jointly on April 8 by the American

Heart Association (AHA), the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) with warnings on the use of the two drugs on COVID-19 patients with existing cardiac conditions.

The bulletin said the use of these drugs on patients with cardiac conditions would possibly trigger abnormal heartbeat, heart failure and death. It advised specific therapeutic measures in such cases. "Most of the drugs presently being used to treat COVID-19 patients are based primarily on anecdotal evidence and not

on direct scientific data because very little actual research has been published on this new strain of coronavirus, which was isolated for the first time only a few months ago. COVID-19 patients receive primarily symptomatic therapy because no specific drug against the new SARS-CoV-2 virus has been invented till now... Needless to say that when treating the vulnerable patients with an unproven drug for its off-label use, doctors should be extra vigilant about its potential harmful adverse effects on COVID-19 patients," the petition said.

Expatriate Indian citizens have played a significant role in creating prosperous economies in the Gulf region, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

The statement came amid reports of continued job cuts in several Gulf countries, including Oman, which has instructed government-owned companies to replace expat workers "as quickly as possible" with Omanis.

"The Gulf countries greatly value their relation with India. They also value the role of the Indian diaspora in

the development of the region. The policy of Oman is not specific to India and it does not target Indians," Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava told presspersons.

Oman's Finance Ministry on Wednesday issued a new set of guidelines ordering state-owned companies to "expedite replacement of expatriates with Omanis".

According to some estimates, around a third of Oman's 4.6 million residents are expatriates who work in state-owned and private sectors.

There are at least

## Oman job cuts not Indian-specific: Centre

Gulf country decides to fire expat workers from state-sector companies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Anurag Srivastava, Spokesperson, External Affairs Ministry

**Gulf countries greatly value their relation with India**

**ANURAG SRIVASTAVA**

Spokesperson, External Affairs Ministry

8,00,000 Indian workers in

the kingdom and a part of them are likely to be impacted by the order. Though the order is limited to the state-owned companies, it is understood that the private sector will be under pressure to follow the state sector's example.

The Omani order, when carried out, is expected to force significant part of the expat Indians to return

home. In view of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Gulf states and the accompanying regional economic downturn, India is already preparing to evacuate a large number of citizens from the Gulf.

Mr. Srivastava said, "The issue of evacuation is receiving attention of the government," though he refused to spell out the plans saying, it is "remature" to discuss the details of the evacuation.

Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik had assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the salaries and well-being of the Indian community would be protected.

**KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD**  
JALBHAVAN, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 029.  
Ph : 080 - 41106507 - 18, Fax: 080 - 26539206/41106504  
E-mail : cekwbnbg@gmail.com, Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

Item rate for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency / Contractors who satisfy the Financial and Technical eligibility criteria as detailed in the Bid Document.

Tender No. In e-Procurement Portal : **KUWSDB/2020-21/WS/WORK\_INDENT 2764**

**Name of Work :** Deepening and Improvements of Echanur tank near Tiptur City under Improvements to Water Supply Scheme to Tiptur City with Echanur tank as source. Approximate Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 2704.39 Lakhs**, Bid Security : **Rs. 27,05,000/-**

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Documents will be available from : **30-04-2020** (2) Pre-bid meeting date : **27-05-2020 at 11.30 hours** (3) Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal : **29-06-2020 upto 17.30 hours** (4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid : **02-07-2020 after 11.00 hours**.

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer (Bangalore), KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or Website : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-procurement helpdesk : 91 - 080 - 22371090, 22373788, email support : [shphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com](mailto:shphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com)

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (B)  
KUWS & D Board, Bangalore

DIPR/DDU/2991/2020-21

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**E-Tender for Clearing, Handling & Transportation of Bagged Products at various Rail Heads in Tamil Nadu**

[ENQUIRY NO. MM/TSR/E1/21454 dated 29/04/2020]

Online bids (two cover system) are invited for undertaking the work of clearing, handling and transportation of bagged products at various Rail Heads (RH) in Tamil Nadu for a period of 2 years, through <https://eproc.gov.in> portal. Any change / Extensions to this tender will be informed only through our website / CPP e-procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Due date/ time for submission of bids: **15-05-2020 3:00 PM**

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)-T&S

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO V/W/TCV/5/2020 DATED 29.04.2020**  
Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Triavandrum Division, Trivandrum - 14 and on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No	Description
1	Shoranur - Ernakulam section: Br. No 132 at km. 64/375 - Repairs to bridge abutments damaged in Flood 2019.
2	Trichur Sub Division:- Desilting of IC, Manhole and sewage
3	Alappuzha P Way section - TSR(P) with TRT machine for 3,100 km and manual TSR(P) for 2,300 km (PB 873/19-20).
4	Proposed Renovation of Senior Section Engineer/Bridge Office at Ernakulam.
5	Proposed Electronic interlocking buildings at Ochira, Karunagappally, Sasthamkotta, Perinad and IBS huts in between Quilon - Perinad and Perinad - Sasthamkotta.

**Tender Closing date and time: Sl No: 1 to 5 : 21.05.2020 at 11.00 hrs**  
Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination, Trivandrum - 14**

**NLC India Limited**  
"Navratna" - Government of India Enterprise  
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayapuri, Sathyamurthy Road,  
FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 031.  
Corp. Office : Block 1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu  
CIN No.: L93990TN1958G0103507, Website: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices Sl.No.2 to 7)**

Sl. No.	Tender Ref./Scope of Supplies & Qty. Req'd.
1.	NTPL/TUTICORIN:ENQ/NTPL/20-21/00035/C&P01(01) dt.22-04-2020: Purchase of Micro Processor based automatic bomb calorimeter.
2.	UNIT: M.M.COMPLEX: ENQ/19-20/003778/MM24(01)dt.25-03-2020: Bench Top density viscometer - 1 No.

**Date of opening: 11-05-2020**

Sl. No.	Approx. Value (In Lakh)	Earrest Money Deposit (₹)	Cost of tender form (₹)	Period of completion in months
1	99.07	198100	5600	THREE
2	9.96	19900	2240	TWELVE
3	186.46	243200	5600	TWELVE
4	18.79	37600	2240	FOUR
5	220.30	260200	11200	FIFTEEN

**Tender Closing date and time: Sl No: 1 to 5 : 21.05.2020 at 11.00 hrs**  
Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination, Trivandrum - 14**

**3. ENQ/19-20/003792/MM23(01) dt.13-04-2020: Retrofitting 2 sets of digital static Excitation system for 210 MW generator- 2 Sets.**  
**Due date of opening: 13-05-2020**

**4. ENQ/20-21/000178/MM 25(01) dt.27-04-2020: 500 KVA Outdoor type Transformer - 5 Nos.**  
**Due date of opening: 26-05-2020**

**5. 20-21/000193/MM10(01) dt.27-04-2020: CS ERW pipe of size 914 mm thickness 10 mm grade FE410 with beveled ends confirming to IS 3589, required length of each pipe is of 12 mtr. Qty.: 2897 Metres.**  
**Due date of opening: 27-05-2020**

**6. ENQ/20-21/000183/MM11(02) dt.24-04-2020: Silver Brazeing Foil conforming to IS 2927/1975 BA Cu/Ag 12 having 49% to 51% silver in size 0.25 mm thickness x 75.0 mm width x 300 mm long.**  
**Qty.: 370 Kgs.**  
**Due date of opening: 27-05-2020**

**7.PTE-ENQ/20-21/000219/MM02(01) dt.29-04-2020: 4 Items - New roller shafts for 2400 mm conveyor.**  
**Due date of opening: 01-06-2020**

**S.N.o. Tender document cost Date & Time of Opening**

**1. 1000/- 03-06-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.**

**FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)**

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## Bihar seeks non-stop trains for migrants

27 lakh people from State stranded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Bihar on Thursday urged the Union government to run special non-stop trains to bring back 27 lakh people of the State stuck in distant places because of the lockdown. The appeal came a day after the Centre issued an order allowing the States to bring back students, migrants and tourists.

"Since the Central government has passed the order, I will appeal to it to run special non-stop trains to bring back those people from far-off places like Surat and Porbandar in Gujarat, Chennai, Bangalore, Maharashtra and Delhi," Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said.

In a two-minute video released to journalists, Mr. Modi said it would not be "possible to bring back such a large number of stranded

people by bus as it will take months". "Over five lakh people stranded in Delhi, 2.68 lakh in Maharashtra, over two lakh in Gujarat ... over one lakh in Karnataka have applied for the relief to the office of the Chief Minister," he said.

The Bihar government appointed the Principal Secretary of the Disaster Management Department, Praetyaya Amrit, as the nodal officer to supervise the process of bringing back the stranded people, he said.

Mr. Srivastava said, "The issue of evacuation is receiving attention of the government," though he refused to spell out the plans saying, it is "remature" to discuss the details of the evacuation.

Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik had assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## Investigate 'denial of dialysis': HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has directed the State government to expedite investigation into the death of a patient suffering from chronic kidney disease, and who was denied dialysis at a private hospital at Cuttack, allegedly for his Muslim identity, during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Azra Jamal, a lawyer activist, had moved the HC seeking legal action against a Cuttack-based private hospital that denied dialysis treatment to a patient identified as Sayed Abdul Hasan, leading to his death on April 10.

"Shanti Hospital in Cuttack had refused to treat the chronic kidney disease patient because he belonged to Muslim community. As a result of which he died the same day," Ms. Jamal said in her petition.

She said the private hospital had turned the patient away, demanding the production of "COVID-19 test certificate" before allowing him to access the dialysis facility.

## 74-year-old patient beats the odds after 32 days in hospital

Makhmuddin, a blacksmith from Indore, is out of the ICU

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOJPAL



Makhmuddin

The odds were stacked against Makhmuddin. The 74-year-old blacksmith had previously suffered bouts of jaundice that had weakened his immunity. And he came in late to the hospital with a feverish breath and a frantic cough that jolted his heaving chest. Doctors immediately put him on non-invasive ventilation support. For 12 days, his life hung precariously on the edge – on oxygen support.

Yet, he knew he would recover, Mr. Makhmuddin said. And survive he did, trumpling COVID-19. On Wednesday, the septuagenarian, Indore's longest-treated patient for the illness after having been in bed for 32 days, walked out of the city's MRTB Hospital. Unfazed by the fact that the novel coronavirus has been sickening older people more gravely, he also became the city's oldest to bounce back from the infection.

**Weakened system**  
Previously, a year-long battle with jaundice had weakened his body. But the experience of having overcome that condition, Mr. Makhmuddin said, had steeled his resolve for facing future challenges. "Twice, I thought I was

gone. But surviving jaundice had given me the strength to overcome other illnesses, including corona. This experience was nothing before that one," he said.

He still does not know how he became infected. As the lockdown kicked in, he barely stepped out; no one in his family or locality contracted the illness. "Sometimes I lent my sons a hand in repairing vehicles," he recalled.

Eight days before visiting a hospital on March 29, he suffered the first bouts of fever, temporarily controlled with self-medication. "He came to us at the peak of his illness," said Salil Bhargava, a doctor at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College who was involved in the treatment. "He carried bilateral pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome."

Most of the 68 patients who have died in Indore presented so late at hospitals that the COVID-19 condition had taken complete hold by then, opined health experts. Despite pulling out all the stops, it was difficult to save them. "Most who have come to us in Makhmuddin's condition have died," Dr. Bhargava said. "Although the illness doesn't have a defined remedy at present, his recovery shows supportive treatment works. Therefore we should not lose hope," the doctor said.

**Cheerful company**  
As he showed improvement, Mr. Makhmuddin was moved out of the ICU to another isolation ward. There, he drew support from the company of those recuperating alongside him. Six patients of varying ages occupied beds set wide apart. They chatted away their time, on the road to recovery. "Accha time pass hua udhar. Dil beltha raha (We passed our time pleasantly. We kept ourselves entertained)," he chuckled.

The local languages in which the song has been sung are Nagamese, Tangkhul, Khoibou, Vaiphei, Paite and Manipuri. While Nagamese is the pidgin lingua franca of Nagaland, Tangkhul and Khoibou are Naga dialects of Manipur. Manipuri is the tongue of the non-tribal Meiteis of Imphal Valley and Vaiphei and Paite are languages of the tribal group classified as Kuki-Zomi.

The Meitei, Naga and Kuki-Zomi groups have had a strained relationship with each other. There have been

several instances of ethnic violence.

"The idea behind the album was to spread the message of peace and brotherhood and enliven the people in this time of the pandemic," said Norbert Khayi, the president of the Tangkhul Music Forum based in Manipur's Ukhral.

"Apart from appealing to the people to stand up and fight the pandemic together, our aim was to celebrate Manipur's ethnic diversity," he said, adding that the project cost the forum about ₹40,000.

The main person behind the concept, Mr. Khayi said he felt the need to remove the misunderstandings between the people living in Manipur's hills and the valley as also different tribal groups within the hills.

"The song is about overcoming the situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic by sticking together," said Mandira Das, who sang the Hindi version.

## Songs of peace from Manipur's conflict zone

Group's creativity spurred by lockdown

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

The COVID-19 lockdown has inspired a musical initiative for peace and bonhomie in Manipur, a State troubled by decades of conflict.

A group of musicians in the State has produced a multilingual music album titled 'Yes We Care' with the objective of bridging the ethnic divide believed to have been widened by the lockdown that has minimized human interactions.

The album, released on YouTube on April 28, has the same song in English and seven other languages, including Hindi. Extremist groups in the northeast have ideologically been against Hindi, which they say is the language of "imperialist Delhi".

"The local languages in which the song has been sung are Nagamese, Tangkhul, Khoibou, Vaiphei, Paite and Manipuri. While Nagamese is the pidgin lingua franca of Nagaland, Tangkhul and Khoibou are Naga dialects of Manipur. Manipuri is the tongue of the non-tribal Meiteis of Imphal Valley and Vaiphei and Paite are languages of the tribal group classified as Kuki-Zomi.

The Meitei, Naga and Kuki-Zomi groups have had a strained relationship with each other. There have been



A screen grab from the music album.

## Activists seek testing of Ganga water for COVID-19 treatment

Mission under Jal Shakti Ministry sends the pitch to ICMR

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), an arm of the Jal Shakti Ministry that deals with the Ganga clean-up plan, has forwarded to the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) a proposal to undertake clinical trials and examine if Ganga water can be used to treat COVID-19 patients.

The proposal was made by a collective of activists involved in the clean-up of the river as well as in the litany of litigation surrounding it.

The thrust of the proposal is that research for over a century – and most recently an investigation by the CSIR-National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute, Nagpur – had found that the upper stretches of the Ganga had several species of bacteriophages. Phages, as they are also called, are viruses that specifically target bacteria and are also extremely strain-specific. While there is research to suggest that these phages may have anti-microbial properties and could potentially destroy bacteria such as *Mycobacterium streptococcus* and *Pseudomonas Yersinia*, it is unclear how phages – being viruses themselves – could have anti-viral properties.

"The song is about overcoming the situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic by sticking together," said Mandira Das, who sang the Hindi version.



There is no evidence that the waters of the Ganga can destroy viruses.

COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus infection. "There's no evidence that viruses can, even in principle, be used to destroy other viruses. Phage therapy has its uses in experimental medicine and has been used to treat infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria," Sunil Singh, virologist, Benares Hindu University, told *The Hindu*.

**Experimental medicine'**  
The proponents of the proposal – Anil Gautam, A.K. Gupta, Bharat Jhunjhunwala and Narendra Mehrotra – said the Ganga "could have" anti-viral properties, but the scale of the pandemic and the need for new drugs and treatment mean that there could be "immense benefit"

from undertaking such studies on the lines of "experimental medicine."

Before being forwarded to the ICMR, the letter reveals, the NMCG discussed the feasibility of the proposal with NEERI, on April 24. NEERI, which is a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research organisation, has an ongoing study examining whether the phages in the Ganga water are responsible for destroying pathogens and delaying putrefaction.

"The considered opinion of CSIR-NEERI is that overall, clinical trial on water alone may not yield very useful results, though this would need the considered opinion of agencies such as ICMR," notes the NMCG letter, signed by D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director, NMCG, and addressed to the Director General, ICMR. "...It is true Ganga water has special properties which is prominent in upper stretches. Since no virus related studies have been yet carried out, one could attempt a pilot in the Upper Regions of Ganga."

Most studies have been done in the context of years-long movement that sees Ganga water as "unique," particularly the water in the upper stretches of Rudraprayag and before Tehri.

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12923

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## FAITH

### Basis of upasana

Adyatma sadana is demanding as it takes root only when one is able to distance oneself from the immediate world and the impact of the physical awareness that is a constant presence in each one. In the Gita, it is clearly shown that Adyatma sadana is something that cannot be practised by one whose mind is caught in desire and anger, pointed out Swami Sashishikananda in a discourse.

Arjuna asks who and what is prompting him to act in a particular way, especially in doing wrong when he wants to avoid such acts. Krishna points out to Kama, desire, and also Krodha, anger that are present in all beings in the form of rajas. When prompted by desire one seeks to fulfil them; in case the effort is thwarted, it gives rise to anger and the ego in one regards this as a personal failure. This leads to being caught in a vicious cycle. Moreover, since there is no end to desires, chasing them in life is like entering a fathomless ocean. The answer is first of all to accept the presence of desires in us. They are a part of the human personality comprising the senses, mind and intellect. But one should be wary of desires and not allow them to occupy the mind as they can easily cause harm to one's spiritual sadana when they lead to wrong actions, even as a strong virus can attack the physical health of a person. Instead, one can try to focus on one's ordained duties, that is, what has devolved on one owing to birth, circumstances, etc and not encourage selfish tendencies.

The Kenopanishad teaches the foundations of upasana, the practice of austerities, such as self control and contentment and so on, and encourages one to cultivate and sustain these at all times. This is the only way to attain chitta siddhi which is conducive for Adyatma sadana.

## Experts call for proper disposal of PPE

India needs 20 to 25 lakh pieces of personal protective equipment a day for workers fighting COVID-19

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI



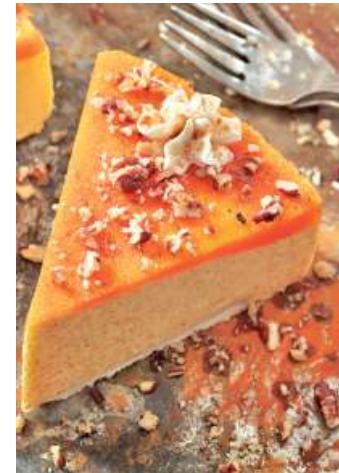
Stay safe: People wearing protective suits at an awareness campaign in New Delhi. ■ REUTERS

With India needing an estimated 25 lakh units of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) every day, experts and scientists have highlighted the need for their proper disposal, treatment and recycling to safeguard the environment. These PPEs have given a new lease of life to plastic, which was facing severe scrutiny across the world on environmental grounds.

Even India had banned single-use plastic to protect the environment, and today except a few, no one seems to be complaining.



**Keep it fun** Bruised tomatoes can be made into spaghetti sauce and stored; frozen pumpkin puree can be added into cake batter days later; (below) Karishma Sakhrani ■ GETTY IMAGES/STOCK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



# Fresher for longer



The back of the fridge and the bottom of your vegetable drawer have ingredients that can be upcycled into something nutritious and delicious, without compromising on quality. Here's how

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

When Chef Karishma Sakhrani found excess chives in her fridge at her home in Mumbai, she wanted to save the precious greens, knowing finding them again would be difficult during the ongoing lockdown. The *MasterChef India* Season 4 finalist cut them up and froze them, thus offering them a new lease of life, while also letting herself use them when she needed to in the near future.

The way we interact with food and ingredients has changed during the lockdown: more home-cooked food, more OPOS (one pot one shot) cooking, recipes of two or three ingredients, head-to-tail cooking, and, now, extending the life of ingredients to minimise food wastage.

Karishma states freezing is a new norm, given we cannot go for grocery runs frequently. "It is a great way to preserve all the nutrition, and sometimes flavour and texture aren't too disturbed."

The shelf life of ginger is between four and six weeks at room temperature. "I grate and put it into a mini ice cube tray and then demould it, putting it into a zip-

lock bag, so I have little pre-measured cubes of grated ginger to put it into dal or whatever else I am cooking." The same can be done with ginger-garlic paste. Karishma recommends this way of preserving things one uses a lot in the kitchen – such as tamarind and raw mango – and not just during lockdown.

Yes, 'tis the season of the king of fruits, but due to soaring temperatures, mangoes have a tendency to ripen quite quickly. Karishma points out that slightly overripe mangoes (soft to the touch while still smelling fresh) are ideal to blend up with some yoghurt and sugar for a breakfast

side or a quick pick-me-up. One can also go for *lassi* or the classic home-made *aamras*, that is ideal for the whole family and can be quickly consumed too.

Hyderabad-based culinary instructor Arundati Rao is spending her lockdown time at a farm in Shankarpalli, Telangana. She says the yellow pumpkin – common across all Indian households and easily available through the year in the South – is a prized vegetable for curries, tangy gravies or as a dry dish. "If uncut, it can be stored for months," she explains, "but once cut into, like a melon, it spoils fast. Steam the pumpkin and purée it, and then it can be frozen for as long as three months. The defrosted purée can be added to pasta sauces, kneaded into roti doughs or even substituted in place of banana or apple purée in your favourite cake recipe."

One particular fruit that has been overbought is the tomato, which in this heat, ripens and softens quickly. "Tomatoes have a lot of versatility," comments Karishma. "When they are soft and look slightly bruised, you can make a purée or a gravy, or whip up a

large batch of base pasta sauce. Oven-roasting tomatoes brings out a lot of sweetness, and doesn't require a lot of hands-on time as the oven does the workload. Once roasted, you can blend them into a soup with a smoky touch."

Alternatively, excess tomatoes can be converted into a tasty tomato chutney, to be eaten with hot white rice and a dash of ghee, creating a whole new meal in itself. These home-made chutneys are the go-to options for those not wanting to part with still-useable produce, such as ridge gourd, onions and yellow cucumber.

## Refrigeration hacks

A by-product behaviour of extending the life of ingredients is becoming more familiar with your fridge, and learning how to use it to its full potential. Which shelf is optimal for which ingredients? What about temperature changes? Basic tips include keeping opened foods or foods close to expiring towards the front of the fridge for quicker consumption, not overcrowding to disrupt the circulation of cold air, and keeping unfrozen meats and fish at the bottom for optimal preservation.

Our leafy greens tend to brown fast, especially coriander and mint, which are daily staples. Karishma says, "I wrap these greens up in cling-wrap tightly, and roll it up so that it uses less space in my vegetable drawer, while not compromising crispness and texture. Do not keep these in the door of your fridge; they become more prone to spoiling because when the fridge is continually opened, their exposure to fluctuating temperatures speeds up oxidation. Keep less perishable foods in the fridge door."

But not everything can be 'saved'. Preserving need not have the same mentality of panic-buying; upcycle with moderation and do not overpopulate your freezer.

# Ripe for the snacking

Stuck with a bunch of over ripe bananas? Join the club. Try these quick, easy recipes from traditional kitchens



NAHLA NAINAR

Bananas, bought in a bunch, (no, we were not panicking, they just looked all lovely and firm) are no shrinking violets when they are overripe. They can become mushy and stink, prompting people to throw them away. The lockdown, however, seems to have left the world with far more overripe bananas than we bargained for, and the Internet is flooded with recipes for cakes and 'bread' (another name for loaf cake) featuring the fruit.

Google Trends recently listed banana bread as its most-searched recipe during the lockdown. But Indian cuisine is replete with ideas that use the plantain – from leaf and flower to stem and fruit – in a variety of ways.

"The best way to use overripe bananas is to sun-dry them," says Chef Regi Matheu, co-owner and culinary director of Kappa Chakka Kandhari, a popular Kerala cuisine restaurant in Chennai and Bengaluru that he started with friends, John Paul and Augustine Kurian. "In traditional Kerala recipes, we cook the sun-dried bananas and have it with honey and grated coconut. We can also make *halwa* with dehydrated bananas," he says.

Here are some other ways to use overripe bananas:

**Kolar bora:** For this popular Bengali snack, mix the pulp of two over-ripe bananas with shredded coconut, 250 grams of maida, 1/4 teaspoon of baking powder, fennel seeds, a pinch of salt, two tablespoons of powdered sugar and around 3/4 cup of water to form a thick batter. Deep-fry small balls of the batter on a medium flame until golden brown.

**Mangalore buns:** In this Udupi speciality, bananas are added to *puri* dough for a fluffy tea-time snack. Knead two cups of wheat flour with a pinch of baking soda, three tablespoons of sugar, two tablespoons of ghee, half a teaspoon of salt, half a teaspoon of cumin seeds, two tablespoons of curd and one mashed overripe banana, and enough water to form a firm dough. Add more flour if required, and portion out the dough into small balls. Cover and rest the balls for two hours before rolling them out into *puris* and deep-frying them. Serve with

## Banana Ada

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup wheat flour
- 3/4 cup mashed ripe banana [Robusta or Palayamkodan are the best]
- 1 1/2 tbsp jaggery
- 1/2 cup grated coconut
- Powdered sea salt to taste
- 1/4 cup water
- Oil to apply on the pan

### METHOD

Mix wheat flour, mashed ripe banana, jaggery, grated coconut and sea salt to make a loose dough. Divide this dough into two equal portions. Heat the pan, apply some oil on it and spread one portion of the dough into a thick pancake. Cook on slow flame for five-six minutes till it turns brown. Once it is cooked, flip it over and cook the other side for another five-six minutes on a slow flame. You may wish to cover the pancake with a lid. Serve hot with a drizzle of honey.

Recipe by chef Regi Matheu

chutney of choice.

**Banana sheera:** Commonly made for prayer ceremonies, this sweet borrows elements of *kesari* (*sooji halwa*). Lightly roast one cup of semolina (aka *rava* or *sooji*), in three tablespoons of ghee or oil until fragrant. Add two chopped ripe bananas and stir well. Pour in 2.5 cups of hot water or milk, taking care to stir the mixture evenly without lumps. Cook for a few minutes until the *halwa* leaves the sides of the pan. Add saffron and garnish with dried fruits of choice.

**Kele ki sabzi:** This is a savoury way to use up ripe bananas in a jiffy. Temper mustard seeds and a pinch of asafoetida in oil, and add one-and-a-half bananas cut into roundels. Stir lightly, and then add chilli, turmeric, coriander and cumin powders, to taste. Season with sugar and salt and cook for two minutes on a medium flame. Serve immediately with *rotis*.

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

"Citrus fruits offer endless options to add flavour into cocktails. Whether that be from freshly-squeezed juice to add a zesty kick to your cocktails, or using the peel or slices as garnish. Your gin and tonic will taste delightful with a slice of pink grapefruit to bring out the flavours of its citrus heart," says Evonne Eadie, Diageo Brand Ambassador (West) via email.

As our favourite watering holes remain out of reach during the lockdown, why not recreate some of the indulgence at home? Evonne has a number of ideas for at-home bartending: limited resources no bar. "Another one of my favourite ways to use fruit as garnish is to dehydrate thin slices. Oranges and pineapples are perfect for this. Cut thin slices, place on a baking tray and pop in the oven on low heat for several hours. The fruit will get progressively dryer over time, so keep an eye on it," she cautions.

### Frozen delights

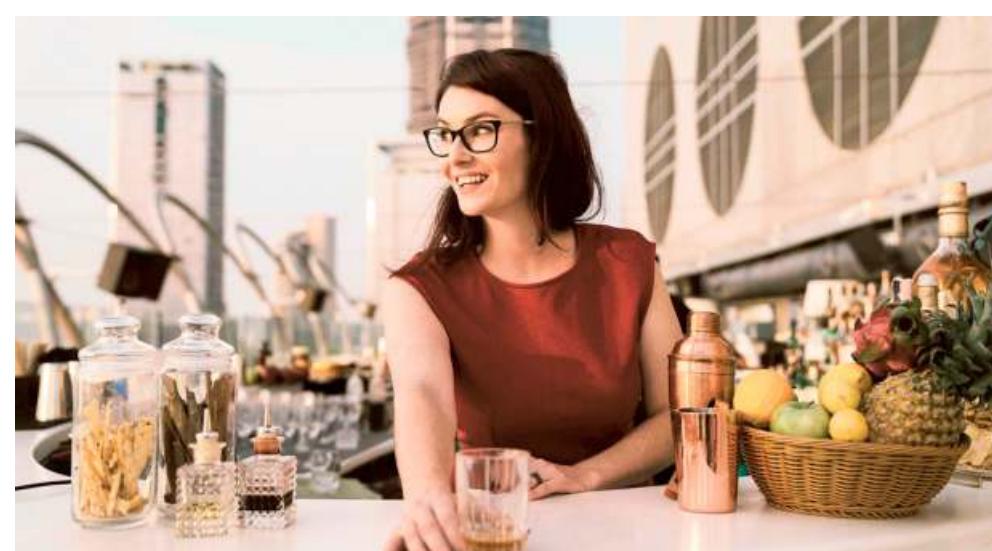
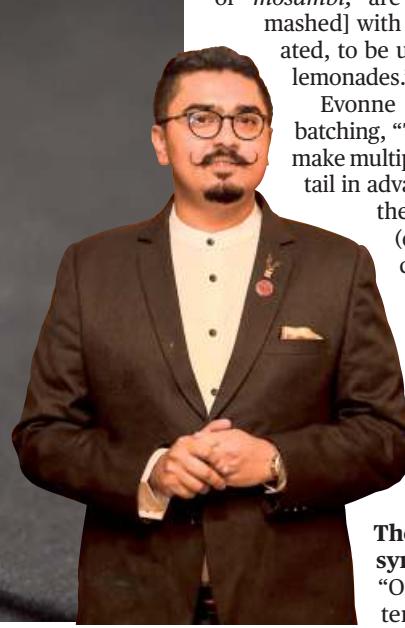
With summer nearing its peak, the time is perfect for frozen cocktails. Evonne's advice is to "Whip out your blender." Her staple summer fruits are mango or watermelon, a cup of which she blitzes with 120 ml dry gin, 50 ml lime juice, 50 ml sugar syrup and a cup of ice until smooth.

Bartender Avinash Kapoli likes keeping it simple. While his Bacardi Homebar series has been showcasing fresh mixes on Instagram, his personal preferences are restricted to the mojito and the shrub and soda. "I usually make the 'shrub' with fresh fruits and store it in the fridge. For a simple style, I mix white or dark rum (60 ml) with the shrub (60 ml) in a tall glass with ice and top it with soda and stir it. My favourite variant is BACARDÍ Carta Blanca rum with a pineapple shrub and soda."

A shrub, explains Avinash, is a chilled way of "preserving fresh fruit juice such as watermelon, orange or pineapple, by adding natural preserva-

# Be your own BARTENDER

Expert tips for the home bar. Just add ice, sugar and summer fruit



**In the know**  
(Clockwise from left) Evonne Eadie, Avinash Kapoli and a Tanqueray tropical fizz ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tives such as sugar and apple cider vinegar. A standard measure is 10 parts freshly-squeezed juice, two parts sugar and one part apple cider vinegar."

Another technique he suggests is Oleo Saccharum: "A mixture where the peels of citrus fruits like lemon, orange or *mosambi*, are muddled [lightly mashed] with sugar and refrigerated, to be used in cocktails or lemonades."

Evonne recommends pre-batching. "The idea is that you make multiple serves of a cocktail in advance and store it in the fridge or freezer (depending on the cocktail). Stronger cocktails like the Old Fashioned and Martini are primarily spirit, so there is no need to worry about them going off."

### The secret to syrups

"Once you have mastered the ability to

### Pre-batched Old Fashioned

#### INGREDIENTS

- 350ml Singleton of Glendullan 12 YO
- 50ml water
- 15ml bitters
- 35ml sugar syrup (add another 15ml if you have a sweet tooth)

#### METHOD

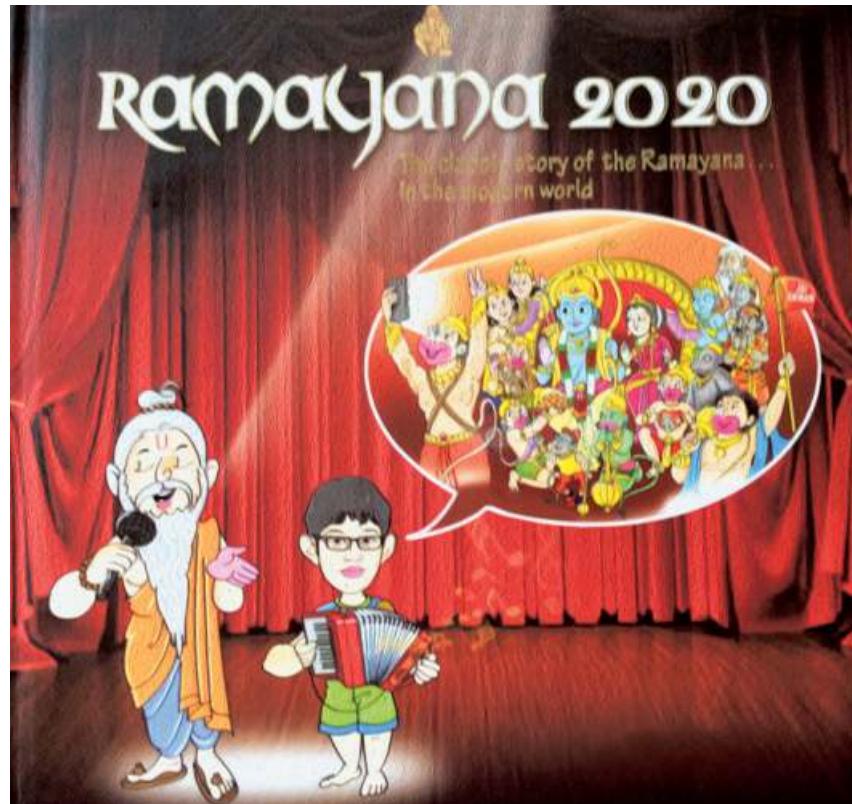
Add all ingredients to a clean bottle and keep in the freezer. To serve, simply pour 70ml over ice into a rocks glass and garnish with an orange twist and you have a cocktail ready. No need to stir down as you already added the dilution when making it. If your freezer is particularly cold, and it has frozen slightly, leave the bottle on the bench for a few minutes before pouring.

make a simple sugar syrup, you can mix it up with a number of flavours," says Evonne. "The easiest is to substitute the water for flavoured tea. I love to use hibiscus tea (steeped for five minutes), which gives you a beautiful colour in your cocktails. Earl Grey, jasmine and chamomile also work."

The standard sugar syrup is a one-to-one ratio: 200 gm sugar to 200 gm water, she says. "But if you don't have scales, simply use 1 cup to 1 cup. For the basic sugar syrup, combine white sugar and hot water in a mixing glass, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Store in the fridge." This, she says, can be used over two weeks.

Avinash sends across an intriguing ginger honey syrup recipe: "Simmer 100 gm grated ginger in 200 ml water on a low flame for 10 minutes, add in 100 gm honey and simmer for another two minutes. Strain and cool it. Store in a glass bottle."

The possibilities are many. As Evonne says, "Think of cocktails like liquid cooking. Taste or nose the base spirit and try to isolate the flavours. Then think of what flavours will work with that."



## Epic men, modern style

Teenager Vikram Nagarajan reimagines the *Ramayana* for youngsters, driven by humour and a global mindset

NEERAJA MURTHY

Imagine the 10-headed Ravana declaring on the battlefield, "I need a hotdog, because I need energy. It takes effort to sign autographs and take photos with fans at the same time!". Or Vibhishana exclaiming, "Sayonara! I am subscribing to Rama's YouTube channel, which by the way is twice PewDiePie's subscriber count!"

This modern version of Ravana and Vibhishana has been created by Hyderabad-based teenager Vikram Nagarajan, in his book *Ramayana 2020* (illustrated by Ramesh Chepuri). Now residing in the US, Vikram sets the epic in 2020, which contributes to the contemporary mood, tone and cha-

racters too. "I wanted the tale to appeal to a younger audience and also the Western world," he says.

*Ramayana* has been written numerous times with different perspectives, this modern retelling of the epic packed with humour for millennials makes for a fun and easy read.

The *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* were integral parts of Vikram's childhood. In fact, his maternal great grandfather Mamidipudi Ramakrishna had published *Srimad Valmiki Ramayana Kathamruthamu*, a Telugu version of the *Ramayana*.

It was Vikram's mother Indira who suggested he visualise the epic in a modern world when he planned to write a play based on the ep-



Classic retold A book cover of *Ramayana 2020*; (inset) Vikram Nagarajan

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ic a few years ago. His friends and neighbours acted in the play, with Vikram enacting Hanuman and his brother Vijay playing Lakshmana. Vikram's maternal family hails from Nellore district, and much of his extended family is now

spread over Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

### With modern twists

Now that 2020 is here and Doordarshan has recently re-telecast Ramanand Sagar's *Ramayana* and is currently airing *Uttar Ramayan*, the youngster believes there will be renewed interest in the epic tale. "*Ramayana* is timeless and intended for all ages. The epic's plot and themes make it interesting; Valmiki's version embeds valuable life lessons into a vivid and adventurous story. I believe that my modern twist retains those aspects. The 2020 aspect of the book is certainly a factor, although I do stretch the truth a little bit in my version, with technology being rather 'alien' and advanced compared to the actual 2020."

Vikram's favourite character is Hanuman and he particularly enjoyed writing the *Sundara Kanda* segment in his book. This, he considers the book's most humorous part.

"I loved writing the fight scenes between Hanuman and the hordes of Ravana's loyal soldiers and also of Hanuman humiliating Ravana. In fact, I enjoyed writing all fighting scenes as I was able to add humour." His family supported him in editing and by giving him ideas. "Struggling to think of ideas was probably the most difficult challenge. I focussed a lot on the design of my rough draft and worrying about the font on Google Docs; that took attention away from writing."

Vikram dreams of going into entrepreneurship and to continue writing. He is currently writing an adaptation of the *Mahabharata* and telling the story through the lens of its numerous characters' perspectives.

Talking about the COVID-19 situation in USA, he says, "Schools are closed for the remainder of the year and we are under social distancing guidelines. I hope we can finally get back to normal once the pandemic subsides."

*Ramayana 2020* (Chamanna Publications), ₹315; for copies call 9866083528

## On love, loss and longing

Bijoya Sawian's *Shadow Men*, shortlisted for the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 and set in the Tolkien landscape of Shillong, portrays the problems of identity and insurgency in Meghalaya

■ Write stuff Bijoya Sawian; (below) the cover of her book ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DEEPA ALEXANDER

To the world, Shillong is a corner of India that is forever England. Dotted with lakes and dales, roads bordered with lacy ferns like Elizabethan ruffs, tin cottages with pretty curtains and antimacassars, and a cosmopolitan melange of music and meat-based dishes, Meghalaya's capital has had an on-off, love-hate affair with settlers from elsewhere. The Khasis, one of the three tribes that dominates the State (the other two are Garo and Jaintia), even have a word to describe an outsider – *dkhar*.

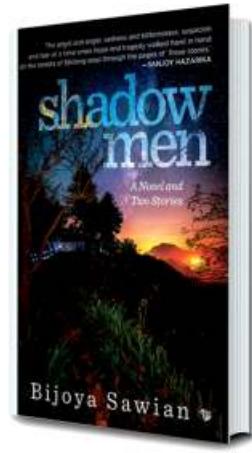
And although they remain a warm and loving people, the people of Meghalaya often walk a knife-edge path when it comes to competition with outsiders for jobs and identity.

It is into this world, where the matrilineal society here has a downside spiralling into drugs, extortion, alcohol and murder, that Bijoya Sawian draws the reader to in *Shadow Men: A Novel and Two Stories* (published by Speaking Tiger). Sawian, 69, who is part-Khasi-part-Bengali, lives in Dehradun where she runs a school. A translator into English of works that essentially deal with the life and culture of the Khasis, she has also been published by the Sahitya Akademi.

"I grew up in Shillong in a family that still practises the indigenous faith, Niam Khasi. In keeping with the tradition of the Khasi matrilineal society, I grew up in my maternal grandmoth-

er's house. My father who was from Sylhet in Bangladesh, was from a family that came up to these hills in the 1930s," says Sawian in a telephone interview. Although she studied at the Seng Khasi School like many children from families who had not converted to Christianity, she was encouraged to study English to help her connect better with the outside world and later schooled at Loreto Convent, Shillong. It led to her pursuing English Literature at Lady Shri Ram College and Miranda House, Delhi, and continuing the family tradition of translating books.

Shillong changed dramatically after the State of Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972. The cosmopolitan character was receding as more families from the plains moved out," says Sawian, referring to the time



when there was a growing disconnect with the 'Indian mainland'. "I think the seed for the book was sown one summer in the 1980s. Insurgency was at its height then and there was so much conflict in Shillong revolving around the anti-outsider movement. Most Indians are natural xenophobes. Blaming outsiders was born out of ignorance of the root of the problem. A nephew of mine, who was misguided, then thrown aside, told me of his experience. I knew then that one day I would write about it."

In an interweaving of all these issues, as complex as the chevron bamboo weave of Khasi huts, Sawian tells the stories hidden in Shillong's underbelly. In *Shadow Men*, Raseel is determined to get to the truth behind the strange death of an outsider, on the grounds of her hosts' house. In *The Flight*, 18-year-old Mawii has to decide between her 'own people' and her one true love, an outsider. In *The Limp*, octogenarian Nipendro Roy finally feels he 'belongs' in Meghalaya, to which he came as a 20-year-old from Bengal.

In poetic lines Sawian describes Shillong, the true hero of these stories. In lucid prose that keeps the reader hooked, her writing weaves its way through love, loss and longing with a steady rhythm. Like the thrum of the heart while navigating the pine-crunching walk through Shillong's steep Jacob's Ladder.

The book is available on Amazon Kindle.



## Hollywood calling

Singer Pragathi Guruprasad on her cameo in the series, *Never Have I Ever*, and fangirling Mindy Kaling

GAUTAM SUNDER

When Mindy Kaling's new teen series *Never Have I Ever* dropped on Monday on Netflix, several viewers in Tamil Nadu spotted a known face. The series follows the life of an Indian family of Tamil origin, in the US. To everyone's delight, singer-model Pragathi Guruprasad makes a cameo on the show during the popular 'Ganesh Pooja episode'!

Since her stint on reality show *Super Singer Junior*, Pragathi has dabbled in play-

back singing and is an Instagram influencer too. She navigates life between concerts, studio recordings, and being a student at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She reveals that after debuting in the web series, a career in Hollywood is in sight. Excerpts from an interview:

### How did you get to be a part of *Never Have I Ever*?

• After moving to LA in 2017, I began acting

lessons and really delved into the crazy world of Hollywood while attending UCLA. I never knew acting was a possibility until I started receiving offers from the Tamil industry. I really wanted to train myself and be confident in my craft before committing to something. I've been auditioning for many roles for the last four to five months and this is the first one that clicked.

### Tell us about your role...

• It is about an Indian-American girl who is trying to be more American against the will of her Indian parents. I'm in the scene where Devi, the main character, tells me that Indian dance is quite strange. I politely give it back to her, standing up for my culture. When auditioning for roles in

Hollywood, you don't have much of a say when it comes to your character.

### The show caters to the Indian diaspora in the US. How much could you relate to it?

• It is hilarious. Having grown up in the US, with so many Indian friends, it was so relatable. We all grew up with strict Indian parents, but we always wanted to be as American as possible. I think people who live abroad with Indian families will relate to it more.

### Did you get to interact with Mindy, the creator of the show?

• No one told me that Mindy was on the set. We were shooting my scene and someone tapped my shoulder from behind. I turned around and

nearly screamed because it was Mindy Kaling. I had to act all cool, but I was shaking. She said, 'Hey you're doing a great job, but we had an alternate line written for this scene, do you wanna try it out?' I read it a few times and then the craziest thing happened. She said, 'Do you want to practise with me?' So I practised the scene a few times with Mindy. It was one of the best moments of my life.

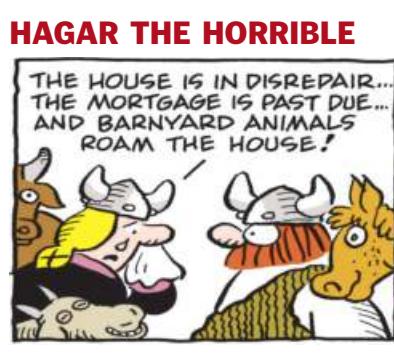
### Why hasn't your Kollywood début happened yet?

• A part of me was waiting for something that really resonated with me and the other part wasn't confident enough. So far, nothing has been planned. Acting and singing in Hollywood are definitely part of my dream. Let's see what's in store.

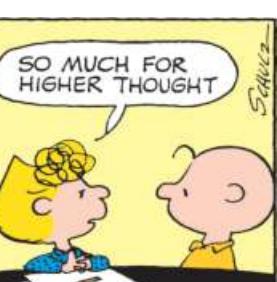
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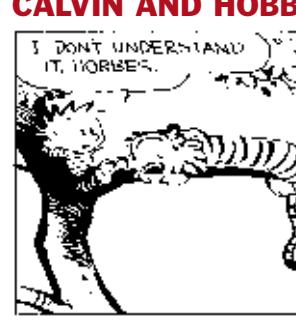
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### PEANUTS



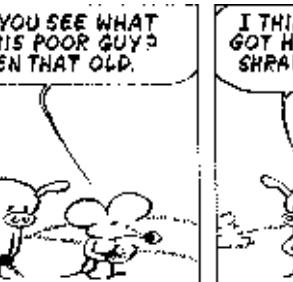
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### TIGER



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



# Virus was not manmade: U.S. agencies

Intel officials 'are examining whether the origins of the pandemic trace to an accident at a Chinese lab'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that the new coronavirus was "not manmade or genetically modified" but say they are still examining whether the origins of the pandemic trace to contact with infected animals or an accident at a Chinese lab.

The statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the clearinghouse for the web of U.S. spy agencies, comes as President Donald Trump and his allies have touted the as-yet-unproven theory that an infectious disease lab in Wuhan, the epicentre of the Chinese outbreak, was the source of the global pandemic that has killed more than 220,000 worldwide.

**COVID-19**

In recent days, the Trump administration has sharpened its rhetoric on China, accusing the geopolitical foe and vital trading partner of failing to act swiftly enough to stop the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 or sound the alarm to the world about the outbreak.

"The Intelligence Community also concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified," said the statement. "The IC will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."

Mr. Trump addressed the theory earlier this month, saying, "More and more, we're hearing the story." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added: "The mere fact



**Prayer time:** Devotees gather on the occasion of Buddha's birthday at Jogyesa Temple in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

## South Korea leads virus success with no new case

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

left Germany expecting its biggest recession since the Second World War.

But for the first time since the new disease was detected there in mid-February, South Korea reported zero new infections.

The East Asian nation had the world's second-largest coronavirus outbreak for a period after the virus emerged in China late last year. But with an aggressive test-and-trace strategy and widespread social distancing, it has managed to bring the spread of the pathogen under control.

that we don't know the answers – that China hasn't shared the answers – I think it is very, very telling."

Mr. Pompeo also pressed

China to let outside experts into the lab "so that we can determine precisely where this virus began."

Scientists say the virus

arose naturally in bats. Even so, Mr. Pompeo and others have pointed fingers at an institute that is run by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It

## Cases in Russia cross 1,00,000

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

COVID-19 cases in Russia surged past 1,00,000 on Thursday, the government said, with an increase of 7,099 confirmed infections in the last 24 hours. Russia has so far recorded 1,06,498 cases and 1,073 deaths from the virus. Russia recently surpassed Iran and China in the total number of confirmed infections and is now eighth in the world in virus cases. With the number of infections on the rise, President Vladimir Putin warned this week that the situation remained "very difficult".

"I would like to point out again that the origin of the virus is a complex scientific issue, and it should be studied by scientists and professionals," Mr. Geng said.

He also criticised U.S. politicians who have suggested China should be held accountable for the global pandemic, saying they should spend their time on "better controlling the epidemic situation at home".

But a government spokesman, Zhao Lijian, demonstrated that China was not above sowing confusion. He tweeted in March the falsehood that the virus might have come from the U.S. Army.

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## MARKET WATCH

	30-04-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	33,718	3.05
US Dollar	75.09	0.75
Brent oil	25.65	10.03

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	290.10	2.45
Asian Paints	1758.70	-8.80
Axis Bank	444.90	5.80
Bajaj Auto	2623.30	124.15
Bajaj Finance	5104.35	105.70
Bajaj Finance	2318.10	21.65
Bharti Airtel	514.30	18.30
BPCL	370.00	9.25
Britannia Ind	3165.75	8.95
Cipla	589.60	-6.65
Coal India	148.50	8.65
Dr Reddys Lab	3936.30	55.60
Eicher Motors	14707.95	392.20
GAIL (India)	95.70	6.60
Grasim Ind	504.90	2.95
HCL Tech	543.55	51.80
HDFC	1916.00	79.25
HDFC Bank	1001.80	24.70
Hero MotoCorp	2166.50	196.45
Hindalco	130.20	13.90
Hind Unilever	2195.00	-36.75
ICICI Bank	380.15	9.70
IndusInd Bank	468.15	-2.95
Bharti Infratel	174.40	11.40
Infosys	715.50	38.95
Indian Oil Corp	84.20	3.70
ITC	182.05	-0.10
JSW Steel	180.65	16.55
Kotak Bank	1357.20	29.35
L&T	897.55	22.20
M&M	366.65	18.65
Maruti Suzuki	5358.80	290.35
Nestle India Ltd.	17924.65	434.95
NTPC	95.05	4.85
ONGC	79.90	9.40
PowerGrid Corp	162.05	4.00
Reliance Ind	1466.00	39.05
State Bank	190.50	0.40
Shree Cement	19767.90	596.45
Sun Pharma	464.45	-13.20
Tata Motors	93.25	15.10
Tata Steel	298.30	15.65
TCS	2014.45	108.80
Tech Mahindra	546.25	17.55
Titan	970.05	44.65
UltraTech Cement	3534.30	99.95
UPL	420.05	59.45
Vedanta	89.55	10.40
Wipro	190.95	10.30
Zee Entertainment	159.35	-0.05

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.91	75.23
Euro	81.42	81.77
British Pound	93.66	94.08
Japanese Yen (100)	70.23	70.54
Chinese Yuan	10.63	10.68
Swiss Franc	77.09	77.43
Singapore Dollar	53.15	53.38
Canadian Dollar	54.01	54.25
Malaysian Ringgit	17.42	17.52
Australian Dollar	49.15	49.36

Source: Indian Bank

was exacerbated with the outbreak, and the ensuing national lockdown," he added.

Among the segment-wise businesses of HUL, beauty and personal care, the largest segment, fell 24% while the food and refreshment vertical declined 6.7%. The homecare segment declined 4.34%.

Incidentally, the impact of COVID-19 was clearly visible as the company saw a jump of almost 60 times in the sales of hand sanitisers.

Meanwhile, the board proposed a final dividend of ₹14 per share which, when combined with the interim dividend of ₹11, would result in a total dividend payout of ₹25 per share for FY20.

# RIL net drops 37% on virus, oil impact

Firm announces rights issue at ₹1,257 apiece, share ratio is 1:15; Aramco deal worth \$15 billion on track

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Thursday reported a sharp 37.2% dip in its fourth quarter net profit to ₹6,546 crore, dragged down by an exceptional item of ₹4,245 crore, mainly on account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, inventory losses due to fall in crude oil prices and an incremental liability towards licence fees.

Profitability from the company's core businesses of refining, petrochemicals, oil and gas fell while retail and telecommunications offset some of the losses from other segments.

RIL announced a rights issue of ₹53,125 crore at ₹1,257 per share with the share ratio pegged at 1:15.

Revenue fell 2.5% to ₹1,51,209 crore but EBITDA

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

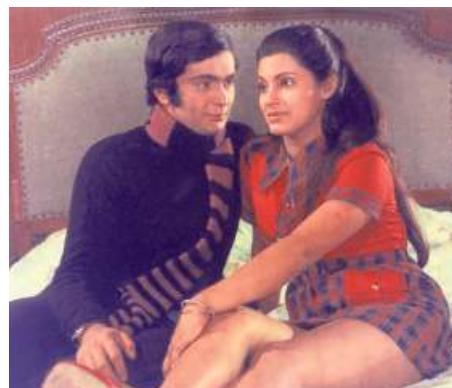
increased by 7.6% to ₹25,886 crore. Reliance Industries' chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said, "Our consumer businesses further strengthened their leadership positions and recorded robust growth on all operating and financial pa-

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

rameters during the year. Both Retail and Jio continue to work towards providing superior products and services to Indian consumers."

"We are fully committed on our investment plans in our consumer businesses and new initiatives. We are at



BOBBY | 1973



AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY | 1977



EK CHADAR MAILI SI | 1986



KAPOOR &amp; SONS | 2016



MULK | 2018

## Rishi and the inheritance of romance

Cool and retro-cool came to live happily ever after in the persona of the actor who embodied youthfulness

NAMRATA JOSHI  
MUMBAI

If one were to describe Rishi Kapoor in a single phrase, it would be the embodiment of youth and romance. He defined love and all its protocols for the Gen X in India. An idea that, surprisingly, far from getting frayed at the seams, has been embraced heartily by millennials and Gen Z as well. Cool and retro-cool have come to live happily ever after in the persona of Rishi Kapoor.

Perhaps it has been so because the energy and liveliness he brought to romance was infectious and timeless. It's also the reason why it's hard to imagine him robbed of it now. That too at the age of just 67. He was full of life even in the thick of his treatment for leukaemia in the United States in 2018.

For a young man bequeathed with the enviable Kapoor blood and genes, Rishi was born into acting. The evidence of which was for all to see in his debut itself. Not the song 'Pyar hua iqrar hua' in his legendary father Raj Kapoor's *Shree 420* (1955), when he was barely three, but as the young Raju later in *Mera Naam Joker* (1970). It was a complicated role, of a boy's deep infatuation with his school teacher (played by Simi Garewal) and he brought alive the pain and anxieties of unattainable love well enough to bag the National Award for the Best Child Artiste.

It was the following film, again by his father, *Bobby* (1973), a quintessential Bollywood romance, that unleashed him, along with Dimple Kapadia, as heartthrobs of the nation. The film came to form a new template for rebellious love. It was a love across class barriers, a love

in which eloping was a way of making a grand statement against societal constrictions. It was all about breaking free.

More of such youthful films started piling up for him in the 1970s and early 1980s — *Rafiq Chakkar* (1975), *Khel Khel Mein* (1975), *Laila Majnu* (1976), *Kabhi Kabhi* (1976), *Hum Kisise Kum Naheen* (1977), *Sargam* (1979), *Zamane Ko Dikhana Hai* (1981) and more. All of them were marked by a zestful musical score and cool dancing moves that have been rocking the dance floor till date.

**Wholesome package**  
For the Spartan, pre-liberalisation 1970s and 80s India, his cinema would have been a wholesome package of health-

1952 - 2020

diness, abandon and recklessness. It reflected in his own body language and the colours and designs of the trademark sweaters and mufflers he wore while singing and dancing with his lady love against fetching backdrops, in the hills, by the sea and often abroad. These films were dreamscapes in which the audience could live vicariously. Some even tried to turn the aspirational into attainable. Bollywood screenwriter Ishita Moitra tells me that one of the reasons her mother agreed to marry her father was because he was called Rishi. Such was the delirious passion for him.

**Heady phase**  
His stand-out turns in this heady phase were as Akbar Ilahabadi in *Manmohan Desai's Amar Akbar Anthony* (1977), a lost and found film



From the album: Rishi Kapoor, right, with wife Neetu Singh and son Ranbir Kapoor in a photo dated September 3, 2013. ■ AFP

about three brothers which became a paean to the secular spirit of the nation. The element of cool reached the peak as music got mixed with murder to serve the most entertaining reincarnation saga — Subhash Ghai's *Karz* (1980). As Monty, Rishi strummed the guitar and sang 'Dard-e-dil' and danced to 'Om Shanti Om'. The young India did as well.

Late 1980s and 90s marked the decline of those romances. There were two stand-out films that were love triangles, in fact. One had him and Kamal Haasan vying for Dimple in her much-touted return *Saagar* (1985), and *Chandni* (1989) in which it was a fight between him and Vinod Khanna for Sridevi. *Bol Radha Bol* (1992), *Damini* (1993) and *Eena Meena Deeka* (1994) paved the way for the character roles of the 2000s. In between, in 1999,

Rishi also turned to direction with *Aa Ab Laut Chalen*.

**Undervalued versatility**  
Cinema has way of often creating neat demarcations. It can box people in limiting slots. So mainstream star may often get disregarded as an actor, unfairly so. Rishi Kapoor's versatility and the ability to transform was immense and criminally under-valued.

If his debut wasn't radical enough, a few years down the line came Ramesh Talwar's *Doosra Aadmi* (1977) that looked at the tantalising possibility of a young man-older woman relationship. He played a man, forced by tradition, to marry his widowed sister-in-law Hemal Malini in Sukhwant Dhadda's *Ek Chadar Maili Si* (1986), which was adapted from a Rajendra Singh Bedi novella. Raj Kapoor's *Prem Rog* (1982) made a progres-

sive call for widow remarriage. "I did offbeat films like *Doosra Aadmi* and *Ek Chadar Maili Si* back then, both of which failed. I was stuck with the identity of a lover boy in colourful sweaters singing songs in Ooty and Switzerland. I wasn't given enough challenging roles," he said.

He also took easily to the new ways, transitioning seamlessly into character roles and films made by a new brigade of filmmakers. From Zoya Akhtar's *Luck By Chance* (2009) to Rakhyesh Omprakash Mehra's *Delhi 6* (2009) to Imtiaz Ali's *Love Aaj Kal* (2009), from Nikhil Advani's *D-Day* (2013) to Atul Sabharwal's *Aurangzeb* (2013) and more recently as the lascivious grandfather in Shakun Batra's *Kapoor and Sons* (2016) and the patriarch with a secular heart in Anubhav Sinha's *Mulk* (2018). The

most scintillating of them all was Habib Faisal's real slice of Delhi life — *Do Dooni Chaar* (2010) — in which he and wife Neetu returned to the screen as the middle-aged, middle-class Duggals working hard to bring up their two bright children. It felt so lived in, as though they hadn't left the big screen at all.

### Social media stint

In his later years, he took just as easily to the social media as he did to the new filmmakers. Anushka Sharma introduced him to Twitter and Abhishek Bachchan revived his long defunct account. And so he started tweeting with his characteristic bluster, was blunt, forthright, disagreeable and often politically incorrect and aggressive in putting his views across.

I also got a glimpse of his mercurial side once. It was for the interview on his new online avtar that I WhatsApp-ed him only to be rebuked for not having appreciated him in *Kapoor & Sons*. However, within minutes, he seemed to have cooled down and had me come over the next day for an interview.

"I started acting when I was 15. Now, I have played a 90-year-old in *Kapoor & Sons*. I know you didn't like me in it, but it was important for me as an actor to have covered the entire spectrum," he told me. It was a wide-ranging conversation conducted over glasses of *pudina chhaas* (mint buttermilk), which he claimed was the best I could get in Mumbai. I couldn't have agreed more.

What lingers on still is this one line: "I am happy being an *abhineta* (actor), not a *netaji* (politician)... Acting gives me a high".

## Film fraternity recalls star's jovial personality

'Rishi had a larger-than-life presence'

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Rishi Kapoor's death was mourned by the film industry, as Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan and Karan Johar called it the end of an era of Hindi cinema, recalling his jovial and larger-than-life persona.



Neetu Singh and Abhishek Bachchan at Rishi Kapoor's funeral. ■ PTI

Faisal, who directed Kapoor in *Do Dooni Chaar* (2010), told *The Hindu* that the actor was keen on doing a sequel to the film once. "He was passionate about three things: films, food and people," said Mr. Faisal. Filmmaker Nikhil Advani, who worked with Kapoor in *D-Day* told *The Hindu*, "We were pretty honest with each other and I would call it a unique friendship."

Aamir Khan said that the industry has lost one of the greatest today, who was "100 percent a child of cinema". "You will be badly missed Rishi," he said. Madhuri Dixit said working with the veteran actor in films like

*Yaaraan* (1981) and *Prem Granth* (1996) was an honour and that she was "absolutely heartbroken" with his demise.

Filmmaker Maneesh Sharma, who directed him in *Shuddh Desi Romance* (2013) said, "He was the oldest person on set but the youngest at heart. It was the biggest pleasure for me when he agreed to do that film, and I was a fanboy throughout the shoot."

Singer Asha Bhosle said the actor was always by her side but she could not be with him in this hour of grief. Filmmaker Habib

### IN BRIEF



Sania nominated for Fed Cup Heart award

NEW DELHI  
Sania Mirza on Thursday became the first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania zone. She recently made a comeback to Fed Cup tennis after four years, with her 18-month son Izhaan present in the stands. ■ PTI

### Labuschagne gets CA contract, Khawaja out

MELBOURNE  
Marnus Labuschagne and Joe Burns were rewarded for their performances in Cricket Australia's annual player contracts announced on Thursday. Usman Khawaja and Shaun Marsh missed out. ■ PTI

### Virus forces Hundred delay

LONDON  
English cricket's new Hundred competition has been delayed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was announced on Thursday. ■ AFP

### Nakamura, Caruana and Liren make the last four

NEW DELHI  
Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana and Ding Liren joined Magnus Carlsen in the semifinals of the \$250,000 Magnus Carlsen online chess tournament on Wednesday. Sixth round results: Hikaru Nakamura (USA) bt Ding Liren (Chn) 3-2; Fabiano Caruana (USA) bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 2.5-1.5.

## Football legend Chuni Goswami passes away

Led India to glory at the 1962 Asian Games; also captained Bengal in the Ranji Trophy

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Subimal 'Chuni' Goswami — the man who inspired India to its most talked-about moment of football glory, gold at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta — is no more. The footballer extraordinaire breathed his last in a city nursing home on Thursday evening. He was 82.

The high point of India's presence in international football came in the 1960s, and it was Goswami's leadership that brought together a group of outstanding players who produced magic for the team, which beat South Korea 2-1 in the final.

**Extremely skilful**  
"I always called him 'Captain'. There was a commanding [quality] about him that made him the natural choice as captain," said Arun Ghosh, the great defender of the gold-winning team. "He was extremely skilful as a forward and most of our opponents planned their strategies keeping Chuni da [elder brother] in mind. He possessed the skill and ingenuity to beat any kind of defence."

According to statistics available with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Goswami represented India in 36 official international matches, including 16 as captain. He scored 13 international goals. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1963 and the Padma Shri in 1983.



Multifaceted: Chuni made his mark both as a brilliant footballer and a quality cricketer. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.N. CHARI

### Greats pay tribute

**Tulsidas Balaram (part of the football trinity with PK and Chuni):** I am really shocked. First PK Banerjee and now Chuni is gone. We were very, very good friends. We had mutual respect. I have so many fond memories. I'm really not in a frame of mind to speak further.

**S.S. Hakim (Olympics teammate):** I vividly remember he played the best against France in the 1960 Games. India may not see such great footballers. They were passionate about the game, simple, humble and gentlemen to the core, who put national pride ahead of anything.

the golden generation of Indian football. Chuni-Da you will remain alive in our hearts," said AIFF president Praful Patel in a statement.

**Darling of fans, peers**  
Goswami's quick reflexes and dribbling ability made him the darling of both fans and peers. "The stories about his exceptional skill which helped Mohun Bagan win scores of titles have been passed down through generations and make him so popular even now," said Olympian Samar Banerjee.

"Chuni Goswami is a god for me. He is definitely one of the best footballers to have played for the country. The loss is irreparable," said former India captain and Mohun Bagan stalwart Subrata Bhattacharya.

A versatile sportsman, Goswami captained the Bengal cricket team to the Ranji Trophy final in 1971-72 and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Cricket Association of Bengal in 2012.

Goswami is survived by his wife and son.

## Bengal's cricket family fondly remembers Chuni

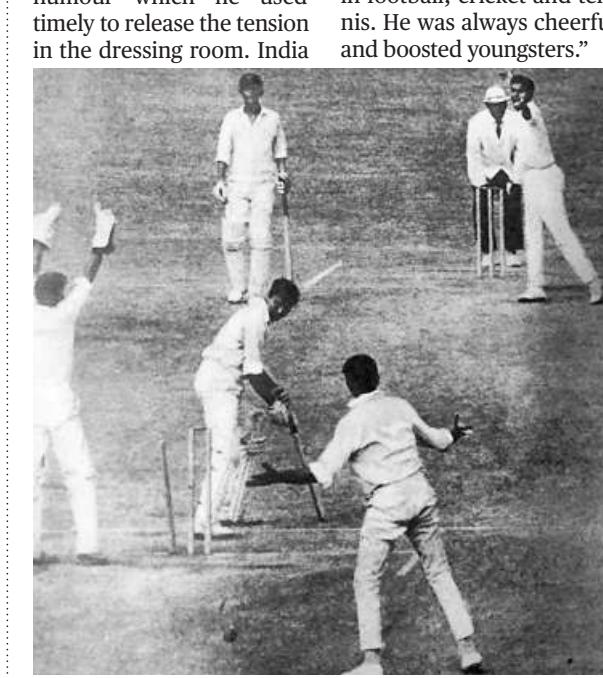
Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Bengal's cricket fraternity too mourned deeply at the passing away of Chuni Goswami.

Former Test cricketer Dipal Doshi said it was a privilege to play with Goswami.

"He was India's all-round sportsman and there was much to learn from him about fitness and fighting spirit.

"His will to fight the issue out was infectious and as a footballer and India's captain as well, we learnt much about fitness attitude from him. He had a great sense of humour which he used timely to release the tension in the dressing room. India



Long vigil ends: Chuni Goswami, being dismissed by Milind Rege, scored 96 and 84 for Bengal in the 1969 Ranji Trophy final against Bombay. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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