

Since 1920s the Oldest Daily...

# Daily Telegrams

...the Largest Circulating Daily of the Islands

**Weather**

Dry weather most likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 32°C and 25°C respectively on Monday 13/04/2020.

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 33.1  
 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 26.6  
 Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST 074  
 Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST 072  
 Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0509  
 Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1731  
 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 000.0  
 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0  
 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 1.3 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

Regn. No. 34190/75

No. 93

Port Blair, Monday April 13, 2020

Web: dt.andaman.gov.in

Rs. 3.00

Pages 4

## PM Modi to share his thoughts in 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on All India Radio on April 26

Port Blair, Apr 12

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will share his thoughts with the people in the country and abroad in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on All India Radio on 26th of this month. It will be the 64th episode of the monthly radio programme. In a tweet, Shri Modi invited people to share their ideas on topics he should address on the 64th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'. People can dial 1800-11-7800 to record their message and can write on the NaMo App Open Forum or on MyGov. People can also give a missed call on 1922 and follow the link received in SMS to directly give their suggestions. People can share their ideas on topics till 25th April.

Share your ideas & suggestions for

### Mann Ki Baat

on 26th April - 11AM

Your insights maybe shared by the PM with the entire nation!

WRITE TO THE PM NOW THROUGH: Narendra Modi App | MyGov | Post Box No.: 111

Share your ideas & suggestions for

## More than Rs 5,000 Cr transferred to accounts of 7.15 Cr beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

New Delhi, Apr 12

As on date, oil marketing companies have initiated transfer of Rs 5,606 crore to 7.15 Crore Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary accounts for availing free delivery of LPG cylinder under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package. Booking of 1.26 Crore cylinders has been done in this month by the beneficiaries, out of which about 85 lakh cylinders have been delivered to PMUY beneficiaries.

There are 27.87 Crore active LPG consumers in the country, with the PMUY beneficiaries accounting for over 8 crore. Since the lockdown, 50 to 60 lakh cylinders are being delivered daily in the country. When there is nationwide lockdown and the people are staying home to stay safe, LPG delivery boys and all those in the supply chain of LPG are working tirelessly to ensure that clean fuel reaches people directly at their homes.

The Centre has announced pro-poor initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, as part of economic response to COVID-19. As per this scheme, free LPG Refills are to be provided to

**PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN YOJANA (PMGKY)**

Initiatives announced under PMGKY aim at alleviating the hardships faced by poor due to economic disruption by Coronavirus

- Free LPG refills to Ujjwala beneficiaries from April to June 2020
- Transfer of Rs 5,606 crore into 7.15 Crore PMUY beneficiaries
- About 85 lakh cylinders delivered so far in April 2020
- 27.87 crore active LPG consumers in the country, with over 8 crore PMUY beneficiaries
- 50 to 60 lakh cylinders delivered daily during the lockdown period
- Waiting period for cylinders at most of the places is less than two days
- LPG delivery personnel working tirelessly to ensure that clean fuel reaches to the people
- All customers holding an installed LPG connection under PMUY as of 31.03.2020, eligible to get PMGKY benefits

(Contd. on last page)

## Contributions received towards Lt Governor's Relief Fund

Port Blair, Apr 12

More contributions have been received towards Lt Governor's Relief Fund. Accordingly, the Kamraj English Medium School managed by Andaman Nadar Urabinmurai Sangam Trust-delegation of office bearers Shri V Loganathan (President), Shri Antony Patrick (Secretary), Shri C. Muthu Kumar (Treasurer) and Shri J. Sasi Kumar (Advisor) presented a cheque of Rupees Three Lakhs. Shri Kanchan Lall also donated Rupees Fifty thousand towards LG's Relief Fund.

These cheques were handed over to Shri



Kulanand Joshi, Secretary to the Lt Governor, A&N Islands yesterday. These donors also appreciated the efforts/measures being taken by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration towards containment of COVID-19.



## COVID-19: LIC allows 30-Day extension for premiums due in March, April

New Delhi, Apr 12

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced an extension of 30 days for payment of premium due in March and April 2020 to mitigate the hardships being faced by policyholders in the wake of COVID-19. LIC said that relaxation is allowed up to April 15 for February premiums, where grace period was expiring after March 22. It also said that policy holders can pay premiums through LIC's digital payment options without any service charge. Premiums can also be paid by downloading mobile app LIC Pay Direct.

## LG appeals people to contribute generously towards Lt. Governor's Relief Fund

Port Blair, Apr 12

The Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund is administered for providing charitable and welfare measures in the form of financial assistance to the very needy residents of these Islands in cases of privation and also to those affected by natural

calamities like fire, flood, earthquake, cyclone, etc. poor and indigent people, needy persons requiring medical relief, persons in recognition of their acts of valour/bravery at the personal risk of the individual, bereaved families of the persons who are killed/attacked by any

of the hostile tribes residing in the A&N Islands, sportsman who has won national or international award in the field of sports and talented youths of the Islands in the field of education who has secured a top rank in an All India Examination etc.

In the wake of COVID-19 epidemic in the Island, the Lt. Governor Relief Fund has been getting generous contributions from people across the Islands recently. A list of persons who have contributed to Lt. Governor's Relief Fund since March 2020 till 08.04.2020 is given below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address	Date	Amount (In Rs.)	Amount in Words
1.	Shri Dalwinder Singh Toor	31.03.2020	1,00,000.00	Rs. One Lakh only
2.	Shri Laxmikant Tiwari	02.04.2020	1,011.00	Rs. One thousand eleven only
3.	By CLG-ZERO FLOAT SBI Bank vide Cheque No. 000000156483	02.04.2020	25,000.00	Rs. Twenty Five thousand only
4.	By CLG-ZERO FLOAT SBI Bank vide Cheque No. 000000032047	02.04.2020	20,000.00	Rs. Twenty thousand only
5.	Shri P.Surya Rao	02.04.2020	2,00,000.00	Rs. Two Lakhs only
6.	Shri Sunil Mazumder, Rangat	02.04.2020	10,000.00	Rs. Ten thousand only
7.	By CLG-ZERO FLOAT SBI Bank vide Cheque No. 000000600834	03.04.2020	11,100.00	Rs. Eleven thousand one hundred only
8.	Shri. S.Balakrishna	03.04.2020	1,000.00	Rs. One thousand only
9.	Association of Catholics vide Cheque No. 887212	07.04.2020	2,00,000.00	Rs. Two lakhs only
10.	Association of Catholics vide Cheque No. 360295	07.04.2020	2,00,000.00	Rs. Two Lakhs only
11.	M/s Castle Ships Pvt. Ltd.	07.04.2020	11,00,000.00	Rs. Eleven Lakhs only
12.	Shri Kuttasheri Abdul	07.04.2020	1,700.00	Rs. One thousand seven hundred only
13.	Shri T. Manish/T. Adimanish	08.04.2020	1,200.00	Rs. One thousand two hundred only
14.	Shri T. Manish/T. Adimanish	08.04.2020	1,800.00	Rs. One thousand eight hundred only
15.	Ms. M. Parbati/Parbati Mazumder	08.04.2020	1,800.00	Rs. One thousand eight hundred only
16.	St. Mary's Charitable and Educational Society	08.04.2020	5,00,000.00	Rs. Five Lakhs only

While thanking profusely for the contributions made to the LG's Relief Fund in the fight against COVID-19, the Lt Governor has appealed to every Islanders including Government Servants, private entrepreneurs, philanthropists and voluntary organizations and general public to continue to contribute

generously to this Fund. Contributions to the LG's Relief Fund are voluntary and not compulsory and are fully exempted from Income Tax under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. The Permanent Account Number (PAN) of the Fund is AAAGL0242G. Contribution can be made to "Lt. Governor's Relief Fund, Andaman and Nicobar

Islands" through cheque, bank draft, cash or electronic transfer to Syndicate Bank, Port Blair Main Branch A/C No. 99002010002104 (IFSC Code: SYNB0009900), which will be duly acknowledged by LG's Secretariat. All contributors to the Fund who transfer the amount through Online/electronic

transfer may kindly submit their details viz. name, address & amount deposited etc by email to secytlg.and@nic.in, LG's Secretariat, Raj Niwas, so that it could be properly acknowledged & accounted in the LG's Relief Fund Account, a communication from the Secretary to the Lt. Governor, Shri Kulanand Joshi said.

## Restrictions on movement of people in A&N Islands; relaxation in selective cases

- ❖ Cases of death/serious illness of nearest kith & kin
- ❖ Govt. servants required for performing essential duty
- ❖ Doctor/Health staff

Port Blair, Apr 12

In order to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the Islands, various directions have been issued by the A&N Administration/Govt. of India to minimize and restrict the movement of general public and to ensure social distancing. However, requests/applications have been coming from various quarters for movement of the people from South Andaman District (Main Island) to other Islands of the District namely Little Andaman, Swaraj Dweep, and Shaheed Dweep etc. and also to the other Districts of the UT, on account of various grounds/reasons. The matter has been considered and keeping in view of the directives/advisories/guidelines of the GoI on COVID-19 and taking into

account local requirements, the following cases of the Inter-District movement shall be considered:-

- ❖ Cases of death/serious illness of nearest kith and kin: The application should be verified by the concerned Assistant Commissioner/Tehsildar. If the request is found genuine, a maximum number of two persons will be allowed per case, provided they undertake the COVID-19 test and if found negative, may be allowed to move to their place of stay, strictly

maintaining the norms of social distancing during transfer.

- ❖ Govt. servants required for performing essential duty: The application/requirement to be recommended by the concerned HoD. This will

(Contd. on last page)

## Around 32 crore people receive benefits under PMGK Package

New Delhi, Apr 12

Government has provided over Rs 28,000 crore support through Direct Benefit Transfer to around 32 crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan relief package announced in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. In a tweet, Finance Ministry said, around Rs 14,000 crore have been directly transferred to

approximately 7 crore farmers under PM - KISAN scheme and Rs 10,000 crore to over 19 crore PMJDY women account holders and Rs 3,000 crore to 2 crore building and other construction workers till yesterday. Over Rs 1400 crore have been transferred in the accounts of around three crore divyans, senior citizens and aged widows as well.

## COVID-19: LIC allows 30-Day extension for premiums due in March, April

New Delhi, Apr 12

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced an extension of 30 days for payment of premium due in March and April 2020 to mitigate the hardships being faced by policyholders in the wake of COVID-19. LIC said that relaxation is allowed up to April 15 for February premiums, where grace period was expiring after March 22. It also said that policy holders can pay premiums through LIC's digital payment options without any service charge. Premiums can also be paid by downloading mobile app LIC Pay Direct.

## 'Shop On Wheels' - providing ration articles to beneficiaries at their door steps at Campbell Bay

Port Blair, Apr 12

The A&N Administration is making all efforts to maintain supplies of essential commodities to the general public in every part of the Islands. In Campbell Bay, ration items are loaded on truck from godown near Zero Point, which moves village wise locations at East -West Road and North-South Road for its distribution to the villagers.



The AAY and PHH card holders are being provided ration items/supplies for next 3 months in their respective villages. Supply

in-charges and volunteers after verifying the card holders; distribute food grains to the beneficiaries. (Contd. on last page)

**DO NOT PAY HEED TO RUMOURS ON CORONA VIRUS: CLARIFY YOUR DOUBTS BY DIALING STATE HELPLINE NO: 03192-232102**

**Health bulletin for containment of COVID-19**

**Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**

(No. 13/ 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020)  
**COVID-19 STATUS AS ON 12.04.2020**

Andaman & Nicobar Islands:			
Total Positive cases			11
Cured/Discharged from Hospital			10
Death			00
Admitted at Hospital			01
Migrated out of Country			00
Outside Resident			00
Status of Hospitals:			
Name of Hospital	Isolation Beds Available	Occupied	Positive Cases Admitted
G B Pant Hospital, Port Blair	50	01	01
* No cases are admitted at Private Hospital. * <i>The Health Condition of all +Ve cases are Normal and Stable.</i>			
Status of Sample Testing:			
Total Samples sent till date			886
Total Reports received till date			804
Total Pending Reports			82
> House to house surveillance in three "Hot Spots" i.e. Atlanta Point, Mohanpura Masjid area and Biggiline area are conducted by District Administration with the help of Health Workers. > Intensive awareness is continued through print and electronic media. > 2020 passengers screened at VSI Airport till 24.03.2020 by medical teams. > Calls received at 102 - 165 calls. > 15 lines are activated in State Head Quarter Control Room and District Headquarter Control Room also set up at North & Middle Andaman District and Nicobar District. > 10 COVID-19 patient cured and now under observation. > 469 persons put under Institutional Quarantine as on today which includes passengers as well as contacts.			
SURVEILLANCE DATA			
Contacts put under Home Quarantine till date			270
Contacts under Home Quarantine as on today			270
Contacts completed 14 days period of Home Quarantine			41
Persons under Institutional Quarantine as on today			261 **
Persons completed 14 days period of Institutional Quarantine			208
Passengers completed 14 days period of Quarantine			1812
** The figure contains institutional Quarantine persons from passengers as well as contacts both.			

#StayAlertStaySafe  
Govt launches 'AAROGYA SETU APP' a Bluetooth-based COVID-19 Tracker

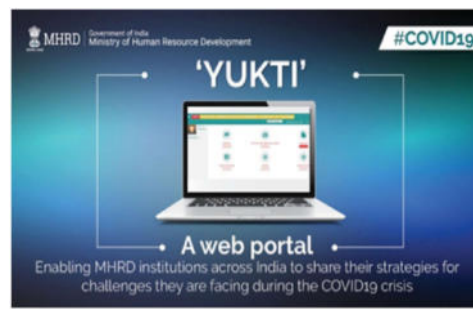
DOWNLOAD THE APP  
Google Play | App Store

24x7 CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS: 240126/232102/1077/1070

(Source: Principal Secretary (Health), A&N Administration)

**HRD Minister launches web portal 'YUKTI'**

New Delhi, Apr 12  
Minister for Human Resource Development Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) in New Delhi today. The portal and dashboard will monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of Ministry of HRD. It intends to cover different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a holistic and comprehensive way. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nishank said, in the wake of COVID-19 threat, the primary aim is to keep the academic community healthy, both physically



and mentally and to enable a continuous high-quality learning environment. The portal is an effort of HRD Ministry to achieve this goal in these difficult times. The Minister informed that it will cover the various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to COVID, social initiatives

services to the academic community at large. He said that portal will also allow various institutions to share their strategies for various challenges. The HRD Minister hoped that this portal will give inputs for better planning and will enable the Ministry to monitor its activities effectively for coming six months. Dr. Nishank said that the portal will also establish a two-way communication channel between the Ministry of HRD and the institutions to provide the necessary support system to the institutions. He said that the Government is confident that the portal will help in critical issues related to student promotion policies, placements related challenges and physical and mental well-being of students in these challenging times. Dr. Nishank said, the web platform Yukti will epitomize its name and prove to be a great enabler in taking the research to the citizens of the country, the ultimate stakeholders.

**More than Rs 5,000 Cr ...**

(Contd. from page 1)  
Ujjwala beneficiaries over the period of 3 months, from April to June. From Mountainous terrain to backwaters, hamlets in deserts to habitations in forests, these Corona warriors are steadfast in their duties and ensuring timely delivery. Even in these trying times, the waiting period for cylinders at most of the places is less than 2 days. All Customers, holding an installed LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana as of 31st March, are eligible to get the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The scheme has started from 1st April and will continue upto 30th June.

**NYK distributes masks in N&M Andaman**

Port Blair, Apr 12  
The Nehru Yuva Kendra, Rangat (Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport, Govt. of India) has distributed masks to Various Departments of Rangat & Mayabunder zone. Accordingly, it distributed masks to Police Station Rangat, Electricity Site Office Rangat, Electricity Power House Rangat Bay, Electricity Site Office, Nimbutala. Further, the NYK, Rangat has also sent a list of volunteers and youth clubs willing to work voluntarily, if needed, to Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, a communication from the District Youth Coordinator, NYK Rangat said.

**'Shop On Wheels'- providing....**

(Contd. from page 1)  
Norms of social distancing and masks are being ensured by volunteers involved in the distribution of food grains to the villagers. Till now, 650 out of 3053 beneficiaries have been provided ration items/supplies for the next 3 months. Distribution to others will be completed within this week. This is being done considering the geographical spread of Great Nicobar Island. Further, these trucks will be used to provide grocery items, LPG etc. to far flung villages along North South and East West Road, official sources informed.



**Restrictions on movement ...**

(Contd. from page 1)  
be subject to medical checkup at both the borders/points of embarkation/disembarkation and maintenance of norms of social distancing during transit.  
❖ Movement of Doctor/Health staff: These cases to be recommended by the Secretary (Health)/DHS. This will be subject to medical checkup at both the borders/points of embarkation/disembarkation and maintenance of norms of social distancing during transit.  
The movement is allowed in the above cases only for proceeding to the place of their permanent stay or workplace, medical urgency or for office work. No other cases shall be allowed. In the above cases, the application in this regard is to be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner (SA) for consideration. In case the permission is granted, due intimation to the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District will be given, so that health checkup/temperature checkup can be arranged as per COVID-19 protocols at the place of boarding/disembarking/checkpost, a communication from the Dy. Commissioner (SA)/DM said here today.



**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19**



**The Scheme at a Glance**

- Q1: What does this Scheme cover?**  
This accident insurance scheme covers:
  - Loss of life due to COVID19, and
  - Accidental death on account of COVID-19 related duty.
- Q2: Who all are covered under the scheme?**
  - Public healthcare providers including community health workers, who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 case and who may be at risk of being impacted by this.
  - Private hospital staff and retired /volunteer /local urban bodies/ contracted /daily wage /ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by States/ Central hospitals/ autonomous hospitals of Central/ States/UTs, AIIMS and INIs/ hospital of Central Ministries can also be drafted for COVID 19 related responsibilities.
- Q3: When does insurance coverage policy begins and ends?**
  - The duration of the policy is for a period of 90 days, starting from March 30, 2020.
- Q4: Is there any age-limit for health workers under this scheme?**
  - There is no age limit for this scheme.
- Q5: Is individual enrolment required?**
  - Individual enrolment is not required.
- Q6: Whether an individual is required to pay any premium to be eligible under the scheme?**
  - The entire amount of premium for this scheme is being borne by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- Q7: What is the benefit available to the insured persons?**
  - INR 50 LAKHS will be paid to the claimant of the insured person.
- Q8: If a person is having another Personal accident policy or life insurance policy, what is the effect of the same on claim under this policy?**
  - The benefit/claim under this policy is in addition to the amount payable under any other policies.

**Availing Claims**

**Whom to contact in case of any claim?**

- The institution/department the insured person was working for has to be informed.
- Insurance company must be intimated via email id nia.312000@newindia.co.in

**Process of claim submission**

- The claimant needs to fill up the claim form along with necessary documents as prescribed and submit the same to Healthcare Institution/ organization/ office where the deceased was an employee of /engaged by the institution.
- The respective institution will give the necessary certification and forward it to competent authority.
- Competent authority for State/UT is Director General Health Services /Director Health Services/ Director Medical Education or any other Official specifically authorised by the State/UT Government for this purpose.
- Competent authority for Central Government, Central Autonomous / PSU Hospitals, AIIMS, INIs and Hospitals of other Central Ministries is Director or Medical Superintendent or Head of the concerned institution.
- Competent authority will forward and submit claim to the insurance company for approval.

**Whom to contact from insurance company?**

Contact the following officials regarding any claim related queries:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Mrs. Sarika Arora</b><br>Divisional Manager<br>Email: sarika.arora@newindia.co.in or nia.312000@newindia.co.in<br>Mob: 9811632409 | <b>Mr. N. Ravi Rao</b><br>Deputy Manager<br>Email: ravin.rao@newindia.co.in or niadelbroker20@gmail.com<br>Mob: 9312409914 | <b>Mr. Yogendra Singh Tanwar</b><br>Administrative Officer<br>Email: yogendra.tanwar@newindia.co.in<br>Mob: 9899974549 |
|--|--|--|

For further information related to the scheme write to [pmgkinsurance2020@gmail.com](mailto:pmgkinsurance2020@gmail.com)

## Govt ensures availability of all essential commodities including daily requirements during lockdown

New Delhi, Apr 12

Central Government has ensured availability of all essential commodities including daily requirements during the 21 day nationwide lockdown. Cooperation of citizens during the past 19 days of this lockdown has been exemplary and no incident of shortage of food supplies has been reported across sections of media.

Even though the Centre announced a 21 day lock down to curb the corona outbreak, it also ensured that the essential needs of the people do not remain under locks

While on one hand the private sector announced work from home or leave for its employees, the health care professionals, security forces, sanitation

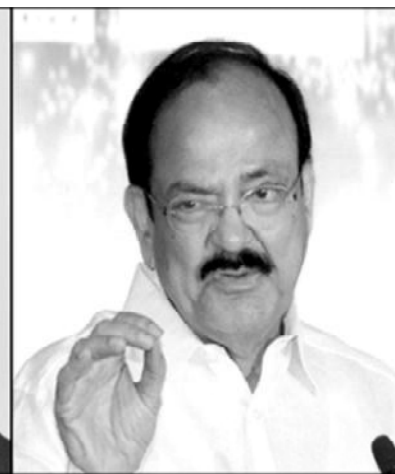
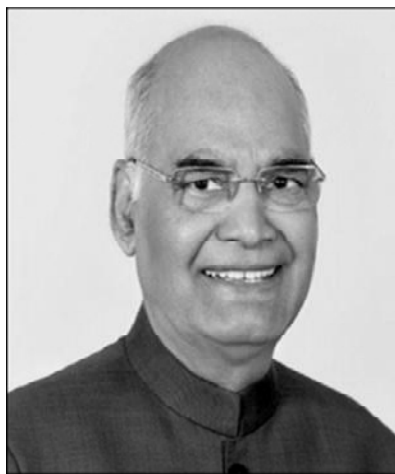
workers, railway employees, civil aviation employees, farmers involved in production of everyday needs, shopkeeper and even the delivery boys through their untiring efforts ensured that India wins in a nationwide campaign against Corona.

Every ministry under the direct guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are constantly making efforts to ensure that there is no dearth of resources and food supplies across the length and breadth of the country. Prime Minister had three marathon meetings with state Chief Ministers and took stock of the ground situation of the migrant laborers, farmers, old citizens and women living in the hinterland of the country and transfer of assistance

amount to 30 crore beneficiaries under the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme was also ensured.

To maintain the supplies of daily essentials like milk, vegetables and cereals, Railways alone transported more than 7 lakh wagon freight which ensured that there was no shortage of goods in the market and this is the reason that even on the 19th day of the lockdown not a single incidence of shortage of supply of food items from any corner of the country has surfaced. Home Ministry's far-sighted and timely decisions which restricted any hoarding and black-marketing of goods ensured that though our common movements may be locked under this lockdown but our requirements don't remain under locks.

## Easter celebrations across world amid COVID-19; Prez, PM greet people on Easter



New Delhi, Apr 12

Easter was celebrated across the globe today. It signifies the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion and death at Calvary on Good Friday. President, Vice President and Prime Minister have greeted people on Easter. President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind said, a very sacred festival for the Christians, Easter inspires people to follow the path of love, sacrifice and forgiveness. He called upon people to learn from the teachings of Jesus Christ and work together to advance the common good of entire humanity.

The President hoped that the

festival will instill in people the sense of unity and reinforce the commitment to the well-being and prosperity of the nation and a shared society. He called upon people to resolve to celebrate the sacred festival with the families staying at home, following Social Distancing norms and other government instructions in these testing times, when the nation is fighting COVID-19.

Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu said, the story of resurrection is a reminder that light will always triumph over darkness. He said, as the world strives to

overcome the formidable challenge of the spread of Coronavirus, let the spirit of Easter infuse the lives of people with courage and optimism. He called upon people to pray that India and the world will emerge victorious in fight against COVID-19.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that people remember the noble thoughts of Lord Christ, especially his unwavering commitment to empowering the poor and needy. He expressed hope that this Easter will give people added strength to successfully overcome COVID-19 and create a healthier planet.

## Railways identifies 67 routes for Parcel Special Trains since start of lockdown to supply perishable commodities

New Delhi, Apr 12

Indian Railways has identified 67 routes for Parcel Special Trains since the start of the lockdown to supply perishable commodities including fruits, vegetables, milk and dairy products and seeds. So far 62 routes have been notified and 171 time tabled trains are being run on these routes.

The Parcel Special trains have been planned to connect all the major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru. Besides, proper connectivity has also been ensured to Guwahati to ensure supplies in the North-eastern region of the country. Other important cities connected by these trains include



File Pic

Bhopal, Dehradun, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Ranchi, Raipur, Patna, Kanpur, and Jabalpur among others.

These trains are being run even on those routes where demand is less, so that no part of the country remains unconnected. Such trains

have been given en-route stoppage at all feasible locations, so that maximum possible clearance of parcels can be done. All the State Mission Directors and Concerned Secretaries were requested to mobilize all their resources to take advantage of these trains.

## IFFCO runs hundreds of awareness campaigns on Ground Zero

New Delhi, Apr 12

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, IFFCO, the leading cooperative society of the world is leading efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 at ground zero. IFFCO is continuously organizing 'Break the CORONA Chain' Social Awareness Campaign on Ground zero in different states across the country. Under the banner of this social awareness campaign over 60 camps were organized and are continuously being organized on a daily basis highlighting the preventive and precautionary measures among the masses. Even during the pandemic, all of IFFCO's plants

remain fully operational given the critical importance of the Industry. Under this campaign, aspects like Social distancing, Proper sanitization, Maintaining a healthy diet and Prevention through-covering of face by masks or Gamchha are being emphasized. Also, over 3.5 Lakh Vitamin-C Tablets, 50,000 medicated soaps, 20,000 masks, 5,000 sanitizers and numerous medical kits were distributed at different locations all across India. Apart from this, medical equipment for hospital staff and health workers were provided in the places facing a shortage of equipment.

Fertilizer sector is identified as a critical sector by the Government of India, thousands of labourers and employees are working tirelessly even during the pandemic to ensure farmers of the country face no shortage of plant nutrients. Ration kits with food material are also being provided to migrant families and families of labourers in different states. IFFCO has contributed 25 crore rupees to PM - CARES Fund.

## Consignment of hydroxychloroquine from India arrived in US



Washington, Apr 12

A consignment of hydroxychloroquine from India has arrived in the US, days after New Delhi lifted a ban on export of the anti-malarial drug to some countries on humanitarian grounds.

Earlier this week, India at the request of President Mr Donald Trump cleared the export of 35.82 lakh tablets of hydroxychloroquine to the US

## EPFO settles withdrawal claims worth 280 crore rupees to provide relief during lockdown

New Delhi, Apr 12

Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has settled 1.37 lakh provident fund withdrawal claims worth 280 crore rupees to provide relief to subscribers during the lockdown. The amount was disbursed under a new provision especially formulated by amending



the EPF Scheme to help subscribers fight Covid-19. The EPFO has settled these claims in the past ten days.

## No shortage of food grains in country: Minister

New Delhi, Apr 12

Agriculture and Rural Development Minister, Shri Narenra Singh Tomar assured that there will not be any shortage of food grains in the country. In an exclusive interview to DD News, Shri Tomar said that there

is sufficient stock of food grains and govt is committed to protect the interests of farmers during ongoing harvesting season. He highlighted the timely steps taken by the govt. to minimize the impact of lockdown on the farmers and labourers.

## India tops Hydroxychloroquine producer, exporter chart

New Delhi, Apr 12

India is the largest producer and exporter of Hydroxychloroquine with 70 per cent of annual global production. Department of Pharmaceuticals has said that there is enough stock of API and manufacturing capacity of Hydroxychloroquine formulations to meet country's requirement as

well as export obligations. Meanwhile, Senior Scientist at ICMR Dr Raman Gangakhedkar told media in New Delhi today that the use of Hydroxychloroquine is as prophylaxis and not as treatment. He said, the medicine was never recommended for general public for the treatment of COVID-19.

## No scientific evidence to prove coronavirus can be prevented in high temperature



New Delhi, Apr 12

There is a misconception that holding breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort means a person is free from coronavirus. In a tweet, Press Information Bureau said being able to do so does not mean that a person is free from

coronavirus.

It rejected another claim that exposure to high temperatures prevents COVID19. There is no scientific evidence to prove that coronavirus can be prevented in high temperature. Countries with hot weather have also reported COVID19 cases.

**SOME HELPLINE NUMBERS**

Police Control room : 100  
Fire Service : 101  
Coastal Security : 1093  
PBMC Control Room : 245798  
State control Room: 1077/234287  
Extn : 328 / 231179  
Shipping : 245555  
Women : 1091  
Children : 1098  
Coast Guard (Search & Rescue) : 1554  
District Control Room : 1070 / 238881  
Ambulance : 102

National/International  
News

**Stop Global Warming**  
Protect future generations from the harmful effects of global warming by reducing emissions from power plants, cars, factories and other sources  
You too can help!!



## CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad engaged in fight against COVID-19 on multiple fronts

Hyderabad, Apr 12

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR's constituent leading biology lab, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, CCMB based in Hyderabad is employing several tools and approaches in the country's fight against COVID-19. CCMB is an authorized testing centre for COVID-19 and receives patient samples from government hospitals across 33 districts of Telangana to check for SARS-CoV-2 virus. Currently, test capacity is around 350 samples a day. It has also trained 25 medical doctors, technical staff and students from five government hospitals - NIMS, IPM, Govt Fever Hospital in Hyderabad and Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal. CSIR-CCMB has also created training videos on best



practices for handling patient samples and on RT-PCR. These videos are available for authorized centers and can be procured by contacting director@ccmb.res.in

CSIR labs are leading the way in genome sequencing of the Corona Virus and CCMB is performing Next Generation Sequencing and analysis to map out the whole genome sequence

of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The patient samples with CCMB that show high viral load are chosen for genome analyses.

CCMB has also been actively engaged in conveying various precautions and advisories on Corona Outbreak by innovative means in regional languages on social media platforms to the public at large.

## Around 78,000 Self Help Group members of 27 State Rural Livelihood Missions produce about 2 Cr masks

New Delhi, Apr. 12

About two crore masks have been produced by around 78 thousand Self Help Group members of 27 State Rural Livelihood Missions. Rural Development Ministry has said that around five thousand Personal Protective Equipment, PPE kits have been manufactured by these groups in various states including Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Karnataka. The masks have been supplied to the state health departments, Local Self Government, local administration, front line workers, police officials,



and are also sold in open markets. They have also been distributed free to the rural households in many states. Self Help Group members have now started making Personal Protective Equipment like aprons, gowns and face shields. More than 900 groups in nine States have produced One lakh 15 thousand litres of sanitisers. Some members of the group have also been selling liquid soaps to guarantee hand hygiene.

## Over 22,000 healthcare workers infected by Covid-19 globally: WHO

New York, Apr 12

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit over 22,000 healthcare workers across 52 countries and regions, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. According to its daily situation report, 22,073 COVID-19 cases among healthcare workers have been reported to the WHO as of Wednesday, April 8. The report said the number is probably under-represented as there is so far no systematic reporting of infections among healthcare workers to the WHO. Preliminary results suggest healthcare workers are being infected both in the workplace and in the community, most often through infected family



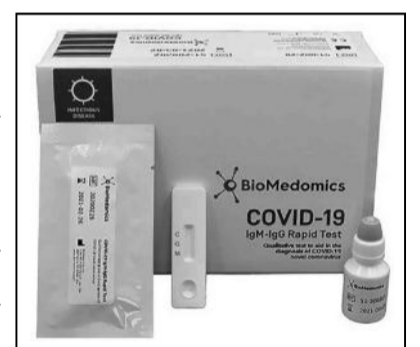
members. To protect frontline healthcare workers, the WHO stressed the correct use of personal protective equipment like masks, goggles, gloves, and gowns. Noting the risk of burnout among healthcare providers, the WHO called for respecting their rights to decent working conditions.

## DST funded startup develops kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections

New Delhi, Apr 12

Department of Science and Technology, DST funded startup has developed kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections and geared up its efforts for production of vaccine. Seagull Bio Solutions, a startup working on new biological technologies, is funded by Department of Science and Technology to undertake the development of Active Virosome Vaccine and Immuno diagnostic kits for COVID-19 emergency. Active Virosome Technology developed by Seagull Bio is useful for developing a novel vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 infection and also immunodiagnostic ELISA kits for

COVID-19. DST Secretary, Professor Ashutosh Sharma said that accurate diagnostics, breaking the chain of transmission, therapy and preventive measures including safe and effective vaccines are the foundational pillars of addressing the challenges of COVID-19. He said, of these, developing vaccines has the longest timeline and so it is essential to fast track that activity now. Polymerase chain reaction, PCR based diagnostic kits which are currently available in India are rapid and enable detection of active COVID-19 infection. It cannot identify asymptomatic



infections or those people who were exposed to or infected with COVID-19 in the past and may still be spreading the virus. In contrast, Immunodiagnostic kits help in detection of antibodies to COVID-19 which can identify these infections also.

## Commerce Ministry takes several measures to address hardships faced by exporters due to COVID-19

New Delhi, Apr 12

Commerce Ministry has taken several measures to address hardships faced by exporters due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry said that it has provided several relaxation and extensions of various compliance deadlines to address Corona pandemic related hardships of exporters. The steps include extensions of foreign trade policy by one year, export obligation under advance authorization and export promotion capital goods scheme, the validity of registration cum membership certificate, lasts date for filing claims under services and goods export from India schemes, for filing RoSCTL (Rebate on State and Central Taxes and Levies) claims,

valid period of all status holder certificates, and replenishment scheme for gems and jewellery. The Ministry said that steps have also been taken to facilitate units in special economic zones. For these zones, extensions have been given filing quarterly progress report, annual performance reports, and permission to take desktop or laptop outside SEZs by IT and non IT units. Further, the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) too has extended the time for filing declarations, report of default, filing claims and replies, reduction in policy proposal processing fee,



discretion to decide about shipments and claim eligibility period. For agri exporters, the Commerce Ministry said that certification bodies have been advised to extend the validity of organic certificates, and registration of packhouses. The Tobacco Board has extended the last date for submission of monthly returns by traders, and it has planned to start auctioning off the commodity with effect from April 15 to prevent loss of the crop.

## TRIFED asks State Nodal Departments, Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement of MFPs at MSP

New Delhi, Apr 12

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which functions under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has asked the State Nodal Departments and Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the available funds under MSP for MFP Scheme.

In a letter to Chief Secretaries, State Nodal Departments and Implementing Agencies, the

Managing Director of TRIFED Pravir Krishna said that TRIFED in collaboration with UNICEF is hosting Webinar sessions for the Van Dhan Self Help Group members of the Van DhanVikasKendras. He said, it's objective is to create awareness



among the tribal gatherers for following social distancing measures and maintaining necessary hygiene required for carrying out their operations. Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda has also written to the Chief Ministers of States to undertake the necessary measures for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on tribal communities.

## US overtakes Italy with highest coronavirus deaths

Washington, Apr 12

The United States has overtaken Italy as the country with the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 pandemic with the fatalities crossing 20,000. According to Johns Hopkins University, US registered 20,597 deaths till yesterday, surpassing Italy's 19,468 fatalities.

More than 5.3 lakh Americans have tested positive for coronavirus, which is about the same for the next four countries put together, which are Spain, Italy, Germany and France. New York City which has emerged as the epicenter, registered as many as 8,627 deaths till yesterday. President Mr. Donald Trump has



declared a national emergency and all the 50 States have been notified with major disaster declaration. More than 95 per cent of the country's 330 million population are

under stay-at-home order. Globally, the novel coronavirus has killed 108,862 people and infected over 1.7 million people, according to Johns Hopkins University.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust manages to continue its operations smoothly

Maharashtra, Apr 12

In Maharashtra, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Raigad district near Mumbai which is considered to be the busiest container port in the country has managed to continue its operations smoothly even during the nationwide lockdown. After the announcement of lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, JNPT faced several difficulties to continue the regular operation as there was shortage of contract employees, shortage of truck drivers, sealing of state and district borders and difficulty in the movement of the staff. But, the container port facilitated smooth operations

bringing together all stakeholders including 33 CFS and more than 15 empty containers yard operators. The JNPT also made some changes in its routine orders like waiving of dwell time charges and extend it till 14th of this month. It provided PPE's to all personnel entering Port premises. Free bus services for staff of stakeholders inside the premises and essential services stickers to the vehicle of the stakeholders were some other measures were done by the port.



All provision has been made for the food, water and health screening for truck drivers and

accommodation was made available to the essential services staff. On the other hand the port is also busy in creating awareness about the deadly Covid-19 and social distancing and hygiene measures in the nearby villages around the port. With these important steps India's logistics supply is functioning smoothly and JNPT has continued to play a vital role in Nation Building.