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Daily Telegrams

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Weather

Dry weather most likely to prevail over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 33°C and 26°C respectively on Thursday 09/04/2020.

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 33.6
 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 25.3
 Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST: 067
 Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST: 079
 Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0512
 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

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Port Blair, Thursday April 09, 2020

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Pages 4

COVID-19 outbreak: Prime Minister asserts priority of his govt is to save each & every life

New Delhi, Apr 8

Describing the ongoing situation arising out of COVID-19 outbreak as akin to a social emergency, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has asserted that the priority of his government is to save each and every life. Shri Modi said, the country has been forced to take tough decisions, and it must continue to remain vigilant. Interacting with leaders of political parties in Parliament, through video conferencing, the Prime Minister said that several State Governments, District Administrations



and experts have asked for extension of the phase of lockdown to contain the spread of the virus. He noted that in these changing circumstances, the country should simultaneously try to bring about a change in its work culture and working style. The Prime Minister said, the country is facing serious economic challenges as a result of COVID-19, and the Government is committed

to overcome it. Saying that the entire world is currently facing the grave challenge of COVID-19, Shri Modi added that the present situation is an epoch changing event in

(Contd. on last page)

Calcutta High Court commends efforts of A&N Administration in maintaining essential supplies & medicines to the Islanders & for protecting their health during COVID-19

Port Blair, Apr 8

The double bench of Calcutta High Court comprising of Chief Justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan and Justice Dipankar Datta, in a remarkable judgment in a Writ Petition with regard to COVID 19 - Relief and Services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, commended the steps undertaken by the A&N Administration in maintaining essential supplies and medicines to the Islanders and for ensuring and protecting their health.

It also placed on record its appreciation for no increase in the number of patients suffering from the dreaded virus. The bench lauded the efforts undertaken by the medical as well as the para-medical staff in arresting further spread of the virus. The Court also eulogized the Police Administration for maintenance of strict vigil and adherence to social distancing norms.

The Court further directed the Administration to continue with its efforts in controlling the spread of the virus in the Islands, official sources informed here today.

St. Mary's Charitable and Educational Society donates Rs 5 Lakh towards Lt Governor's Relief Fund

Port Blair, Apr 8

A delegation consisting of Fr. Biju Mathai Pulickal, Vice President, Fr Sujin Varghese, Shri C M Roy and Shri Thomas P John, all office bearers of St. Mary's Charitable and Educational Society, visited Raj Niwas to contribute Rs. Five Lakhs on behalf of the Society towards the Lt Governor's Relief Fund. The cheque was presented to Shri Kulanand Joshi, Secretary to the Lt Governor, A&N Islands. The efforts of Andaman & Nicobar Administration towards the containment of COVID-19 in the Islands and the measures taken towards ensuring regular supply of essential commodities were also appreciated by the delegation.



in Mosques and graveyards. In this connection, all the Mutawalli/Secretary have been requested to restrain gathering in Mosques and graveyards for preventive measures to contain the spread of Corona Virus and ensure that the advisory is followed scrupulously and also to cooperate with the authorities to maintain complete lockdown, a communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Waqf Board, A&N Islands said here.

Govt to issue all pending IT refunds

New Delhi, Apr 8

Government has decided to issue all the pending income-tax refunds up to five lakh rupees immediately. This will benefit around 14 lakh taxpayers. It has also been decided to release all pending GST and Custom refunds which will provide benefit to around one lakh business entities, including MSME. The total refund granted will be approximately eighteen thousand crore rupees. The decision has been taken in view of the

(Contd. on last page)

SC directs Centre to facilitate free testing of COVID-19 in govt & private labs

New Delhi, Apr 8

The Supreme Court today directed that COVID-19 tests in approved government labs or private laboratories should be conducted free of cost and the Centre should immediately issue directions in this regard. The top court said the private hospitals including laboratories have an important role to play in containing the scale of the pandemic by

extending philanthropic services in the hour of national crisis. A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and S Ravindra Bhat, which heard the matter via video conferencing, said that tests relating to COVID-19 or novel coronavirus must be carried out in the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories accredited Labs or any

agencies approved by WHO or ICMR. The bench said, it is issuing the interim directions to the respondents that the tests relating to COVID-19 whether in approved Government Laboratories or approved private Laboratories shall be free of cost. The bench also said, the respondents- Centre and other authorities- shall issue necessary direction in this

regard immediately. The top court said that even before the COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by WHO on March 11, it had spread in several countries and as of now, more than 200 countries are suffering from this pandemic. The top court issued directions on a PIL filed by an advocate seeking a direction to the Centre and authorities to provide

free of cost testing facility for COVID-19 to all citizens in the country. The bench in its order said no person be deprived to undergo the COVID-19 test due to non-payment of capped amount of 4,500 rupees. It noted the Centre's submission that government laboratories are conducting the COVID-19 tests free of cost.

COVID-19; A&N Islands Waqf Board urges for suspension of congregational prayer & visit to graveyards on Shab-e-Barat

Port Blair, Apr 8

As part of social distancing and isolation measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Central advisory has already been issued to all States and UTs to strictly follow the guidelines to break the infection cycle by maintaining social distancing. This has resulted in suspension of congregational prayers and all have been instructed to perform prayers in their houses only.

As Shab-e-Barat, one of the auspicious nights and on this occasion the Muslim aggregate in Masjid for overnight prayers and visit graveyards, is slotted on 9th April, 2020, it has been directed by the Union Minister and Chairman, Central Waqf Council to advise all the State /UT Waqf Boards to issue directives to the management of Mosques and graveyards under their jurisdictions to restrain the gathering

in Mosques and graveyards. In this connection, all the Mutawalli/Secretary have been requested to restrain gathering in Mosques and graveyards for preventive measures to contain the spread of Corona Virus and ensure that the advisory is followed scrupulously and also to cooperate with the authorities to maintain complete lockdown, a communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Waqf Board, A&N Islands said here.

COVID-19: RMRC-ICMR confirms one more positive case in A&N Islands

Administration identifying contacts of this confirmed case

Total number of COVID positive increases to 11

Port Blair, Apr 8

The designated laboratory for COVID-19 in A&N Islands, R M R C - I C M R, Dollygunj today has confirmed one more positive tested case in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. As per the laid down protocols, the Administration is conducting tests of all the suspected cases who are in Institutional Quarantine facilities before discharging them

from facilities after completing mandatory 14 days quarantine period. The passenger who was identified and was tested as positive yesterday, travelled to the Islands from Chennai by Indigo Flight on 24.03.2020 and was put in Institutional Quarantine facility at Hotel Keys. The Administration is now identifying contacts of this confirmed case and will put all the contacts

under observation. It is pertinent to mention that till now, there were 10 positive cases in the Islands and they are under treatment in GB Pant Hospital. With the addition of this case, now the total number of positive cases has increased to 11 in the Islands. All these 11 confirmed cases are from two different flights which came from mainland on 24.03.2020. The Administration

has conducted massive tests during the last 2 days. Around 269 samples were sent to RMRC-ICMR laboratory on 6th & 7th April 2020. Till today, the designated laboratory for COVID-19 in A&N Islands, the R M R C - I C M R, Dollygunj has conducted tests of 523 samples, out of which 11 have been found positive, a communication from the Principal Secretary (Health) said here today.

UT Administration takes measures to contain spread of COVID-19 in the Isles

NGOs, community based organisations support Administration in multifarious forms



Port Blair, Apr 8

Since the detection of the Corona Virus in China, in December last year, the Corona Virus Disease - 2019 (COVID-19) has been spreading rapidly across the globe and has now spread in over 210 countries/territories.

In India, as on date, there are 5274 active cases, with 149 deaths. The Govt. of India and also the UT Administration has taken a number of steps and measures to contain the spread of disease in the country. However, the fight against COVID-19 is a collective effort in which the Govt., the public and the community needs to unite together to defeat the disease. A number of NGOs/community based organisations have come forward in the A&N Islands to support the



Administration in its fight against COVID-19 and in particular, in reaching out to the poorer/marginalized sections of the society and migrant workers whose livelihood got affected due to the nationwide lockdown. The support from the NGOs/voluntary organisations has been received in multifarious forms. Most prominently, N G O s / v o l u n t a r y



organisations like the Rajasthan Manch, Minority Morcha, Island Islamic Foundation, Vegetable Vendors Association, We Care have been distributing approximately 3000 cooked food packets on a daily basis to the needy. The ISMAT foundation has donated 500 sanitary napkin packs to the Administration for distribution to the women.

The Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has collaborated with the District Administration in providing dry ration kits containing rice, atta, dal, cooking oil, salt, vegetables and till date, around 1000 kits have been distributed to the needy families, all across the District. Further, Sant Nirankari Mission is also

(Contd. on last page)

Curtailment in water supply; PBMC urges people to refrain from wasting water

Port Blair, Apr 8

Due to failure of North - East monsoon, the storage of water at all sources including Dhanikari Dam has depleted substantially leading to acute water shortage. As per the notice issued

by APWD, 50% of water curtailment is being imposed on PBMC w.e.f. April 8, 2020 and therefore PBMC will be able to supply water once in 4 days instead of once in three days supply. Due to unavoidable water

curtailment, PBMC may not be able to sanction new water connections till normalcy is restored. The PBMC has also urged the general public to use paper/banana leaf plates and wet tissues to reduce wastage of water.

(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

(No. 09/ 08th April 2020)

COVID-19 STATUS AS ON 08.04.2020

> **National as on 08.04.2020 at 1700 Hrs***

Total Confirmed Cases	5274
Cured / Discharged / Migrated	411
Death	149

• Source Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
> **Andaman & Nicobar Islands:**

Total Positive cases	11
Discharged from Hospital	00
Death	00
Admitted at Hospital	11
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	11	11

* No cases are admitted at Private Hospital.

* *The Health Condition of all +Ve cases are normal and stable.*

> **Status of Sample Testing:**

Total Samples sent till date	562
Total Reports received till date	523
Total Pending Reports	39

- > House to house surveillance for contact tracing of positive cases is being done by District Administration with the help of Health Workers.
- > Intensive awareness is continued through print and electronic media.
- > 170 passengers from COVID-19 affected countries have been screened at VSI Airport, Port Blair and Port/Harbour of the Islands and placed under surveillance.
- > 2020 passengers screened at VSI Airport till 24.03.2020 by medical teams.
- > Calls received at 102 - 128 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.

SURVEILLANCE DATA

Contacts put under Home Quarantine till date	228
Contacts under home Quarantine as on today	228
Contacts completed 14 days period of Home Quarantine	NIL
Persons under Institutional Quarantine as on today	389 **
Persons completed 14 days period of Institutional Quarantine	43
Passengers put under Home Quarantine till date	2020
Passengers under Home Quarantine as on today	Nil
Passengers completed 14 days period of Home Quarantine	1812

** *The figure contains institutional Quarantine persons from passengers as well as contacts both..*



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

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

COVID-19 outbreak..
(Contd. from page 1)

mankind's history and India must evolve to counter its impact. He praised the efforts of State Governments working together with the Centre in this fight against the pandemic. Shri Modi said that the country has witnessed constructive and positive politics through the coming together of all sections of polity to present a united front in this battle. The Prime Minister also praised the sense of belonging, discipline, dedication and commitment with which each and every citizen is contributing in this endeavour, be it in following social distancing, Janta Curfew or the Lockdown. Shri Modi emphasized the impact of the emerging situation, as witnessed in the resource constraints. He said, India has been among the few nations to control the pace of spread of the virus till now. He also cautioned that the situation keeps changing continuously and one needs to maintain vigil at all times.

The leaders of different political parties provided feedback, suggested policy measures and discussed the way forward. The leaders appreciated the Prime Minister for timely measures taken by him. They said the entire country is standing united behind him during the crisis. Boosting the health and morale of the healthcare workers, ramping up testing facilities, the need to assist smaller States and UTs and tackling the challenges of hunger and malnutrition were discussed. They also spoke about economic and other policy measures to boost the country's capability in this battle against the pandemic.

Suggestions were also given by the leaders on extending the Lockdown and on a phased exit after Lockdown ends. Congress leader Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shiv Sena leader Shri Sanjay Raut, DMK leader Shri T R Ballu, Shri Sharad Pawar from NCP, Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh of JD (U), Lok Janshakti Party's Shri Chirag Paswan, Prof Ram Gopal Yadav of Samajwadi Party, BSP's Shri Satish Chandra Mishra were among those who participated in the interaction.

UT Administration takes

(Contd. from page 1)

distributing ration kits to the needy mainly in Ferrargunj area. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has provided volunteers to the District Administration for support. Spirited citizens have also contributed in this regard and notably, Dr. Prem Kishen, the President, Local Born Association has handed over a cheque for Rs. 1,00,000/- in his personal capacity, as contribution to the Prime Minister's fund (PM CARES) for fight against COVID-19. Further, more NGOs/Community groups are joining the Administration everyday, in its fight against COVID-19. The A&N Administration has requested all the resident of the Islands and the NGO/Voluntary organisations to extend their full support and cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, a communication from the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman District said here today.

Dr. Prem Kishen donates Rs 100,000 towards PM CARES Fund

Port Blair, Apr 8

A cheque of Rs.100,000 was handed over to Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman towards PM CARES Fund for COVID-19 pandemic by Dr. Prem Kishen, a retired senior specialist of DHS, and President Local Born Association as a personnel



contribution. Dr.Kandimuthu, NSS was also accompanied State programme coordinator, him, a communication said.

BSF is at forefront in fight against Corona Virus, patrolling Border, spreading awareness

New Delhi, Apr 8

Border Security Force (BSF) is at the forefront in fight against Corona Virus. Wherever BSF jawans are patrolling along Pakistan and Bangladesh Border, they are also spreading awareness to fight Covid-19. However, the operational activities is also not stopped. The vigil has been enhanced to prevent any mischief of trans border criminals. There were also some seizures of contraband items on eastern and western Borders during

this lock down period. Amidst this lockdown, BSF formations have hand wash and also come forward to help providing rations to the people through awareness campaigns, providing face masks and soaps for needy.

Special Prog on DDK today

Port Blair, Apr 8

The Doordarshan Kendra Port Blair will telecast a special Bulletin on April 9, 2020 at 5.05 pm. It will also telecast live phone in programme on the topic: 'COVID-19-Rokna Hai' at 5.30 pm on April 9, 2020. The Director, Transport & Civil Supplies, Dr. Navlendra Kumar Singh will participate in the programme. Viewers can participate in this live phone-in programme by dialing 244745/9476046367, a communication said.

Govt to issue all.... (Contd. from page 1)

COVID-19 situation and with a view to provide immediate relief to the business entities and individuals.

Curtailement in water

(Contd. from page 1)

Any wastage/ leakage in pipes and over flow from tanks can be informed to the following PBMC Officials:

Sl No	Area in-charge	Jurisdiction	Phone No.
1.	Assistant Engineer-II (Water Works)		9434287193
2.	Assistant Engineer-III (Water Works)		9434283034
3.	Junior Engineer-I (Water Works)	Ward No: 4,5,6 (Part), 10,11,12 (part), 13, 20 (Part), 21, 22 & 23(Part).	9474236376
4.	Junior Engineer-II (Water Works)	Ward No: 1,2,3,6 (Part),7& 8.	9933204905/232754
5.	Junior Engineer-III (Water Works)	Ward No: 6(Part), 9,12(Part),14,15 & 16	9434281287
6.	Junior Engineer-IV (Water Works)	For cleaning of Wells of 24 wards	9531823778
7.	Junior Engineer-V (Water Works)	Ward No:17,18,19,20 (part) 23 (Part) & 24.	9474206943

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Help us to help you

There is enough of everything, everyday for everyone

Don't Panic | Don't Rush | Don't Overstock

- Maintain at least 1 metre distance in market places, medical stores, hospitals, etc.**
- Have patience and keep calm while shopping for essential goods/medical supplies**
- Avoid frequent trips to the market to buy groceries/medical supplies**
- Avoid shaking hands and hugging as a matter of greeting**
- Avoid non-essential social gatherings at home**
- Don't allow visitors at home or visit someone else's home**

Observe social distancing at all times

If you have symptoms like cough, fever or difficulty in breathing, avoid any kind of exposure and immediately call the helpline numbers

Together we will fight COVID-19

For information related to COVID-19
Call Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's 24x7 Control Room Number 1075 (Toll Free) | 011-23978046 , Email at ncov2019@gov.in , ncov2019@gmail.com

mohfw.gov.in
 @MoHFWIndia
 @MoHFW_INDIA
 mohfwindia

dayp 17102/13/0032/1920

ICCR launches unique Art competition, urges people worldwide to express their emotions

New Delhi, Apr 8

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has come up with a unique Art initiative amidst the global battle against novel Coronavirus. Affirmed with a belief to propagate 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam', 'World is one family', the Art competition entitled United against COVID is open for participants from worldwide.

ICCR with its focus on building cultural links with countries around the world and connecting people through Cultural and Educational exchanges, has urged Indians and other nationalities across the world to express their emotions through this Art competition. Speaking exclusively to AIR News, ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde said that the initiative provides people a unique opportunity to express themselves in these uneasy times of a global contagion.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

The competition is open to all amateur and professional artists from India and the world over in all age categories. The event encourages submissions of artistic expressions to present their emotions, feelings, ideas and innovative thoughts on the COVID-19, social distancing, quarantine and the fight against the virus

through Digital Art Graphic Posters & Paintings. Participants are required to send high resolution photos of their work to ICCR by 1st of next month. Jury consisting of eminent artists and cultural persons will select the best works which will be exhibited in leading galleries in India and abroad.

ICMR allows State Govts to set up sample collection sites for COVID-19 testing

New Delhi, Apr 8

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR yesterday said it has no objection to State Governments setting up convenient sample collection sites. However, the apex health research body said, its guidelines should be followed and the sample collection should be done using recommended Personal Protective Equipment, PPE.

In an advisory, the ICMR said, it has no objection on adoption of establishing convenient sample collection sites, drive through centres for sample collection etc. by the respective State



Governments. These sites should be disinfected regularly as per recommended procedures and all biosafety and biosecurity precautions should be implemented, the advisory added.

WhatsApp placed new limits on message forwarding to curb misinformation

New Delhi, Apr 8

WhatsApp has placed new limits on message forwarding as part of an effort to curb the spread of misinformation about the Corona virus pandemic. The new policy limits users to forwarding certain messages to one chat at a time, aiming to limit the rapid propagation of content which is provocative but likely to be false. The Facebook-owned messaging platform said yesterday that it took the action to enable people to concentrate on personal and private communications during the health crisis. Last year, WhatsApp set limits on forwarded messages to five chats at a time, to constrain



virality, responding to events in India where the rapid proliferation of unverified information led to mob violence.

Indian Railways gears up its efforts to produce PPEs on mission mode

New Delhi, Apr 8

The Centre has taken a number of initiatives to ensure smooth supply of medical supplies amid lock down. Indian Railways has geared up its efforts to produce Personal Protective Equipment, PPEs on a mission mode.

AIR reports that Railways workshops are being geared up to produce one thousand PPE overall every day for railway Doctors and paramedics. The production facilities will be ramped up in the future. Railways is also considering to supply 50 per cent of PPE material to other medical professionals of the country. The PPE overall produced by



Jagadhari workshop was recently cleared by Defence Research and Development Organization's lab. Approved design and material will now be used for making protective overall by 17 railway workshops situated in different zones. he PPE overall will offer much needed protection to Railways' Doctors and paramedics working as front line warriors for treating the corona patients.

Govt asks authorities to take stern action against those involved in black marketing during lockdown

New Delhi, Apr 8

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has asked authorities to take quick and stern action against individuals involved in hoarding and black marketing. Briefing media in New Delhi yesterday, Joint Secretary in Home Ministry Smti Punya Salila Shrivastava said, the Home Ministry did a detailed review of the status of essential commodities and lockdown measures. The present status of essential goods and services is by and large satisfactory.

Joint Secretary in Health Ministry Shri Lav Agarwal informed that Government has been adopting a strategy for cluster containment and for outbreaks that are amenable to management. He said, this strategy is producing positive results, especially in Agra and Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Pathanamthitta in Kerala,



Bhilwara in Rajasthan and East Delhi.

He said, Indian Railways has prepared 40 thousand isolation beds in 2,500 coaches. Railways is making 375 isolation beds daily and this is going on across 133 locations across the country. Quoting a recent ICMR study, Shri Agarwal said, if one

COVID-19 patient does not follow lockdown orders or practice social distancing, then the patient can infect 406 people in 30 days.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in country has risen to 5,274 with 773 more positive cases reported yesterday. In all, 149 deaths have been reported so far.

Home Ministry directs States to ensure availability of essential goods at fair prices for public

New Delhi, Apr 8

Home Ministry has directed States to ensure availability of essential goods at fair prices for public at large. In a letter to Chief Secretaries, Home Secretary Shri Ajay Bhalla has asked the States to deal strictly with offences of hoarding, black marketing, profiteering and speculative trading. He asked them to ensure proper supply of food items, medicines and medical equipments by invoking provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Shri Bhalla emphasised that measures including fixing of stock limits, capping of prices, enhancing production, inspection of accounts of dealers and other such actions will be undertaken by the states at the earliest and at regular intervals to



ensure production and supply of essential commodities.

He said that those not complying may be dealt severely as offences

under Essential Commodities Act are considered as criminal offences and may result in imprisonment of seven years.

Centre sending enough food stocks to states to implement Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

New Delhi, Apr 8

Union Government has said that Food Corporation of India, FCI has sent enough stocks to states throughout the country to implement Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. Through this scheme, five kilograms of foodgrains per person per month for next three months have to be distributed free to all National Food Security Act beneficiaries.

Many states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala and Mizoram have already started lifting foodgrains from FCI under this scheme. The Consumers Affairs Ministry yesterday said, in the next few days other states will also start lifting the foodgrains for



distribution.

The Ministry said, FCI is working tirelessly and has ensured that enough stocks are made available in every part of the country during countrywide lockdown. During the last 14 days, while the lockdown

is in force to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, FCI moved an average of one lakh 44 thousand tonnes of foodgrains per day. A total of 658 rakes carrying over 18 Lakh tonnes foodgrains have been transported across the country.

India Fights Corona: Several organisations across country step forward to help

New Delhi, Apr 8

There are several organisations across the country which are stepping forward to help in the fight against COVID-19. Gujarat based 'Amul' is one such brand which is not only ensuring the supply of milk to the whole country during the lockdown but also maintaining the best hygienic practices to prevent the spread of coronavirus

With the huge network of around



5000 milk tanker drivers, Amul is collecting over 400 lakh litres of milk per day and transporting it to over 1000 cities and towns across the country. Managing director of

Amul cooperative RS Sodhi said Indian railways is also playing a crucial role in transporting Amul milk to far flung areas of the country.

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!!



Advisory from ICAR-CIARI on farmer friendly, location specific feed formulation for small scale poultry in A&N Islands



Port Blair, Apr 8

Small-scale, rural poultry farming is the primary source for poultry meat and eggs for the rural farmers in these Islands as it constitutes more than 50 per cent to the total poultry population which comprises of desi birds, vanaraja birds and broilers. Poultry feeding is the major component in the management of poultry farming. Feeding attributes to about 70 to 75 per cent to the total production cost of poultry. Supplemental feeding is needed to improve the production of meat and eggs from desi poultry; whereas balanced feeding is highly essential for vanaraja birds and broilers. The commercial feed is costing high in these Islands and the small scale poultry farmers are not affordable.

Considering the significant role of poultry feeding and the economic and nutritional importance of small scale rural poultry farming in these Islands,

scientists of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair have identified locally available feed ingredients for the small scale poultry farmers of these Islands. Poultry need energy and protein, as well as vitamins and minerals. Type of feed will be changed, depending on the age and production status (chick, grower and layers).

Poultry should be fed up to 8 weeks with chicks feed; from 9 to up to laying with grower feed; at the time of laying with layer feed. Energy feeds are the most important feeds to maintain body temperature and production levels of the birds. Locally available energy feeds are Maize (corn) and its by-products (bran), wheat and its by-products (bran, shorts, screenings), rice and its byproducts (bran, polishing), cassava root meal, yam meal, sweet potato meal, plantain and banana meal. Roots and tubers should be soaked in water for 60 minutes or cooked before drying

to remove harmful substances and the proportion in the diet in general should be kept below 1/10.

Protein is needed for growth and keeping up a good health status. Locally available protein sources are fish scraps and coconut. Minerals are important for bone formation and eggshell formation. The most important minerals are calcium and phosphorous. Laying hens need free access to calcium (lime stone or crushed shells) to produce strong shells for their eggs. Mineral sources are Bone meal, crushed oyster shells and burned egg shells. Eggshells and used bones should always be scorched or cooked before re-use in diets to remove any disease germs. Vitamins are obtained from green grass and vegetables.

Small scale poultry farmers are generally in crisis of commercial poultry feed and the situation is worse during this lockdown period. Chick and grower feed (100 kg) could be prepared by

adding Wheat or rice or maize up to 60 kg, dry fish and coconut grates up to 35 kg, rice bran up to 5 kg and 100 g of salt. Layer feed should contain additionally 400 g of shell grits, eggs shells and used bones. Poultry should be fed @ 15 to 35 g per chick per day; 80 g per grower bird per day and 110 g per layer per day. These ingredients need not be grounded and may be fed as whole grain. At this juncture of crisis for poultry feed owing to the lock down restrictions upon Covid-19 precautions, small scale rural poultry farmers need not depend on commercial feed which is economically unviable. The farmers can prepare their own poultry feed to sustain the body weight and egg production of rural poultry. By doing so, the small-scale, rural poultry could be sustained in the Island areas ensuring livelihood, food and nutrition security, a communication from the ICAR-CIARI said.

Karnataka Education dept to start You Tube channel for children during lockdown

Bengaluru, Apr 8

In Karnataka, the Primary and Secondary Education department has come out with a unique idea to start a You Tube channel that can invoke in children a passion for learning and creative activities during the lockdown period. This comes at a time when Television, mobile and video games have become a distraction for children under lock-down.

The parents are concerned about their children lack of academic and creative activities. The step has been taken to keep children productively engaged during the period. The Department has invited academicians, start-ups, software engineers and social

service organisations to prepare innovative, entertaining, interesting learning audio-visual videos of 10 to 15 minutes and send them to it. An Editorial board will select the appropriate ones and put them on the You-tube platform. There is no restriction that these videos have to conform to the school syllabus. It has said that the videos could be narration of stories, book reading, puzzles, magic, origami or any such subject that evoke the interest of children and engage them in activities.

Though there is no payment for the videos contributed, the department has promised that such efforts will be acknowledged by the department.

SIDBI to provide emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs



SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

New Delhi, Apr 8

The Small Industries Development Bank of India - SIDBI has said that it will provide emergency working capital of up to one crore rupees to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) against their confirmed government orders. The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against Corona virus - SAFE PLUS will be offered collateral free and disbursed within 48 hours.

In a press release, SIDBI

informed that the loans will be offered at an interest rate of five per cent. Meanwhile, the bank further informed that the limit of SAFE loans, announced a few days back has been enhanced from 50 lakh rupees to two crore rupees. The scheme was launched to provide financial assistance to MSMEs engaged in manufacturing of hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, head gear, bodysuits, shoe-covers, ventilators and goggles used in dealing with COVID-19.

UN Chief suspends rotation, deployments of peacekeepers until 30th June

New York, Apr 8

UN Chief Mr. Antonio Guterres has suspended the rotation and deployments of the peacekeepers until 30th of June to mitigate the risk of transmission of the novel Coronavirus. Speaking at his daily press briefing yesterday, UN Chief's spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that their priorities are to ensure the COVID-19-free status of incoming uniformed personnel, and mitigate the risk that UN peacekeepers could be a contagion vector while simultaneously maintaining their operational capabilities.

Mr Dujarric said to prevent and contain the risk of transmission of the deadly virus, rotation and deployments of individual officers and police and military units has



been suspended until June 30 and the decision has been transmitted to all Troop and Police Contributing Countries, as well as to all relevant peace operations. He added that a few exceptions may

be considered to continue to deliver on the mandate, but only in extenuating circumstances. India is among the largest troop contributing nations to the UN peacekeeping operations.

China: People in Wuhan begin travelling after 73-day lockdown lifted

Beijing, Apr 8

In China, tens of thousands of people in Wuhan, the origin point and epicentre for the Corona virus pandemic, began travelling out of the sprawling city today as the 73-day lockdown was lifted. The Chinese Health Authority said today that 62 new confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported on the Chinese mainland yesterday, including 59 cases of people returning from abroad, taking the total tally to 1,042. Three new domestic cases were reported, including two in Shandong Province and one in Guangdong Province, the National Health Commission

(NHC) said. Also, 137 new asymptomatic COVID-19 cases were reported and 1,095 asymptomatic cases were still under medical observation. Two deaths were reported yesterday, with one in Shanghai and the other in Hubei Province, taking the overall death toll in the country to 3,333. Earlier on Monday, the NHC reported no deaths for the first time after it began publishing COVID-19 daily reports since January this year. The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 81,802 yesterday, including 1,190 patients still being treated,



77,279 patients discharged after recovery and 3,333 people died of the disease.

The Wuhan lockdown was lifted even as epidemiologists warned that it is not the time to completely lower the guard and ease on full-scale restrictions, considering the looming asymptomatic patients and possible rebound in infections.

SCTIMST scientists develop disinfected barrier-examination booth for examining COVID-19 patients

Chennai, Apr 8

Scientists at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, have designed and developed a disinfected barrier-examination booth for examining COVID-19 patients

The innovative disinfected examination booth is closed like a telephone booth for examining the patient without direct contact with the doctor to prevent transmission of infection. It is equipped with a lamp, table fan, rack, and Ultraviolet (UV) light.

The installed UV light in the booth disinfects the chamber after each patient leaves. The UV light installed has a wavelength of 254nm with a 15 watts rating, which effectively removes most of the viral load within 3 minutes of exposure. A pair of gloves provided in the examination booth allows the patient's physical examination. Additionally, an entry tunnel on the side frame is provided

to pass a Stethoscope within the chamber. This feature would help the doctor to place stethoscope on the patient and listen to heart and breath sounds.

After the examination, the patient is requested to vacate the chamber, and UV light will be turned on for 3 minutes. When UV exposure in the chamber is completed, the next patient is examined, and the sequence is repeated. The Examination Booth has dimensions of 210 cm(H) X 150cm(D) X 120cm(W), which provides enough space for the patient.

"Providing the highest standards of safety to the doctors and the front-line medical workers while interacting with the carriers of a highly contagious virus is clearly a critical priority. A thoughtfully designed protective booth with clinician inputs is a good step in that direction", said Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

A person standing in front of a door Description automatically generated A picture containing person, indoor, standing, man



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The team of innovators from SCTIMST comprises of Mr. Muraleedharan C. V., Mr. Ramesh Babu V., Mr. D. S. Nagesh, Er. Saurabh S. Nair, Er. Arvind Kumar Prajapati, Dr. Sivakumar K. G. V., and the team of Artificial Internal Organ (AIO) & Division Of Extra Corporeal Devices (ECD), SCTIMST. The technical know-how of the Examination Booth has already been transferred to FlyTech Industries, Trivandrum.

Gujarat: Surat Municipal Corporation takes unique initiatives under Smart City Mission to deal with COVID-19

Gandhinagar, Apr 8

In Gujarat, Surat Municipal Corporation is using the Integrated Command and Control Centre set up under Smart City Mission as a war room to fight COVID-19. Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has taken various unique initiatives under

Smart City Mission to deal with COVID-19. SMC has published an online dashboard on its website to provide regulars of COVID-19 to the citizens. They include overall statistics on tested, confirmed, active, recovered and death cases. The dashboard also provides the trends and

patterns on the spread of COVID-19 within the city. SMC is using this COVID-19 war room to carry out CCTV surveillance of public spaces, and containment clusters. SMC is also using a mobile application to track the movement of quarantined people on real-time basis.