

India goes to 21-day lockdown is it enough to stop a resurgence?

India has placed around 1.3 billion people under a 21-day lockdown, warning them that failure to tackle the spread of the coronavirus due to this period can take the country back "21 years". But is 21 days enough?



Sirish C. Mohanty

New Delhi, March 30: India says it has no plans to keep its 1.3 billion people on lockdown beyond April 14 but is three weeks enough to stifle the growing contagion of the novel coronavirus? No, if you

ask Cambridge academics Rajesh Singh and Ronojoy Adhikari. In a new paper, they use a mathematical model based on country-specific age and social contact distributions to recommend a longer lockdown interrupted by periods of relaxation. The duo worked out how quickly the outbreak grows without social distancing - an umbrella term for a broad toolkit of measures, including lockdowns that reduce contact between people -- and how fast it shrinks when such restrictions are effectively enforced. "The epidemic is

always a little ahead of us: for one day of growth, we need more than one day of lockdown to bring infections down to starting levels. Extending this, we can see why the 21-day lockdown will not work: the epidemic has had much more than 21 days to grow."

- Ronojoy Adhikari, a researcher at the University of Cambridge

How long should the lockdown last?

The Adhikari-Singh paper predicts that a trio of consecutive lockdowns -- 21 days, 28 days and eight days -- interrupted by two five-day (Page-2)



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-116

ପବିତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୦ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ବିକଶିତ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଜିର ଦିବସରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ହେଉ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ କରୁଣାରୁ କରୋନା ଉପରେ ବିଜୟ ଦିବସ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, କରୋନା ବିରୋଧରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା ।

ଶଶିଶାନ୍ତାମିଲି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0165/1920



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ
ଅବସରରେ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-116

ପବିତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଦେଶ ଗଠନର ମହାମନୀଷୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ଗଭୀର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଜ୍ଞାପନ କରୁଛି । ତତ୍ ସହିତ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିକାଶର ଧାରାରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଦେଶର ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସକ୍ରିୟ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି ବିଶ୍ୱ ସହିତ ଆମ ଦେଶ ଓ ରାଜ୍ୟ କୋଭିଡ୍-୧୯ ଭୂତାଶୁ ସଂକ୍ରମଣଜନିତ କଠିନ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଦେଇ ଗତି କରୁଛି । ଏଭଳି ଅସାଧାରଣ ସଙ୍କଟଜନକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ସାହସ ଓ ଦୃଢ଼ତାର ସହ ଏହାର ମୁକାବିଲା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0165/1920



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-116

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଦେଶ ଗଠନର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନକୁ ସାକାର କରିଥିବା ମହାପୁରୁଷମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ମୋର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଗୌରବ ବୃଦ୍ଧି କରିଥିବା ଆମର ବରପୁତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମଧ୍ୟ ମୋର ସମ୍ମାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିକାଶର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନୂଆ ପରିଚୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି । ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ପରିଚାଳନା କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ ଆଗରେ ରହିଛି ।

ମୋର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ କରୋନା ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ଚାଲିଥିବା ଏହି ସଂଗ୍ରାମରେ ଆମେ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ବିଜୟୀ ହେବା ।

ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ

ନବୀନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ନାୟକ
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0165/1920

China ignores Pakistan's call for urgent discussion Kashmir at UNSC



The Imran Khan government is back at doing what it does best. Raising the Kashmir issue at a global forum -- even during a pandemic. It seems - there is no cure for obsession either.

Bangash Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Last month, Pakistan's

foreign minister - the know-it-all Shah Mehmood Qureshi wrote to the then UNSC chair China's Zhang Jun and the concern was not coronavirus but 'grave human rights situation' in Kashmir.

Pakistan wanted an urgent discussion by the Security Council on this

alleged situation. It said that the developments in Kashmir posed a threat to international peace and security.

According to reports, the UNSC chair chose to take no notice of Islamabad's request. Beijing turned down Pakistan's request for urgent consideration of

the made-up situation in Kashmir.

It was quite a turnaround but Pakistan is in no mood to give up. It's come up with something more bizarre. Pakistan issued a press release which states that Pakistan strongly condemns and rejects the latest Indian action aimed at illegally changing the demographic structure of Kashmir. It goes on to state that 'the Jammu and Kashmir reorganization order 2020 is another illegal step by India to settle non-Kashmiris by changing the domicile laws'.

Unlike Pakistan - India is under a 21-day lockdown. There are travel restrictions - forget re-settling. Also, the government is within the constitutional ambit to do so. Every Indian has the right to settle

wherever he or she wants.

India is a free-for-all country. It'll remain one.

Coronavirus patients are still being resettled in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Forget companies & businesses. The Pakistani army is forcibly moving positive cases from the Punjab province to Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

Mirpur - a strategically located city is being turned into Pakistan's quarantine center. There have been protests but to no avail.

Here's something else Pakistan doesn't want you to know.

The ongoing coronavirus crisis could lead to 18.5 million job losses in Pakistan. The Pakistani economy is expected to sustain a loss of nearly 32 billion US Dollars in the coming

months. These estimates emerged during a meeting by Pakistan's ministry of planning and development. The losses have been estimated based on the impact of restrictions imposed on businesses and international trade.

Which by the way, has been minimal. No sympathy for its stranded citizens. No contribution to the SAARC fund. No basis to its claims on Kashmir. No restrictions amid the ongoing pandemic. And no preparedness for what lies ahead. The coronavirus cases have crossed 2400 in Pakistan. There have been 35 deaths. Globally - there's a need to break the chain of transmission.

In Pakistan, there's a need to break the chain recklessness.

From Page-1

India goes...

periods of relaxation could slow the contagion enough to help authorities bring it under control by tracing contacts of patients and imposing quarantines, and drastically reduce fatalities.

An uninterrupted lockdown period of 49 days -- that's seven weeks -- achieves a similar result. Asked to provide a number for the sustained lockdown period, RonojoyAdhikari said bringing infections to manageable levels would depend on factors such as public compliance with stay-at-home orders. Currently, he said, given the paucity of data, "it is safe only to make a negative prediction: the 21-day lockdown will not work." Adhikari and his co-author have offered the caveat that uncertainties in their model can affect forecasts -- they say better case data

can reduce these.

Lockdowns not enough

India's caseload crossed the 1,000-mark at the weekend -- a grim milestone, but a relatively small figure compared to numbers coming out of other large countries like the United States. But there are concerns that limited testing has hidden the true scale of the coronavirus outbreak here, and that community transmission -- a term that describes a disease spreading so freely that people can no longer say precisely how they may have been infected -- is already happening. But India's top medical research body ICMR says the outbreak isn't at this stage yet. RonojoyAdhikari, on his part, says India will surely enter the community transmission phase, "but whether we are in it now or not is anybody's guess." "Also, there is no gain in splitting hairs over this. What

we need now is extensive social distancing, extensive testing to map out where the infection is localized, and as much palliative care as can be arranged for those who will fall seriously ill." No gain in splitting hairs (on whether or not community transmission is happening in India). The World Health Organization (WHO) lays special emphasis on steps like testing, quarantine, and treatment - it says extensive social distancing measures like lockdowns only buy countries time to "attack the virus" so it doesn't come roaring back once restrictions are lifted. "Aggressive measures to find, isolate, test, treat and trace are not only the best and fastest way out of extreme social and economic restrictions," said WHO director-general TedrosAdhanom Ghebreyesus on March 25, the day after India enforced its 21-day lockdown. "They're also the best way to prevent them."

Government budget revenue targets often at unrealistic high

World heads for panic recession



Shivaji Sarkar

Pandemic to panic stall the world. The markets everywhere slump. Corona or not it has hit Asian corporate. It has hit the state governments in India. A debt of world corporate is burgeoning.

Of course, the corona has just come now, but the rest have been building up over the years. The pandemic has only exposed it. If it continues it can lead to a sharp down morphing into a financial crisis and may trigger a chain of defaults.

Politically it may act as a cover-up for many dodgy decisions of any Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, or Emmanuel Macron. It may usher in new politics, business or trade norms. It can even bring to the surface many conflicts.

There are apprehensions of distributional issues that might arise out of the

economic fall-out of this pandemic. Possibilities and hypotheses abound.

On the ground are stark facts. India's growth forecast has again been lowered. This time it is by S&P Global Ratings. It has reduced growth to 5.2 percent on March 18 against its earlier forecast of 5.7 percent for 2020. Earlier, Moody's has also cut it last week.

In her first speech as managing director of IMF, Kristalina Georgieva in October 2019 said 90 percent of the world is likely to have slower growth in 2019, and India along with Brazil to be the worst hit.

Asia-Pacific growth is projected to halve to 3 percent following "an enormous first-quarter shock in China, shut down in the US and Europe and deep recession across Asia-Pacific amid virus

transmission"

The director of the biotechnology department, Dr. RK Sharma of Mangalayatan University in Aligarh, UP, says that it is not a new virus. In the present state, the virus forms fibroids in the lungs affecting respiration and may lead to multi-organ failure in acute cases. The scare is a bit hyped up, he avers.

Can the plunge of Sensex to a three-year low on March 19 to 28,288 almost close to 27,019 it touched on September 2, 2014, be ascribed to the virus? The Sensex increased 14 times from 1991 till 2014 and gained about 2000 points since late May 2014 polls and early September 2014. The market believes this is possibly the real level than the hyped-up 42,059 on January 16.

The conditions of state government budgets support it. A newspaper study of budgets of 17 states reveals a shortfall of close to Rs 3 lakh crore in fiscal 2019-2020. Bihar alone has a deficit of 25,400 crores.

The budgets are presented in a hyped manner. Actual revenue realizations - total taxes - collected by the center, a fraction of which is shared with the states, are falling due to stymied economic activity. Most states have made meager increases over toned down revised estimates.

States together reduced Rs 1.05 lakh crore expenses in their revised budgets fiscal year-end. This almost tallies with the

Slump not for a pandemic; corporate deep debt, States' Rs 1.05 lakh crore cut thaw India

Rs 112,660 crore difference mentioned in the central budget 2020-21. The pattern is comparable to 2017-18 and even of the UPA regime.

Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa recently said that his state lost Rs 11,887 crore revenues from the Centre due to lower tax transfers and compensation against GST collection shortfalls.

The central budget 2019-20 presented last July expected tax revenues of Rs 19.6 lakh crore and disinvestment receipts of Rs 1.05 lakh crore. The revised estimates in the 2020-21 budget on Feb 1 put it at Rs 18.5 lakh crore, shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Divestment gains were about Rs 40,000 crore.

Total 2019-20 fiscal deficit may rise to Rs 2.24 lakh crore, Rs 24 lakh crore more than original estimates.

The revenue targets are often kept at an unrealistic high. The center had to take a tough measure of curtailing last quarter expenditures since December 2019. In many cases, salary payments and project allocations were delayed.

A significant gain was Rs 2.01 lakh crore by the states from VAT on petro-products. The center gained Rs 2.14 lakh crore, as per Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell. So, despite crude prices touching over the 20-year

low of \$ 30 a barrel, the center announced a rise of Rs 3 per liter of fuel - about Rs 40,000 crore a year. The center gained over Rs 2.6 lakh crore from petro-cess of Rs 10 per liter too.

The latest virus scare has put health to the fore. The states spend no more than five percent on health. Assam, Kerala, and Chhattisgarh spent more than the national average. Punjab and Haryana spent far below it. It is not surprising that India is put at 129 of 186 countries in UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI).

Budgets are also guided by populism. Six states - Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, and Kerala - are scheduled to go to polls in 2020-21. Sops and freebies pep up the Assam budget. So are the budgets of other states except for Bihar, which is facing a severe crunch. In 2018-19, Assam gave tea garden workers Rs 5,000 per head to over 7 lakh tea garden workers, an important voter segment. They would again get Rs 3,000 each in 2020-21.

West Bengal has doled out, a la Delhi, free electricity, Tamilnadu regularizes unauthorized colonies and Kerala enhances pensions. All promises job increases as jobless youth form large segments in Assam (27 p.c), Kerala (36 p.c) and West Bengal (13 p.c) except Bihar (22p.c.).

So much is happening beyond the virus world over. The corporate debt is surpassing the 2008 sub-prime crisis level. One set is called "zombies", companies that earn too little to be able to pay even interest payments. They are said to survive by issuing new debts. Central banks around the world are worried cash crunch could enmesh in severe financial crisis.

The IMF says that one-tenth of the Chinese corporate debt of \$ 20 trillion is in zombie firms. The latest Donald Trump incentives, paid sick leave and federal funds for Medicaid along with shutdown to fight the virus may lead to deep trouble.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi realizing it has announced setting up of Economic Task Force for revamping plan even as he announces March 22 Janata Curfew to combat corona.

Travel bans. Sporting events canceled. Mass gatherings prohibited. Deserted shopping malls add to slow down. Airlines, hospitality, transport, tour operators and daily wagers are majorly hit. The world needs a way out and looking towards Modi for the solution. It can be achieved by opening up social and economic activities to spur growth and not succumbing to the scare. 🇮🇳

Coronavirus: The woman behind India's first testing kit



India has been criticized for its poor record of testing people in the battle against coronavirus. That, however, is set to change, thanks in large part to the efforts of one virologist, who delivered on a working test kit, just hours before delivering her baby.

Research (ICMR), under which NIV operates, agreed. It said Mylab was the only Indian company to achieve 100% results.

'Gaping holes in the Indian health system'

India has been criticized for not testing enough. It has one of the lowest rates in the world, with just 6.8 tests per million.

Initially, India insisted on testing only those who had traveled to high-risk countries or had come in contact with an infected person or health workers treating coronavirus patients. It later said that anyone admitted to a hospital with severe respiratory distress should also be tested.

But with the circle of infection widening daily, the numbers are expected to grow hugely.

In the past few days, India has scaled up testing. Initially, only the state labs were allowed to test for coronavirus, but permission has now been extended to several private labs too.

And on Thursday, India also gave approvals to 15 private companies to commercially sell diagnostic kits based on licenses they have obtained in the US, European Union, and some other countries.

Dr. Wankhede says

with the number of suppliers and labs increasing every day, the testing will go up exponentially.

Increased testing would be a huge help, but experts say India has gaping holes in its health infrastructure that need to be plugged urgently to deal with the growing threat of coronavirus.

"South Korea - that's so tiny - has 650 labs testing for the coronavirus, how many do we have?" asks Sujatha Rao, former federal health secretary.

India has only 118 government laboratories and officials say 50 private labs will also be roped in.

For a population of 1.3 billion, that is far from adequate.

"India will have to identify many more labs, then the testing kits have to reach there, and technicians have to be trained. And getting the infrastructure ramped up will take time," Ms. Rao says.

And once the test results start coming in and if a large number of people test positive and require hospitalization, India will find it difficult to cope.

"You know the state of the healthcare facilities in the country? They are all bunched up in urban areas, there's a very little facility in rural India. That will be a big challenge," she says.

Delhi : The first made-in-India coronavirus testing kits reached the market, raising hopes of an increase in the screening of patients with flu symptoms to confirm or rule out the COVID-19 infection.

Mylab Discovery, in the western city of Pune, became the first Indian firm to get full approval to make and sell testing kits. It shipped the first batch of 150 to diagnostic labs in Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, and Bengaluru (Bangalore) this week.

"Our manufacturing

unit... is working through the weekend and the next batch will be sent out on Monday," Dr. Gautam Wankhede, Mylab's director for medical affairs, told the BBC on Friday.

The molecular diagnostic company, which also makes testing kits for HIV and Hepatitis B and C, and other diseases, says it can supply up to 100,000 COVID-19 testing kits a week and can produce up to 200,000 if needed.

Each Mylab kit can test 100 samples and costs 1,200 rupees (\$16; £13) -

that's about a quarter of the 4,500 rupees that India pays to import COVID-19 testing kits from abroad.

Virologist delivered kit, then her baby

"Our kit gives the diagnosis in two and a half hours while the imported testing kits take six-seven hours," says virologist MinalDakhaveBhosale, Mylab's research, and development chief.

Ms. Bhosale, who headed the team that designed the coronavirus testing kit called Patho Detect, said it was done "in record time" - six weeks instead of three or four months.

And the scientist was battling with her deadline too. Last week she gave birth to a baby girl - and only began work on the program in February, just days after leaving the hospital with a pregnancy complication.

"It was an emergency, so I took this on as a challenge. I have to serve my nation," she says, adding that her team of 10 worked "very hard" to make the project a

success.

In the end, she submitted the kit for evaluation by the National Institute of Virology (NIV) on 18 March, just a day before delivering her daughter.

That same evening, just an hour before she was taken to hospital ahead of her Caesarean, she submitted the proposal to the Indian FDA and the drugs control authority CDSCO for commercial approval.

"We were running against time," says Dr. Wankhede.

"Our reputation was at stake, we had to get everything right on the first go, and Minal was leading our efforts from the front."

Before submitting the kits for evaluation, the team had to check and re-check all the parameters to ensure its results that were precise, and accurate.

"If you carry out 10 tests on the same sample, all 10 results should be the same," said Ms. Bhosale. "And we achieved that. Our kit was perfect."

The government-run Indian Council for Medical



Ramlala shifted, Oppn says UP CM flouted social distancing



Ajodhya, March 26: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath shifted the Ramlala idol to a new site at Manas Bhavan on Wednesday morning, following which he drew criticism from the Opposition for reportedly not adhering to the social distancing norm amid coronavirus outbreak.

© Provided by The Indian Express
Photographs and

videos of the ceremony that have gone viral show the CM standing close to a group of people, including Ayodhya District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha, security personnel, priests and members of Ram Teerth Kshetra Trust, office bearers of RSS and VHP.

The shifting of the idol clears the site to begin construction of the Ram temple. The new makeshift temple is

bulletproof and made up of fiber, while the Ram Lalla idol was placed on a silver throne. The CM performed puja and also donated Rs 11 lakh cheque from his funds for the temple construction.

Speaking during the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "All of us are lucky to have witnessed the shifting of Maryada Purushotam Ram to his new throne in Ayodhya. This opportunity comes in

ages," adding that many generations had passed away with a dream to see the construction of the Ram Temple. He said that the first phase of that dream has been completed.

Seeking blessings of Ram to fight against the coronavirus outbreak, the CM said, "Whenever humanity across the world faces crises, challenges, and difficult situations, it has taken inspiration and light from Ram."

He further said that the country was preparing itself to fight the pandemic and the steps taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also been appreciated.

However, Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu questioned his visit to Ayodhya amid the lockdown across the country.

In a tweet on

Wednesday morning, Lallu said in Hindi, "It was the first day of Navratri and it was my wish too to visit the goddess's court."

But I listened to the PM's appeal. The CM of UP does not. He went for darshan amid a crowd. In a scenario like this, why will the people of the state listen to the PM?"

Reacting Lallu's comment, CM's media advisor Mrityunjay Kumar said, "He has tweeted at 10.30 am. The CM had returned to Lucknow at 7 am and had started work. The program which he is talking about was held at 4 am when his entire party must be asleep. This program in Ayodhya was a pre-planned one. And there were barely 10 people at the event and all precautions regarding the virus were taken by all."

Other Opposition

party leaders also criticized the CM for not presenting a "good example" by attending the ceremony.

"Yogi is telling people not to go to temples and mosques, and given the coronavirus epidemic this is right," said Samajwadi Party's state president Naresh Uttam. "But the chief minister himself is flouting what he is saying."

Aam Aadmi Party's state chief Sabhajit Singh said responsible people were not following the appeals they were making. He said even if all precautions were taken at the event, there would have been "some people" present there. "There would also have been officials in large numbers during the chief minister's program," Singh pointed out. "It would have been better had the chief minister postponed this program."

Meet Captain Swati Raval, Who Airlifted 263 Indians From Italy Amid COVID-19

This is a trying time, a test of the world in general amid the pandemic COVID-19 which has affected so many and taken so many lives. You and I are just doing work from home or sitting at home and whining about not being able to step out. But have you stopped for a moment and wondered what all those doctors and people helping in coronavirus prevention are going through? They are dealing with the effected patients day in and out, in some of the other way touching so many lives that we can't

even imagine. So we are taking a pause, we urge you as well to do so and read up on some of the people who are going out of their way for the safety of us Indians. Her Zindagi and Jagran New Media have launched a #PositiveIndia campaign to make the negative atmosphere positive. Meet Captain Swati Raval dear readers, the woman pilot who flew into Rome and airlifted 263 Indians and brought them back to Delhi amid the COVID 19 outbreak, on March 22.

Swati Raval, the

commander of the Air India Boeing 777, flew to Italy and brought back so many Indians who would have probably caught the virus or lived in fear of it. She is one of those human beings who risked her safety for the public and hats off to her. She too has a kid like so many mothers who worry over us all the time. But did you know that Swati was also one of the women in the Air India's all-woman crew which flew Mumbai to New York in 2010!?

For 15 years she has been flying and



interestingly, she wanted to be a fighter pilot but at

the time women were not allowed in the Air Force to

fly. So then she became a commercial pilot.

Only India, China will survive coronavirus, rest of the entire world economy will go into recession: UN



With two-thirds of the world's population living in developing countries facing unprecedented economic damage from the COVID-19 crisis, the UN is calling for a USD 2.5 trillion rescue package for these nations.

In the face of a looming financial tsunami this year, UNCTAD proposes a four-pronged strategy that could begin to translate expressions of international solidarity into concrete action.

The world economy will go into recession this year with a predicted loss of trillions of dollars of global income due to the coronavirus pandemic, spelling serious trouble for developing countries with

the likely exception of India and China, according to a latest UN trade report.

With two-thirds of the world's population living in developing countries facing unprecedented economic damage from the COVID-19 crisis, the UN is calling for a USD 2.5 trillion rescue package for these nations.

According to the new analysis from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN trade and development body titled 'The COVID-19 Shock to Developing Countries: Towards a 'whatever it takes' program for the two-thirds of the world's population is left behind', commodity-rich exporting

countries will face a USD 2 trillion to USD 3 trillion drops in investments from overseas in the next two years.

UNCTAD said that in recent days, advanced economies and China have put together massive government packages which, according to the Group of 20 leading economies (G20), will extend a USD 5 trillion lifeline to their economies.

"This represents an unprecedented response to an unprecedented crisis, which will attenuate the extent of the shock physically, economically and psychologically," it said. It added that while the full details of these stimulus packages are yet to be

unpacked, an initial assessment by the UNCTAD estimates that they will translate to a USD 1 trillion to USD 2 trillion injections of demand into the major G20 economies and a two percentage point turnaround in global output.

"Even so, the world economy will go into recession this year with a predicted loss of global income in trillions of dollars. This will spell serious trouble for developing countries, with the likely exception of China and the possible exception of India," the UNCTAD said. The report, however, did not give a detailed explanation as to why and how India and China will be the exceptions as the world faces a recession and loss in global income that will impact developing countries.

Further, given the deteriorating global conditions, fiscal and foreign exchange constraints are bound to tighten over the year. The UNCTAD estimates a USD 2 trillion to USD 3 trillion financing gap facing developing countries over the next two years. In the face of a looming financial tsunami this year, UNCTAD proposes a four-pronged strategy that could begin to translate expressions of international solidarity into concrete

action.

This includes a USD 1 trillion liquidity injection for those being left behind through reallocating existing special drawing rights at the International Monetary Fund; a debt jubilee for distressed economies under which another one trillion dollars of debts owed by developing countries should be canceled this year and a 500 billion dollars Marshall Plan for a health recovery funded from some of the missing official development assistance (ODA) long-promised but not delivered by development partners. The speed at which the economic shockwaves from the pandemic has hit developing countries is dramatic, even in comparison to the 2008 global financial crisis, the UNCTAD said.

"The economic fallout from the shock is ongoing and increasingly difficult to predict, but there are clear indications that things will get much worse for developing economies before they get better," UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said. The report shows that in two months since the virus began spreading beyond China, developing countries have taken an enormous hit in terms of capital outflows, growing bond spreads,

currency depreciation, and lost export earnings, including from falling commodity prices and declining tourist revenues.

Lacking the monetary, fiscal and administrative capacity to respond to this crisis, the consequences of a combined health pandemic and a global recession will be catastrophic for many developing countries and halt their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Even as advanced economies are discovering the challenges of dealing with a growing informal workforce, this remains the norm for developing countries, amplifying their difficulties in responding to the crisis. "Advanced economies have promised to do 'whatever it takes' to stop their firms and households from taking a heavy loss of income," said Richard Kozul-Wright, UNCTAD's director of globalization and development strategies. He added: "But if G20 leaders are to stick to their commitment of 'a global response in the spirit of solidarity', there must be commensurate action for the six billion people living outside the core G20 economies". According to reports, the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic has soared past 35,000 while the number of confirmed cases topped 750,000 globally.

Brazilian President invokes Ramayana while seeking hydroxychloroquine from India

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking supply of anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro invoked ancient Indian epic Ramayana, mentioning the story of how Lord Hanuman brought a holy medicine from the Himalayas to save the life of Lakshmana. India has partially lifted a ban on export of hydroxychloroquine, cited by many as a viable therapeutic so-

lution to fight coronavirus infection. India is supplying the drug to the U.S. and several other countries hit by the pandemic. Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, has recorded close to 14,000 coronavirus cases and over 660 deaths due to the disease. Globally, the virus has killed over 75,000 people and infected more than 13 lakh. Besides the Ramayana, the Brazilian leader also referred to Jesus Christ,

while exuding confidence that the two countries will overcome the global crisis by joining hands. "Just as Lord Hanuman brought the holy medicine from the Himalayas to save the life of Lord Rama's brother Lakshmana, and Jesus healed those who were sick and restored the sight to Bartimeu, India and Brazil will overcome this global crisis by joining forces and sharing blessings for the sake of all peoples," Bolsonaro said in the letter on

Tuesday. According to the Ramayana, Lord Hanuman brought 'Sanjeevani Booti' from the Himalayas to save Lord Rama's brother Lakshmana after he was injured in a battle in Lanka. Mr. Bolsonaro said Brazil hopes that use of the hydroxychloroquine will help in treatment of the virus infected people in his country. "Like many other countries, Brazil places hope in the use of hydroxychloroquine as an effective means to treat patients



who have contracted COVID-19," the Brazilian leader wrote in the letter. On March 25, India banned export of hydroxychloroquine in the

midst of views in some quarters that the drug could be used to fight COVID-19. India is the largest exporter of the drug.

Tiny Tribal Hamlet Sargitalia; has nothing to do with Lockdown

Six kilometers away from the town center of Joda, situated on the laps of the left bank of Baitarani River a beautiful total tribal tiny hamlet known as Sargitalia. It is a part of the Joda Municipality, has a total population of 213 consisting of 105 males and 108 females. The inhabitants are happy with what they have. The nearest village Khuntpani, about three kilometers away has many modern buildings and the villagers own trucks and other luxurious four-wheelers. But all these couldn't influence the villagers of

Sargitalia. They liked to dwell in the typical clay houses with clay tiles roofs and maintaining a safe distance between houses, probably they were aware well before, now what we realize the need for a safe living distance as safety measures from the infections of Corona like a contagious disease.

Although the little tribal village comes under the limits of Joda Municipality, it has effected negligible changes excepting bigger than work visible signboards. The village is

awarded few street lights that they seldom illumine and sleep with the villagers after the sunset. Half completed solar panels are visible on the banks of the River. Probably, that was a project to supply piped water to the village. The project has possibly been abandoned for the last few years.

Sargitalia has a matchless picnic spot on River Baitarani. To develop the spot the forest department had started working a few years back. The projected work goes on for years and its pace is certainly not faster than that of a snail's pace. Connecting road to Joda via Khuntpani and Banspani is perhaps the worst maintained in the Municipality.

However, all these due facilities whether extended or not make no impact on the inhabitants of Sargitalia. They stay happy with what they

have. Commonly, Handia (rice wine) serves as the breakfast. It's a healthy drink with mild intoxication and helps the consumer gaining strength and stamina to work hard. Their homegrown rice and vegetables are enough to make them self-sufficient. For non-vegetarian dishes, desi chickens are reared in every household. River Baitarani all along remains generous in providing sufficient quality and delicious fish only a little effort with a net is all that you need.

Consumption of liquor remains a weak point of the Tribal community. In this context, I recollect one incident some 25 years back. There was a lockdown situation and I had to come from Ranchi to Joda as it was very urgent. So, as a last resort, I had booked a taxi at Ranchi. On the way, I made a brief halt at Khunti and saw the market full of desi liquors in many colors. It

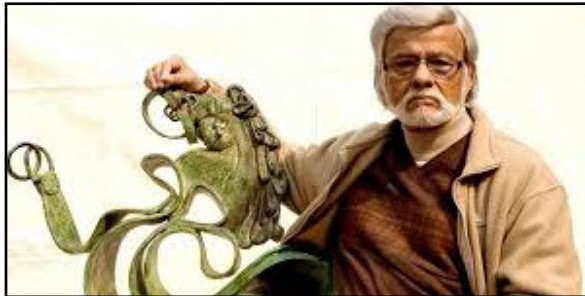


rose my curiosity and I asked the taxi driver about the Rangin desi sarab. The taxi driver was an educated tribal youth and associated with the movement of Jharkhand. He said that the state has everything to become Nagpur, but due to the excessive drinking habit of the tribal, the state was made Chhotanagpur. I liked the level of his wisdom very much. The inhabitants of Sargitalia are no exception. However, they're self-sufficient in liquor like their other food too. They get enough Mahua flowers from the

surrounding forest and brew in their houses to make the finest liquor that is much better than the best of the Scotch whiskey.

During the Lockdown, people in other places are much worried about getting things and roaming in the market. But, in Sargitalia, if the Lockdown continues for a year, the villagers are hard to be impacted. They don't bother what is happening around them. They're happy with what they have and probably that's the reason they rarely go to hospitals for treatment of any ailment.

Renowned artist Satish Gujral passes away at 94



New Delhi : Internationally renowned painter and architect Satish Gujral breathed his last Thursday at the age of 94.

Gujral first picked up colors as a nine-year-old boy, after an accident near Pahalgam in Kashmir rendered him deaf. Art was the language through which he told his stories - of the traumatic Partition, eternal relationship between man, animal and technology, and a b s t r a c t i o n i s t mythological themes interspersed with the use of the Devanagari script.

Born in Jhelum,

Pakistan, in 1925, Gujral had also told that his earliest lessons in art came not from the medium itself but through the words penned by poets such as Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Ghalib, and Iqbal. As a young boy, he accompanied his elder brother Inder, then a student of Lahore College, to gatherings and poetry reading sessions. "He asked Ali Sardar Jafri (Urdu writer and poet) to advise me on poetry, listening to the very first verse penned by me he advised me not to write poems and I followed his advice," says Gujral.

U.S. will stop funding World Health Organization : Trump



President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he is directing his administration to halt U.S. funding of the World Health Organization, as he accused

the WHO of mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus and promised a review of the matter. "So much death has been

caused by their mistakes," Trump said at a daily White House briefing on the pandemic, adding that his administration will continue to engage with the WHO. Trump, who had threatened to freeze U.S. funding to the international organization earlier this month, said the U.S. provides between about \$400 million to \$500 million each year to the organization. At the briefing, the president also continued a recent back-and-forth with state governors,

saying his administration soon will be sharing details on plans to reopen the country and he will speak shortly with all 50 governors. He said there could be reopening for some states before May 1, suggesting that more than 20 are faring well. Trump claimed the authority Monday to decide how and when to reopen the economy, but governors from both parties were quick to note they have the primary constitutional responsibility.

Tokyo Olympics pushed, And India decided to up its ante against the virus



European nations like Italy and Spain have now become the epicenter of coronavirus outbreak outside China. Iran is also one of the countries to have reported a large number of COVID-19

infections and related deaths.

Earlier this week, the World Health Organisation said that the pandemic is "accelerating". With over 500 coronavirus cases and 10 deaths, India has also

decided to up its ante against the virus and has put the nation under a 3-week lockdown.

According to the WHO figures, the virus has infected 375,498 people globally and claimed

16,362 lives.

Here's taking a quick look at coronavirus latest developments from across the globe.

1. Tokyo Olympics has been pushed to 2021.

2. Over 100 people died in the US on Tuesday. The WHO warned the country could be the next epicenter of coronavirus. White House authorities warn those who have traveled in and out of New York should self-quarantine for 14 days. Authorities are also expecting a steep surge in cases in New York.

3. US President Donald Trump said he wants the US "opened up and raring to go by Easter" hinting at

lifting lockdown restrictions which have been enforced in New York, Los Angeles and other areas.

4. Australia has banned overseas travel and extended social restrictions to tackle COVID-19.

5. The UK has extended visa of stranded Indians till May 31.

6. Amazon has decided to stop non-essential sales in India in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Walmart Inc's Flipkart has suspended services, a notice on the Indian e-commerce firm's website said on Wednesday, as India began a 21-day lockdown to fight the

spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

7. Italy recorded 602 deaths on Monday taking the total death toll to 6,820. There is no decline in infection or deaths.

8. Financial markets rebound due to the US Federal Reserve's offer of unlimited bond-buying.

9. Doctors are hoarding medications for COVID-19 by writing prescriptions for themselves and family members, according to pharmacy boards in the US.

10. Gilead Sciences has registered its experimental drug Remdesivir as rare disease treatment in the US, a status which could provide millions in tax breaks.

India releases hydroxychloroquine stocks amid pressure from Trump

India has approved some exports of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug being touted as a possible coronavirus treatment, after apparent pressure from Donald Trump, who has been urging Americans to take it. The tablets are used to prevent and treat malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis but over the past week the US president has been aggressively promoting the drug as a treatment for coronavirus, despite there being no conclusive medi-

cal evidence to prove its efficacy. Hydroxychloroquine: how an unproven drug became Trump's coronavirus 'miracle cure'. India, the world's largest producer of hydroxychloroquine, had put a temporary export ban on the drug in order to preserve domestic stocks. But in a statement on Tuesday morning, Anurag Srivastava, a government spokesperson, said that India had lifted some restrictions after officials had "confirmed the availability of medicines for all possible

contingencies currently envisaged". Srivastava added that hydroxychloroquine would be kept in a "licensed" category, with the demand "continuously monitored". The partial lifting of the export ban comes after Trump confirmed he had called Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, over the weekend threatening "retaliation" if the country did not release its stocks. Trump and Modi have a close relationship. On his inaugural visit to India in February, Trump declared

Modi an "exceptional leader" and "true friend". During a press briefing at the White House on Monday, Trump said: "I spoke to him [Modi] Sunday morning, called him, and I said we'd appreciate your allowing our supply to come out. If he doesn't allow it to come out, that would be OK, but of course, there may be retaliation. Why wouldn't there be?" In recent days, Trump has developed a public obsession with hydroxychloroquine as a miracle cure for coronavirus,



boasting that the US had already stockpiled 29m doses of the drug. The basis for the president's proclamations of the drug as a "game changer"

is a study carried out by a group of scientists in March, but the results have been openly dismissed by experts and major medical bodies.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER

Vol.-13
Issue -23
April 1

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty
Our correspondents at

New Delhi, Rourkela, Jaipur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bolangir, Baripada, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Talcher, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Joda, Sundargarh, Rayagada, Nabarangapur, Jeypore, Phulbani, Nuapara

Editorial office

LIG 491, NeeladriVihar PH II, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar 751021, R.O: Uplands, Banspani, Joda 758034, Odisha
Editorial: 9437072248, Circulation and subscription: 9938229429
Email: imobserver@rediffmail.com,
Our offices at: New Delhi, Raipur, and Mumbai

Owned, Published & Edited by Sirish Chandra Mohanty at LIG 489 & 490, NeeladriViharPHII, Chandrasekhar pur, Bhubaneswar - 751021 & Printed at Web line, Weblines, D2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010