

Centre asks states to resolve immediately e-tailers' problems in delivering essential items



AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday asked state governments to resolve immediately the problems being faced by the e-commerce sector in delivering essential goods amid lockdown across the country to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

E-commerce and home delivery come under essential services and are exempt from the lockdown rules.

"However, there are reports

situation.

The secretary also mentioned that the government is closely monitoring any disruption faced in the movement of essential supplies during the period of lockdown.

The home ministry has set up a control room for monitoring in which officials from the consumer affairs ministry are also present, he added.

The delivery of essential goods via platforms such as Flipkart, Amazon, Grofers and Big Basket have been affected as the police is enforcing the lockdown rules in many parts of the country. Even food delivery firms are facing similar challenges.

The Centre has imposed nationwide lockdown till April 14 in order to prevent spread of coronavirus.

2 arrested for attacking constables after defying lockdown

AGENCY
BENGALURU: Two men were arrested Wednesday for allegedly attacking two constables after they were stopped for breaching a check post set up to implement the lockdown to control the spread of COVID-19, police said.

The incident took place earlier in the day under Sanjay Nagar police station limits in the city, they said.

A video, showing a group of young men arguing with the constables in uniform and then a couple of them attacking and pushing the cops on to the street, has surfaced on social media.

Police said two of the attackers have been arrested while a search is on to nab the others who were with them.

"We have arrested two miscreants and their motorcycle has also been seized. They have been booked under Section 353 of IPC (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). It's a non bailable offence. They will be produced before the magistrate and we will see to it that they are sent to jail," City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao said. The Commissioner said police were only doing their duty by enforcing the lockdown in the interest of the people.

Low-key Ugadi celebrations in Telangana due to coronavirus, lockdown

AGENCY
HYDERABAD: Ugadi, the Telugu New Year Day, was a low-key affair in Telangana as people stayed indoors due to the coronavirus lockdown.

In Hyderabad and across Telangana, the government allowed outlets selling essential goods to open during the day time and people bought neem flowers, raw mango, jaggery, pepper powder, coconut, tamarind and salt to mark the traditional Ugadi Pachehadi.

All these items denote various phases of life during the year.

People drew 'rangolis' in front of their homes and decorated their entrance with neem leaves and flowers and later performed puja. Ugadi is also known as 'Sri Sarvari Nama Samvatsaram'.

To avoid congregation at temples and other religious places, the 'Panchanga Sravanam' (the ritual of reading the almanac during Ugadi) was organised at the Endowments Office and telecast live.

All temples under the endowments department were shut for public but regular pujas were done.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan conveyed her Ugadi greetings to the people in a video message. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Union minister G Kishan Reddy also extended their wishes. Rao said, "I pray the almighty to bless the state and people with happiness, prosperity and good health".

Reddy said "Let's celebrate this Ugadi by staying home and staying safe, with new aspirations and dreams".

COVID-19: Tea production shortfall likely to be 100 million kg due to lockdown

AGENCY
KOLKATA: Tea production in the country is likely to fall by 100 million kg this year due to the 21-day lockdown which was "inevitable" to tackle the coronavirus crisis, an official said on Wednesday.

The country had produced around 1,389 million kgs of tea in 2019, he said.

"The lockdown was inevitable as there is no other option to prevent the spread of the disease. However, the country's tea production will be hit and this will lead to a collapse of the industry," Tea Board Chairman P K Bezbaruah told PTL.

It will take time to bring tea bushes again to the production stage, he said.

Tea Board's deputy chairman Arun Kumar Ray said that the "likely shortfall in production due to lockdown

would be around 100 million kg this year", which could lead to rise in prices.

"The impact of the coronavirus outbreak will be felt across the globe. The priority is to prevent community transmission," Ray said.

With this lockdown, Darjeeling tea planters will lose first flush production, a premium variety, by around 30 per cent, Bezbaruah said.

The loss of production in West Bengal's Dooars is likely to be around 11 per cent and 10 per cent in Assam, he said.

Tea plucking during the lockdown period has been banned by the Tea Board but there should be restrictions on the entry of outsiders in the tea gardens, Bezbaruah said.

"Some of the workers' colonies are very congested. They do not maintain prop-

Lockdown fallout: Azadpur mandi trading down by 50 pc in absence of curfew passes

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Trading at the Azadpur mandi, Asia's biggest wholesale fruits and vegetable market, has come down by 50 per cent in the last two days in the absence of curfew passes to traders, a senior mandi official said on Wednesday.

Wholesale traders are not able to transact much as retailer vendors are not able to enter the mandi because of police assault fears and seizure of their vehicles, he added.

"Enough supply of vegetables has reached mandis, but retailers are not allowed to enter for buying and carry in their vehicles. The police are asking for formal identity card to prove they are exempt from the restriction of lockdown rules," Azadpur mandi President Rajendra Kumar Sharma told PTL.

"To enforce the lockdown rules, the police is stopping

Coronavirus: Politicians in Bengal say no to physical interactions, prefer work from home

AGENCY
KOLKATA: Politicians cutting across party lines in West Bengal have switched to work-from-home mode in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, shunning physical interactions and opting for social media to connect with workers and supporters.

Since the last few days, most political parties, including the TMC, BJP, Congress and CPI(M) have called off rallies and other public programmes as the state went into a lockdown to contain the spread of the dreaded virus.

We have asked our party workers to stay safe and vigilant, and abide by the guidelines of the Centre and the state government. At present, we are coordinating over phone and social media. Our party offices at the state and districts levels are operating with skeletal strength. If needed, we will close them for the time being," CPI(M) polit-



ers and workers are at home. Offices are closed," he said.

Ghosh, who has a busy schedule on most days of the week, is now spending time reading books, party literature and keeping a close tab on developments related to the pandemic.

Congress president Somen Mitra echoed Ghosh and said most of its party offices in West Bengal are shut.

Senior ministers of the state government are also working from home, issuing necessary instructions to officers over phone.

Lockdown: Complaints of shortages, authorities warn of action

AGENCY
MUMBAI: Owners of Fair Price Shops will face action if they were found to be indulging in black marketing amid the coronavirus outbreak, the rationing authority warned on Wednesday.

In slum areas of the city, there were complaints that customers had to return empty-handed as people flocked to shops to buy essential commodities after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced nationwide lockdown.

The Maharashtra government had assured that

despite restrictions on movement of vehicles and closure of offices and businesses, Fair Price Shops and other shops selling essential commodities will remain open.

The Controller of Rationing and Director of Civil Supplies Kailash Pagare said that every month, 34,000 tons of food grains are distributed through Fair Price Shops in Mumbai.

"Till now in March, 24,000 tons of grains have been distributed, and the government has sufficient stocks. People should get their

Pleasant, sunny morning in Delhi, light rain likely

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Back-to-back western disturbances are expected to bring more rains to the national capital, which has already recorded 103.3 mm rainfall this month, the highest ever in March.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting centre of the India Meteorological Department, said rains are expected in Delhi on Wednesday night under the influence of an active western disturbance. "Light rains are likely on Thursday evening/night as well under the influence of another western disturbance," he said.

"This WD will peak on Friday, when hailstorm, dust storm/thunderstorm, with winds gusting up to 45 kmph, will prevail over Delhi-NCR," Srivastava said.

The maximum temperature is likely to increase by two to three degrees Celsius by

March 30 after the weather system withdraws on Saturday, the IMD said.

The city on Wednesday recorded a low of 16.8 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 33.3 degrees Celsius, the highest so far this season. The air quality in the city improved significantly, with the Central Pollution Control Board recording its overall air quality index at 4 pm at 77, which falls in the satisfactory category. Weather experts said the air quality has been improving over the last few days due to favourable wind speed and lesser number of vehicles on the roads in view of the lockdown imposed by the city government to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

The city government has imposed a lockdown, restricting all but essential services like police, health, groceries, pharmacies, banks, petrol pumps etc, to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

TN Govt seeks Rs 4,000 cr spl central assistance to tackle coronavirus

AGENCY
CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday sought a special assistance of Rs 4,000 crore from the Centre to implement measures to tackle COVID-19, saying the state's revenues have "also taken a hit" in this unprecedented situation.

Therefore, as a one-time measure, the fiscal deficit limit of three per cent of Gross State Domestic Product may be relaxed for financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Detailing the various steps taken by his government in the wake of the outbreak of coronavirus, he said more resources were needed to "face the projected number of cases effectively".

The 21-day lockdown announced by Modi on Tuesday "will add to the huge strain that the economy of

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, JAMMU.

Subject: Amnesty Scheme for Electricity Consumer 2020.

Government Order No: 79-PDD of 2020
Dated: 25-03-2020

In continuation to Government Order No. 51-PDD of 2020 dated 02.03.2020, 78-PDD of 2020 dated 20.03.2020 issued under endorsement No. PDD/II/AC/32/2015 dated 02.03.2020 and 20.03.2020 respectively, sanction is hereby accorded to the modification of dates to the above government orders as tabulated below:

S.No	Last date of deposition vide Govt. Order No. 51-PDD of 2020 dated 02.03.2020	Last date of deposition extended vide Govt. Order No. of 2020 dated 20.03.2020	Last date of deposition now extended.
1	The last date of deposition of first instalment i.e 31st March, 2020	The last date of deposition extended upto 10th April, 2020	The last date of deposition of first instalment is now extended upto 30th April, 2020.
2	The last date of deposition of 2nd instalment i.e 30th April, 2020	The last date of deposition of 2nd instalment extended upto 10th May, 2020	The last date of deposition of 2nd instalment upto 31st May, 2020.
3	The last date of deposition of 3rd instalment i.e 30th May, 2020	The last date of deposition of 3rd instalment i.e 10th June, 2020	The last date of deposition of 3rd instalment upto 30th June, 2020.

The other terms and conditions of Government Order No. 51-PDD of 2020 dated 02.03.2020 and 78-PDD of 2020 dated 20.03.2020 shall remain the same.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

SD/ (M. RAJU) IAS
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 lockdown: US embassy says it is arranging flights to take Americans back home

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown for 21 days to fight COVID-19, the US Embassy in India stated on Wednesday that it is working with the US State Department and with airlines to arrange flights to take Americans back home.

Moreover, in a health alert on its website, the embassy mentioned that it is in touch with the Indian government to emphasise the need for hotels to continue to lodge US citizens.

On Tuesday, Modi announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown till April 15 in order to prevent the spread

of coronavirus.

"While the exact parameters of the curfew are still unclear, US citizens should cooperate by sheltering in place," the embassy noted.

"US citizens are required to comply with the Indian law and obey directions from law enforcement officers. We are in contact with the Indian government to emphasise the need for hotels to continue to lodge US citizens," it mentioned.

The embassy said that it continues to work with the US Department of State and airline companies to arrange flights from India to the US for American citizens.

"Once these flights are arranged, we will work with

Assam Govt taking all necessary steps to provide essential items to people: Sonowal

AGENCY
GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday said that his government is taking all necessary steps to provide the essential items to the people of the state during the 21-day lockdown. In a video message sent to the media, Sonowal said his government is working to ensure that people do not face any difficulty in having essential items during the next 21 days. Food and Civil Supplies, Public Health Engineering and other departments have taken many initiatives so that people do not face any inconvenience during the lockdown period, he added.

"Please follow all the instructions issued by the Health Department. I urge all of you to follow the lockdown as your social and national duty. We believe that you will be able to follow this," the chief minister appealed.

Markets, offices and even gas agencies were closed and roads were empty across Assam on Wednesday, the first day of the nationwide lockdown imposed to check the spread of the coronavirus, as people remained indoors after resorting to panic-buying in the past two days.

1,122 people under home quarantine in Aurangabad district

AGENCY
AURANGABAD: More than 1,100 people, some of them with travel history abroad, are under home quarantine in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra but there is no suspected case of coronavirus as of now, an official said on Wednesday.

A woman, who had travelled to Russia and Kazakhstan, had tested positive for the viral infection in second week of march on her return to India.

She was treated at a private hospital from where she was discharged a few days ago following recovery from the illness, the official said. "The total number of citizens under home quarantine in Aurangabad district was

1,122 till Tuesday. Of these, 267 have a history of international travel recently," municipal health officer Neeta Padalkar told PTL on Wednesday. They have been quarantined as a precaution, she said.

"We have done stamping on their hands. Some of them tried to move of their homes but lockdown has made them remain indoors," she said.

"We have decided to put information boards outside the residences of quarantined citizens. The process to procure necessary equipment to fight coronavirus has been undertaken on an urgent basis and a sum of Rs 2.5 crore has been received from the district administration," Padalkar said.

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE CHC RAMGARH
SHORT TERM QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are hereby invited for the supply of below mentioned items for various health institutions of Block Ramgarh District Samba. The quotations should reach in the office of Block Medical Officer within three days positively. Successful bidder shall have to supply items as and when required at the concerned institution within 24 hours of placing supply order. Purchase committee at the block can access the quality of the material and possess the right to reject any quotation without assigning any reason.

S.No.	Name of Items
1	Lab regents and other lab items
2	Aluminium work
3	Minor repair and renovation of the building including plumbing, electric work.
4	White wash and painting work of the building.
5	X-Ray films 8x10, 10x12, 12x15, X-Ray developer & ECG Roll.
6	Glucometer, HB meter, Examination table, Labour table, Sterilizer, Suction machine, Trolley, trays, drums, Screen, Patient bed, Oxygen concentrator, Patient stool, D&C Set and other surgical items.
7	Baby Warmer.

Details if any required is available in the BMO office Ramgarh

No.: BMO/R/1851-52
Dated: 23.03.2020
DIP/J-15457/20
Dated: 25.03.2020

SD/ Block Medical Officer Ramgarh