Current Affairs=20-04-2020

Government forms high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing of COVID-19; Head- Prof K. VijayRaghavan

The Central Government has formed a high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing for COVID-19. The task force is headed by Prof K. VijayRaghavan (principal scientific advisor to the Prime Minister).

The objective of this task force is to speed up national and international efforts towards vaccine development to treat Covid-19.

The department of biotechnology would also act as a nodal agency "to identify the pathway for vaccine development, monitor the progress of efforts at both national and international levels in this area and provide government facilitation where needed.

Uttar Pradesh Government sets up panel, headed by Agriculture Production Commissioner, to provide jobs to 5 lakh migrant workers
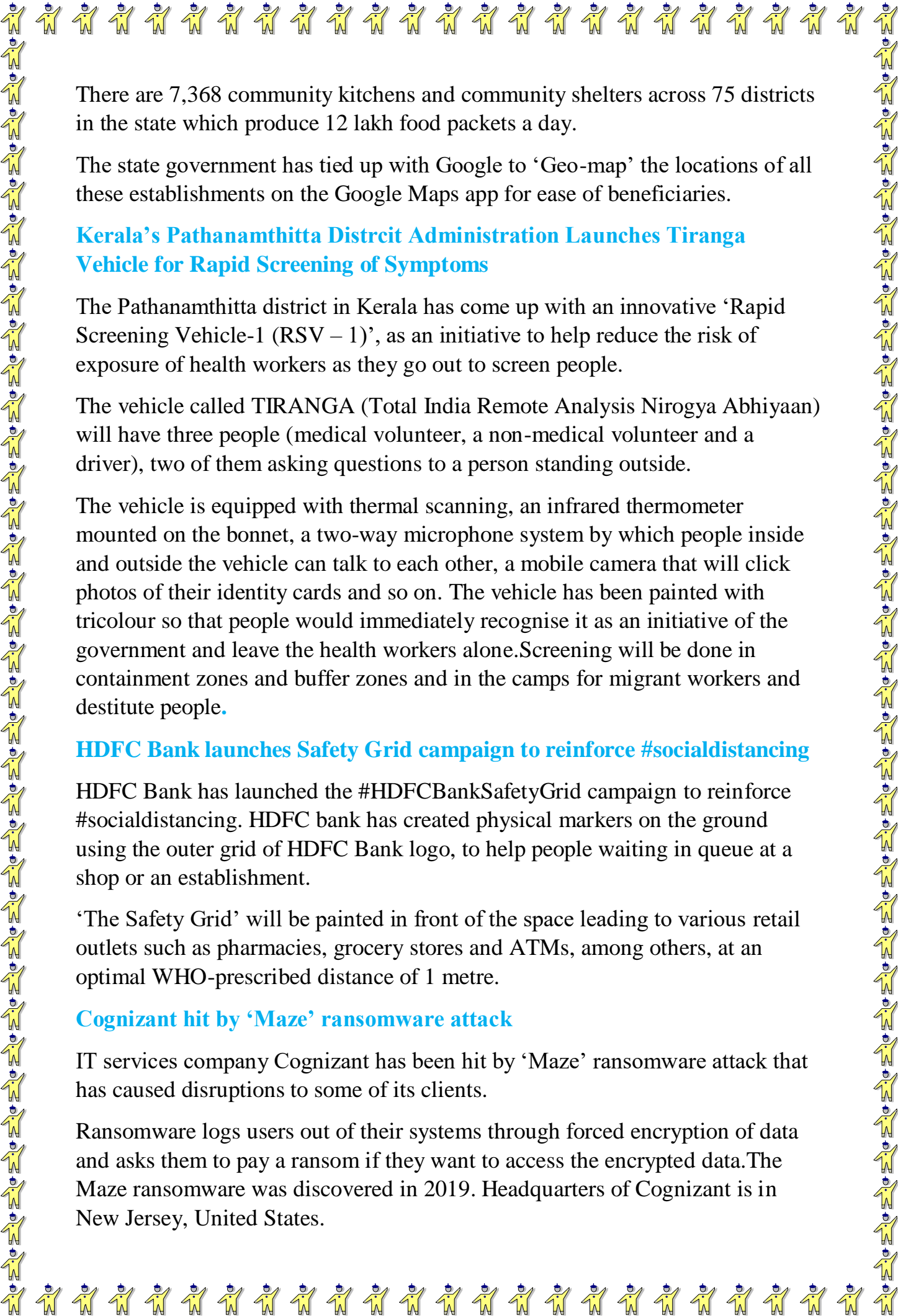
The state government of Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has constituted a committee to provide employment to the 5 lakh migrated laborers who reached the state during last 45 days, and got stuck due to COVID-19.The committee will be headed by Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC). The current APC of Uttar Pradesh is Shri Alok Sinha.

Apart from APC, the principal secretaries of Rural development, Panchayati Raj, MSME and Skill development will be the members of this committee.

The Committee will recommend how maximum opportunities of employment may be generated at local level and strengthen rural economy.It will arrange loan fairs for bank loans and suggest employment under one district one product program (ODOP), to provide employment to the maximum people .

Uttar Pradesh Becomes First Indian State to Geotag Community Kitchens & Shelters

Uttar Pradesh has been reported to become the first state in the country to geotag all its community kitchens and community shelters across 75 districts of the state, so as to provide adequate information to the general public regarding the location of shelter homes and community kitchens amid lockdown.

There are 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters across 75 districts in the state which produce 12 lakh food packets a day.

The state government has tied up with Google to 'Geo-map' the locations of all these establishments on the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries.

Kerala's Pathanamthitta Distrcit Administration Launches Tiranga Vehicle for Rapid Screening of Symptoms

The Pathanamthitta district in Kerala has come up with an innovative 'Rapid Screening Vehicle-1 (RSV – 1)', as an initiative to help reduce the risk of exposure of health workers as they go out to screen people.

The vehicle called TIRANGA (Total India Remote Analysis Nirogya Abhiyaan) will have three people (medical volunteer, a non-medical volunteer and a driver), two of them asking questions to a person standing outside.

The vehicle is equipped with thermal scanning, an infrared thermometer mounted on the bonnet, a two-way microphone system by which people inside and outside the vehicle can talk to each other, a mobile camera that will click photos of their identity cards and so on. The vehicle has been painted with tricolour so that people would immediately recognise it as an initiative of the government and leave the health workers alone.Screening will be done in containment zones and buffer zones and in the camps for migrant workers and destitute people.

HDFC Bank launches Safety Grid campaign to reinforce #socialdistancing

HDFC Bank has launched the #HDFCBankSafetyGrid campaign to reinforce #socialdistancing. HDFC bank has created physical markers on the ground using the outer grid of HDFC Bank logo, to help people waiting in queue at a shop or an establishment.

'The Safety Grid' will be painted in front of the space leading to various retail outlets such as pharmacies, grocery stores and ATMs, among others, at an optimal WHO-prescribed distance of 1 metre.

Cognizant hit by 'Maze' ransomware attack

IT services company Cognizant has been hit by 'Maze' ransomware attack that has caused disruptions to some of its clients.

Ransomware logs users out of their systems through forced encryption of data and asks them to pay a ransom if they want to access the encrypted data.The Maze ransomware was discovered in 2019. Headquarters of Cognizant is in New Jersey, United States.

Oscar-winning Animator and Film director Gene Deitch passes away at 95

Gene Deitch, an American-born Czech illustrator, animator, comics artist, film director and producer, has passed away at the age of 95.

His movie Munro won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 1960. He is also credited for directing 13 episodes of Tom and Jerry and also some episodes of the Popeye the Sailor series among other achievements.

UN Chinese Language Day: 20 April

UN Chinese Language Day is observed on April 20 annually.

The UN Department of Public Information established the day in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization.April 20 has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago..