

### **DRDO Laboratory VRDE Develops full-body Disinfection Chamber 'PSE'**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Laboratory at Vehicle Research Development Establishment (VRDE), Ahmednagar, in Maharashtra has designed a full body disinfection chamber called as Personnel Sanitisation Enclosure (PSE).

This walkthrough enclosure is designed for personnel decontamination, one person at a time.

It is a portable system equipped with sanitiser and soap dispenser.

### **RBI increases the number of days for which a State/ UT can be in overdraft**

The Reserve Bank of India allows State Government to tide over their cashflow mismatches (consider it as a loan) in form of Special Drawing Facility (SDF) and Normal Ways and Means Advances.

Now RBI has increased the number of days or which a State/ UT can be in overdraft continuously as under:

The number of days for which States/UTs can be in overdraft continuously has been increased to 21 working days from the previous 14 days.

The number of days for which a State/ UT can be in overdraft in a quarter has been increased to 50 working days from the previous 36 days.

The new arrangement will remain valid till September 30, 2020. You can read more about WMA to the government from [here](#).

### **China Overtakes US as World's Top Patent Filer For First Time in Over 4 Decades**

As per the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) annual report, released on 7 April 2020, China was the world leader in international patent filings in the year 2019, surpassing the United States, which had held the top spot for more than four decades.

The UN agency WIPO informed that a record 265,800 international patent applications were filed in 2019, which was 5.2% more from 2018.

The WIPO's complex system of registering international patents involves multiple categories. But the main category is the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

This is for the first time that China topped the PCT ranking, by filing 58,990 applications.

It overtook the United States, which filed 57,840 applications, and which has topped the PCT ranking since the system took effect in 1978.



### **Englands Ben Stokes named 2020 Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World**

England's all-rounder Ben Stokes has been named as the leading cricketer in the world by Wisden for the year 2019. He is the first player from England since 2005 to be named for this award.

In Women's category, Australia's Ellyse Perry has been named the Wisden's Leading Female Cricketer in the World.

### **Veteran Indian-American Journalist Brahm Kanchibotla Passes Away of coronavirus at 66**

An Indian-American journalist, Brahm Kanchibotla, passed away after being tested positive of Coronavirus in America. He was 66.

Kanchibotla was a former contributor to the United News of India news agency and was working as New York and UN correspondent of the United News of India.

### **Govt. mulls lockdown extension amid requests from the States**

The Union government indicated that it was actively considering an extension of the 21-day nationwide lockdown that began on March 25, 2020, and is due to end on April 14, 2020, as many States have openly appealed for its continuation as the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise.

The number of COVID-19 affected districts increased from 62 on March 20 to 284 on April 6 across 30 States and Union Territories.

Amid calls from the States on the need for a calibrated lifting of the lockdown, a meeting of the Group of Ministers on COVID-19, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, recommended that the closure of all educational institutions and restrictions on all religious activities having public participation be extended till May 15, irrespective of the government decision, official sources said.

### **India lifts ban on export of hydroxychloroquine**

India announced that it had rescinded its earlier ban on the export of malaria drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), which is now being used in countries such as the U.S. as a possible line of treatment for COVID-19, in view of the humanitarian aspects of the pandemic. In a notification on March 25, 2020, the government placed HCQ on a restricted items list, and then put a blanket ban on any export of the drug on April 4, 2020. The latest decision, which was taken at a high-level meeting on April 6, 2020, effectively overturns the previous notification.

### **Economy to contract 4.5% in fourth quarter, says ICRA**

The Indian economy is likely to witness a sharp contraction of 4.5% during Q4FY20 and is expected to recover gradually to post a GDP growth of just 2% in FY21, rating agency ICRA said.