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**OUR RECORD**

Year of Exam	Cut-off Marks for General Category	Data from UPSC website	MARKS DELIVERED FROM OUR 10 RED BOOKLETS
2019	99 (Expected)	154	
2018	98	154	
2017	105.34	154	
2016	116	152	
2015	107.34	168	
2014	205 (incl. CSAT Marks)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	

## NEARBY



### Supreme Court dismisses Nirbhaya convict's plea

**NEW DELHI**  
Nirbhaya case convict Mukesh's challenge against the President's rejection of his mercy petition was on Wednesday dismissed by a three-judge Bench led by Justice R. Banumathi. The court said a quick decision by the President did not mean there was non-application of mind.

NEWS ► PAGE 12

### Protesters gather at Jantar Mantar over CAA

**NEW DELHI**  
Hundreds of people gathered at Jantar Mantar under the banner of "Alliance against CAA-NRC-NPR" on Wednesday. Holding the Tricolour, protesters, including those who have been on an indefinite stir at Shaheen Bagh, held posters of the Preamble of the Constitution.

CITY ► PAGE 4

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## MEPs defer vote on CAA motion to March

India hails it as 'diplomatic win'

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) began a discussion on a joint motion criticising India's Citizenship Act on Wednesday night. In partial relief for the government, however, the MEPs decided not to hold a vote on the motion until the second half of March this year.

On March 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to visit Brussels for the EU-India summit, and an amendment moved by MEP Michael Gahler of the European People's Party (EPP) sought time so as to ensure that India could engage with the MEPs on the motion.

"The issue is ongoing as the Supreme Court has asked the government a number of questions and we should await their answers. We will

also have the opportunity to speak directly to Indian government Ministers about the Citizenship Law in February," said Mr. Gahler, referring to the upcoming visit to Brussels of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, while proposing the postponement.

Sources in the government called the vote being put off a "diplomatic victory for India", and blamed Pakistan, and in particular one British MEP Shaffaq Mohammad, for bringing the six different resolutions criticising India to the European Parliament, just days before Britain is due to exit the European Union. Neither the discussion nor the vote can be enforced by the EU parliament on India, but they could become a cause for strain in ties.

'AN INTERNAL MATTER' ► PAGE 13

## Cabinet nod for raising abortion limit to 24 weeks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Bill will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament.

According to a release, the proposed amendment seeks to enhance the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women that will be defined in the amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules and will include "vulnerable women including survivors of rape, victims of incest" and others like differently abled women and minors. Also, the upper gestation limit will not apply to cas-



Details of a woman whose pregnancy has been ended shall not be revealed.  
 • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

es of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by the Medical Board.

"Name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed except to a person authorised in any law for the time being in force," the release said.

## Centre advises against travel to China; IndiGo, AI cut services

Beijing's permission sought to operate 2 flights to bring back Indians from Hubei

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday advised people to refrain from travelling to China in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, as the death toll there rose to 133 with nearly 1,500 new cases. The fresh advisory came hours after a communication from the Ministry said, "All non-essential travel to China should be avoided."

The Government of India has sought the Chinese authorities' permission to operate two flights to bring back Indians from Hubei Province. Meanwhile, two Indian carriers that fly to China – IndiGo and Air India – on Wednesday announced suspension of most of their flights to that country.

IndiGo announced that it was suspending its Delhi-Chengdu and Bengaluru-Hong Kong flights with effect from February 1. However, it will continue to operate the Kolkata-Guangzhou flight. The airline said it was taking precautions for its crew to ensure that they don't have a layover in China and can return on the same flight.

Air India too cancelled its Mumbai-Delhi-Shanghai flights with effect from January 31, though it will continue to fly to Hong Kong.



**All ready:** The new coronavirus isolation ward at TB and Chest Diseases Hospital in Puducherry on Wednesday. • M. SAMRAJ

## U.S., Japan pull out nationals

**REUTERS**  
BEIJING

The U.S. and Japan evacuated their nationals from the quarantined city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak in China.

Beijing's pledge to slay the "devil" coronavirus has won the trust of the World

Health Organisation, but confirmation of another 1,459 cases – taking the total to 5,974 in China – fuelled public alarm worldwide. Foreign airlines, including British Airways, began suspending flights to and from China on Wednesday.

FULL REPORT ON ► PAGE 14

Screening of ship passengers and crew for the virus at ports in the country was also initiated.

Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong tweeted, "The World Health Organisation (WHO) does not recommend the evacuation of na-

tionals, and called on the international community to remain calm and not over-react. The WHO is confident in China's epidemic prevention and control ability."

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FIRST CASE IN UAE ► PAGE 14

## All-clear for suspected cases in north India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on Wednesday said medical tests of the suspected Mohali-based coronavirus patient, who was admitted at Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research in Chandigarh, have proved negative. "There is no case of coronavirus in the State," he said.

A man, who was found with coronavirus symptoms in Jaipur, also tested negative and 18 others under observation in Rajasthan were in good health, officials said.

In Madhya Pradesh, a 50-year-old woman and her 20-year-old son who were admitted in a hospital in Ujjain tested negative for the deadly pathogen.

Also on Wednesday, the administration in Jammu and Kashmir decided to set up multiple isolation wards even as 32 students from the region remain stranded in China.

(With inputs from PTI)

## Anurag, Parvesh out of BJP star campaigners list

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday ordered the removal of Union Minister Anurag Thakur (in picture) and BJP MP from

West Delhi Parvesh Sahib Singh from the BJP's list of star campaigners for the Delhi Assembly election after *prima facie* finding that their recent statements were in violation of the Model Code

of Conduct.

In a statement, the ECI said: "The Election Commission has ordered the removal of Sh. Anurag Thakur and Sh. Parvesh Sahib Singh from the list of star cam-

paigners of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the elections to the Legislative Assembly of the NCT of Delhi with immediate effect and until further orders (sic)."

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## JD(U) expels Kishor, Varma

**AMARNATH TEWARY**  
PATNA

The Janata Dal (United) on Wednesday expelled national vice-president Prashant Kishor and national general secretary Pawan Varma from its primary member-

ship with immediate effect.

Soon both leaders offfered wishes to JD(U) president Nitish Kumar for him to "retain the chair of Chief Minister of Bihar at any cost".

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