

The virus that shook the world

Started in China, COVID-19 has now reached 105 countries and territories. About 27% of the total number of infections have been confirmed outside mainland China

- Overseas cases constitute **97%** of the cases added in the last week
- There have been 874 new cases and five new deaths outside China since Sunday

Total number of infections: 113,404

Deaths: 3,981 (3.5%)

People recovered: 62,547 (55.2%)

Pending cases: 46,876 (41.3%)



Countries*	Cases	Deaths
Mainland China	80,745	3,119
South Korea	7,478	53
Italy	9,172	463
Iran	7,161	237
France	1,209	19
Japan	1,190	14
Germany	1,040	0
Spain	674	17
United States	538	22
Switzerland	332	2
United Kingdom	273	3
Netherlands	265	3
Sweden	203	0
Belgium	200	0
Norway	176	0

Countries*	Cases	Deaths
Singapore	150	0
Hong Kong	115	3
Austria	104	0
Malaysia	99	0
Bahrain	85	0
Australia	80	2
Thailand	50	1
Greece	73	0
Kuwait	64	0
Canada	64	0
Iraq	60	6
Iceland	58	0
Egypt	55	1
Taiwan	45	1
United Arab Emirates	45	0

Countries*	Cases	Deaths
India	43	0
Israel	39	0
Algeria	20	0
San Marino	36	1
Denmark	35	0
Czech Republic	32	0
Lebanon	32	0
Portugal	30	0
Vietnam	30	0
Brazil	25	0
Finland	25	0
Palestine	22	0
Ireland	21	0
Russia	17	0
Oman	16	0
Slovenia	16	0
Romania	15	0
Qatar	15	0
Ecuador	14	0
Georgia	13	0
Croatia	12	0
Argentina	12	1
Saudi Arabia	11	0
Poland	11	0
Estonia	10	0



Medical staff moving a patient suffering from COVID-19 from an ambulance to a hospital on Monday in Seoul, South Korea. ■ GETTY IMAGES Source: Reuters

EU seeks to tackle virus as infections spread

Italian PM asks for easing borrowing limits to contain the outbreak; six inmates die in a prison riot over new restrictions

REUTERS
ROME
EU leaders will seek a coordinated response to the coronavirus after Italy sealed off much of its industrial north, where six prisoners were killed in a riot over curbs on visits.

EU leaders will hold a teleconference to discuss their next moves, European Council President Charles Michel said, with one official saying the call was likely to take place on Tuesday. "We need to cooperate in order to protect the health of our citizens," Mr. Michel, who chairs EU summits, tweeted.

In little more than two weeks, the number of people infected in Italy rose to 9,172 — an increase of 1,797 on Sunday's figures. Italy's civil protection agency reported 97 new deaths, bringing the country's toll to 463, the second-highest death toll after China's, putting its health system under huge strain.

More than 1,10,000 people have been infected in 105 countries and territories, and 3,800 have died, the vast majority in mainland China, according to a Reuters tally. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said strict European Union borrowing limits should be loosened and the flexibility envisaged by EU budget rules should be used "in full". "Europe cannot think of

confronting an extraordinary situation with ordinary measures," he said. Italy's prison administration said six inmates had died in a prison riot in the northern town of Modena over new restrictions on visits.

There has been a series of rebellions across the country," said Francesco Basentini, head of the authority. Video aired on TV showed police and fire trucks outside the prison as black smoke swirled into the sky. With Italy's economy already on the brink of recession, bars and restaurants in Lombardy were ordered to close or to restrict entry and maintain a distance of at least a metre between people on their premises. At the weekend, people had queued outside supermarkets to buy food and

New York Port Authority chief tests positive

creased to 142, up from 105 a day earlier, Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Monday. Most of the cases are in Westchester county, where a Manhattan lawyer believed to be at the centre of the outbreak there resides, he told a news conference.

REUTERS
WASHINGTON
The number of confirmed U.S. cases of COVID-19 on Monday rose to 566, including 22 deaths, according to state public health authorities and a running national tally kept by the Johns Hopkins University. About three-fourths of the 50 U.S. states have reported infections of the respiratory illness COVID-19 that can lead to pneumonia. The number of people who have tested positive across New York state in-

creased to 142, up from 105 a day earlier, Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Monday. Most of the cases are in Westchester county, where a Manhattan lawyer believed to be at the centre of the outbreak there resides, he told a news conference. Rick Cotton, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey which controls airports and other major travel hubs, has tested positive for the virus and will be quarantined and working from home, Mr. Cuomo added.

Rival Afghan leaders take parallel oaths

At least two blasts hit Ashraf Ghani's oath ceremony, no casualties were reported

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL
Afghanistan lurched deeper into political crisis Monday as the country's two rival leaders swore themselves in as President at simultaneous ceremonies that were interrupted by at least two blasts.



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah both held swearing in ceremonies on Monday. ■ AP

The bitter feud between President Ashraf Ghani and his former Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah has raised fears for Afghanistan's fragile democracy as the U.S. prepares to leave the country following an agreement last month with a strong and largely unified Taliban.

Polks were held in September, but repeated delays and accusations of voter fraud meant that Mr. Ghani, the incumbent President, was only declared as winner of a second term in February —

U.S. airlines to force Boeing to rewire jets

U.S. aviation regulators plan to require Boeing to rewire all 737 MAX aircraft before allowing the troubled planes fly again, *The Wall Street Journal* has reported.

Sudan PM survives assassination attempt

Hamdok heads a transitional govt.

REUTERS
KHARTOUM
Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok survived an assassination attempt targeting his convoy as he headed to work on Monday morning in the capital Khartoum, officials said. Mr. Hamdok said he was in "good shape" and that what had happened would be "an additional push to the wheel of change in Sudan", where he heads a transitional government following the overthrow last year of long-time President Omar al-Bashir.



Sudan Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. ■ AP

ELSEWHERE



Netanyahu asks court to delay corruption trial

JERUSALEM
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked on Monday for a 45-day delay in his corruption trial due to open March 17, saying prosecutors had not provided all information relevant to the case. ■ AP

35 killed in Ghana after two buses collide

ACCRA
Thirty-five people, including women and children, were killed on Monday when two buses collided on a busy road in Ghana, officials said. The accident, which happened in the Bono East region around 430 km from the capital Accra, also left six people in critical condition. ■ AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12879

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

ACROSS

- Mournful in lodge after consuming dope (8)
- Endures worthless person aboard steamer (6)
- A scoundrel endlessly drinking spirit in Greek marketplace (5)
- Tolerate barbarian? Difficult (2,7)

DOWN

- Spot to catch one flatfish (6)

(set by Dr. X)

- Champion facing crazy rat race shows determination (9)
- Muesli digested finally! Enzymes released here? (5)
- Heaps of money for hot dogs (6)
- Mercurial Trump's latest driveline — spiteful, exudes malice primarily (7)
- Critical instruction to catch snake (7)
- Characters in Hoover docudrama ham it up (6)
- Trivial talks by Yankee — supports Britain exiting (5)
- Choose escort possessing ultimately attractive figure (9)
- Distinctly better than what a barber might provide? (1,3,5)
- Plant a secret agent (5)
- Reckon English appear to be accepting Brexit finally (6)
- Suspension following blunder in transaction (8)
- Moan about a disturbed soul becoming deviant (9)
- Lecher exposes in a room! Creep (2,2,1,6,4)
- Wipes out revolutionary observed holding gun (7)
- Be very upset lately with underground revolution? (4,2,4,5)
- Justification given by union in dispute (5)
- Foxy Carol acquires essentially provocative skirt (8)
- Arouse endless rage in revolutionary groups (4,2)
- Crack goal by English champion eliminates France (9)
- A strategy prepared for match played on opponent's ground (4,4)
- Subatomic particle in hydrogen radon compound (6)
- Dirty old boy on stage (7)
- Refuse to retain Article, leading to abrogation (6)
- Woo, essentially lure into bed (5)

SUDOKU

			9					
		3		8	4			
9							2	7
3			6	5				2
2	8		1		5	9		
4			3	9			7	
3	1							5
			1	5		4		
					8			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12878

H	O	L	D	O	N	E	S	P	E	A	C	E
S	H	E	L	L	M	E	A	N	S	T	E	S
T	R	I	E	P	E	A	H					
A	R	M	A	G	E	D	D	O	N	E	V	E
C	A	N	O	N	I	C	E	V	E	B	R	O
O	R	I	O	L	E	P	R	E	O			
S	N	Y	T	O	N	O	N	O				
S	L	A	P	J	A	M	S	E	S	T	I	O
E	S	S	S	H	P	F	I	C				
D	U	T	C	H	W	I	F	E	E	P	O	C
E	H	I	D	L	C	R						
A	W	H	A	L	E	O	F	A	T	I	M	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	5	2	3	1	8	4	7
8	7	2	4	6	5	3	9	1
1	4	3	8	9	7	5	6	2
5	8	1	9	4	3	2	7	6
6	3	4	7	2	8	1	5	9
7	2	9	1	5	6	4	8	3
2	5	8	3	7	9	6	1	4
4	1	7	6	8	2	9	3	5
3	9	6	5	1	4	7	2	8

FAITH

In praise of mothers

The role of a mother in the life of a child is huge and is, therefore, celebrated in verse in Tamil. The Jain work Naaladiyaar gives motherhood as an example while talking of the importance of having the support of one's family. It says a man who is surrounded by his relatives in troubled times will feel his weakness disappearing. In the same way, when her child is placed on a mother's lap, she forgets the discomforts of pregnancy and the labour pains. The only feeling she experiences is joy. All else is forgotten, said Malayaman in a discourse. Attending to every need of the child, feeding it, bathing it, nursing it through sickness — a mother's care for her child continues during the child's growing years. Tamil literature has verses that capture the beauty of a mother showing the child the moon and getting it to eat up its food, the child's first attempts at walking and so on. They show how a mother delights at each milestone in her child's life. The work Yelaadi says that a mother has certain distinctive characteristics. She is patient; she is a woman with good qualities; she is generous; she forgives those who treat her badly; she is honest. Such a woman is a mother to everyone, says Yelaadi. Thirukadukam says a mother is the one who sustains the whole family. Thirukadukam says that a mother is also a good host, who welcomes guests warmly. Naamanikkadikai says that no relative of a person can compare with his or her mother. Just as one's mother deserves one's gratitude, so too does one's father. Achara kovai says it is the duty of every person to pay respects to his mother and father every day. Thirukadukam says a person has three important duties — studying, living a virtuous life and worshipping his parents.