

No one to be marked D (doubtful) during NPR... telling you as Home Minister: Shah

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

ON THE day Tamil Nadu became the newest addition to the list of states opposed to the National Population Register exercise which is due to start weeks from now, Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured Parliament Thursday that no participant in the process will be marked 'doubtful' in case he or she is unable to provide the information sought.

Reaching out to the Opposition saying he is always ready for a discussion on the issue of NPR and the Citizenship Amendment Act, Shah, speaking during a short-duration debate in Rajya Sabha on the Delhi law and order situation, said no document is being sought during the NPR process, and no verification of citizenship is being done. He asked the Opposition to support the government, and said

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IN PARLIAMENT
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14 FIRs TELL ONE STORY

We hid, we found no witnesses, we were outnumbered: Delhi Police say in riot FIRs

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

recorded at the time of registration of these FIRs investigated by *The Indian Express*. Starting February 24, violence spread rapidly across northeast Delhi, leading to 53 deaths across the next three days at last count. Since then, police have registered 712 FIRs and arrested over 200 accused.

On Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Delhi Police deserved praise for not letting the violence spill out of the district. An investigation of the FIRs filed in those initial hours, at the Khajuri Khas, Bhajanpura, Dayalpur and Jyoti Nagar stations, shows that the police had seen enough on the night of February 23 to indicate the situation could spiral out of control.

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UTTARAKHAND, MANIPUR too shut schools till month-end

76-yr-old Karnataka man is India's first corona death, his contacts quarantined

Returned from Saudi Arabia on Feb 29, Govt says attendants didn't follow advice

JOHNSON TA & SREENIVAS JANYALA
BENGALURU, HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

THE FIRST case of a coronavirus death in the country has been reported in Karnataka with health officials confirming that a 76-year-old man, who died on his way from Hyderabad to his hometown Kalaburagi Tuesday, has tested positive for COVID-19 virus.

Officials said the man, identified as Mohammed Hussein Siddiqui, had returned from a month-long pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia and fallen ill with underlying conditions of asthma and hypertension.

"The 76-year-old man from Kalaburagi, who passed away and was a suspected COVID-19 patient, has been confirmed for COVID-19. The necessary contact tracing, isolation and other measures as per protocol are being carried out. The Telangana government has also been informed since he went to a private hospital there," Karnataka Health Commissioner Pankaj Pandey said Thursday night.

Siddiqui landed in Hyderabad on February 29 and went to his native place Kalaburagi in north Karnataka where he developed "symptoms of fever and cough" on March 6, and was attended to by a doctor at his home.

Officials said the symptoms got aggravated on March 9, when he was moved to a private hospital in Kalaburagi, and "provisionally diagnosed" as a suspected COVID-19 case. On the same day, his sample was collected by the Gulbarga Institute

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Outside the Bombay Stock Exchange building in Mumbai on Thursday. Pradip Das

Sensex falls 8%, sharpest in a day since 2008; Dow opens with another crash

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

INDIAN stock markets Thursday suffered their biggest ever one-day plunge of 2,919 points as the coronavirus pandemic triggered a brutal sell-off in global markets.

The benchmark Sensex which plummeted 3,200 points at one stage, registered a huge loss of 2,919 points, or 8.18 per cent (worst single-day fall since the financial crisis on October 24, 2008) to close at 32,778.14, a two-and-a-half year low. The broader NSE Nifty slumped

14 NEW COVID CASES, says Union Health Ministry

1,500 UNDER OBSERVATION, 1 lakh testing kits available: Govt

Shutdown: Schools, cinema halls in Delhi closed until March 31

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

A DAY after the central government suspended all visas, barring select categories, and advised states to invoke provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, to check the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, the Delhi government on Thursday announced the closure of all schools, colleges and cinema halls in an attempt to enforce social distancing.

The Uttarakhand and Manipur governments also announced closure of schools till the end of the month. Earlier this week, educational institutions were closed in Kerala as well as Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Cinema halls have also been

closed in Kerala and some districts of J&K.

However, exams will be held as scheduled in all these states. Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry said the number of active cases has risen to 74, with 14 fresh cases — nine in Maharashtra, two in Uttar Pradesh, one each in Delhi, Ladakh and Andhra Pradesh. Some of these cases were reported by the state health authorities on Wednesday.

Kerala tops the list with 20 cases so far (three were discharged last month), followed by 14 in Haryana, 11 each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 6 in Delhi, 4 in Karnataka, 3 each in Ladakh and Rajasthan, 1 each in Telangana, Punjab, J&K, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

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TRUMP BANS EUROPE TRAVEL, EXEMPTS UK

HOW QUARANTINE AT HOME WORKS

HOW A KERALA DISTRICT CONTAINED SPREAD OF VIRUS

FULL COVERAGE PAGES 4, 8, 14, 15, 17

Say no to panic, says PM; MEA to Indians overseas: Stay put wherever you are

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

URGING PEOPLE to "say no to panic", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said "non-essential travel" and large gatherings should be avoided to "break the chain of spread" of coronavirus. He said no central minister would travel abroad for now.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also advised Indians to "stay put wherever they are", and travel only "under compelling reasons".

Meanwhile, India has re-



No minister will travel abroad for now: Modi

moved Japan from its travel advisory list. The list now includes China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, Spain and Germany.

"Say no to panic, say yes to precautions. No minister of the central government will travel abroad in the upcoming days. I urge our countrymen to also

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Scindia shadow: Rs 25 cr-worth ads for CM Gehlot, 0 for Deputy Pilot

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE CONGRESS government in Rajasthan spent a little over Rs 25 crore in its first year in office — between December 2018 and November 2019 — on official advertisements in various newspapers and other publications but they carried only photographs of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and not of Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, the state's Information and Public Relation Department has admitted.

Coming as it does after the exit of Jyotiraditya Scindia after a power tussle with Chief Minister Kamal Nath and senior leader Digvijaya Singh in Madhya Pradesh, the admission



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Deputy CM Sachin Pilot

shines a spotlight on the ongoing friction between Gehlot and Pilot in Rajasthan. Since the exit of Scindia, parallels have been drawn between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan — the context being the disharmony between established veteran leaders and ambitious young faces in the party.

Sources close to Scindia main-

tained that he was being deliberately sidelined in state politics while the high command chose to look the other way. While the situation is qualitatively different in Rajasthan, where the high command sought to balance power equations by appointing Pilot as Deputy Chief Minister and allowing him to continue as president of the state Congress, the tension simmers just below the surface. They have sparred on several occasions, recently even on the deaths of over 100 infants at a government hospital in Kota.

Even on Scindia's exit, Gehlot and Pilot spoke differently. While Gehlot attacked Scindia calling him an opportunist and his exit a good riddance, Pilot felt "things could have been resolved

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Why lethal cough syrup slipped past the law

Rules say maintain prescription register with patients' details but no trace of many bottles from contaminated batch

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & ARUN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JAMMU, MARCH 12

NEARLY A month after the first cases came to light, the fate of a majority of customers that bought bottles of Coldbest cough syrup from a contaminated batch is still unknown.

Drug regulators have stopped sales of the syrup, after it allegedly led to the deaths of several children in J&K, but are still trying to recover bottles purchased from this batch. *The Indian Express* has learnt.

"All state drug controllers have been alerted and told to try their best and use all their machinery to retrieve the bottles (of Coldbest) from this batch that have already been sold," said a senior drug regulatory official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Experts suggest that such a recall is difficult due to inadequate enforcement of drug laws, which has provisions that allow regulators to track every patient that purchased a prescription drug. The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules specifically mandate that those with licences to sell prescription products, such as Coldbest, have to maintain a prescription register with details like name and address of the patient.



Susheel Kumar, who lost his three-year-old son, with his two daughters, in Jammu. Express file

Around 3,400-3,450 of these bottles from a batch of over 5,500 had been sold since September. Himachal Pradesh Drug Controller Navneet Marwah had said earlier. "We are

trying our best to track down consumers through sales receipts, but this is an old batch. It's a 60-ml bottle, so if someone took 5-6 ml in each dose, it would finish in 10-12 doses," he had said.

Of the 1,315 bottles distributed in J&K alone, 947 were sold. Sale of the remaining 368 bottles was stopped, according to J&K Drug Controller Lotika Khajuria. At least nine children from Udhampur's Ramnagar, known to have consumed Coldbest from the September batch, died of kidney failure between December-end and January.

J&K, Haryana and Himachal have decided to file FIRs against Digital Vision Pharma, the

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