COVID-19: air travellers feel the heat

Passengers are forced to reschedule their flights at higher prices

JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELH

Travellers forced to cancel flights after the government's advisory against nonessential travel have been left in the lurch, as most airlines have offered full refund only for travel to countries for which there is an outright

In many cases, while the airlines have waived re-booking fees, travel agents and aggregators have either failed to pass on the benefit to passengers or such travellers are forced to reschedule flights at a higher price.

COVID-19

On Wednesday, the government cancelled visas for all foreign citizens and mandated quarantine for Indians returning from China, Italy, Iran, Spain, Germany and Republic of Korea. It advised all Indians against non-essential travel, adding that they could be quarantined

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam government on

Saturday allowed 22 foreign

tourists to leave after they

had been quarantined for

seven days on a cruise ship

The authorities in eastern

Assam's Jorhat district had

them quarantined after a 76-

year-old U.S. tourist, who

had set sail in the same ves-

sel, tested positive for CO-

VID-19 in Bhutan on March

5. All the 22 tourists, from

the U.K., U.S. and Australia,

as well as the 34 crew mem-

bers aboard the cruise ship,

Jorhat Deputy Commis-

WEATHER WATCH

tested negative.

on the Brahmaputra river.

GUWAHATI

22 foreign tourists

stuck in Assam leave

They were quarantined on a cruise ship

country.

for 14 days on their return.

Twenty-two year old Anandita Abhay Bhalerao was scheduled to fly to Paris for a backpacking trip from Mumbai on Friday by Kuwait Airways.

However, her flight was cancelled after Kuwait banned the entry of nationals from several countries. including India.

Despite the cancellation by the airline, the Mumbaibased writer was offered only a free date change.

Determined to join her friends, Ms Bhalerao then booked a ticket on Gulf Air for ₹39,000 which she was forced to cancel following the government's advisory and received only half the fare as a refund.

"I booked both my tickets through Make My Trip (MMT). When Kuwait Airways cancelled the ticket, MMT said they were helpless and I will have to contact the airline. The airline offered only a date change, but that is not an option for me as I

sioner Roshni Aparanji Ko-

rati said all of them took an

Indigo flight from Jorhat to

Kolkata, from where they

were likely to fly out of the

On Friday, the adminis-

tration in western Assam's

Barpeta district kept a doc-

tor couple under house qua-

rantine for 14 days. The cou-

ple from Assam had

returned from Saudia Ara-

bia on March 9. "They have

shown no symptoms for the

disease but have been asked

to stay at home on the basis

of their travel history," said

Dhrubajyoti Borah, the prin-

cipal of the medical college

and hospital.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



In dire straits: Passengers wearing masks at Patna airport on Saturday. • RANJEET KUMAR

was travelling to celebrate my sister's birthday and also because there is no clarity on how long the COVID-19 infection will continue," Ms. Bhalerao told *The Hindu* over the phone. A communications professional, Durga Nandini, was booked for travel to Vietnam on Malaysia Airlines between April 2 to 12.

Following the government's advisory, the mother of a four-year-old is apprehensive about travelling. Though the airline allows her to change the date of her

travel for free unlimited times until December 31, according to Make My Trip's website Ms. Durga will have to cough up ₹5,220 per ticket as penalty for rebooking. Alternatively, she will have to cancel her travel and bear the entire loss.

"I am a mother of a fouryear-old and travelling for me is not an option because of the fear about COVID-19. Medical experts have argued that it may take upto 18 months to develop a vaccine and, therefore, I don't want

to take the risk of travelling in the next eight months. But my airline allows me to reschedule only until the end of the year," says Ms. Durga. "For regions where airlines have cancelled existing and new flights, we are offering 100% refund to our customers," she said, adding: "We are working in tandem with our airline partners to offer an option to change travel dates with no-fee charge; and are passing full fee waiver benefits rolled out by our partners to travellers," Make My Trip said in an email response to queries.

Third-party vendors

A senior DGCA official told The Hindu that the regulatory body had met with several international carriers, including Malaysia Airlines on Friday, and advised them to waive cancellation and rescheduling charges.

"We have also received many complaints about travel aggregators and we have asked airlines to ensure that their third party vendors implement waivers offered in toto," the official said.

Bizarre event



Mahasabha prescription: A member of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha drinking cow urine at a 'gau mutra party' organised by the group in New Delhi on Saturday. Swami Chakrapani, the Mahasabha chief, claimed the liquid is the "only cure" for COVID-19. ■ GETTY IMAGES

12 new cases registered in

IYOTI SHELAR

As many as 12 new COVID-19 to Thailand, tested positive who tested positive from Yacases were reported in Maharashtra on Saturday – the largest number registered in a single day. With this, the number of positive cases in

Five people from Pimpri Chinchwad, including four

on Saturday. Other cases include the son of the 64-yearold man who was earlier admitted at Hinduja Hospital in

Three others include a 37year-old with a travel history to U.S. and France and a 59-

from the Dubai tour group, year-old with travel history and one with travel history to Philippines. Two patients vatmal had also travelled to Dubai in the big group of 40 people. The seventh patient is a man from Nagpur with

State health officials said

Body cremated after confusion

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The body of a 68-year-old woman from Delhi, who succumbed to COVID-19, was cremated at Nigambhod Ghat on Saturday after initially being denied permission by the crematorium, said her family. "They told us they did not have any guidelines from the Health Department about coronavirus victims," said Sanjeev Arora, the deceased's relative.

Pre-call message goes regional

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The 30-second telephonic COVID-19 awareness capsule has gone regional with the Union Health Ministry confirming that the message has been translated for State-wise dissemination. A Central government official said: "The idea is to create and reinforce awareness and bust any myths or fear about the virus.'

Only 12 cases per SC bench

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Six benches of the Supreme Court will on March 16 take up only 12 urgent matters each to avoid overcrowding of court rooms, following the decision to restrict the court's functioning in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. The court on Saturday also issued precautionary guidelines, including thermal screening of all employees and closure of cafeterias.

LS bans visitors to galleries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Saturday notified that visitors to the public galleries of the House would be stopped in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. A bulletin issued by Secretary General Snehlata Srivastava said passes to the public galleries won't be issued until further notice. However, on Friday, Speaker Om Birla had said that there was no plan to adjourn the Lok Sabha 'sine die' before April 3, the last day of the session.

DIRECTOR



Maharashtra in a single day

the State climbed to 31.

Mumbai.

travel history to Qatar.

all the patients are under ob-

MHA withdraws order on ex-gratia relief

Assistance to victims' families removed

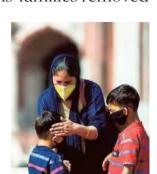
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hours after it issued a notification that an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh will be paid to the families of those who die of CO-VID-19 infection, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) withdrew the order.

In an order issued on Saturday, the MHA said it has decided to treat COVID-19 as a "notified disaster" for the purpose of providing assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The SDRF is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims. The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States (northeast, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).

Under the old notification, the MHA listed ex-gratia relief to families of deceased persons and "cost of hospitalisation for managing COVID-19 patients at rates fixed by the State government" among the items



Centre has decided to treat the COVID-19 outbreak as a 'notified disaster.'

for assistance from the SDRF pool.

It issued another "partially modified" notification the same day, where the above two items were removed.

It said the items that would be included for assistance under the SDRF are measures for quarantine, sample collection, screening and procurement of essential equipment/laboratoin response to ries COVID-19.

No explanation was given by the MHA officials for the modified notification. An MHA spokesperson did not respond to a query on the reasons that led to the modification of the notification.

Border check posts to be shut in north, east

Only 20 points will remain open

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered the closure of all but 20 immigration land check posts in eastern and northern India from Saturday midnight in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"All types of passenger movements through all the Immigration Land Check Posts located at Indo-Bangladesh Border, Indo-Nepal Border, Indo-Bhutan Border and Indo-Myanmar Border will be suspended with effect from 00:00 hours, March 15, 2020, till further orders except through the specified posts," the MHA said. The decision was taken by the Immigration Section of the Foreigner's Division of MHA and an "office memorandum" was issued on Friday.

However, the curbs on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders are applicable "only for third country nationals and not to Indian + nationals or nationals of Nepal or Bhutan." The border markets on the India-Bangladesh border will also be suspended.

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates to appear in entrance test for admission to MD/MS course for the July, 2020 session through online compute based test (CBT) to be held at different cities across country.

Tentative schedule of related activities is given below: ment of online Registration 17.03.2020 of Application form on PGIMER website www.pgimer.edu.in

Closing of Online Registration and 16.04.2020.

submission of Application form Computer based Entrance test (CBT) 23.05.202 Expected date of declaration of result

Application processing fee (excluding MD/MS transaction charges, if any). Fee once deposited will not be refunded at any others – Rs. 1500/cost. Mode of payment

PwBD category is exempted.

Through Debit/Credit card/ Net Banking only.

Note: For any enquiry: 0172-275556
For eligibility criteria and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectu and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e www.pgimer.edu.in. Distribution of seats will be uploaded separately on the website

REGISTRAR, ACADEMIC BRANCH

INDIAN RAILWAYS

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated

on the completed section of the under noted sections of Southern Railway that the 25000 Volts, 50 Hz, ac overhead traction wires will be energised on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction lines shall be treated as "LIVE" at all times and no unauthorised person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

Section Newly erected Overhead equipment on the proposed Down line between Mecheri Road and Mettur dam from loc. 20/19 (ch. 20/516.50) to loc. MTPP/02 20.03.2020 (ch.36/58.0) in connection with the doubling of track between Salem and Mettur dam in Salem division of Southern Railway

Proforma 10.01

INTRODUCTION OF ac 25 kV TRACTION "<u>WARNING TO ROAD USERS</u>"

It is notified for information of the public that in connection with introduction of 25 kV ac electric traction over the section of newly laid Down line between Mecheri Road and Metur dam from loc.20/19 (ch. 20/516.50) to loc. MTPP/02 (ch.36/58.0) in connection with the doubling of track between Salem and Mettur dam in Salem division of Southern Railway, the height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height between 4.76m and 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent Loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a Load of Excessive Height are as follows.

- Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.
- Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the Vehicle itself. iii. Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous

proximity to the conductors File No. E.320/X/CRS vol. XIII

Date: 11.03.2020 Place : Chennai Egmore

Chief Electrical Engineer, Southern Railway, Construction Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

.. – 36.0.... 25.0

Ahmedabad 31.0 17.0	Kurnool – 38.0 25.0
Aizawl23.011.0	Lucknow
Allahabad 31.324.017.0	Madurai
Bengaluru 34.0 20.0	Mangaluru 36.0 24.0
Bhopal 28.0 12.0	Mumbai – 27.0 21.0
Bhubaneswar35.021.0	Mysuru – 34.0 20.0
Chandigarh 3.726.011.0	New Delhi
Chennai33.024.0	Patna21.019.0
Coimbatore – 36.0 22.0	Port Blair
Dehradun 5.026.012.0	Puducherry33.023.0
Gangtok 6.312.08.0	Pune
Goa32.021.0	Raipur 18.530.019.0
Guwahati – 29.0 19.0	Ranchi 16.220.017.0
Hubballi36.020.0	Shillong
Hyderabad	Shimla
Imphal – 28.0 11.0	Srinagar20.012.01.0
Jaipur – 28.0 14.0	Thiruvananthapuram 34.0 25.0
Kochi – 33.0 26.0	Tiruchi
Kohima – 30.0 15.0	Vijayawada – 37.0 22.0
Kolkata32.023.0	Visakhapatnam
(Dainfall data in mm. tomporature in C	infaire)

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Kozhikode.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius) Pollutants in the air you are breathing

- 33.0 19.0

rottutants in the air you are breathing								
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE		
Ahmedabad	48	.38	13	61	.103			
Bengaluru	11	.32	30	46	68			
Chennai	38	.20	42	94				
Delhi	7	.38	14	77	.174			
Hyderabad	3	.45	31	74	89			
Kolkata	23	.63	14	168	.129			
Lucknow	5	.30	55	110				
Mumbai	11	.46	15	48	.106			
Pune	63	.23	90	107	94			
Visakhapatnam	10	.32	43	48	73			

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 289 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, healthy AQI score of 24.

Air Quality Code: 📕 Poor 📕 Moderate 📕 Good (Readings indicate average AQI) **SO2:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters. **CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause

dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death. PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease



visit IIFPT website: www.iifpt.edu.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005. Tamil Nadu Tel. 04362-228155 Email: director@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.iifpt.edu.in

No: IIFPT/Admin/Deputation/2020

FILLING UP THE POST OF

IIFPT, Thanjavur invites applications in the prescribed proforma from qualified candidates for appointment of Administrative Officer on deputation basis at IIFPT, Thanjavur.

Last date of receipt of Application format and other details, please

Ministry of Food Processing Industries Government of India

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ON DEPUTATION BASIS

M 🌘 F P I Government of India

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005. Tamil Nadu Tel. 04362-228155 Email : director@iifpt.edu.in Website : www.iifpt.edu.in File No. IIFPT/Non Teaching/2019

Appointment of Senior Technician T-2 (Media Preparatory Assistant)

IIFPT, Thanjavur invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the Post of Senior Technician T-2 (Media Preparatory Assistant) reserved for SC Category (01 no.) on regular basis For application format, age, educational qualification, eligibility criteria and emoluments, please visit our website : www.iifpt.edu.in. Last date

for receiving application is 45 days from the date of publication of this

CUCET-2020

CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES COMMON ENTRANCE TEST

(www.cucetexam.in)

advertisement in the Employment News

Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET-2020) is scheduled during May - June, 2020 for admission to

different Programmes of 14 Central Universities and 4 State Universities at different centres across the country							
	IMPORTA	NT DA	TES				
Opening of Online Application Form	16 March, 2020		Exam Date (UI & PG)	30 - 31 May, 2020			
Closing of Online Application Form	11 April, 2020		Exam Date (RP)	6 - 7 June, 2020			
Issue of Admit Cards	18 May, 2020		Result	26 June, 2020			
CENEDAL INCODMATION.				·			

GENERAL INFORMATION: Detailed information about CUCET-2020 is available on CUCET website: www.cucetexam.in

Candidates are required to apply **online** through CUCET-2020 website

Online admission counselling facility is available for some universities with additional fees

All Research Programmes (RP) examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode

Candidates who are appearing in the final examination of the qualifying degree/certificate are also eligible to apply Details of Programme of Studies, Eligibility Criteria, Programme Structure, Faculty Profile etc. are available at the respective website of Participating Universities (PU) and candidates are advised to check the eligibility criteria of each PU for a given programme before

All Integrated/ Under-Graduate (UI) and Post-Graduate (PG) examination will be conducted in Offline (OMR) mode CUCET-2020 provides facilities for applying to admission to these universities by single examination process with nominal examination fees

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CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN NH-8, Bandarsindri, Ajmer-305817, Raj. Website: www.curaj.ac.in

ADMISSION QUERY: Mob.:- 9560268076 Phone: (24X7 Help desk) 01463-238728(CURAJ) E-mail: enqcucet2020@curaj.ac.in

Coordinating University for CUCET-2020