



Rahul Gandhi 'hurt' as Speaker denies him second question

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Government nominates ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi to Rajya Sabha

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ED summons Anil Ambani in Yes Bank investigation

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FIDE Candidates chess tournament begins at Yekaterinburg today

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NEARBY



Tahir Hussain sent to four-day police custody

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Monday ordered four-day police custody of suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain in connection with the killing of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the riots in north-east Delhi. The court passed the order after the police sought Mr. Hussain's custody for five days.

CITY PAGE 2

Posters: U.P. govt. seeks more time to file report

ALLAHABAD
The U.P. government on Monday moved an application before the Allahabad High Court seeking more time to file a compliance report in the matter related to the 'name and shame' posters of anti-CAA protesters. The State government contended that a special leave petition against the March 9 decision of the High Court is pending before the Supreme Court.

NORTH PAGE 5

Rajasthan govt. moves apex court against CAA

JAIPUR
The Rajasthan government on Monday moved the Supreme Court against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, contending that the law was against the country's secular fabric and violated the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. Rajasthan is the second State after Kerala to challenge the CAA in the top court.

NEWS PAGE 13

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Travel from EU, U.K. banned as India tightens preventive steps

All from UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait to be quarantined; COVID-19 cases touch 114

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

In a series of temporary preventive measures, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Monday banned the entry of travellers from European Union nations, the European Free Trade Association, Turkey and the United Kingdom to India from March 18.

After its seventh meeting on the COVID-19 outbreak, the GoM also called for expanding the compulsory quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days for passengers coming from/transiting through UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait.

Odisha reports first case

The Union Health Ministry update on COVID-19 cases reported four new cases, taking the tally to 114 confirmed cases, including 13 discharges and two deaths, and 5,200 contacts, who are under surveillance. One fresh case each was reported from Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Kerala, the Ministry said.

Reports from States, ho-

Tighter curbs

According to the Centre's new advisory, travellers from some West Asian countries will be compulsorily quarantined for 14 days while entry is prohibited to those from Europe and the U.K. from March 18

Advisory	Travellers from
Quarantine of minimum 14 days	UAE, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait
Entry to India prohibited	European Union, European Free Trade Association, Turkey and U.K.



A Health Department worker scanning international passengers on arrival at the Coimbatore International Airport. ■ M. PERIASAMY

wever, put the total number of cases, including fatalities, at 123. The highest number of cases at 39, is from Maharashtra, with two more people, including a Philippine

COVID-19

national, testing positive, State Health Department officials said. With one more confirmation, Karnataka now has eight cases.

The national capital, which has so far reported seven COVID-19 cases and one

death, announced that all gyms, night clubs and spas will remain shut till March 31 and that a gathering with more than 50 persons, excluding weddings, will not be allowed.

A senior Health Ministry official said if an Indian from Europe or U.K. or Turkey travels to another country from which there is no ban, such as the U.S. or Australia, he or she will be "allowed entry and quarantined or advised home quarantine depending on his condition." He added that this was already being

allowed for Indians returning from France or Germany via Dubai in UAE.

Speaking at a press meet, Joint Secretary in the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal, assured that "adequate number of tests are being done to get information about any community transmission".

"We don't want to create panic and conduct unnecessary mass testing of people as of now. There is no requirement for it," he added.

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Ready for COVID-19 impact: RBI Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Amid a carnage in the financial markets, the Reserve Bank of India on Monday said it was ready to take any policy measure to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on the economy.

At an unscheduled press conference to assuage market participants, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also as-

sured depositors of the beleaguered Yes Bank that the reconstruction was aimed at ensuring the safety of depositors' money.

Mr. Das assured that the central bank would provide liquidity to Yes Bank if needed, after the moratorium on withdrawals is lifted on March 18.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Investors get poorer by ₹7.62 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Investors' wealth eroded by ₹7.62 lakh crore on Monday as markets witnessed yet another sharp fall, with the Sensex plunging 2,713.41 points over the COVID-19 scare.

Global equity markets also continued to be in turmoil on account of the pandemic, even as Indian

benchmarks registered their second-biggest, single-day fall in absolute points, plunging to their lowest level since September 2017.

The 30-share Sensex lost a whopping 7.96% to close at 31,390.07. The broader Nifty plunged 757.80 points, or 7.61%, to close at 9,197.40. (With PTI inputs)

MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 15

Public gatherings of over 50 not allowed: Kejriwal

Nightclubs, gyms, spas shut till March 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No religious, cultural or political gatherings of more than 50 people will be allowed in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here on Monday.

Nightclubs, gyms and spas will also remain closed till March 31 in the wake of the seven confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Capital. Schools, colleges and swimming pools have already been shut till the month-end. Wedding functions have not yet been included, but people are being requested to postpone

the ceremonies if possible, he said.

"A videoconferencing was held at 11 a.m. today [Monday] with SDMs, DMs, Ministers and the department officials. We are taking all measures necessary to tackle the corona crisis," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"More than 500 beds are ready to be installed for immediate hospitalisation in case there is an outbreak. We are also advising people who have come in contact with those infected to home-quarantine themselves for a while," he said.

In U-turn, govt. moots 20-year window to clear telco dues

Plea in SC cites possible job losses, NPAs

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Nearly five months after winning its legal battle in the Supreme Court against telecom majors, including Vodafone and Bharti Airtel, for payment of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues worth several lakhs of crores of rupees, the Centre did a virtual U-turn on Monday by urging the court to give the companies a 20-year window to pay the money back.



The SC had asked the firms to pay up within three months.

In an application mentioned for urgent hearing in the top court, the government said it has, after "detailed and long-drawn deliberations", devised a "formula" to soften the blow of the October 24, 2019 judgment directing the compa-

nies to cough up the AGR in three months.

Staggered instalments

"All the licensees impacted by the judgment be allowed to pay the unpaid or remaining amount of past DoT assessed/calculated dues in annual instalments over 20 years (or less if they so opt), duly protecting the net present value of the said dues using a discount rate of 8% (based on one year marginal cost of lending rate of SBI which is currently 7.75%)," the application said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

For many victims, Idgah relief camp feels safer than home

They fear being arrested for no reason; others await relief

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Abubakar, a 24-year-old resident of Shiv Vihar currently staying at the Idgah relief camp in Mustafabad, was allegedly picked up by the Crime Branch last week, interrogated and thrashed for over five hours before being released.

Three weeks since the communal violence in north-east Delhi, for Mr. Abubakar and other youths his age, the relief camp has become their "safe place".

On March 10, Mr. Abubakar had gone to Shiv Vihar to take stock of his house when Crime Branch officers came looking for him. "They asked the neighbours for my name and then held me. They took me to their office and kept me there for six-seven hours. They slapped and punched me and showed me videos. They asked me to identify at least five people or they won't let me go," he alleged, adding that he wasn't there in any of the videos the officers showed him.

"They beat me up especially after reading a chat with my girlfriend on the night of February 24 wherein I had written that I was standing with 40-50 people as a precautionary measure," he said.

The Crime Branch officers told him they will release him after inquiring with the local police, Mr. Abubakar said. Senior Crime Branch of-



Riot-hit victims at the Idgah relief camp in Mustafabad.

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

ficers remained unavailable for comment on the matter. Standing a little ahead was a 20-year-old youth who said he had been told by his neighbours that policemen had come looking for him, his brother and father at their house. "They are picking up people from anywhere. We are scared and this camp is safe for us," he said.

Wait for compensation

For many at the relief camp, fear is not the only reason for not returning home. They haven't received any compensation to rebuild their houses and are unable to arrange funds on their own.

Nawab Khan, 45, said he fled his Shiv Vihar residence on February 24. His house was looted and set ablaze the next day. He still hasn't received the emergency relief fund, let alone the final compensation. "The primary reason we are not going back is because we don't have money and I haven't received

compensation from the government. I was called to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's office today and they said I'll receive the money, but I don't know when," said Mr. Khan, a street vendor. He said he hid in an under-construction building near his house for three days before Rapid Action Force officers rescued him on February 27.

"House owners from Shiv Vihar are meeting Waqf Board officials today. We will share our problems regarding safety, security and rebuilding our houses. We'll go back only if a concrete decision is taken," said Mr. Khan. For most women at the camp, the decision to return home is the men's call to make. "We are not scared to go back, but people look at us in a certain way... the environment doesn't feel right, but I'll go when my husband says it's safe," said Shabana, a resident of Shiv Vihar.

MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 2

An inclusive goal for Manipur's transgender football

The northeastern State is now host to the country's first team of transmen

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Followers of football in India are unlikely to have heard of Nick, Silleibi and Lem. But they have created history by becoming the captain, goalkeeper and striker of arguably the first transgender football team in the country.

"Having a team of our own was beyond imagination. I am so happy," said Nick after Ya All, an Imphal-based NGO, put together the team. The launch last week at an event named the Queer Games

coincided with the onset of Yaoshang, Manipur's version of Holi, the festival of colours.

"We wish to be a part of State, national and international level football tournaments under the transgender category. We hope other players come out so that we can compete, improve ourselves and create strong transgender teams," said Chaki, the team's vice-captain.

Coming out despite social stigma has been the hardest part for transmen, transwomen and other



Taking pride: The transgender football team at the Queer Games in Manipur. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

categories of queer people, Ya All's founder-president Sadam Hanjabam said. The NGO works to empower youth and the queer community through life skills, and capacity-building.

"Given the popularity of football in Manipur, we have had transgender and non-transgender people playing in mixed groups. We tried to form a team of transwomen (male to female transsexual)

but failed due to social factors. The team for transmen worked," Mr. Hanjabam told *The Hindu* from Imphal.

Ya All sowed the seeds of the team two years ago by organising six-a-side football matches for the transgender community. Most of the members of the team are students of physical education and used to play football. The challenge now is to ensure a support system and bring coaches on board.

"It is difficult to get experts to improve the skills of our players. But we hope people will soon get over their prejudices," Mr. Hanjabam said.