

Dec 16 Delhi gangrape convicts set to hang early this morning

ANAND MOHAN J & PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE four convicts in the December 16, 2012, gangrape and murder case are set to be hanged at Tihar Jail at 5.30 am Friday, after the Supreme Court, the High Court as well as a lower court in the Capital Thursday rejected their pleas seeking a stay.

In a late-night hearing, the Delhi High Court held that the grounds raised by the counsel of the convicts, including that one of them is a juvenile, had already been dealt with by courts.

The hearing on the execution of the death warrants of Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33) had gathered pace five months ago, after the victim's mother moved an application to shift the case from a vacant court, where the matter had remained unheard for months.

Their death warrants had been stayed three earlier over pending legal remedies.

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ENTERS HOUSE TO CHANTS OF SHAME

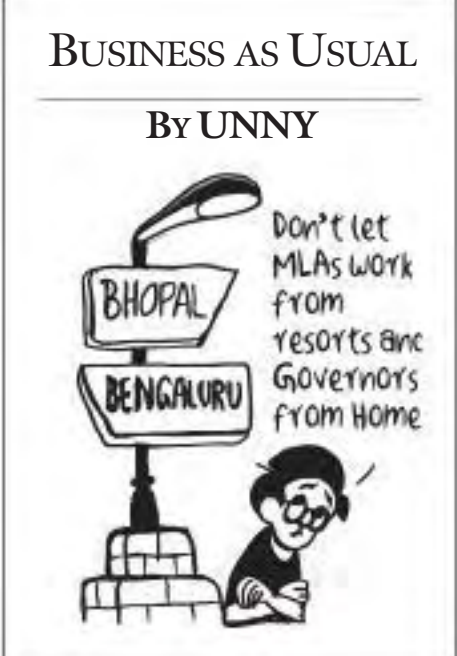
Former CJJ Ranjan Gogoi arrives at Parliament House to take oath as Rajya Sabha member. *Tashi Tobgyal* REPORT, PAGE 8

SC orders floor test in MP today: End state of uncertainty

ANANTHAKRISHNAN & MILINDGHATWAI
NEW DELHI, BHOPAL, MARCH 19

MOVING TO end the "state of uncertainty" in Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh following the resignation of 22 MLAs that plunged the Kamal Nath government into crisis, the Supreme Court, overruling objections Thursday, ordered a floor test in the state Assembly with the direction that it must be concluded by 5 pm Friday.

The bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta directed that the test be by show of hands, and that the 16 rebel Congress MLAs — six ministers had resigned earlier and late Thursday, the resignations of the remaining 16 too were accepted by the Speaker — be provided security if they



wished to participate in the proceedings. It also ordered that the proceedings be videographed.

The strength of the 230-member Assembly has come down to 206 because of the 22 resignations and two vacancies

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DELHI RESTAURANTS SHUT; STAY HOME IF ABOVE 65, BELOW 10

Janata Curfew & Janata Thank You Sunday: PM says don't lower guard

No need to go for hoarding, resolve and restraint are key: Modi to nation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

IN HIS address to the nation Thursday on the coronavirus threat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against complacency on the pandemic while asking people to observe a self-imposed curfew on Sunday by not stepping out of homes between 7 am and 9 pm. He also reassured people against shortages, saying there was no need for hoarding.

In a nearly 30-minute telecast, he said the March 22 'Janata Curfew' would be a test of people's "self-discipline" in fighting the virus. The only exception to the curfew would be doctors, media and providers of other essential services, and the PM urged people to thank them for five minutes at 5 pm on March 22 by ringing bells, clapping or other means.

Taking note of the impact of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM addressed the nation on Thursday evening. *PTI*

THE EDITORIAL PAGE



LET'S LISTEN TO THE CRISIS

BY RAM NATH KOVIND
PAGE 12



Contact-tracing in Srinagar after Valley's first positive case

India not to let flights land for a week starting Sunday

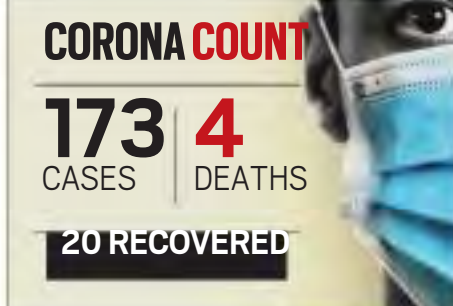
ABANTIKA GHOSH & AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

AS INDIA reported its fourth novel coronavirus (COVID-19) death and the total number of cases climbed to 173, the government Thursday tightened the lockdown further, banning the

landing of all international commercial passenger flights for a week from March 22.

In Punjab, a 70-year-old man, who had returned from Germany via Italy on March 7 and died at a hospital in Nawanshahr district on Wednesday, tested positive. Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



In Mumbai's lifeline on tracks, fears of a sitting duck

IRAM SIDDIQUE
MUMBAI, MARCH 19

EVERY MORNING, Sushil Tambe leaves his home at 4.45 am to get to Panvel station, 4 km away, to catch the 5.05 am 'CSMT Slow' train. That will take him to Bhandup at 6.30 am where he works as a safai karamchari for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

He and other safai karamcharis have been warned against taking any leave from work as the BMC is summoning all the resources it has in its fight against the spread of COVID-19 in Mumbai.

Ironically, what brings Tambe to work to fight the virus could itself become the problem, officials fear.

Every day, Mumbai's suburban train network, known as the locals, transports 7.8 million passengers, taking them to their workplaces and back. Operated by the Western Railways and Central Railways, these trains

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Economy infected: Task force has a prescription, concerns mount over delay

PVAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

WITH COVID-19 wreaking havoc in Indian financial markets and global research and rating firms marking down GDP growth estimates by up to 100 basis points, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Thursday acknowledged rising concerns of the pandemic's adverse impact on the larger economy as he announced a "Covid-19 Economic Response Task Force" under Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

On its table are a string of proposals to mitigate the harsh second-round effects of the sudden

and sharp destruction of demand.

These could include: an immediate cut in policy rate, regulatory forbearance for sectors in the frontline of disruption, government guarantee for loans to SMEs, deferment of taxes, and livelihood support for unorganised workers.

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EXPLAINED

Informal sector impacted

A FALLOUT is the likelihood of job losses in the informal sector. Industry captains are cautioning against retrenchment because it will not only bring hardship to ordinary people but also add to economic challenges.

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