

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAY COME TO A HALT SUNDAY

Businesses in Mumbai, malls in Delhi shut as daily cases spike



Migrant workers crowd the Pune railway station to board trains leaving the city Friday. Arul Horizon

63 cases in a day; essential services only in Mumbai, Pune; Section 144 in Haryana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

A DAY after the Union government barred all international commercial passenger flights from landing in India for a week, state governments Friday tightened the lockdown to check the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. This came even as the total number of cases climbed to 236, with 63 new cases being confirmed on Friday — the highest single-day jump so far.

While Maharashtra, which has reported the highest number of cases, imposed a complete shutdown — barring essential services — in some cities including Mumbai and Pune, the Delhi and Uttar Pradesh governments ordered closure of all malls. The Haryana government decided to impose Section 144 of the CrP to prohibit the assembly of large groups of people.

Ordering all shops and offices in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad and Nagpur to shut down from

Exodus from Mumbai, Pune as migrant workers pack trains headed East

IRAM SIDDIQUE & AJAY JADHAV
MUMBAI, PUNE, MARCH 20

AS SHOPS and establishments prepared to shut down following a Maharashtra government order that all private businesses and companies must remain closed from Saturday until March 31, an exodus began in Mumbai and Pune with tens of thousands of workers in the unorganised sector, as well as auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers, thronging railway ticket

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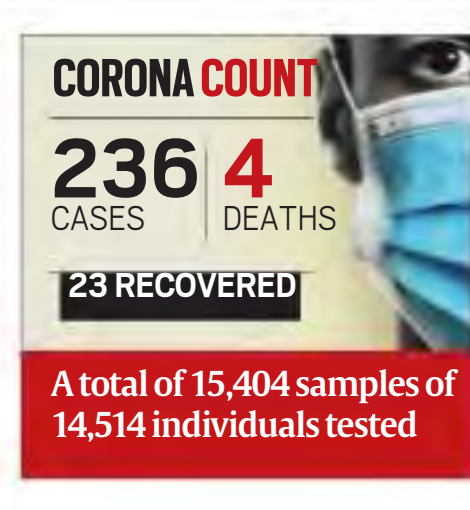
Testing extended to all pneumonia cases: Govt

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

FACING REPEATED criticism, India has decided to change testing criteria for COVID-19 to include all pneumonia cases, regardless of travel or contact history.

In an advisory to hospitals on Friday, the government said: "No suspected COVID-19 patient

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY



No train to run Sunday during Janata Curfew

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

IN AN extraordinary decision, Indian Railways announced Friday that it would stop its services across the country from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday during the Janata Curfew called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It, however, clarified that if long-distance and inter-city trains have good occupancy figures (since long-distance trains are booked in advance), the zonal railways may decide to run them. Officials said zonal general managers will assess the final situation Saturday.

The Railway Board, in its order to zonal general managers, said all passenger trains (about 2,400), will remain cancelled from Saturday midnight to

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CURED OF VIRUS, TOURIST DIES OF HEART FAILURE

GLOBAL TOLL HITS 11,000, UK TO PAY WAGES TO WORKERS
PAGES 3, 4, 8, 9, 14, 17, 19

should be turned away from any hospital and the admission of any such patient should be notified to NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control) or IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme) immediately. Similarly, all pneumonia patients must also be notified to NCDC or IDSP so that they can be tested for COVID-19. Hospitals to ensure social distancing in their premises."

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Singer at party tests positive, fear travels from Lucknow to Parliament

LIZ MATHEW & AVANEESH MISHRA
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

THE THREAT of coronavirus infection reached Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament on Friday, with BJP MP Dushyant Singh announcing he was self-quarantining himself after attending a party in Lucknow where a Bollywood singer who later



Kanika Kapoor returned from UK on March 9. Express

tested positive was also there. Two other MPs, Anupriya Patel and Trinamool's Derek O'Brien, who came in touch with him, have gone into self-isolation.

An MP from Rajasthan, Dushyant was present at a party thrown by a nephew of former MP Akbar Ahmad Dumpy in Lucknow on March 15, also attended by singer Kanika Kapoor, along with his mother and former Rajasthan chief minister

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PK, the Prince Charming of Indian football, departs

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, MARCH 20

PRADIP KUMAR Banerjee, former India captain and one of the finest strikers the country has produced, passed away at a Kolkata hospital Friday after a massive heart attack. He is survived by his two daughters. He was admitted to the hospital on February 7. Gradually, sepsis and



PRADIP KUMAR BANERJEE
1936-2020

multi-organ failure due to pneumonia set in on the background of Parkinson's disease, dementia and heart problems.

It was his dead run down the right flank, powerful shooting and top-class heading that floored the fans. Fans and reporters adored him. He was a trailblazer, someone who brought the modern game to the Kolkata maidan. Till mid-1950s, Kolkata football was the home of the Pancha Pandavas — Ahmed Khan, Apparao, P Venkatesh, P B Saleh and Dhanraj. They played

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Four Dec 16 convicts hanged, mother says proud of daughter... finally, justice

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AT 5.30 am Friday, the four convicts in the Delhi December 16 gangrape and murder case, that shook the nation and led to sweeping changes in the country's rape laws, were hanged inside Tihar's Jail Number 3.

The hanging was carried out after a day of drama, lasting till early morning Friday, in three different courts — the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and a lower court in the Capital. Each rejected their pleas seeking a stay on execution.

After the four — Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33) — had been left hanging for 30 minutes, a doctor examined



The mother of the gangrape victim at her Delhi home on Friday. Praveen Khanna

DETAILED COVERAGE PAGE 6

them and declared them dead, Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel said. Their bodies were sent for post-mortem before being handed over to their families.

Tihar Jail sources said the four spent a sleepless night, with at least 15 guards each keeping watch. "They kept pacing up and down their cells, enquiring if the court had sent a directive. At 4.45 am, the District Magistrate read out the death warrant to them, they were given a fresh set of clothes, and taken to the gallows," a source said.

The hanging came just two hours after the final pleas of the convicts were rejected by a Supreme Court bench. Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan and AS Bopanna heard them out

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Congress govt falls in Madhya Pradesh as Kamal Nath resigns ahead of floor test

MILINDGHATWAI
BHOPAL, MARCH 20

THE 15-MONTH-OLD Congress government in Madhya Pradesh fell on Friday when Chief Minister Kamal Nath chose to resign ahead of a trust vote ordered by the Supreme Court a day earlier to end the uncertainty in the state following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

Announcing his resignation at a press conference at his official residence around noon, Kamal Nath accused the Opposition BJP of plotting to bring down his government from the day he took charge in December 2018. He then headed to Raj Bhavan to hand over his



Submits his resignation to Governor Lajmi Tandon. ANI

resignation to Governor Lajmi Tandon at 1.15 pm.

When the Assembly met at 2 pm, Speaker N P Prajapati said

the special sitting had been called to honour the Supreme Court order but its implementation was

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EXPLAINED Not easy for next BJP CM

UNLIKE 2003, 2008 and 2013 when it rode to power with comprehensive wins, the BJP is set to return to power with a slender majority, cobbled with defections from the Congress. The new BJP CM will have to balance the ambitions of his party's behind-the-scenes managers with the interests of the Congress leaders who switched loyalty.

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