

## Coronavirus Outbreak: India Tightens Rules For Existing Visas To Chinese



**BEIJING:** As the coronavirus death toll mounted to 425, India on Tuesday further tightened visa rules by cancelling the existing visas for Chinese and foreigners who had visited the country in the last two weeks.

On February 2, India temporarily suspended e-visa facility for Chinese travellers and foreigners residing in China in view of the coronavirus outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

The death toll in China's coronavirus rose sharply to 425 with 64 deaths on Monday and the number of those infected with the deadly disease rose to 20,438, Chinese health authorities said on Tuesday.

"All those who are already in India (with regular or e-visa) and had travelled from China after January 15 are requested to contact the hotline number of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Government of India (+91-11-23978046 and email: ncov2019@gmail.com)," the announcement by the Indian Embassy here said.

About the validity of the visas, it said the "Embassy of India and our Consulates have been receiving several queries from Chinese citizens as well as other foreign nationals, who are based out of China or visit-

ed China in the last 2 weeks, as to whether they can use their valid single/multiple entry visas to travel to India."

"It is clarified that existing visas are no longer valid. Intending visitors to India should contact the Indian Embassy in Beijing (visa.beijing@mea.gov.in) or the Consulates in Shanghai (Ccons.shanghai@mea.gov.in) and Guangzhou (Visa.guangzhou@mea.gov.in) to apply afresh for an Indian visa. Indian Visa Application Centres (www.blindia-china.com) in these cities may also be contacted in this regard," it said.

The Visa Section of the Embassy/Consulates of India in China can be contacted to ascertain the validity of visa before undertaking any visit to India, it said.

The deadly virus has spread to more than 25 countries, including India.

India has reported three cases of the coronavirus. All the three patients from Kerala recently returned from the affected Wuhan city.

Currently, 647 Indians and seven Maldivians who have been evacuated from Wuhan and Hubei province are in 14-day quarantine at a medical camp in Manesar, near Delhi.



## Those Who Cry For Batla House Terrorists Can't Develop Delhi: Modi

**NEW DELHI:-** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday again raised the issue of Batla House encounter ahead of the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections.

Addressing a public meeting in Dwarka here, he said that Delhi needs a leadership which will support the country's decisions on national security issues including CAA and Article 370.

"These people can cry for the terrorists of Batla House and put security forces in the dock to support them but cannot

develop Delhi," Modi said. On Monday too, he had raised the Batla House encounter during a public meeting in Karkardooma.

In his Dwarka speech, Modi also asked whether those who instigate people and do appeasement politics will work for betterment of Delhi.

"Delhi needs a government which, when needed, supports the nation's stand, stands with our brave soldiers. Delhi does not want political leaders that weaken India's side in times of terror attacks, giving the enemy an opportunity to attack India with their statements."

Talking about India's surgical strikes against Pakistan, Modi accused the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party of doubting the bravery of the army.

"Such statements came after decisions like surgical strikes and air strikes. Remember, statements the people sitting in the government here made?"

Modi said that Delhi voters are angry with such statements and will punish such political leadership by pressing the lotus button on February 8.

Later, BJP lawmakers object to Chowdhury's statement.

Hegde, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Uttara Kannada, had on Saturday said that the freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi was a "drama".

"None of these so-called leaders were beaten up by the cops even once. Their independence movement was one big drama. It was staged by these leaders with the approval of the British. It was not a genuine fight. It was an adjustment freedom struggle," Hegde had said while addressing a public event in Bengaluru.

While several Congress leaders, including Karti Chidambaram and BK Hariprasad, have condemned Hegde's remark, BJP leaders too have distanced themselves from it.

Top leadership in BJP is unhappy with Anant Kumar Hegde over his controversial remark on Mahatma Gandhi, party sources had said on Monday, adding that he has been asked to issue an unconditional apology.

## 'No Decision Yet On NRC At National Level': Home Ministry Confirms In Parliament



**NEW DELHI:** The government has not taken any decision on preparing a nationwide NRC, it reiterated in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, amid protests against the citizens' register in the country.

"Till now, the government has not taken any decision to prepare the National Register of Indian Citizens at the national level," Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said replying a written question.

On December 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government has never discussed NRC since coming to power for the first time in 2014. It has been discussed neither in Parliament nor in the Cabinet, he added.

The Supreme Court-monitored exercise of updating the NRC was carried out only in Assam. The final NRC, a list of Assam's residents published on August 31, 2019, excluded

names of 19 lakh people, creating a huge controversy.

President Ram Nath Kovind did not refer to NRC in his address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the beginning of the Budget Session on Friday.

On June 20, 2019, soon after the formation of the new Lok Sabha, Kovind had said the Modi government decided to implement the process of NRC on "priority basis".

Kovind had said illegal infiltrators posed a major threat to India's internal security and this was leading to social imbalance in many parts of the country as well as putting a huge pressure on limited livelihood opportunities.

"My government has decided to implement the process of National Register of Citizens on priority basis in areas affected by infiltration. Security along the border will be further strengthened to prevent infiltration," he had said.

## Aap Releases Manifesto With Plan For 24-Hour Markets, Promises Quality Education

**NEW DELHI:** The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday released its manifesto for the February 8 polls, focussing on quality education, health, clean water and 24-hour electricity in the national capital.

Released by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as "28-point guarantee card", the manifesto promises doorstep delivery of ration, free pilgrimage to 10 lakh senior citizens and Rs 1 crore compensation to kin of a safai karamchahi if he dies on duty.



The party said its vision is to make every family prosperous and it will continue to work for full statehood to Delhi.

The manifesto also included a plan to allow markets for 24 hours under a pilot project.

## Over 30 Have Died In Bengal Due To Nrc Panic: Mamata

**Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said more than 30 people have died in the state over the panic created regarding a proposed countrywide National Register of Citizens and cautioned the masses not to be candid or hand over papers if somebody goes to their places seeking information and documents.

"I have said time and again that I won't allow any NRC exercise in Bengal. But despite my assurances, over 30 people have so far died because of the panic over NRC," she said, addressing an anti-CAA public meeting in Nadia district's Ranaghat.

Referring to the work for

preparing and updating the National Population Register (NPR), which her government has stayed in the state against the backdrop of virulent protests against the new citizenship law CAA, Banerjee alleged that the centre has sent some "religious obscurantists" to spread hatred among people.

"Now they are talking of NPR (National Population Register). Beware! If somebody goes to your house and asks your parent's name, don't provide any details."

"Don't hand over any papers, unless they are engaged in voter list updation," she said.

"And don't be too candid with them. The Central govern-

ment has imported some despicable religious obscurantists - they only know how to spew hatred. So as a devout Hindu, I don't consider such people as members of my community."

"These people are ignorant, believe in half-truths, they don't carry books, they carry guns to fire. If they tell you to deposit your Aadhaar card at his residence, don't do it," she added.

Banerjee said they should listen to her and go by whatever she asks them to do.

"If they ask you who all are there in your family, don't tell them. You ask him his identity first. Remember, they may even carry a false identity card of West Bengal government," she said.

## 'Leave Country Or Get Driven Out In MNS Style': Posters Warn Bangladeshis

**RAIGAD:** Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's (MNS) posters stating 'Bangladeshis leave the country, otherwise you will be driven out in MNS style' were seen in Panvel in Raigad district on Monday.

The posters also feature MNS chief Raj Thackeray and his son Amit Thackeray, who was recently inducted into the party.

Thackeray had earlier said that the party will take out a huge rally on February 9 in Mumbai to drive "illegal infiltrators" from Pakistan and Bangladesh, out of India.

"We will take out a huge rally on February 9 to drive illegal infiltrators from Pakistan and



Bangladesh, out of India. There can be a debate on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) but

why should we shelter someone who has come from outside illegally?" he had said

## Rajnath to take charge as host of Defence Expo

**LUCKNOW:-** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday will take charge as the host for the eleventh edition of the five-day Defence Expo here.

Mr Singh is expected to arrive here in the evening, where he, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, will hold a press briefing to disclose the details of the defence expo.

The Defence Minister will be camping in the state capital for next six days till the event ends on February 9.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the expo on Wednesday.

According to the official programme, after the inaugural function, the Defence Minister and UP CM will jointly hold a re-



ception and dinner for the delegates on Wednesday night.

Representatives from around 165 countries will be participating in this Defence Expo where they will showcase their

## 'Ravan Ke Aulad': Oppn Uproar In LS Over BJP Leader Hegde's Gandhi Remark



**NEW DELHI:** Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, on Tuesday attacked the BJP over Anant Kumar Hegde's controversial remark on Mahatma Gandhi and termed the party as "Ravan ke aulad" (children of Ravana).

"Aaj ye Mahatma Gandhi ko gaali dete hain. Ye Ravan ke aulad hain. Ram ke pujaari ka ye apmaan kar rahe hain (Today, they abuse Mahatma Gandhi. They are children of Ravan. They are insulting Lord Ram's devotee)," Chowdhury said.

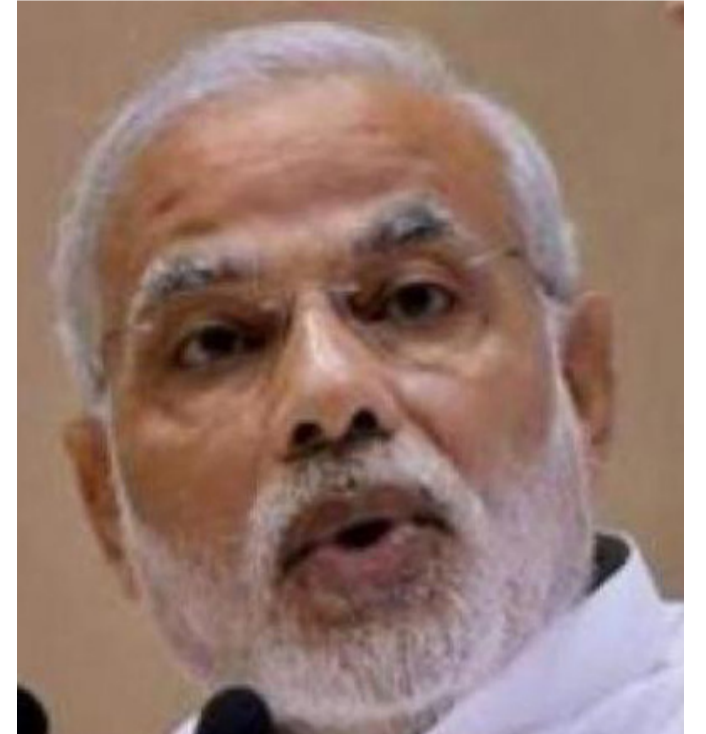
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Top leadership in BJP is unhappy with Anant Kumar Hegde over his controversial remark on Mahatma Gandhi, party sources had said on Monday, adding that he has been asked to issue an unconditional apology.

## 'Attempts Made To Mislead People, Even Critics Praised Budget': PM Modi



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said attempts were made to mislead people on the Union Budget, however, even critics now accept that it is the best budget under the prevailing global economic scenario.

Speaking at the BJP parliamentary party meeting here, Modi hailed the Bodo accord and the agreement to settle the members of Bru-Reang tribe in Tripura, terming them "historic" successes of his government in this decade.

It will usher in an era of peace in the North East which has suffered decades of bloodshed and violence, he said.

Referring to the Union Budget, which was presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sith-

araman on Saturday, Modi said attempts were made to mislead people on it.

However, people have now realised that it is a very good budget and even critics have acknowledged that this is the best budget under the prevailing global economic scenario, he said.

BJP president J P Nadda, who attended the first parliamentary party meet after becoming the party chief, was felicitated by Modi and others.

Nadda expressed confidence about the BJP's win in the February 8 Delhi Assembly polls and added that over 240 party MPs are spending several days in the poor colonies of the national capital to reach out to voters.