

# News

## PM Modi's Visit To Dhaka Postponed



**NEW DELHI:-** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka got cancelled after Bangladesh decided to defer all celebrations to mark the centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in view of the threat of coronavirus outbreak. In a statement, Raveesh Kumar, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said that New Delhi received a formal notification from Dhaka about its decision to postpone all public events on account of the detection of cases of coronavirus in Bangladesh and the larger global public health emergency. "The impact of this deferment applies also to the large gathering planned for March 17,

in which the Prime Minister of India was invited by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," Kumar said. Bangladesh was in the process of organising public events to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Dhaka will convey the fresh dates for the commemorative events later, Kumar said, adding that India understands the circumstances that necessitate the deferment. "India is ready to work with Bangladesh as partners to combat the spread of this disease in our shared neighbourhood," he said.

## Madhya Pradesh Govt In Crisis?: Scindia, 17 MLAs Go 'Incommunicado'



In a curious political development amid reports of infighting in the Madhya Pradesh Congress and allegations of poaching, senior Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia and at least 17 MLAs who are believed to be supporting him suddenly became 'incommunicado' on Monday ahead of the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. The development came against the backdrop of the ruling party accusing the BJP of trying to poach its MLAs to topple the Kamal Nath-led government, which enjoys a wafer-thin majority in the House, and imminent expansion of the state Cabinet. Chief Minister Kamal Nath who was in Delhi earlier in the day has returned to Bhopal after cutting short his visit, sources said. While calls made to Scindia by PTI remained unanswered, mobile phones of at least six ministers who are supporters of the Guna royal are switched off. The ministers whose mobile phones are switched off included health minister Tulsi Silavat, labour minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia, transport minister Govind Singh Rajput, women, and child development minister Imarti Devi, food and civil supplies minister Pradyumna Singh Tomar and school education minister Dr Prabhu Choudhary. When contacted for his reaction on the development, a Congress spokesman said there is nothing "serious". Earlier in the day, a section of

Congress leaders demanded that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra be nominated from the state for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls. Scindia and Nath have fallen out over the post of the state Congress president, which is currently held by the chief minister. Nath had left for Delhi on Sunday night to meet top Congress leaders to discuss the current political situation in the state and nominations for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on March 26. The Rajya Sabha terms of Congress veteran Digvijay Singh, and BJP leaders Prabhat Jha and Satyanarayan Jatiya will end on April 9. As per the arithmetic in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, the two parties are sure to win one Rajya Sabha seat each, but a tussle is likely for the third seat. While the Congress has 114 MLAs, the opposition BJP has 107 legislators. Four Independent MLAs, two lawmakers of the Bahujan Samaj Party and one legislator of the Samajwadi Party are supporting the Congress-led state government. Two seats are vacant following the demise of a Congress and a BJP legislator. The political drama in the state began last week when ten Congress MLAs from Madhya Pradesh went 'missing'. The party pointed fingers at the BJP, which denied any role in it. Since then, eight of the 'missing' legislators have returned and expressed their support to the ruling party in the state.



## COVID-19 Count Reaches 43 In India

**NEW DELHI:-** With three new cases confirmed on Monday in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala the number of coronavirus cases have risen up to 43 in India. Four new cases of COVID-19 have been reported since Sunday. This includes one from Ernakulam in Kerala, one from Delhi, one from Uttar Pradesh, and a COVID-19 case from Jammu was confirmed on Sunday. Of these 43, three patients from Kerala that were confirmed positive in February, have recovered and were discharged from the hospital. "The five cases from Kerala reported on Sunday are three family members with travel history to Italy and two are their relatives, who came in contact with them. The family is reported to have visited relatives and attended a few functions and their contacts are being traced," Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare said in a statement on Monday. The patient from Jammu is said to have travelled to Iran, while the confirmed case in Delhi has reportedly travelled to Italy. The infected person, from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh was infected by the six persons who were found positive in Agra earlier. The Uttar Pradesh patient has been found through contact tracing. According to the Health Ministry, a total of 8,74,708 international passengers from 8,255 flights have been screened at airports till now with 1,921 passengers identified as symptomatic. 177 of them have been hospitalised, 33,599 passengers are under observation and 21,867 passengers have completed their observation period. The ministry has urged people to reveal clearly about their travel history and fill the details in self-declaration forms properly. The Special Secretary of the Health Ministry Sanjeeva Kumar also clarified that the patient from Murshidabad, West Bengal was tested negative for COVID-19 and hence, so far no death has been reported due to COVID-19 in the country. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan continues to monitor and review the status, actions taken and future preparedness of the States as well as the Union Territories. Also, Secretary (HPW) is reviewing the situation with States/UTs on a regular basis. The Health Ministry further appealed to the people to follow the Do's and Don'ts, coughing etiquette, hand-washing and avoid large gatherings, in the wake of rising cases of coronavirus in India.

## Delhi Government Begins Daily Disinfection Of Buses, Metros



**NEW DELHI:-** Amid the fear of coronavirus spread, the Delhi Government has started the disinfection drive in all the buses and metros as a proactive measures to contain spread of the virus. In a statement, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said the Delhi government is fully equipped to tackle the crisis. "The government has started displaying the advisories in ISBTs, Bus Depots, DTC and

Cluster Buses showcasing the symptoms, mode of transmission of coronavirus and Do's and Don'ts for the same. A 24\*7 control room has also been set up at DGHS headquarters to deal with every query," he said. Following the four confirmed cases of the contagious virus in the capital, he said the Delhi government is taking precautionary measures at several levels, and especially in public transport system. "To deal with this situation, all the buses and metros are being cleaned with disinfectants. "We are taking proactive measures so that it doesn't spread in public. We are making sure that all the buses and Delhi metro are being disinfected on a daily basis," he said. In India, a total of 43 people have been infected with the coronavirus till Monday.

## Probe Into Influx Of Outsiders To Riot-Hit Areas In Delhi



**NEW DELHI:-** The Delhi Police has launched a probe over the sudden influx of outsiders from western Uttar Pradesh into northeast Delhi that sparked the recent deadly violence, to unearth the conspiracy that led to three days of communal clashes and arson over the CAA. Sources said an Assistant Commissioner of Police rank officer has been given the responsibility to lead the probe and identify the outsiders, "especially from Deoband". According to an internal note of Delhi Police, "He (ACP rank officer) has also been tasked to identify places where these persons stayed in New Mustafabad and other areas in North East District." On Monday, two back-to-back meetings took place at police headquarters pertaining to progress in the riot cases. The first meeting was held by Special Commissioner of Police S.N. Shrivastava, who is also looking after the charge of Commissioner of Police, and the second meeting was headed by Special Commissioner of Police Praveer Ranjan, who is heading Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. The police is also looking at the role of the owner of Rajdhani Senior Secondary School in Shiv Vihar in the riots. It was

found that the school was made a tactical point to unleash terror and launch petrol bombs during the riots. A huge catapult was affixed the top of the school to launch petrol bombs across the areas. The officers have also been tasked to collect a list of CCTV camera footage in the areas where riots took place. The officers are also collecting footage from CCTVs installed outside liquor shops across the areas. The two Special Investigation Teams have been given specific task in the probe. One team is looking at the larger conspiracy and another into the rioting. A total of 25 flash points, including Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Ganga Nagar and Bhagirathi Vihar have been tabulated by the police. A total of 702 cases were registered till Sunday while 2,387 people have either been detained or arrested. A total 53 people were killed and 400 injured in the violence in northeast Delhi which started on February 23 which first began on a two-kilometre stretch connecting Jafraabad and Maujpur. The conflict between two groups demonstrating against and in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act led to communal riots across the area.

## Security In Northeast Delhi Beefed Up For Holi



**NEW DELHI:-** Despite peace returning to northeast Delhi after the widespread violence last month, security arrangements in the area have been beefed up for Holi. Police and paramilitary forces were seen at sensitive spots in the area on Monday. Usually, women of the area used to come out in groups to worship the image of Holika put up on the intersections on the road but this year the turnout has been low. Asha Sharma, a resident of Vijay Park, said: "Till last year, we used to go to Ghonda Chowk to worship Holika in groups but this year we have decided to do it in front of our houses only." Though, now there is peace

in the area but still we will do Holi worship in front of our houses as a precaution, she said. Maujpur resident Neetu Saini said: "Every year my sisters-in-law used to come to my place here from Dwarka and Uttam Nagar to celebrate Holi but this year due to violence they refused to come to northeast Delhi. I have to worship Holika alone this year." The residents said this year the festival of colours is not as joyful as it used to be due to the violence that erupted after pro-anti-CAA groups clashed on February 23 in Jafraabad. More than 50 people died in the violence while over 200 were injured.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Woman Scolded For Eating 'Gutkha', Immolates Herself

**KANPUR:-** A 24-year-old woman has immolated herself here after she was allegedly scolded by her father for consuming 'gutkha'. The incident took place at around 10 p.m. on Sunday at a house in Shastri Nagar under the Kakadeo police station. According to the police, Arvind, the cousin of the deceased person identified as Manisha, her father had scolded her for eating 'gutkha' while she was preparing food for the family. Manisha's father had rep-



rimanded her for her habit of consuming excessive 'gutkha' on earlier occasions too. Manisha, who was extremely upset, went inside her room with a

container of kerosene and after bolting the door, set herself on fire. Minutes later, Manisha rushed out engulfed in flames. "On seeing her aflame, her kin tried to save her and admitted her to the burn unit of Lala Lajpat Rai hospital in a critical condition where she succumbed to the injuries. Kaushal Kishore Dikshit, Kakadeo police station in-charge, said, "Manisha's death was a clear case of suicide. Her body has been sent to the mortuary for post-mortem."

## Man Dies Of Hunger In Jharkhand, CM Orders Probe

**Bokaro:-** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday ordered a probe into the death of a 42-year-old man in Bokaro, allegedly due to hunger. The deceased has been identified as Bhookhal Ghasi. His family alleged that he died of hunger as no food was prepared in the house for the past some days because they had no rations. Rekha Devi, wife of the deceased, said: "We didn't have anything to cook for the last few days." However, the administration denied the claims of the family of the deceased. The authorities said that Ghasi



died of illness and his family neither had a ration card nor an Ayushman card. District Commissioner (DC) Bokaro Mukesh Kumar said: "Bhookhal was suffering from anaemia and was undergoing treatment. He used to work in Bengaluru and returned just six months ago due to illness. He died of illness not hunger." Ghasi died on March 6 after which Girdih MLA Sudhir Kumar tweeted about his death. Soren then tweeted about it following which Additional Chief Secretary Arun Singh, the DC, SDO and the BDO met the family of the deceased.