

Coronavirus : Death toll in China rises to 563 as lockdown enters third week

Agency
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The death toll and number of infections continued to soar in China, officials said Thursday.

It has been two weeks since the authorities in Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, declared that the city would be locked down as they tried to contain the virus's spread. The cordon that was first imposed around the city of 11 million quickly expanded to encircle roughly 50 million people in the province of Hubei.

The lockdown is unprecedented in scale and experts have questioned its effectiveness. Wuhan and the province of Hubei have borne the brunt of the epidemic as the sudden shutdown of transportation links into and around it slowed down the transportation of vital medical supplies. The fatality rate in Wuhan is 4.1 percent and 2.8 percent in Hubei, compared to just 0.17 percent elsewhere in mainland China.

ULFA & WC NNPG held solidarity meeting

Agency
Guwahati, Feb. 6

Working Committee on Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) and the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) held meeting at Guwahati on Tuesday, where they had a frank and transparent discussion on crucial issues pertaining to ongoing political talks with the Government of India.

Among others the solidarity meeting was attended by Arabinda Rajkhowa, chairman of ULFA; vice-chairman Pradip Gogoi; Anup Cheta, general secretary ULFA; N Kitovi Zhimomi, convener working

committee, NNPGs; and Wangtin Naga, co-convenor, WC NNPGs.

ULFA and NNPG also released a joint statement released after the meet. The statement reads, "The WC and the NNPG appreciated the peace process between ULFA and the Government of India and expressed that an early inclusive agreement would be inked fulfilling the aspirations of the Indigenous people of Assam."

The second point of the statement also stated that the ULFA acknowledged the political negotiations between WC, NNPG and Centre as a practical oriented approach

towards resolving the nearly century-old political conflict. The statement further went on to state that "The two sides also agreed to pursue people to people dialogue cultural exchanges and maintain the age-old brotherhood and peaceful co-existence between the two peoples in order to resolve all issues affecting the two communities at large." The last point in the statement also reads: "The two sides agreed to maintain constant interactions and ensure continuity of dialogue process, maintaining, preserving and promoting fraternal relationship in the days to come."

Thousands of Muslim devotees attended Cachar District Islamic congregation (Ijtama)

IT News
Cachar, Feb. 6

The three days Ijtama (Congregation) which began from 3rd February at Ghontagram of Lakhipur Sub Division of Cachar District has gathered thousands of Muslim devotees from entire Barak valley of Assam and its peripheries.

The Ijtama event concluded today with a mass, collective prayers at the paddy field of Ghontagram, Cachar, Assam. Over the three days gathering, Muslim worshippers listened to scholars (generally referred as Akabirins) who were graced the programme, reciting and explaining verses of Quran and delivered sermons (Waz). It is



viewed as an opportunity for Muslim to renew their commitment to Islamic values. It is organised by Tablighi Jamaat, a Sunni Muslim missionary movement that began in India and whose members volunteers to spread the Islamic values and faith among the Muslim

brethren. The final supplication (Dua) for the three days Islamic congregation was held today morning where of devotees sought the blessing of Allah and peaceful co-existence among the muslim brethren as well as to strengthen the Islamic faith.

667 projects for development of NE states completed: DoNER minister

IT News
Imphal Feb. 6

A total of 667 projects for the development of Northeast states have been completed during the period 2014-15, DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Singh informed the house, in a written reply, that during 2014-15, the Union Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and North-Eastern Council (NEC) have sanctioned 549 projects costing Rs 8640.08 crore under various schemes for the



development of northeastern states. The Union minister of state (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy

and Space, informed the Rajya Sabha that of the 667 projects completed, 32 projects were sanctioned during the said period. The remaining projects are at various stages of implementation, the minister added.

Campaigning for Delhi assembly elections ends today

Agency
New Delhi Feb.6

Campaigning for the assembly elections in Delhi will end today evening. Leaders of various political parties are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. Senior BJP leader and Home Minister Amit Shah today held a roadshow at Dilshad Garden. BJP president J P Nadda held a roadshow at Mundka. Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari held roadshows in Ghonda, Timarpur and Rajouri Garden.

Senior AAP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia held door to door campaign in Patparganj. Party MP Bhagwant Mann held roadshow at Rithala, Rohini and Seelampur. Congress leaders Depender Singh Hooda and Ragini Nayak held a roadshow in Narela.

While the whole campaigning of BJP was headed by Home Minister Amit Shah, the AAP remained mostly dependent on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Congress pinned

hopes on its leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of Assembly polls with the deployment Central Armed Police Force, Delhi Police personnel and Home Guards.

Nearly 1.46 crore voters will exercise their franchise at 13 thousand 750 polling stations on Saturday to elect a 70 member assembly. Counting will take place on Tuesday.

P M to participate in the celebrations of the signing Historic Bodo Agreement to visit Kokrajhar, Assam tommorrow

PIB
New Delhi,6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall be visiting Kokrajhar in Assam to participate in the celebrations of the signing of the Bodo Agreement, on the 7th of February 2020.

More than 4,00,000 people from the BTAD districts and all over Assam are expected to attend the programme. A Cultural programme of ethnic groups of Assam is being organised by the State Government, to showcase the diversity of the state. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall address the gathering to hail the historic Bodo Agreement signed in January this year, by including the leading stakeholders under one framework.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi on the 27th of January 2020.

In a tweet from his personal handle Prime Minister termed the day as "a very special day for India" and that the accord, "will lead to a transformative results for Bodo People, ushering in a new dawn of peace, harmony & togetherness".

The agreement is in accordance with the Prime Minister's vision of "SabkaSaathSabkaVikas" and commitment towards a holistic development of the North-East, ending a five decade old Bodo crisis.

Prime Minister, in his tweet said, "Bodo Agreement stands out for many reasons. Those who were previously associated with armed resistance groups will now be entering the mainstream and contributing to our nation's progress."

Accordingly, over 1615 cadres of different factions of the NDFB have surrendered their arms and joined the mainstream within two days of the signing of the

agreement.

"The Accord with Bodo groups will further protect and popularise the unique culture of the Bodo people. They will get access to a wide range of development oriented initiatives. We are committed to doing everything possible to help the Bodo people realise their aspirations", the Prime Minister said in his tweet.

A special package of Rs 1500

Crore is earmarked for the development of the region.

The recent signing of the Bru-Reang Agreement signed by the Government of India and Governments of Mizoram, Tripura, to provide relief and succour to over 35,000 Bru-Reang Refugees and the surrendering of over 85 cadres of the NLFIT in Tripura stand testimony to the continued commitment.

SC to hear Centre's appeal tomorrow challenging Delhi HC verdict in Nirbhaya case

Agency
New Delhi Feb 6

The Supreme Court today agreed to hear tomorrow the Centre's appeal challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case. The High Court yesterday dismissed Centre's

plea against the trial court's order staying the execution of the four death row convicts in the case.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General K M Natraj today told the apex court that jail authorities are unable to execute the convicts in the case despite the fact

that their review petitions have been dismissed. He also mentioned that curative petitions and mercy pleas of three of them have also been rejected. A bench comprising justices N V Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari decided to hear the case tomorrow.

Four more people quarantined in Maharashtra over coronavirus suspicion With suspension of e visa, Chinese expats unable to return to India

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai Feb.6

Four more people were quarantined over Novel coronavirus suspicion on Wednesday in Maharashtra, even as the state government set up a new testing facility to test samples at the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College & Hospital (IGGMCH) Four patients include a 29-year-old resident of Sanpada, Navi Mumbai (who was admitted to the Kasturba Hospital, Mumbai), (a 22 year old girl student pursuing MBBS course in China and two men (who were admitted to the IGGMCH). One of the men had returned from Thailand. The patient from Sanpada, Navi Mumbai, who works in

the shipping industry, had travelled to China on January 22 and returned to Mumbai on February 3. He did not have a cough, cold or any other symptoms. But he knew about the coronavirus and wanted to get himself tested. So he went and got hospitalised," a friend of the quarantined man said and added that basically he is a Chennai native living with his friend in Sanpada and often sails for months at a stretch.

While additional facility was created in Nagpur, to reduce the load on National Institute of Virology, Pune, BMC is mulling over the proposal to set up similar facility at Kasturba Hospital in Mumbai. A state officials said none of the 21 samples tested so far has been positive for the virus.



Air travellers wearing masks. (pic for representational purpose only)

After the Government of India suspended e-visas issued since January 15 to Chinese nationals and foreigners who reside in China on 2 February, many Chinese national, who had gone to China, before coronavirus created a havoc, are now unable to return to India due to uncertainty. 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. An e-visa is issued for 90 days. Shikha Pandey, a Chinese language teacher in Mumbai University, said that many of her Chinese friends had left for China days before the Chinese New Year. The travel

advisories then were not stringent. But now they are unable to return. There are estimated 400 ethnic Chinese families and 3,500 Chinese residing in Mumbai Zhang Xuemeng (27) who had travelled to Beijing from Mumbai on January 20 with her family in Hebei had to cancel her return flight scheduled on February 8. It was not clear, whether the Indian government would allowing them entry. The companies where they work in Mumbai have asked them to postpone their travel, her relatives in Mumbai told IT. Xuemeng, who holds an employment visa, had worked in a private Chinese company in Mumbai for three years before resigning. She was planning to take up another job on her return.

Jie Chu (30), a Chinese national at present in Mumbai, said her e-visa will expire next month and she was not certain whether it will be renewed. She does not want to return to China in these circumstances. Her family lives in Hunan.

Several airlines, including IndiGo and Air India have also suspended flights to China and Hongkong. The AI's flights to Shanghai remain suspended till February 14. IndiGo has suspended two of its flights to China. Cathay Pacific has suspended some flights to mainland China but is operating to Hong Kong. "Rwandair" has suspended flights from its capital Kigali to Guangzhou. Air China too suspended its operations to China from Wednesday onwards.