

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 13-03-2020



India confirms 60 COVID-19 cases; issues travel advisory

A high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted to review the measures taken for the management of COVID-19 in India.

With 60 confirmed cases in India, the Central government issued travel advisory with following measures:

- (i) all existing visas, except diplomatic, official, UN/international organisations, employment and project visas, stand suspended till April 15, 2020, with effect from March 13, 2020, at the port of departure.
 - (ii) visa-free travel facility granted to OCI card holders would be kept in abeyance till April 15, 2020.
 - (iii) any foreign national who intends to travel to India for compelling reason may contact the nearest Indian mission
 - (iv) all incoming travellers, including Indian nationals arriving from or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany after February 15 shall be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days.
 - (v) passengers with travel history to China, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Japan, Italy, Thailand, Singapore, Iran, Malaysia, France, Spain and Germany should undergo self-imposed quarantine for 14 days from the date of their arrival, and their employers should facilitate work-from-home for such employees during this period.
- “It has been decided that all States/Union Territories should be advised to invoke provisions of Section 2 of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 so that all advisories being issued from time to time by the Ministry/State/UTs are enforceable.”

COVID-19: advisory for schools and children

The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) issued new guidance to help protect children and schools from transmission of the COVID-19.

These included:

- (i) advises to national and local authorities on how to adapt and implement emergency plans for educational facilities.
- (ii) in the event of school closures, recommendations to mitigate against the possible negative impacts on children’s learning and well being.
- (iii) ensure the continuity of learning, including remote learning options such as online education strategies and radio broadcasts of academic content, and access to essential services for all children.
- (iv) necessary steps for the eventual safe reopening of schools.

(v) “Education can encourage students to become advocates for disease prevention and control at home, in school, and in their community.”



‘Go for peace deal with or without NSCN (I-M)’

A conglomerate of seven Naga extremist groups has asked the Indian government to sign the prolonged peace deal at the earliest, with or without the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), also known as the Isak-Muivah faction of NSCN.

Several rounds of talks between the Centre and the NSCN (I-M) since the latter declared truce in 1997 have proved inconclusive despite the signing of the nebulous Framework Agreement in August 2015.

The ambit of the “Naga political issue” was expanded in 2017 to include the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) comprising outfits that have been rivals of the NSCN (I-M).

The NSCN (I-M) has been adamant about getting a separate flag and constitution as part of the peace deal.

One of the goals of the NSCN (I-M) has been the creation of “Greater Nagalim”, a homeland comprising all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast.

The Centre has assured Nagaland’s neighbours — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur — that their territorial integrity would be protected.

Parliament passes amendment allowing Putin to stay in power 10

Constitutional changes allowing Vladimir Putin to run for President again in 2024 sailed through Russia’s lower house of Parliament, the 450-seat State Duma, opening the way for him to potentially stay in power until 2036.

Putin, a former KGB officer, is currently required by the Constitution to step down in 2024 when his second sequential and fourth presidential term ends.

But the amendment would formally reset his presidential term tally to zero.

Nobody voted against, but 43 lawmakers abstained. Twenty-four lawmakers were absent. Kremlin critic and opposition politician Alexei Navalny has said he believes Mr. Putin will now try to become President for life.

Two people staged lone pickets outside the State Duma.