

AT A GLANCE RECORD 3,830 MORE CORONA CASES IN KERALA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala on Wednesday registered its highest 3,830 coronavirus cases in a single day. Health Minister KK Shailaja said in a statement here that 2,263 more patients were cured of the disease. "At present, 32,709 persons are positive while 84,608 have so far tested negative after treatment. In the past 24 hours, 46,162 samples were tested," said Shailaja.

CJ: You become High Court judge when you are called, not by saying 'I want to be'

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said this is something very new where judicial officers have come to the court seeking appointment as High Court judges.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde and comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said: "You become a High Court judge, when you are called. You do not become a High Court judge by saying, 'I want to be! I want to be!'"

The remarks from the bench were made during the hearing of a petition challenging non-inclusion of certain judicial officers from Uttar Pradesh in the Supreme Court Collegium recommendation on August 14, 2020, for appointment as judges of the Allahabad High Court.

The Chief Justice said the bench finds it inappropriate that a writ petition has been filed where petitioners say they want to become High Court judges. However, the Supreme Court issued notice on the plea. The petitioners have argued that the High Court Collegium had recommended their names for the elevation, but the



Supreme Court Collegium has proposed to elevate only a District and Sessions Judge.

The petitioners argued that their cases were not considered, as they have not completed a period of 10 years of holding judicial office. The petitioners contended that they were the same batch as District and Sessions Judge, recommended for

elevation, as they had joined Higher Judicial Services at the same time.

The petitioners argued that the District and Sessions Judge joined judicial service in December 2011, or January 2012, as an advocate after resigning from UP Nyayik Sewa. Citing a break in the judicial service, the plea argued that the judge's services at the UP Nyayik Sewa cannot be

included for the purpose of computing the period of 10 years of holding of a judicial office, in accordance with Article 217 (2) (a) of Constitution. Two of the judicial officers retired last year.

The plea argued that several times so many judicial officers have been appointed as judges of various High Courts even after their retirement.

Delhi riots: Delhi Police file voluminous charge sheet against 15 accused

NEW DELHI: Relying on the technical evidence and 747 witnesses, Delhi Police's Special Cell on Wednesday filed a voluminous charge sheet against 15 accused under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Indian Penal Code and Arms Act in connection with a case related to widespread violence in Delhi in February.

The charge sheet was filed at Delhi's Karkardooma court before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat. It names Tahir Hussain, Devangana Kalita, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Natasha Narwal, Mohammed Pervez Ahmad, Mohammed Ilyas, Saifi Khalid, Ishrat Jahan, Meeran Haidar, Safoora Zargar, Shahdab Ahmad, Talseem Ahmad, Salim Malik, Mohammed Salim Khan and Athar Khan.

Tahir Hussain has been named as a main accused. The charge sheet, however, does not name Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. Their names will be added in the supplementary charge sheet later. It has been filed in the FIR 59/2020, under which the special cell is probing the 'conspiracy' angle in the

communal riots. In the charge sheet, the police has relied on the call data records and WhatsApp chats of the accused, along with other technical evidence and 747 witnesses. The police have mentioned the WhatsApp chats of February 24 as evidence in the charge sheet. "That was the time when riots were happening. At that point, the key conspirators were guiding their foot soldiers about violence in the area. They were directly in touch with foot soldiers," the police said. The police added that the conspirators used a WhatsApp group, which is now closed, for violence in Seelampur and Jafraabad area. Twenty-five WhatsApp groups were especially created for each site. The impression was given that they were an anti-CAA protest group, but through these sites conspirators were being guided, Delhi Police added.

Communal violence broke out in North-East Delhi on February 24 after clashes between the citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.



100-year-old Mai Handique recovers from COVID19 being discharged from Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital, in Guwahati on Wednesday.

CBI seeks legal opinion on Rhea's plaint against SSP's sisters

MUMBAI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), probing the case of the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, is seeking legal opinion on a new FIR filed by the late actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty against his two sisters and a Delhi doctor.



The FIR was registered by Rhea at the Bandra police station here against Priyanka Singh and Mitu Singh as well as Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital doctor Tarun Kumar for allegedly issuing a bogus prescription for Sushant to help him with his anxiety issues.

A CBI source said that the agency will soon take a decision on the issue, even though there was no official

confirmation from CBI officials.

The source said that the CBI is taking legal opinion as the Supreme Court had

questioned a number of accused including Rhea, her brother Showik, father Indrajit, Sushant's ex-manager Shruti Modi, Sushant's house manager Samuel Miranda, flatmate Siddharth Pithani, house staff Dipesh Swant, Neeraj Singh and Keshav Bachne and several others in the case.

Rhea, Showik, Miranda and Swant have been arrested by the NCB in connection with the drugs case related to the death of Sushant.

The NCB registered the case on the request of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after several chat details showed a drugs angle. The death of Sushant is being investigated by the CBI, ED and the NCB.

28.32 lakh domestic air passengers in Aug, 76% lower than in Aug 2019: DGCA

NEW DELHI: A total of 28.32 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in August this year, 76 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year, aviation regulator DGCA said on Wednesday.



India, GoAir and Air India stood at 68.3 per cent, 65.6 per cent, 64.4 per cent, 61 per cent and 58.6 per cent, respectively, according to the DGCA.

India resumed domestic passenger flights on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Indian airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights.

A total of 19.84 lakh passengers travelled domestically in June this year. Between May 25 and May 31, 2.81 lakh air passengers had travelled domestically, the DGCA noted.

The DGCA data mentioned that in August, IndiGo had the best on-time performance of 98.5 per cent at four metro airports - Bengaluru, Delhi,

Hyderabad and Mumbai. AirAsia India and Vistara were at number two and three at these four airports with 97.6 per cent and 95.9 per cent on-time performance, respectively, the regulator said.

Vistara and Air India cancelled 14.99 per cent and 12.05 per cent of their flights in August, the DGCA mentioned.

These two airlines were followed by Air India, AirAsia India, Vistara and GoAir at 2.78 lakh, 1.92 lakh, 1.42 lakh and 1.33 lakh passengers respectively in August, the data showed.

As many as 21.07 lakh people travelled by air domestically this July, the regulator had said last

after the opening of lockdown," said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The occupancy rate or load factor for five out of six major Indian airlines was between 58 and 69 per cent in August, it said Wednesday. "The passenger load factor in the month of Aug 2020 has shown some recovery due to increased demand

India, GoAir and Air India stood at 68.3 per cent, 65.6 per cent, 64.4 per cent, 61 per cent and 58.6 per cent, respectively, according to the DGCA. India resumed domestic passenger flights on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Indian airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights. A total of 19.84 lakh passengers travelled domestically in June this year. Between May 25 and May 31, 2.81 lakh air passengers had travelled domestically, the DGCA noted. The DGCA data mentioned that in August, IndiGo had the best on-time performance of 98.5 per cent at four metro airports - Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. AirAsia India and Vistara were at number two and three at these four airports with 97.6 per cent and 95.9 per cent on-time performance, respectively, the regulator said. Vistara and Air India cancelled 14.99 per cent and 12.05 per cent of their flights in August, the DGCA mentioned. These two airlines were followed by Air India, AirAsia India, Vistara and GoAir at 2.78 lakh, 1.92 lakh, 1.42 lakh and 1.33 lakh passengers respectively in August, the data showed. As many as 21.07 lakh people travelled by air domestically this July, the regulator had said last

Hypertension most common comorbidity among Covid patients: AIIMS doctor

AAKANKSHA KHAJURIA

NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, recorded underlying health conditions or comorbidities in 98.5 per cent of coronavirus patients admitted to the hospital for treatment in September with hypertension being the most common form.

There is a grave interlink between comorbidities and coronavirus infection. Patients with hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive lung, carcinoma or chronic

kidney disease have higher chance of succumbing to the disease, according to public health experts.

According to Animesh Ray, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, "In September, 137 patients were admitted to AIIMS, and comorbidities were present in 98.5 per cent of them. There was presence of comorbidities in almost all the patients, barring two."

Ray said that hypertension was the most common form of ailment in the patients, followed by dia-

betes and malignancy.

"One in four patients had multiple comorbidities. Out of 137, 128 were discharged while nine succumbed to the disease, out of which six were asymptomatic or had mild infection, while three were severely ill," Ray said during the AIIMS National Combined Grand Rounds on Covid-19.

Hypertension is defined as blood pressure above 140/90, and is considered severe if the pressure is above 180/120. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. Over time, if untreated,

it can cause health conditions, such as heart disease and stroke.

AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria, who is also the part of a core team monitoring the pandemic, also said that comorbidities not only lead to a poor prognosis in terms of morbidity and mortality, but sometimes they also get aggravated because of underline Covid-19.

"Diabetes has emerged as an important comorbidity. It can lead to poor prognosis in terms of morbidity and mortality, especially where diabetes is not well-controlled.

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