

Now, state shuts malls, museums, kisan mandis

ORDERS TILL MARCH 31 Gatherings at wedding functions restricted to 50; the group of ministers advises religious institutions, deras to postpone congregations

corona virus
ALL-OUT WAR



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CHANDIGARH: The Punjab government on Tuesday decided to close down all the shopping complexes, malls, museums and local weekly kisan mandis till March 31 to check the spread of corona virus in the state.

A decision to this effect was taken by a group of ministers (GoM) to prohibit the public gatherings in view of the advisory received from the central government. The GoM, which met here under the chairmanship of local bodies minister Brahm Mohindra, also decided to issue advisory for all the religious institutions, dera heads to postpone their congregations till March 31, according to an official release.

The GoM also decided to restrict the gatherings at wedding functions organised at marriage palaces. Directions have been issued to the deputy commissioners to ensure that the gathering at any function in marriage palaces must not be beyond 50 persons.

Likewise, the DCs will also ensure that all the restaurants, hotels, dhasas and food courts in their respective areas are implementing hand wash protocol and proper cleanliness of frequently

CORONA TRACKER

Security guards installing a closure notice at Pushpa Gujral Science City in Kapurthala on Tuesday.

WHAT'S SHUT: Malls, shopping complexes, museums, cinemas, schools, colleges, vegetable mandis; curbs on religious gatherings and political conferences

WHAT'S OPEN: Hospitals, government offices, gurdwaras, temples

PAWDEEP PANDH/HT

touched surfaces, besides ensuring physical distancing of 1 meter between persons and tables, said the spokesperson.

Even as the shopping complexes, malls and cinemas would be closed till March 31, chemists and grocery shops in malls have been exempted. The GoM has allowed the rehriwalas to sell the vegetables in streets for the convenience of the public.

EXAMSTO BE POSTPONED

The school education department and administrative bodies of other private educational

institutes have been directed to postpone the examinations. "In case, there is dire need of conducting the examinations, the particular institute and school would inform the district administration and ensure that one meter distance is maintained between two students," reads the official statement.

The group of ministers also reviewed the present situation in the state and took stock of the availability of prescribed medicines and deployment of medical and paramedical staff at crucial junctures.

Besides Mohindra, the GoM

comprises OP Soni (medical education & research), Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa (rural development and panchayats), Razia Sultana (transport), Balbir Singh Sidhu (health and family welfare), Vijay Inder Singla (school education) and Bharat Bhushan Ashu (food and civil supplies).

Chief secretary Karan Avtar Singh, principal secretary (health and family welfare) Anurag Aggarwal and principal secretary (medical education and research) DK Tiwari were among those who were present in the meeting.

CAPT WARNS OF A MAJOR SLOWDOWN

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CHANDIGARH: Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said coronavirus was a major disaster which would lead to a serious economic slowdown.

"The situation is already bad and if it spreads further, then things will worsen," he said, warning of a severe slowdown in the post Covid-19 environment. Underlining the need to be fully prepared and to take all possible precautions, the CM said while old habits, such as shaking hands, die hard, there was a need to change.

He said the state government was taking all steps to combat the problem but people have to realise the dangers and take self-precautions, making an appeal for strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Government of India and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

SAYS THE STATE GOVT IS TAKING ALL STEPS TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM BUT PEOPLE HAVE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS



An SOPC employee helps devotees disinfect their hands with sanitiser at the entrance of the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday.

SAMEER SEHGAL/HT

Golden Temple won't be shut, pilgrims' screening from today

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AMRITSAR: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Tuesday said the Golden Temple will not be closed for pilgrims in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak and devotees will be screened from Wednesday at the entrances of

DIP IN FOOTFALL AT SHRINE

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AMRITSAR: The Golden Temple on Tuesday witnessed a dip in the footfall of devotees even as the shrine was

"The second reason is that everyone is being advised to stay at home," he said.

There was no significant rush of devotees from the darshani deori to the