

PM Modi to deliver inaugural address at India Global Week 2020



Narendra Modi
PTI | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver today the inaugural address at the India Global Week 2020, a virtual conference being organised in the UK, which will also feature a “never-seen-before” performance on the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat campaign, the Prime Minister’s Office said.

Themed ‘Be The Revival: India and a Better New World’, the event will have 5,000 global participants from 30 nations and it will be addressed by 250 global speakers in 75 sessions.

Those participating in the event include External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Commerce and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor G C Murmu, Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the PMO statement said. The event will also feature a “never-seen-before performance” on ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat’ by Madhu Nataraj and a special 100th birth anniversary concert in tribute to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar by three of his most eminent students.

The three-day summit is being held on a virtual platform given restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Brain problems linked to even mild COVID-19

AFP | Paris

Potentially fatal COVID-19 complications in the brain including delirium, nerve damage and stroke may be more common than initially thought, a team of British-based doctors warned yesterday.

Severe COVID-19 infections are known to put patients at risk of neurological complications, but research led by University College London suggests serious problems can occur even in individuals with mild cases of the virus.

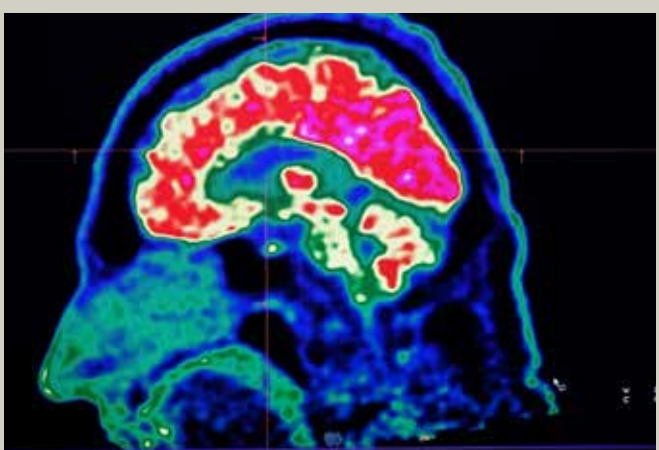
The team looked at the neurological symptoms of 43 patients hospitalised with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19. They found 10 cases of temporary brain dysfunction, 12 cases of brain inflammation, eight strokes and eight cases of nerve damage.

Most of those patients with inflammation were diagnosed with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) -- a rare condition typically seen in children after viral infections.

“We identified a higher than expected number of people with neurological conditions such as brain inflammation, which did not always correlate with the severity of respiratory symptoms,” said Michael Zandi, of UCL’s Queen Square Institute of Neurology and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The research, published in the journal Brain, showed that none of patients diagnosed with neurological problems had COVID-19 in their cerebrospinal fluid, suggesting that the virus did not directly attack their brains.

Perhaps crucially, the team



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“The scrutiny that the pandemic attracts means it would be very unlikely that there is a large parallel pandemic of unusual brain damage linked to COVID-19

ANTHONY DAVID
DIRECTOR OF UCL'S INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

found that ADEM diagnoses “not related to the severity of the respiratory COVID-19 disease”.

“Given that the disease has

only been around for a matter of months, we might not yet know what long-term damage COVID-19 can cause,” said Ross Paterson from UCL’s Queen Square Institute of Neurology.

“Doctors need to be aware of possible neurological effects, as early diagnosis can improve patient outcomes.”

With more than 11 million confirmed infections worldwide, COVID-19 is known to cause a variety of health complications in addition to lung infection.

While the results of the study suggest that brain complications could be more common among virus patients than first thought, experts said it didn’t mean that brain damage cases were widespread.

News in brief

China opens new Hong Kong security agency headquarters



◆ China yesterday opened a new office for its security agents to operate openly in Hong Kong for the first time under a tough new law, transforming a hotel into the force’s headquarters. “The Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was inaugurated here on Wednesday morning,” China’s official Xinhua news agency said. The new base is the Metropark Hotel, a skyscraper overlooking Hong Kong’s Victoria Park.

◆ US President Donald Trump lashed out at Harvard University on Tuesday, calling its decision to move all its courses online in the fall due to the coronavirus pandemic “ridiculous.” “I think it’s ridiculous. I think it’s an easy way out. And I think they ought to be ashamed of themselves,” Trump said at a White House roundtable discussion, during which he called for schools and universities to reopen for the next semester.

Trump says Harvard move to online courses due to virus ‘ridiculous’



◆ Russia and China on Tuesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have extended authorization for cross-border humanitarian aid in Syria for a year. Germany and Belgium, two of the council’s non-permanent members, had drafted the resolution, which would have allowed aid to continue to pass through two points on the Turkish border without interference from Damascus. Beyond Russia and China, the other 13 members of the council voted to approve the draft, the diplomats said.

◆ The United States and China imposed visa restrictions on each other in tit-for-tat moves over their disagreement on Tibet. China announced yesterday its curbs on people from the US who “behave badly” on Tibet-related issues, in retaliation for American curbs unveiled a day before. Pompeo restricted visas to Chinese officials determined to be “substantially involved” in the exclusion of foreigners from Tibetan areas.



◆ War-torn Yemen is once again on the brink of famine as donor funds that averted catastrophe just 18 months ago have dried up, the country’s UN humanitarian coordinator said. With much of the country

dependent on aid, a coronavirus pandemic raging unchecked, and countless children already facing starvation, Lise Grande said that millions of vulnerable families could quickly move from “being able to hold on to being in free fall.”

◆ Beijing said yesterday that US demands for it to join nuclear disarmament talks with Russia are a ruse to sink the negotiations, but it could take part if Washington lowers its arsenals to China’s level. US and Russian officials held talks in Vienna last month to discuss a replacement for the New START treaty, which limits each side to 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads but is due to run out in February.

Trump shaped by bullying father, niece says in memoir

New York

Donald Trump’s niece describes the US president as a lying narcissist who was shaped by his domineering father, according to excerpts of her memoir published Tuesday.

The White House immediately hit back, describing Mary Trump’s “Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World’s Most Dangerous Man” as “a book of falsehoods.”

The memoir is due out on July 14 amid a legal battle to stop its publication and is already a best-seller on Amazon.

Mary, a clinical psychologist, writes that Trump saw “cheating as a way of life,” according to The New York Times.

She accuses Trump of “hubris and willful ignorance” stretching back to his younger days.

She alleges that the future US leader paid someone else to take the SAT pre-collegiate exam, helping him get into the University of Pennsylvania’s prestigious Wharton business school.

The Times doesn’t explain how she knew.

“The absurd SAT allegation is completely false,” said deputy White House press secretary



President Trump, Mary Trump and her new book

Sarah Matthews.

The 240-page book says Trump is a product of his “sociopath” father Fred Trump who created an abusive and traumatic home life, The Washington Post reported.

“(The president) said his father was loving and not at all hard on him as a child,” Matthews said in response.

The memoir is billed as the first unflattering portrayal of Trump by a family insider.

The president’s younger brother Robert Trump tried to block publication, arguing that Mary was violating a non-disclosure agreement signed in 2001 after the settlement of her grandfather’s estate.

Last week, a New York appeals judge ruled that Simon & Schuster is allowed to release the memoir, saying it was “not a party to the agreement.”

Mary is the daughter of Fred Trump Jr, Trump’s older brother, who died in 1981 from complications related to alcoholism.

She writes that her uncle meets all the clinical criteria for being a narcissist, according to The New York Times.

“Mary Trump and her book’s publisher may claim to be acting in the public interest, but this book is clearly in the author’s own financial self-interest,” Matthews said.

Trump has described that book as “fiction.”

