



**Bruhat Bengaluru  
Mahanagara Palike**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE,  
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS  
29-11-2020**



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## 1,522 new cases, 12 deaths registered in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The State on Saturday reported 1,522 new cases of COVID-19, taking the total number of cases to 8,82,608. With 12 deaths, the toll rose to 11,750. This is apart from 19 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons.

As many as 2,133 persons were discharged on Saturday, taking the total number of recoveries to 8,46,082. While the positivity rate for the day stood at 1.37%, the Case Fatality Rate touched 0.78%.

Bengaluru Urban reported 719 cases, taking its tally



BBMP health workers collecting samples for COVID-19 test on GKVK campus in Bengaluru on Saturday. ■SUDHAKARA JAIN

to 3,68,604. With seven deaths coming from Bengaluru, the toll in this district rose to 4,121.

Active cases in Bengaluru

touched 18,366. As many as 1,10,724 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 92,724 RT-PCR tests.

### COVID-19 update

Number of positive cases reported in Bengaluru Urban on November 28

**719**

Total cases **3,68,604**

Active Case **18,366**

Discharged **3,46,116**

Deaths **4,121+1\***

\* One person died of other causes

Source: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

P1

## Private college lecturers sore over leave policy

TANU KULKARNI  
BENGALURU

Lecturers in many private colleges who have been reporting to work are up in arms against their management's decision to not provide special leave if they test positive for COVID-19. Colleges instead are asking lecturers to use their casual leave or their earned leave during their isolation period.

Teaching staff also pointed out that colleges have also not specified the quarantine policy if they have to isolate themselves in the instance of a primary contact testing positive.

### COVID-19

to Bengaluru Central University said they have been instructed to return to work after quarantine of three to four days if a primary contact tests positive. "We have been told we can get a week's leave if we are tested positive and will have to work from home after that. The leave policy needs to be spelled out very clearly and should not be ambiguous. Most of us step out of homes only to come to college. If we contract the virus in the process, colleges need to treat this more sensitively,"

A lecturer in Bengaluru said the university had told their staff that their leaves can be “adjusted” if they contract COVID-19. “We get around 10 days leave for medical reasons and we have been told that we can utilise this. However, a mere 10 days will not be sufficient. If we need more than 10 days, we have been told that we can use our other leaves,” she said. An associate professor of a private college affiliated

he said.

### **In govt. colleges**

The situation appears to be better in government colleges. T.M. Manjunath, president, Karnataka Government College Teachers’ Association, said lecturers can use 14 days of special casual leave if they contract COVID-19. “If a lecturer needs more time to recover, they can always submit documents and extend their leave,” he said.

P4

# Decentralised waste water treatment system developed

It has been installed at a school in Chamarajanagar district

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU**

A new system of decentralised waste water treatment installed at a school in the drought-prone Chamarajanagar district holds out promise for reducing dependence on freshwater sources for secondary use.

The system, developed by researchers at the Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, is functioning at Berambadi Primary School.

A release issued by IISc. said the research team operated the greywater treatment system for a year and monitored the different physiochemical and biological characteristics of the greywater at the entry and exit points.

“The performance of every treatment stage was quantified in terms of removal efficiencies (REs) of turbidity, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), nitrate, total phosphorus, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and faecal coliforms (FC),” said the release.

### **667 litres treated daily**

Overall, the system showed high REs - more than 90% for most of the parameters. About 667 litres of greywater were treated daily using the system, saving around 1,80,000 litres of water annually, the release added.

The IISc. said a new study, published in the Journal of Water Process Engineering and carried out in collaboration with researchers in the

U.K., shows how the system has, over the past year, enabled the reuse of waste water and reduced dependence on freshwater resources.

“We have demonstrated for the first time that decentralised waste water treatment systems can be economically put into practice in a rural setting,” according to Lakshminarayana Rao, Assistant Professor at CST and a senior author of the paper.

The authors have suggested that such a robust waste water management system can be replicated in both rural and urban settings after taking into consideration various factors such as space limitations, baseline greywater quality, and daily flow rates.

P4

# Infections, test positivity low in A.P.

With a positivity rate of 1.27%, State adds 625 cases; Kerala sees 6,250 cases

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 6,250 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday from 63,983 samples.

The test positivity rate was 9.77% on Saturday, remaining in the 9-11% range seen over two weeks.

The official COVID toll rose to 2,196 with 25 more

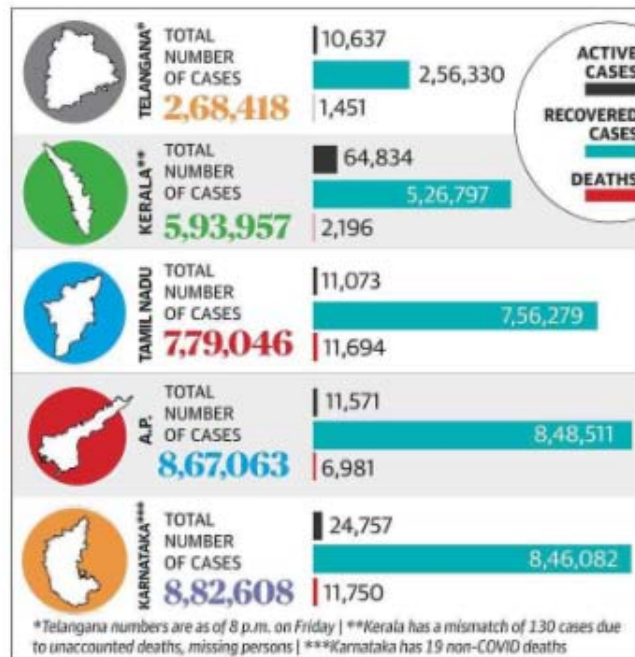
## COVID-19

deaths added by the State Health department.

Six deaths were reported from Alappuzha, five each from Ernakulam and Thrissur, four each from Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram and one case from Kottayam.

Among the districts, Ernakulam reported 812 cases, Kozhikode 714, Malappuram 680, Thrissur 647, Kottayam 629, Palakkad 491, Thiruvananthapuram 488, Kollam 458, Kannur 315, Alappuzha 309, Wayanad 251, Idukki 178, Pathanamthitta 141 and Kasaragod 137 cases.

Andhra Pradesh reported



625 new infections and five deaths on Saturday. It was the second lowest single-day tally in five months.

In the past day, 49,348 samples were tested with a positivity rate of 1.27%. The overall positivity rate stood at 8.70%.

Only three districts reported fresh deaths. Krishna and West Godavari reported

two deaths each and Visakhapatnam, one death.

Krishna district again topped single-day incidence with 103 cases.

The district-level infection data were: West Godavari (93), Visakhapatnam (88), Guntur (68), Chittoor (61), East Godavari (54), Vizianagaram (29), Prakasam (27), Nellore (24), Kurnool (22),

Anantapur (21), Kadapa (19) and Srikakulam (16).

Telangana recorded 753 cases on Friday with the testing of 41,991 samples. Three more patients died. The new cases included 133 from Greater Hyderabad, 78 from Medchal Malkajgiri, and 71 from Rangareddy. The State recorded 10,637 active cases.

### In T.N.

Tamil Nadu reported 1,430 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, taking its overall tally to 7,79,046. Seven districts, including Chennai, accounted for a little over 60% of the new cases. Another 1,453 persons were discharged. So far, a total of 7,56,279 persons were discharged after treatment for COVID-19. Also 13 more persons died - five in Chennai, four in Coimbatore and one each in Salem, Theni, Tiruvarur and Thoothukudi, taking the overall toll to 11,694. Of the 13 who died, two were aged in their 30s.

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad, and Chennai bureaus)



## Frontline first

The first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be given to 10 million frontline health workers, official sources said. States will help identify doctors, MBBS students, nurses and ASHA workers. The special COVID-19 inoculation programme will use the network of the existing Universal Immunisation Programme. Among those prioritised are municipal corporation workers, police and armed forces, people over 50, and those with co-morbidities.

## Modi takes 3-city tour to review vaccine progress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ New Delhi/Hyderabad/Mumbai

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday undertook a whirlwind trip to Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune for reviewing the Covid vaccine development and manufacturing process by Zydus Cadila, Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute of India.

At each of the three facilities, the PM spent over an hour each, took a tour of the facilities, met top executives and interacted with scientists to understand the trial status, issues and challenges being faced in development of the vaccines.

He also asked scientists for their opinion on how the country could further improve its



Prime Minister Narendra Modi tours Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad | PIB

regulatory process and sought their suggestions to improve the process of vaccine distribution.

While the indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin by Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with the ICMR, is undergoing phase 3 testing, another developed by Zydus Cadila is now in the second stage of human trials. **P9**

P1

## Covid effect: For the first time in 480 years, Kadalekai Parishe to be restricted fair

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

ONE of the oldest and most popular festivals of Bengaluru, the annual Kadalekai Parishe (groundnut mela) at Basavanagudi, will not be held for the first time this year due to the pandemic. The fair, which boasts of over 480 years of history, will be restricted to the Bull Temple premises and no

stalls will be put up on Basavanagudi Main Road. The Parishe is celebrated on the last Monday of Karthika Masa (December 14 this year) every year and is visited by over six lakh people, buying groundnuts from around 600 farmers and vendors. Of over 2,500 stalls, many also sell toys, and clothes. Almost 100 years ago, Basa-

vanagudi was surrounded by Cuttuhalli, Marali, Dasarahalli and other villages, where groundnut was grown abundantly. Legend has it that a bull would arrive on every full moon night and eat the groundnut. Farmers then prayed to Nandi (Lord Shiva's vehicle) and pledged to donate their first crop. In 1537, Bengaluru founder Kempegowda constructed the

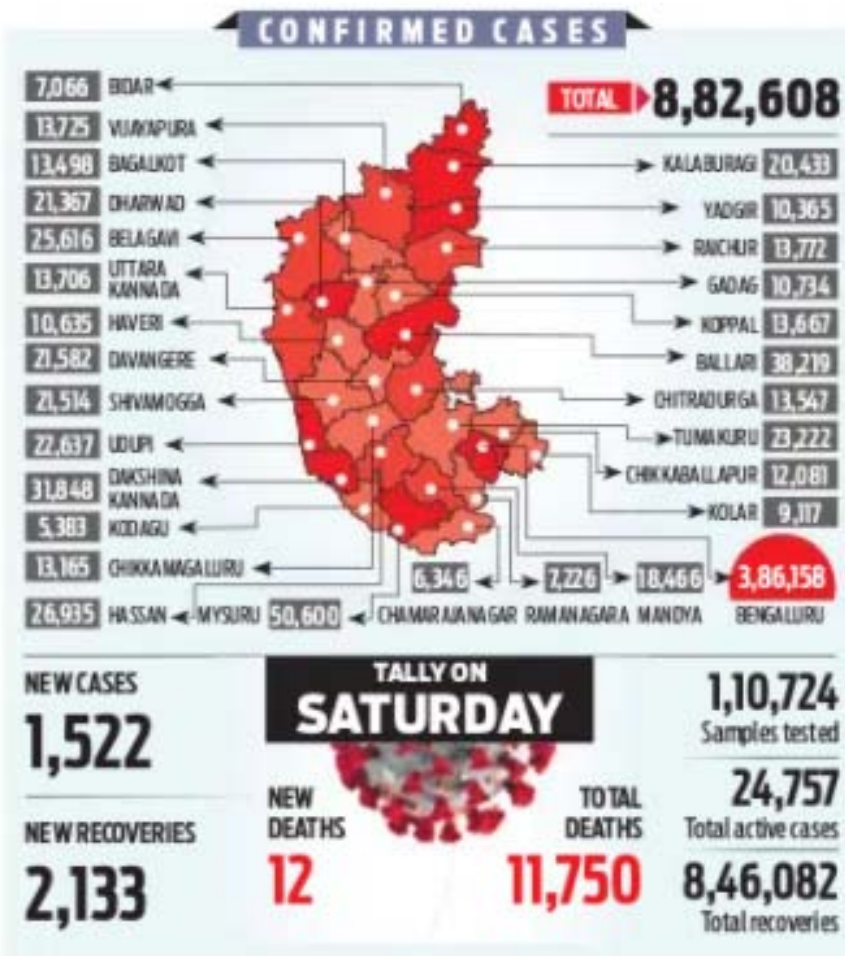


temple for Dooda Basava where Basavanagudi stands now. Since then, farmers from surrounding villages, and even Tamil Nadu, started coming each year to offer their annual produce. But this year, BBMP and state endowments department have decided not to hold the festival as it could trigger a spike in Covid cases. Basavanagudi MLA Ravi Subramanya told The New

Sunday Express that the Kadalekai Parishe will not be organised as before. "Lakhs of people visit the Parishe, which means that they are risking their lives and also others. There is a danger of them carrying the virus back home. The health and safety of local people too should be considered," he said. Officials will appeal to people through media, not to visit the

Parishe. "People start gathering in before the festival and stay here for some days afterwards. We will depute BBMP and police personnel so that if any vendors come to set up stalls, they will be vacated," the MLA said. He, however, reiterated that the ritual will continue as usual, but will be restricted to the Dooda Ganapati and Dooda Basava temples.

P2



P3

# Enforce rules strictly in containment zones, Chief Secy tells local bodies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar on Friday issued an order directing all city corporations and district administrations to ensure that guidelines for containment zones and surveillance are enforced till extended to December 31.

The order urges all local administrations to follow guidelines in containment zones. All activities are now permitted outside containment zones, except those for which certain restrictions have been issued.

Activities to which restrictions apply include international air travel, cinema halls and theatres which can function at half capacity, swimming pools which will be open

only to athletes, exhibition halls to be open only for business to business purposes. Halls will function at half capacity for educational, cultural and religious gatherings, with a maximum of 200 people in closed spaces. However, based on their assessment of the situation, local authorities may limit the total number of people in a gathering in closed spaces to 100.

District authorities cannot impose lockdowns outside containment zones without consulting with state and central governments.

Local administrations must also ensure physical distancing in offices. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Services shall issue guidelines on implementing stag-

gered office timings and other suitable measures in places where the positivity rate is over 10%.

People over the age of 65, those with comorbidities, children below the age of 10, and pregnant women are advised to stay at home except for essential and health services.

Organisations and businesses with 50 or more employees are encouraged to avail of Aarogya Setu Open Api Services (<https://openapi.aarogya-setu.gov.in/>). Open API feature will facilitate organisations' and employees' to return to work in a Covid19 risk-free environment.

Local bodies can invoke Section 144 of the Criminal Procedures Code enforce to physical distancing.

P3

## EXPRESS READ

### No Covid deaths reported in 25 dists on Saturday

BENGALURU: While the state's daily positivity rate stood at 1.3% in the last 24 hours, it saw 1,522 new Covid cases of which 719 were from Bengaluru. The daily fatality rate was less than 1% and the number of deaths were only 12, including seven from Bengaluru. Meanwhile, on a positive note, no Covid fatalities were reported from 25 districts in the state. Of the 12 victims, two patients had no comorbidities. **ENS**

P3

## Govt told to strengthen PHCs, vaccine infrastructure

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

ALTHOUGH preparations for immunisation against Covid-19 are on, public health experts say that the state government needs to focus not just on cold chain infrastructure, but also strengthen primary health centres.

"We will need strong primary health centres, sub-centres, and trained health workers. This is where urgent investment is required. It is not just cold storage units," explained a senior public health expert.

Dr Giridhara R Babu, senior epidemiologist and public health expert, told TNSE it is important that the state reviews and updates the micro plans to carry out vaccination programs.

"Reviewing and updating the



A medical worker in a PPE suit takes a break at Majestic Bus Stand | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

micro plans used for supplementary immunization activity is useful," he said. Public health experts say that training and reorienting the staff for immu-

nisation is necessary in both rural and urban areas.

However, Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar's office said that the hu-

man resources for delivering the vaccine are sufficient and ready. "PG students, medical college faculty, public health care workers are being trained for the vaccine programme. There are many other strategies too being chalked out for smooth implementation of the immunisation programme," a health department official said.

Dr Babu said the state needs to prepare a revised list of elderly people and those with comorbidities and reach out to them.

While the focus on tackling the pandemic has mostly been on the development of vaccines, experts say medical essentials to administer them are also vital. There is a need to urgently increase the capacity to manufac-

ture medical ancillary items that will be required, including needles, syringes, cotton-swabs, PPE kits, etc, they said.

Hindustan Syringes – one of the world's largest manufacturers of syringes – said in September that it is increasing the output of auto-disable devices (which prevent re-use) from 700 million a year to one billion by 2021 to meet the expected demand. "Even if 60% of the world's population is immunised, it would require four to five billion syringes," Hindustan Syringes Managing Director Rajiv Nath had said.

The state government is also working on procurement and manufacture of the medical ancillary items and will announce the details soon, sources said.

P3



# Global good: On 3-city vaccine tour, Modi assures help to neighbours

KALYAN RAY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hopped across the country to review the vaccine development and manufacturing process at three of India's leading vaccine-making firms, whose shots against Covid-19 are currently undergoing various stages of clinical evaluations.

Modi asked scientists working at these units to share their views on how to improve the regulatory processes. He said India would supply Covid-19 vaccine to its neighbours, following a tradition of 'global good'. "India considers vaccines as not only vital to good health but also as a global good. It is India's duty to assist other countries, including the nations in our neighbourhood," he said in a statement.

The prime minister visited Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune.

Bharat Biotech is in the phase-3 trial of its homemade vaccine that will be tried on 26,000 volunteers. The SII is carrying out a fast-track bridging study on 1,600 volunteers as the efficacy of its vaccine — same as Astra-Oxford shot — has been demonstrated in trials abroad. Zydus Cadila's vaccine candidate is completing the second phase of trial.

Modi arrived at the Ahmedabad airport at 9 am and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (in white) being briefed about the development of Covaxin, during his visit to the Bharat Biotech facility on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

## Govt wants 300-400 million doses by July: Adar Poonawalla

The Centre has given indications that it would need 300-400 million vaccine doses from the Serum Institute by July 2021, said

its CEO Adar Poonawalla, adding they will apply for emergency use authorisation of Covishield "in the next two weeks". **PAGE 7**

boarded a helicopter to reach Changodar industrial area on the outskirts where Zydus Biotech Park is located. He interacted with the scientists and managing director of the drug-maker.

The Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad was the next stop where he was briefed about the ongoing clinical

trial. The last stop was the SII vaccine complex in Pune where the top brass of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer briefed the PM about the vaccine development process and target rollout dates. *(With inputs from Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai, Satish Jha in Ahmedabad and Prasad Nichenametla in Hyderabad)*

INDIA COVID CASES ON SATURDAY **41,366**

**475** DEATHS

Friday's cases: **41,322**  
Deaths: **485**

KARNATAKA CASES ON SATURDAY **1,522**

**12** DEATHS

Friday's cases: **1,526**  
Deaths: **12**

TILL 9.45 PM, SOURCE: DHNS/PTI

# Medical, dental colleges to reopen under strict measures

Students, staff asked to get tested, undergo thorough sanitisation

BENGALURU, DHNS

After having assisted the state government in the fight against Covid for over eight months, the state's medical and dental colleges are set to open on December 1 for regular classes and student consultations.

Given that the colleges have to work in clinical environments, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has issued stringent guidelines for students and staff. The SoP issued by the varsity asks students and staff to take an RT-PCR test 72 hours before reporting to college.

The varsity has also asked colleges to avoid holding conferences, seminars, workshops and interviews till the pandemic ceases.

Owing to the threats they face, elderly and pregnant employees will not be posted to frontline work at hospitals and clinics.

## Choose juniors over seniors

The university has advised the colleges to post only final-year students and post-graduate interns to work at Covid-designated centres or hospitals. "Junior students shall be given low priority and deliberately restricted to work at the high-risk areas," the SoP said.

Considering the students' visits to outside hospitals on assignment duties, the RGUHS has asked colleges to avoid giving too many assignments.

Given the challenges in accommodating all the students, colleges have been asked to conduct a blend of online and offline classes.

Specific instructions have been given to hold practical classes at the moment.



## Arrangements at hostels

All students have been asked to disinfect themselves before leaving the premises and entering the hostel since they are exposed to clinical facilities, particularly during practical sessions.

"Students shall use a disinfectant solution to wash hands and feet before leaving the campus. Hostels must provide separate restrooms for freshening up as soon as students return from hospitals. They must dip their clothes in disinfectant solution on return," the advisory said.

Medical college hostels must accommodate only two students per room and avoid bunker cots and dormitory arrangement.

Managements have been advised to avoid air-conditioning facilities in common areas and dining areas, besides individual rooms.

RGUHS said: "We have directed colleges to carry out disinfection of classrooms on a daily basis at the end of the day."

# State's Covid infections stabilise; daily cases hover around 1.5k

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Covid-19 numbers in the state have stabilised, which seems to indicate that there will not be any dramatic decline in numbers.

On Saturday, 1,522 new cases were reported in Karnataka, which increases the state's total caseload to 8,82,608.

Out of these, 719 cases were recorded in Bengaluru Urban, which accounts for 47% of the new cases. These figures are largely on-par with numbers recorded over the last 14 days.

The next highest number came from Mysuru with 77 new infections, followed by Tumakuru (72) and Dakshina Kannada (61).

Meanwhile, for the last three days, the government has reported only 12 deaths per day. Among the latest

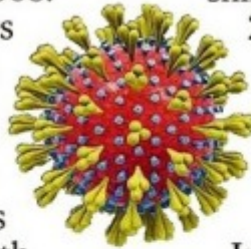
batch of 12 deaths, seven were from Bengaluru Urban and two from Mysuru. Bidar, Dakshina Kannada and Bagalkot reported one death each.

The youngest fatality was a 43-year-old woman in Dakshina Kannada, who died

24 hours after being diagnosed with the disease on November 26. She had been suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) but no recorded comorbidities.

The oldest fatality is a 70-year-old woman from Bidar who died two days after being diagnosed with the disease on November 25. She too had SARI but also diabetes and hypertension.

The state also discharged 2,133 patients, out of which, 1,429 were in Bengaluru.



# Winter session from December 7 with all Covid measures

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** As Karnataka is getting ready for the winter legislature session, which will be the second to be held amidst the pandemic, the government is in consultation with the Health department on subjecting the participants to a Covid test.

In the previous session held in August, all the legislators, government officials and media personnel had to mandatorily undergo Covid tests before attending the session.

The government will consult the health officials concerned before finalising a similar plan for this session, Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said.

The winter session will be held from December 7 to 15.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Kageri said the session would be conducted in a full-fledged manner, though it is being held during the pandemic. All necessary precautions against Covid-19 would be taken, he said.

While the previous winter session held an extensive debate on Indian Constitution, this time there would be a debate on 'One nation, One Election,' a concept put forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have already discussed this proposal with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Law Minister J C Madhuswamy, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and JD(S) legislature party leader H D Kumaraswamy for their consent," Kageri said.

# COVID-19 Tracker



States/UT	Active	Infected	Death	Daily cases	Daily Death
Maharashtra	89,914	18,14,515	46,986	5,965	88
Kerala	64,964	5,93,958	2,197	6,251	26
Delhi	36,578	5,61,742	8,998	4,998	89
Haryana	28,751	2,30,713	2,375	1,967	30
Uttar Pradesh	25,261	5,39,917	7,718	2,170	21
Karnataka	24,757	8,82,608	11,750	1,522	12
West Bengal	24,537	4,77,446	8,322	3,459	52
Chhattisgarh	20,977	2,34,725	2,831	1,890	18
Rajasthan	19,916	2,62,805	2,274	2,765	19
Madhya Pradesh	14,981	2,03,231	3,237	1,634	13
Others	1,03,012	35,90,955	39,988	8,745	107

**4,53,648**

TOTAL ACTIVE  
CASES

**88,01,168**

TOTAL  
RECOVERED

**93,92,615**

TOTAL  
INFECTED

**1,36,676**

TOTAL COVID DEATHS

**1,123**

NON-COVID DEATHS\*

DHNS/PTI (10 PM,  
November 28)

\*Patients dead due to  
non-Covid reasons

# 70k vaccinators, another 30k from pvt sector, to give shots

Govt Hopes To Vaccinate 30Cr In Early 2021

Sushmi.Dey@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre is preparing a list of vaccinators required to administer the Covid-19 vaccine—first to an estimated 30 crore priority population in the initial months of 2021 and gradually to others.

While there are around 70,000 vaccinators in the public sector, the private sector is likely to contribute around 30,000 more, including doctors, nurses and lab technicians who can inoculate people once a vaccine against SARS-CoV2 is

## PM TAKES VACCINE TOUR

PM Narendra Modi had a busy day on Saturday as he visited three vaccine facilities situated in different cities — Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune — to get an update on vaccine development | P 10

**9.10am:** Lands in Ahmedabad and spends over an hour at lab facilities at Zydus Biotech Park

**Around 1pm:** Reaches Hyderabad airport and proceeds to Bharat Biotech's vaccine manufacturing facility at Genome Valley by road

**4.30pm:** Lands at Pune airport and then proceeds by helicopter to the campus of Serum Institute of India (SII) at Manjari. Leaves SII campus for airport at 6pm



PM at Zydus lab in Ahmedabad

**6.25pm:** Flies to the national capital from Pune airport

approved in the country.

A well-trained vaccinator along with a facilitator can administer an average of 20-25 shots per hour, though they may actually be called on to do

less than that, an official said.

The 70,000 vaccinators in the public sector are currently part of the Universal Immunisation Programme. Majority of them will be in ac-

## SII to seek emergency use licence in 2 weeks

Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla on Saturday said, "We are in the process of applying for an emergency use licensure (for AstraZeneca-Oxford's Covid vaccine candidate in India) in the next two weeks." On requirement of vaccine doses, he said, "the indication is that the need would be for around 300-400 million doses by July 2021." **TNN**

tion in the first phase of Covid immunisation when the focus will be on healthcare and other frontline workers.

► Pvt sector help, P 11

P1

## B'LURU WATCH

Covid figures as on Nov 28

Cases	Active	Cured	Deaths
3,68,604	18,366	3,46,116	4,122

P1

## **B'luru Central – Construction chaos**

**R**esidents from upscale areas in Ashoknagar, Cubbon Park, Lavelle Road and Richmond Town and adjoining localities told cops they are fed up with construction work that goes on till late in the night. "The work at night may not be major ones. But movement of earthmovers, cutting of materials, welding iron rods and loud talking by workers are enough to disturb us. The matter is worse when comes to high-rise constructions," they said. Residents also complained about bike-borne youths roaming around at night in and around MG Road, Brigade Road, Race Course Road, Seshadripuram and nearby areas. "Police patrol at nights. But these youths vanish on seeing police vehicles and reappear later," they said.



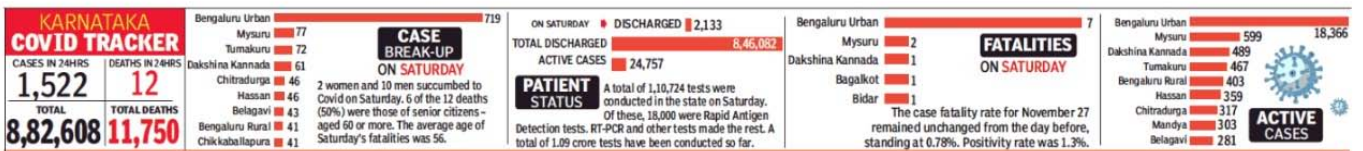
**PROBLEMS APLENTY:** The programme will be held on the fourth Saturday of every month. Citizens can walk into police stations to meet senior officers and get their issues redressed

# Bengaluru North – Abandoned vehicles

City police commissioner Kamal Pant met people at Malleswaram police station and participants asked him who should clear abandoned vehicles in the area. Pant said: "We discussed it with BBMP commissioner on Thursday. The issue will be attended to soon,"

he said. A few senior citizens sought an alternative for reaching police station while reporting cyber crimes. "We don't have that much knowledge about cyber crimes. When we approach local police, they direct us to contact the cyber crime station," they said.

P2



P4

# Dist admins can impose curbs after risk review

## Guidelines Come Into Effect On Dec 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Come December 1, the participation limit in marriages or similar gatherings can be limited from 200 to 100 by district authorities if there is a surge in Covid cases.

Depending on the situation in districts, BBMP or the district administrations can exercise their powers and take appropriate decisions to control the spread, says the new guidelines issued by the chief secretary on Friday.

"Prior permission for any gathering like a wedding is mandatory. The new guidelines allow district authorities to limit the gathering of weddings from 200 persons after reviewing the Covid situation," said health commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey.

In the previous order issued after Unlock 5.0, on October 1, the government had allowed wedding participa-



FOCUS ON HEALTH SAFETY

tion to 200 persons. With graded reopening and progressive resumption of activities, the government issued a new set of guidelines to be followed from December 1.

The notification says that with adherence to prescribed standard operating procedures, social, religious, sports, entertainment, educational, cultural, religious gathering, with upto a maximum 50% of the hall capacity, a maximum ceiling of 200 persons can be allowed in closed spaces. "However, based on assessment of the situation, BBMP or district authorities may reduce the

ceiling to 100 persons or less in closed places," reads the order.

The order adds that it'll be the responsibility of municipal, taluk authorities and police to ensure that prescribed containment measures are strictly followed.

The order empowers district authorities to impose local restrictions such as night curfew to contain the spread of Covid, based on their assessment. However, no local lockdown can be imposed by district authorities outside containment zones without prior consultation with state and central government.

If Covid positivity rate of districts is more than 10%, district authorities can take measures like staggering office timings.

The order focuses on protection of vulnerable persons. "Persons above 65 years, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 are advised to stay at home," it says. The mask-related imposition continues. A fine of Rs 250 in municipal corporation areas and Rs 100 in other areas shall be imposed for not wearing masks.

P4



# Despite growing need, govt hosps test only inpatients for clots, inflammation

Sunitha.Rao@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Many people with coronavirus infection are requesting tests that detect signs of blood clots and inflammation, Covid-related complications that can cause a heart attack or a stroke, but government hospitals are conducting these tests for mostly admitted patients.

Patients in home isolation and those who have recovered from the disease and want to rule out future complications are discouraged from seeking free inflammatory marker assessment, including the D-dimer test, at government hospitals.

This policy is a hurdle for people who want to ascertain health risks, forcing them to seek costly solutions at private medical facilities. Experts favour an accommodative testing approach at public hospitals, especially since most of the current Covid-19 cases are in home isolation.

The D-Dimer test costs Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500. Covid-19 patients in the ICU and high dependency units at government



Syed Asif

**SPOT CHECK:** BBMP health workers conduct Covid-19 tests at a KSRTC bus stand. Despite drop in cases, testing has not slowed down

hospitals are not charged for it. Queries related to the inflammatory marker tests have increased in recent weeks as physicians are advising many home-isolation and recovered patients to undergo these check-ups as part of risk assessment.

A 68-year-old doctor tested positive for Covid-19 recently and had mild symptoms. He was diagnosed with the disease 15 days after his mother died because of the infection. After the report, he immediately requested a D-dimer test at a government hospital. But he was informed that only patients in

the ICU are tested for clotting and inflammation risk.

Jayanagar General Hospital conducts D-dimer tests for only certain groups of patients. Those in the OPD are not included. At KC General Hospital, tests are done for inpatients. "Outpatients, unless they have a BPL card, will have to pay for these tests," said Dr B R Venkateshiah, medical superintendent, KC General.

The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD) conducts the D-dimer test for all needy patients who are admitted. It sends blood samples to a private diagnostic lab in Jayanagar. "We con-

duct the test for Covid inpatients who need it. Currently, it's not done for outpatients," said Dr C Nagaraja, director, RGICD. Dr CN Manjunath, a member of the state Covid-19 task force, said that government hospitals should also conduct inflammatory marker tests for patients in home isolation. "Whether the patient is admitted to a hospital or is in home isolation with mild symptoms, risk assessment needs to be done to triage them," said Dr Manjunath, who is also the director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research Institute.

Health commissioner Pan-kaj Kumar told STOI that the government had discussed the feasibility of conducting these tests for patients in home isolation. "The problem lies in the practicality of carrying out these tests. Collecting blood samples of home-isolated patients involves logistical issues. It will be tough to do it for all such patients. But we want to consider it for vulnerable ones," he added.

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# Neglect of open spaces hurts fitness trend

Christin.MatthewPhilip  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Health and fitness have become key concerns for citizens after the pandemic, and many are visiting public parks and other open spaces to get in shape. But lack of facilities and poor upkeep are playing spoilsport.

Take the example of the Benniganahalli Lake area, near the KR Puram flyover. BBMP has failed to maintain the 15-acre site despite appeals, say walkers and cyclists from Pai Layout, Narayanapura, Benniganahalli, Nagaravapalya and Vijinapura.

There are no display boards on the main road, proper walking and cycling tracks have not been created, and security guards have not been deployed. A few bench-



**GREEN ZONES:** Despite public appeals, civic officials have failed to maintain Benniganahalli Lake, near the KR Puram flyover

es and a poorly maintained public toilet are the only amenities. Encroachments and illegal sewage discharge and garbage dumping plague the lake.

The neglect has undone the efforts of 2018, when BBMP and local residents rejuvenated the waterbody.

"There are nearly 30 illegal houses and other encroachments, but no action has been taken despite repeated complaints. There are no streetlights; the place becomes a den of troublemakers after sunset," said NH Subramanian of the Benniganahalli Kere Trust. "A fence should

be immediately erected and guards should be deployed to stop unauthorised entry."

Sharanya S, a regular visitor, said that the lake area was beautiful, but it was poorly maintained. "This is a great place to relax or exercise. Sadly, no efforts are being made for its upkeep. There is a stench because of sewage discharge, and fish and migratory birds have disappeared," she said.

Another walker, Nihal S, said that stray dogs were also a problem. "If civic authorities maintain the place, more people, including children, will come here," Nihal said. Residents want BBMP to create an entry to the lake area from the Old Madras Road and set up a gymnasium.

BBMP took over the management of the lake area from

the Bangalore Development Authority in 2016. Two years later, Rs 3 crore was spent on dredging and desilting as part of lake rejuvenation. A civic official said that the lake site was handed over to BMRCL for Metro work recently. "We will take up development activities once this work is over," the official added.

Subramanian claimed that BMRCL planned to acquire a portion of the lake area and cut trees. "We are not against the Metro project, but we want to protect the lake and trees. BMRCL has adopted Veerasandra Lake near Electronics City. We want it to adopt this lake, too, and develop it," he said. The trust has sent a plea to the local MLA, Byrathi Basavaraj, who is also the urban development minister.

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# Finally, Carmelaram RoB prayers are answered

## Railway Over Bridge at traffic jam hotspot gets the go-ahead, work to begin soon

Sridhar.Vivan  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

**T**he much-awaited Railway Over Bridge (RoB) project near Carmelaram has finally got the nod and work is likely to begin in a few months.

Chief Public Relations Officer and Deputy General Manager, SWR, E Vijaya confirmed this to Bangalore Mirror.

"The Carmelaram Level crossing gate no.132 is one of the busiest gates in Bengaluru. It is located on an important corridor linking Sarjapur Road, Outer Ring Road, Varthur and Gunjur. Thousands of commuters pass through this gate daily and so this gate has high train vehicle units. Construction of an RoB at this location which would eliminate level crossing gates, and pave the way for smooth movement of traffic had been planned last year. After getting consent of State Government for cost sharing of this work, the Railway Board has communicated sanction to this work at approximately ₹40.3 crore. The Railways will bear ₹11.26 crore of this through the Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh," he said. The remaining will be borne by the BBMP, which has identified land for acquisition.

The absence of a grade separator has created much trouble for residents from Sarjapura and Carmelaram as every morning they would be stuck near the Carmelaram railway junction. During pre-Covid times, the railway gates would close for a minimum 15 minutes at the tri-junction road, which saw vehicular



A file photo of a gathering of people demanding a solution to the traffic mess at the road near the Carmelaram Railway Junction



movement in six directions, creating nightmarish traffic jams.

The Carmelaram railway junction is a crucial point because commuters from all areas around the

area have to take this road to avoid the heavy traffic on the Sarjapur Road and all the artillery roads. Commuters heading towards Whitefield from Sarjapur Main Road are going to benefit the most with this decision because Whitefield is just 7-8 km from this railway junction and a commuter can skip all the traffic and signals on the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Several techies also take this road as it connects to the major tech parks.

**“ This is an important project for East Bengaluru. I will coordinate with the BBMP and Railways to ensure that work starts soon**

—PC Mohan, Bengaluru Central MP



Bangalore Mirror has been reporting about commuters' woes at Carmelaram

This is the route for Sarjapura village residents, Chikka Bellandur and Gunjur areas. People can also reach Electronics City and join Hosur Road by taking this route.

The traffic bottleneck on Sarjapur Road near Carmelaram junction has been worsening with each passing year. Movement of heavy vehicles, water tankers and other vehicles added to the traffic mess.