



**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE  
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWS PAPER  
CLIPPINGS**

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# BBMP will restart Onti Mane scheme, says CM

'It was unfortunately discontinued during the pandemic'

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the Onti Mane scheme, where the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) gave financial assistance to the poor to build a house if they owned their own site, will soon be restarted.

"The scheme that helped the poor and oppressed communities build their own homes was unfortunately discontinued during the pandemic. We will restart the scheme and I will issue a formal order over the same soon," Mr. Bommai said, after he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a slew of development works in Chickpet. He said a quota will soon be fixed on the number of beneficiaries per ward in the city.

The Chief Minister also said that the government had taken up all measures to implement the Akrama-Sakrama scheme to regularise revenue pockets in the city, where it was the poor who had mostly bought properties. "We have submitted all



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurating a waterway project in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

necessary documents to the Supreme Court, where a case in this regard is pending. Once the legal hurdles are cleared, these revenue pockets will be regularised and comprehensive development works will be taken up," he said.

Mr. Bommai inspected the ongoing works of 'K-100', a project that would beautify and reinvent storm-water drains over a stretch of 24 km into a public space. "It was part of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's Mission 2022. In three months' time, the first phase

will be inaugurated and I will get Mr. Yediyurappa only to inaugurate it," he said.

He also threw open the rejuvenated Byrasandra Lake and laid foundation stones for a multi-level car parking in Gandhi Bazaar and a multi-storey housing project for the poor in K.R. Market.

He also said that the suburban rail, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay foundation stone for on June 20, and the Peripheral Ring Road project, for which the State government had already called tenders, would decongest the city.

# A policeman's helping hand

He took initiative to install toilet at Goraguntepalya area

**SAMHITHA B.S.**  
BENGALURU

The Goraguntepalya area is a crucial junction and close to a major travel hub, yet has no toilet facilities, leaving most people, especially women, vulnerable. Now, help has come from an unlikely quarter: a policeman.

Shanthappa Jademmanavar, sub inspector at the Vidhana Soudha police station, has brought in a temporary, yet significant solution: a mobile toilet. What is also special is that it there are rooms for three categories of people: men, women, and transgenders.

The toilet, in fact, was inaugurated by a transgender from the area on Wednesday.

Mr. Jademmanavar told *The Hindu* that he installed the toilet with his own investment and with help from a few like-minded volunteers. "It's a collective effort with like-minded people," he said.

About the idea behind the mobile toilet, he said that while travelling with his mother, she had asked to use a toilet. He felt embarrassed and could not tell her that there were no toilets in the area. That's when he decided to start the campaign.

Through the campaign, he appealed to relevant



Sub inspector Shanthappa Jademmanavar in front of the mobile toilet.

**It's a collective effort with like-minded people**

SHANTHAPPA JADEMMANAVAR,  
Sub inspector at the Vidhana Soudha police station

agencies, but it was in vain. After that, he decided to take up matters into his own hands, with help from a group of youths.

"The facility has been hired from a private company. The rent per day is around ₹15,000-20,000 but the rates haven't been finalised," said Mr. Jademmanavar.

He was campaigning

since February 2022 and trying to grab the attention of the government through social media platforms, but there was no response. To commemorate the 100th day of his campaign, he decided to establish a portable toilet in the area.

One worker has been employed to maintain the facility everyday and he is paid around ₹500 per day by Mr. Jademmanavar.

Apart from that, it consists of a pit which can collect the waste of up to a thousand people and hold it for up to three days. The BBMP vehicle clears the waste once in three days.



# Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

## Precautionary Measures to Prevent Acute Gastroenteritis/Cholera

Acute Gastroenteritis/Cholera cases are reported every year and may increase during summer. Recently, due to heavy rains, chances of drinking water contamination could be there. The Public are hereby requested to take the below mentioned precautionary measures (Do's & Don'ts) to avoid spreading of the disease to other areas.



### Things to be done



- Always drink Boiled & Cooled Water
- Public Taps and Places to be kept clean
- Fresh Food to be consumed
- Before eating, hands to be washed cleanly by soap & water



- Clean your Hands with soap after using the toilet
- The Food prepared needs to be covered always so that the ants, insects do not sit on it



- Keep your Home and surrounding Environment clean
- Every 15 days clean your drinking water storage tanks with Bleaching Powder



### Things to be avoided

- Do not drink water from dirty taps
- Avoid consumption of road side unhygienic eatables / cut fruits
- The Food items which have been exposed to dust, flies, insects need to be avoided
- Waste should not be thrown on road side, foot path and drainages as it attracts the insects and may lead to Acute Gastroenteritis



If there are symptoms of Vomiting, Loose motion, please contact your nearest Health Centre.

For More Information Contact the following Phone No's:

Health Officer (East) 080 22975852 | Health Officer (South) 080 22975750 | Health Officer (West) 080 22975650  
 Health Officer (Mahadevapura) 080 28512301 | Health Officer (Bommanahalli) 080 25732447 | Health Officer (Rajarajeshwarinagar) 080 28600208  
 Health Officer (Yelahanka) 080 22975936 | Health Officer (Dasarahalli) 080 28396833 | Control Room: 080-22660000, 22221188.

TOLL FREE No.: 1533



"To try and achieve the Progress in all Personal and Collective activities it is the duty of each & every Indian Citizen to abide as per the Indian Constitutional Basic Rights"

Rakesh Singh, I.A.S.,  
Administrator, BBMP

Tushar Giri Nath, I.A.S.,  
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

# 'Two-dose vaccine mandate not needed in public areas'

TAC also recommends issue of advisory on completing vaccination course

AFSHAN YASMEEN  
BENGALURU

Following a letter by Karnataka Chief Secretary on June 7 seeking an opinion regarding the enforcement of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for access to public areas, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that there is no need to enforce the mandate in the current epidemiological situation of COVID-19 in Karnataka.

The TAC has instead recommended the issue of an advisory on completing the course of vaccination and having the certificate. This is based on the recent Supreme Court order that said restrictions on unvaccinated individuals imposed through various vaccine mandates by State Governments and Union Territories should be done away with.

The order dated May 2, 2022, had noted that emerging scientific opinion appears to indicate that the risk of transmission of the virus from unvaccinated individuals is almost on a par with that from vaccinated persons.

TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* that the government had sought the TAC's opinion following a clarification sought by an



A health worker administering the COVID-19 vaccine at a PHC near Town Hall in Bengaluru. ■ FILE PHOTO

activist in the wake of the Supreme Court order. On January 5, then Chief Secretary P. Ravi Kumar, had issued an order directing the Labour and Health Departments to ensure all employees working in various industries and factories, including the IT sector, should compulsorily be double dose vaccinated. Subsequently, double dose vaccination was made mandatory for access to public areas such as malls, shopping complexes and cinemas among others under the Disaster Management Act.

"After studying the Supreme Court order in detail, we have recommended that there is no need to enforce the vaccine mandate now," the TAC chairman said.

"Till the infection rate remains low and any new development or research finding emerges which provides due justification to impose reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the rights of unvaccinated individuals, we suggest that all authorities in this country, including private organisations and educational institutions, review the relevant orders and instructions imposing restrictions on unvaccinated individuals in terms of access to public places, services and resources, if not already recalled," stated the Supreme Court's order.

Dr. Sudarshan said in the current scenario of COVID-19, the TAC instead has recommended that the go-

vernment issue an advisory on completing the course of vaccination and having the certificate. "Besides, we have also advised that the State should intensify its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities," he said.

The TAC's report dated June 12 said, "It is noted that in the recent months there is reduced/very little emphasis on IEC displays at strategic places like offices, industries, factories, IT industry, educational institutions, shops, malls, hotels, restaurants, pubs, clubs, buses, trains, cinemas, gyms, swimming pools and yoga centres."

Suitable posters should be put up at strategic places to remind people about masking, vaccinations, hand sanitization, physical distancing, getting tested if symptomatic and other COVID-19 protocol, the TAC report stated. This is keeping in mind the circulation of current variants of Omicron that are relatively mild and not serious generally in otherwise healthy individuals, it added.

However, the advisory may be reviewed if there is a change in the clinical and epidemiological scenario of COVID-19 in the State, the report asserted.

# State reports 648 new COVID cases

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**BENGALURU**

Karnataka on Wednesday saw 648 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,57,991. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 2.76% and the weekly TPR touched 2.44%.

Of the new cases, 615 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban.

With one death, the State's toll rose to 40,067. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 532 persons were discharged on Wednesday taking the total recoveries to 39,13,885. As many as 23,452 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 16,350 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,66,62,873.

Meanwhile, 25 districts have achieved 100% second dose coverage of COVID-19 vaccination in the State as of Wednesday.

THE HINDU

# T.N. sees first COVID death after 90 days

476 fresh infections push the tally of active cases to 1,938; Chennai sees 221 fresh cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

After a gap of 90 days, the State recorded a death due to COVID-19 on Wednesday.

The deceased was an 18-year-old girl from Thanjavur. The last time a death was recorded was on March 17.

The toll is now 38,026. The girl had tested positive for the infection on Tuesday, and was admitted to the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital with complaints of fever and cough. She died within seven hours of admission.

The State also recorded a steep rise in infections with 476 more persons testing positive for COVID-19. Currently 1,938 persons are under treatment in the State.

In Chennai, 221 persons contracted the infection and in Chengalpattu 95. A handful of districts, including Tiruvallur with 20 new cases,

the Nilgiris (23), Kanniyakumari (20), Kancheepuram (21) and Coimbatore (26), recorded the highest number of infections.

In Chennai, 7,54,046 persons have been infected and 7,43,994 have recovered so far. As on date, 984 persons are under treatment.

A total of 101 persons were declared to have recovered from the infection on Wednesday.

According to the daily bulletin of the Directorate of Public Health, 169 more were discharged after recovery.

Till date, 5,05,172 people over the age of 60; 1,28,956 below the age of 12 and 28,24,317 in the 13 to 59 years age group have contracted the infection in the State.

In 2,368 sessions held to administer vaccines against COVID-19, a total of 34,179 persons, including 5,740 senior citizens, got the jabs.

THE HINDU

## 52 city streets have over 3 COVID cases

GCC to increase testing, open three COVID Care Centres

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian on Wednesday said 52 streets in Chennai had over three cases, and six of them had over five cases each.

Though Chennai was witnessing a steady rise in COVID-19 cases, nearly 90% of the patients were in home isolation with mild symptoms, he said while addressing the media after taking part in a review meeting.

Of the 782 active cases in the city (as on Monday), 684 were in home isolation. The remaining required hospitalisation.



Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian chairing the COVID review meeting at Ripon building in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ JOTHI RAMALINGAM B.

“New cases getting reported are expected to cross 200 on Wednesday,” the Minister said.

Acknowledging that clusters of cases in residen-

tial areas were getting reported, he said 52 streets in the city had more than three cases, of which six had more than five cases each.



# Govt sanctions 359 works to strengthen SWDs

Civic body prepares plans to fix drains in 72 flood-prone areas

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BBMP has received approval from the Urban Development Department (UDD) to begin 359 works crucial to stop flooding in 72 vulnerable city areas.

A majority of those works will involve building retaining walls around stormwater drains. They will cover 171 kilometres and is estimated to cost Rs 1,500 crore.

The BBMP developed an action plan after Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced massive fund allocation to bolster stormwater drains in the 2022-23 budget. The civic body consulted local MLAs to identify works on a priority basis. It submitted the plan to the UDD on June 3.



Cleaning a clogged stormwater drain. DH FILE

Out of the 171.49 km of drain network, 47.49 km are primary drains, and 124.11 km are secondary.

Although the government initially announced grants only for primary drains, the BBMP insisted that it should also cover the secondary drains pointing out that flood-hit areas like Kendriya Vihar,

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Sai Layout and Mahalakshmi Layout are located next to secondary drains.

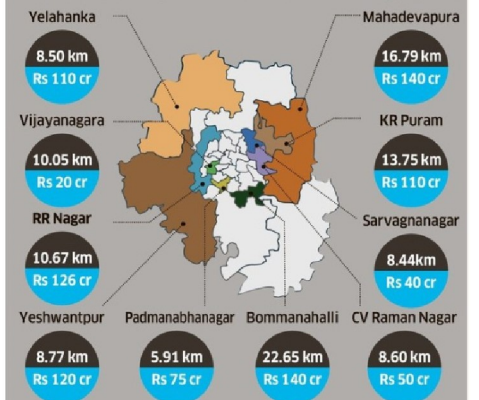
The UDD order sets aside Rs 484.88 crore for primary drains and Rs 1,005.12 crore for secondary drains.

The grant will focus the strengthening work in flood-

prone areas like HRBR Layout, Veerannapalya, Nayandahalli Junction Near Rachenahalli Lake, LBS Nagar in Yelahanka, Someshwara Layout in Arekere, Anugraha Layout, BEML 5th Stage, Pai Layout, and Vaddarapalya.

The BBMP will roughly spend Rs 8.7 crore per km of remodeling work.

## Constituency-wise allocation of grants



Assembly constituency	Drain length (in km)	Estimated cost (in crore)
Bangalore South	22.65	Rs 140
Hebbal	5.05	Rs 40
Malleswaram	4.37	Rs 30
Shantinagar	4.17	Rs 21
Dasarahalli	3.28	Rs 48
Govindarajanagar	3.27	Rs 55
Byatarayanapura	2.92	Rs 35
Jayanagar	2.50	Rs 25
Gandhinagar	2.46	Rs 25
Basavanagudi	2.43	Rs 30
Shivajinagar	2.25	Rs 20
Rajajinagar	1.76	Rs 21
Pulakeshinagar	1.49	Rs 17
Chikpete	1.38	Rs 22
BTM Layout	1.32	Rs 17
Chamarajpet	1.08	Rs 20
Mahalakshmi Layout	0.75	Rs 20
Reserved grants for emergency works proposed by CM		Rs 13
<b>Total</b>	<b>171.49 km</b>	<b>Rs 1,500</b>

## Chamarajpet Idgah: 'BBMP's ownership claim on basis of khata is ludicrous'

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The BBMP's claim that it owns the Chamarajpet Idgah because it has the khata of the property is "ludicrous", said a member of the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf.

"Khata is not the title of the property," said Reyaz Khan. "A title deed is the most important property document. A gazette notification is equally important and has a presumptive value. There's no need for the khata when there is a gazette notification."

He was referring to the gazette notification issued by the board in 1965, a year after the then Corporation of the City of Bangalore lost an appeal in the Supreme Court over the two-acre, 10-gunta land.

He also suggested that officials "created mischief" when the Central Muslim Association (CMA) applied for the Idgah khata in the light of the

apex court judgement.

The khata has come under focus ever since the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claimed earlier this month that the Idgah is a public playground and cited city survey records, which purportedly show the land to be a "BBMP property".

Meanwhile, the BBMP has approached the Survey, Settlement and Land Records Department to "verify" documents pertaining to the Idgah. It also sent an official requisition to the wakf board seeking documents of the property.

Confirming that they had received the letter, Khan said they would give a "suitable reply" shortly. The latest controversy over the Idgah located in old Bengaluru surfaced after the BBMP claimed it is a public playground and some pro-Hindu outfits asked permission to hold various events there.



**A view of the Chamarajpet Idgah.** DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN



# Rise in school Covid cases piles worries on parents

**AISHWARYA S NAMBIAR  
& RAIMA BHAUMIK**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**W**ith the rise of Covid-19 in Bengaluru, parents of school-going children have mixed opinions regarding the ongoing offline classes.

They are aware of children not wearing masks in classrooms and on campus even though the schools mandate it.

“Children find it uncomfortable and suffocating. I make my child carry a mask, but during the day they remove it to get fresh air and then do not wear it again,” said a parent.

“Covid cases are rising, which is worrisome. Schools should take a responsible decision on how to avoid infections. Masks will not prevent Covid as children are always running around and touching things around them. They will not listen when we ask them to maintain distance with other children,”

said Vijankanth, parent of a six-year-old.

## Interaction must

Students are going back to school after two years of online classes. Parents expressed concern over the childhood memories these children miss and the impact of online classes on their education.

“The opportunity to meet their friends and teachers is important. Taking part in group activities and being able to interact with other members socially is necessary for children at this age. Till the time the number of cases is high and there is no other option, schools should continue offline classes,” said another parent.

“Even though there is a rise in cases, and we hear about the number of people getting infected in the news, I have not practically seen the cases grow around me. Until it’s (Covid cases) something I witness in the workplace or school, it is not something

I want to worry about,” the parent added.

Most school-going children around the age of 5-8 years are not yet vaccinated. Parents said they were worried about the vaccines’ side effects in the long term and do not want to take the risk.

Dr Paramesh, a paediatrician, said: “More cases will be seen between June and September, but complete closing of schools should not happen. If diagnosed with it (Covid), students should take complete bed rest and take the prescribed medication.”

“Children should wear masks and take the vaccine. Basic precautions should be taken but one need not panic. It will die down eventually. Children with asthma or breathing problems might get affected more, but medicines and good infrastructure is available,” he added.

Schools and parents need to take care of the basic steps that are required for safety of both the students and the staff members.

# Fake Covid tests come to the fore with uptick in cases

Conmen take advantage of higher testing targets

BENGALURU, DHNS

**F**ake Covid-19 tests are making a comeback with authorities ramping up testing in the wake of rising Covid cases.

On Wednesday, Ignatius Rodrigues, a resident of Thanisandra (north Bengaluru), who has never given a Covid test received a message that his samples were collected and sent to a laboratory for testing. While Rodrigues was sure that none of his family members had given a test recently, he was worried about privacy and the after-effects.



IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

“I have never given an RT-PCR test. Also, I have never visited the laboratory mentioned in the message for any other purpose. This development is confusing and concerning, especially given the rise in the number of cases,” Rodrigues told *DH*.

Rodrigues has already reached out to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials who have promised to look into the matter.

“They asked me if I had shared my CoWIN OTP or ac-

cess code with anybody. I have not done that either. They have assured me that they will investigate the matter,” he said.

## Testing process

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Dr Trilok Chandra told *DH* that the civic body has dedicated teams to oversee the testing process across the city.

“Our teams randomly visit testing sites to ensure such fake samples are not recorded. Also, our health officers and zonal officials keep a close watch on the testing process in their jurisdiction,” Dr Chandra said.

Senior BBMP officials said such incidents were also reported during the second Covid wave. “This probably happens when the targets are increased. It was the same case during the peak of the second wave,” a BBMP official said.



# Bengaluru records second Covid death in 10 days

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** After a period of low infections, no hospitalisations and no Covid-related deaths, Bengaluru on Wednesday reported the second Covid death in 10 days.

The number of cases across the state has seen a steady increase over the last 15 days.

According to the official Covid bulletin released by the state government, a 72-year-old patient succumbed to the disease on Tuesday. He was under treatment for three days and had comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and congenital heart defect.

Bengaluru recorded 615 positive cases of the 648 reported across the state.

Though the numbers saw a slight jump compared to Tuesday, the day's positivity rate slipped to 2.76% as against 3.14% recorded on Tuesday.

The weekly positivity rate stands at 2.44%.

A total of 23,452 tests were conducted on Wednesday. The active caseload now stands at 3,997. The total number of Covid deaths is now 40,067.

## **11 crore vaccinations**

Karnataka on Wednesday recorded a new milestone

by successfully administering a total of 11 crore Covid vaccinations.

According to data by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, though 10.5 crore doses were administered as of April 12, 2022, it took nearly two months to complete the next 50 lakh doses.

Health Minister Dr Sudhakar K also tweeted that as of Wednesday, 25 districts in the state had achieved 100% second dose coverage for the 18+ population, and nine districts had recorded 100% vaccination coverage for the 12+ population.

# Bommaï promises to restart 'Onti Mane' scheme for benefit of poor

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The 'Onti Mane' scheme, which was put on hold, owing to the pandemic will soon be restarted, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommaï promised on Wednesday.

Bommaï, who inspected various development works in the Chickpete constituency, said the scheme helped the poor build a house for themselves.

"I will pass an order to restart the programme. It was a successful scheme and has helped many people belonging to the weaker sections. We had stopped the programme owing to the pandemic. We will soon decide how many houses should be granted for every ward and issue an order," he said.

The Onti Mane housing project offers Rs 5 lakh aid for the SC/ST, OBC, and minority groups to construct



**Citizens' Water Way Project from KR Market to Bellandur Lake was opened on Wednesday.** DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

houses in their plots.

Inaugurating the redeveloped Byrasandra Lake, the Chief Minister urged the civicbody to set up STPs near lakes to ensure only treated water enters the lakes.

Bommaï also inspected the progress of the K-100 waterway project aimed at converting the 12 km-long stormwater drain connecting Majestic to Bellandur Lake

into an attractive waterfront and the multi-level parking facility coming up at Gandhi Bazaar.

"The first phase of the waterway project will be completed in the next three months.

"We hope that the success of this project will be replicated across other stormwater drains in the city," the Chief Minister said.

## 2% of incoming international flyers to be tested randomly

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** With Covid-19 cases rising rapidly, Karnataka has mandated the random screening of 2% of all incoming international flyers by RT-PCR, genomic sequencing of all positive samples, and placing all patients under observation or quarantine.

The fresh operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy have been issued by Health Commissioner D Randeep.

He stated that screening incoming international travellers was a pivotal part of the surveillance to detect the entry of the virus and its variants into India from other parts of the world.

In addition, all health-care facilities are to report Influence-Like Illness (ILI) patients from the OPD, and every 20th patient should be tested for Covid-19. Monitoring Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) patients in all government and select tertiary private hospitals and testing them for Covid-19 by RT-PCR are also mandatory.

Community-based surveillance, which focuses on unusual events such as large outbreaks, will be achieved by event-based surveillance through media scanning, he added.

## We must be ready for a Covid surge

**T**he country has seen an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the last few days, mostly in states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Over 8,000 new cases were reported on Wednesday, a 33% increase from the previous day. The cases doubled between June 1 and June 12. There were reports of some schoolchildren in Bengaluru testing positive in the past few days. Most parameters of the pandemic, such as the daily case load, active cases, test positivity rate and hospitalisations have risen, though none of them is at a stage where it should cause concern. The cases are not serious either, and there are no concerns over mortality rates. This could be because the virus types which may now be spreading are the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of the Omicron variant which was itself mild compared to its predecessors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that there are still chances of more virulent variants emerging. China had a large outbreak which is not yet under control. The virus is active in countries like the UK, Australia and Germany. So, there is the need for continued vigil against it in the country. There is much laxity in adhering to Covid-appropriate protocols in all states as most people have come to the conclusion that



**It may or may not happen, and it could be mild, too**

the pandemic is now behind us. But wearing masks and washing hands should again become part of daily routine. Ventilation at homes, especially in public establishments, should receive attention again. Public awareness has to be improved in this respect. Some governments have rightly announced measures like compulsory wearing of masks. Though they may not be enforcing them strictly, there should be no laxity.

Vaccinations are a part of the defence against the pandemic. Only about 65% of the country's population has been covered by the second dose of the vaccine. It should be noted that some countries where there is a greater spread of the pandemic had better vaccine coverage than India. About 78% of those who are eligible for the booster dose have not taken it. There is some vaccine hesitancy and indifference and that is not a good sign. The booster dose is needed as vaccine efficiency decreases over time. Millions of doses of vaccines have been stockpiled now, waiting to be used. There is better knowledge about the use of vaccines now. It has been proved that a heterogeneous vaccine—a different one from that used for the first and second doses—would work better, and such vaccines are on the way. There have been predictions about a fourth wave. The country needs to be prepared for it, whether it happens or not.



**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
N.R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

## Covid-19 - Precautionary measures to be adhered by the public



It is mandatory to wear a mask to cover the mouth and nose in public places



Frequent washing of hands with soap or sanitizer



Keep a handkerchief or other garment in case of sneezing, coughing



Avoid touching of Mouth, nose and eyes with your hand



Spitting, urinating, or littering is prohibited in public places



Maintain Safe distance from others (Physical distance at least 6 feet)

♦ Penalty will be imposed if the mask is not worn or maintain physical space

♦ If you have any symptoms kindly get yourself checked in any one of the free testing centers immediately.

The public must comply with the above instructions to help control the Covid-19 virus

**Rakesh Singh, I.A.S**  
Administrator, BBMP

**Tushar Giri Nath, I.A.S**  
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

Control Room: 080-2266 0000, 2222 1188

TOLL FREE No. : 1533



"ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಕಟುವಾಹಿಗಳಿಗೂ ಉನ್ನತ ಸಾಧನಗಳು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸುವುದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ನಂಬಿದಾನಬ್ಬದ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ"





# WHO to share vaccines to stop monkeypox amid inequity fears

**LONDON, AP/PTI:** The World Health Organisation said it's creating a new vaccine-sharing mechanism to stop the outbreak of monkeypox in more than 30 countries beyond Africa. The move could result in the UN health agency distributing scarce vaccine doses to rich countries that can otherwise afford them.

To some health experts, the initiative potentially misses the opportunity to control monkeypox virus in the African countries where it's infected people for decades, serving as another example of the inequity in vaccine distribution that was seen during the coronavirus pandemic.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghe-

breyesus said the agency is developing an initiative for "fair access" to vaccines and treatments that it hopes will be ready within weeks. The mechanism was proposed shortly after Britain, Canada, France, Germany, the US and other countries reported hundreds of monkeypox cases last month.

WHO has described the outbreak as "unusual" and said the virus' continuing spread was worrying enough to convene its expert committee next week to decide if monkeypox should be declared a global emergency.

Vaccines for smallpox, a related disease, are thought to be about 85% effective against monkeypox.

## PREFERRED OVER CHOKED ORR, SERVICE ROAD IN SORRY STATE

Pic: K Sunil Prasad



**POTHOLE WATCH**

➤ Multiple potholes have surfaced on the service road along Outer Ring Road at 1 Block, Kalyan Nagar over the past six months

➤ The stretch connects the new parallel road to Kempegowda International Airport

➤ The road is a preferred alternative to the congested ORR for citizens from Doddabanaswadi and HRBR Layout

➤ A thriving commercial corridor with auto dealers, restaurants and furniture showrooms, it witnesses a high density of vehicles

➤ Thousands of students from a nearby university commute on the stretch risking their lives

### GRAVEL, STONES STREWN AROUND

“ Despite numerous complaints, BBMP officials have a cavalier attitude. Whenever there has been a delay in filling potholes, residents have covered them up using construction debris. But later, BBMP refuses to fix such potholes citing citizens’ actions

**Pavan Kumar** | RESIDENT, KALYAN NAGAR

“ Officials repair potholes from one end but they reappear by the time work reaches the other end. Multiple potholes have been posing a threat for the past six months. Many two-wheeler riders have fallen with gravel and stones strewn all around

**B Ganesh** | PROPRIETOR OF A DIGITAL STUDIO

### RECENTLY FILLED WITH HOT MIX

“ Recently, we surveyed the potholes until late at night and filled them using hot mix. If there are any more potholes, I will direct the executive engineers to visit the spot and fix them at the earliest

**Suguna R** | CHIEF ENGINEER, EAST, BBMP

Text: K Sunil Prasad

# Rat-hole mining of drains worries dist admin

## Locals Dig Trenches To Mine Rock Powder For Rangoli

Niranjan.Kaggere  
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**Bengaluru:** The Bengaluru Urban district administration, which has been clearing encroachments on stormwater drains (SWDs) in and around the city, has encountered a peculiar problem: Rat-hole mining by villagers. Lured by rock powder, which is widely used as rangoli powder to decorate frontyards, and white sand found on drain beds, miscreants have been digging up 7 to 8-foot-deep trenches in redeveloped drains to mine them.

District officials chanced upon several instances of rat-hole mining along the stormwater drain linking Ghattahalli Lake with Muthanallur Lake and raided the locations.

"Overcoming several impediments, the district administration had cleared rampant encroachments and redeveloped the SWD spanning a length of over 10km. The canal was properly dug and remodelled to ensure smooth flow of water from upstream. But at a few places, the canal was dug up to mine rangoli powder or rock powder," explained Capt Santhosh KC, a lake activist and assistant commissioner, GST.

The vigilance and enforcement wing of the district administration immediately raided such places and discovered that villagers had dug up 7-8 feet-deep rat holes at multiple locations to mine rock powder and white sand. "Both men and women were part of this. Several youngsters looking to make quick money had taken up the job and were mining bags full of rock powder. All of them were



### NEW HEADACHE:

Miscreants have been targeting reclaimed drains. Bengaluru Urban District officials chanced upon several instances of rat-hole mining and raided the spots

### ROCK DUST FOUND IN INNER LAYERS OF EARTH

According to TM Shivashankar, a retired geologist, rock dust or rock powder is a form of sedimentation found in the inner layers of the earth. "Sometimes, it is available at 60 to 80 feet depth and in some terrains, it is found at two or three feet. Due to extreme temperature and pressure over the years, these rocks undergo

weathering and remain as fine-grained powder. As water keeps eroding the soil layers, one can find these deposits along water canals and drains. While a few use this as rangoli powder, many use it as heat-resistant material in tandoor ovens. It is also used as a soil supplement in gardening..."

seized and the rat holes were filled with the seized rock powder," explained a senior official from the vigilance squad.

While no white sand was recovered, officials said the miscreants appear to have mined that too. White sand is usually used in aquariums.

J Manjunath, deputy commissioner, Bengaluru Urban district, said: "More than illegal mining, it's a question of life and death. The soil is so loose that if the top portion caves in, all of them will get trapped beneath and die of suffocation. Our officials immediately evicted all of them from the area and closed the pits."

"Such random digging will also disturb the course of the canal. Sometimes, it will lead to

flooding of adjoining areas too," Manjunath explained.

Officials said reclaimed stormwater drains are relatively free of encroachments at least for a couple of years. "When an encroachment is cleared, land sharks don't come back immediately. They look for an opportunity and return gradually to encroach the reclaimed parts. But this is largely aimed at disturbing the path of the canal," a lake activist from Hoskote said.

Facilitated by the minor irrigation department, Ghattahalli Lake was filled under the KC valley project. About 120 MLD of treated water is pumped to four link lakes, which are connected with more than 50 small lakes around Anekal.

# Ad-hoc SWD clean-up fails to check stench during CM visit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** BBMP workers were on Wednesday morning seen clearing sewage from a stormwater (SWD) drain stretch that was developed under the citizens' waterway project, or K-100 as it is called, ahead of chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's inspection later in the forenoon.

Yet, the SWD was reeking when the VVIP arrived. The CM, however, did not shy away from stepping into the drain to inspect the area to get a closer look at the state of affairs.

Under the Rs 169 crore project, a 9.6km SWD from NR Road to Bellandur Lake is being converted into a waterway by setting up a sewage treatment plant with 5mld capacity. Although the small stretch opposite Shantinagar bus stand has already been developed into a waterway by BBMP, sewage has been con-

tinuously flowing into the drain, exposing the poor quality of work.

The Palike has taken up this project as a pilot to see whether it can be replicated across Bengaluru. Rajakaluves in the city are spread over 1,000 acres and many of the stretches are encroached upon. In the existing rajakaluves, sewage is entering through underground drainage and STPs set up in apartments. BBMP officials say this is a cause for concern and hence the new project has been taken up.

Bommai said successful implementation of the project will beautify the city and reduce pollution, adding BBMP will complete it in three to four months.

A senior BBMP official said at Shantinagar bus stand, work is not fully completed, which is the reason for flow of sewage. "If cleaning is done a

day earlier, things won't change and sewage will continue to flow. Once the entire project is completed, this problem will be resolved as UGD waste will be treated through the STP," he explained.

Retaining walls of rajakaluves will be painted and grills installed. BBMP will also lay pavements in and around the SWDs after reclaiming the encroached areas. Small bridges will be reconstructed along the waterway.

Speaking to residents, the CM said as the city is developing rapidly, these projects will help retain the beauty of the IT capital. After the rainy season, the Palike will also remodel rajakaluves by spending Rs 1,600 crore.

The CM also laid the foundation stone for a multi-level parking lot at Gandhi Bazaar, estimated to cost Rs 1,875 crore. There will be four levels of parking and each can accommodate 32 vehicles.

Bommai said to decongest Bengaluru, a peripheral ring road will be constructed around the city. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the suburban rail project.

## Revived lake inaugurated

The CM inaugurated Byrasandra Lake, which has been rejuvenated by the Palike at a cost of Rs 5 crore. He also inaugurated a residential complex constructed in Dharmarayanawami temple ward at a cost of Rs 9.3 crore.



K Sunil Prasad

**NO GOOD?** The stretch opposite Shantinagar bus stand, which was cleaned, has been developed into a waterway, but sewage has been flowing into it

# Official: Response should be quick when clusters emerge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Whenever Covid-19 clusters come to light, the response must be quick, Randeep D, commissioner, department of health and family welfare, said. He added similar response was shown when positive cases were reported in two city schools.

Thirty-one students tested positive for Covid at two schools in Dasarahalli zone on Tuesday when they underwent RAT (a test for Covid-19). Then, the kids were subjected to RT-PCR test and 21 of them tested negative. Results of another 10 students are awaited.

Referring to the cases, Randeep said with students sitting close to each other in classrooms, a cluster like this was expected. "However, the response was quick, which must be the case if any such clusters are found. They (the infected)

Photo for representation



must be isolated quickly, primary and secondary contacts must be tested, symptomatic must not come to school, premises must be sanitised and things must go on as usual," Randeep said.

## 615 new Covid cases in city

On Wednesday, 648 new cases were reported in the state, of which 615 were from Bengaluru. The daily test positivity rate was 2.8% and one Covid death was seen in the city after 10 days. Before that, a 72-year-old woman had died of Covid-related complications in a city hospital on June 5.

# BBMP consults legal cell over Idgah Maidan row

Shreyas.HS@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** BBMP is reviewing the applications of right-wing outfits that sought permission to hold multiple events at Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet and sent them to its legal cell.

Right-wing organisations had sought to hold International Yoga Day, Independence Day and Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav events at the venue, claiming the maidan was BBMP property.

BBMP west zone joint commissioner SM Srinivasa said as per available records, the ground is owned by the Palike and exclusively used as a playground. But, after row erup-

ted over the 9221.7sqmt of land, the Karnataka state board of Auqaf submitted a Supreme Court order claiming ownership for the land. Since the court document has been submitted, the Palike has to study every aspect of the dispute before arriving at a decision.

Srinivasa said all necessary documents pertaining to the ground have been sent to the legal team for further study and until they give their opinion, no decision can be taken.

Deputy legal officer Muniraju M said the documents have reached the legal team and it will look into the details and advise accordingly.

## Cop succeeds in setting up toilet at busy junction

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** A police sub-inspector's four-month campaign on social media seeking a public toilet at the busy Goraguntepalya junction near Yeshwantpur has yielded results. A mobile toilet was opened at the spot on Wednesday.

Shantappa Jadammanavar, attached with Vidhana Soudha security, launched the campaign in mid-February after his aged mother faced anxious moments as she failed to find a toilet while waiting for a bus at the junction. Shantappa and his mother were travelling to their hometown, Ballari.

Termed 'Mini Majestic' by frequent travellers, Goraguntepalya is one of the most-crowded junctions in the city. Thousands of passengers board



Shantappa Jadammanavar (third from right) at the launch of the toilet

or alight there as all buses heading to places in north and coastal Karnataka pass through the junction. The closest public toilet is located near Dr Rajkumar memorial, more than a kilometre from the junction.

**After a four-month campaign on social media, PSI Shantappa Jadammanavar succeeded in his mission. The toilet has 10 rooms and two are reserved for transgenders**

Now, with the help of local politicians from different parties and volunteers who approached the cop after seeing his message on social media, Jadammanavar finally succeeded in hiring a rented mobile toilet.

Jadammanavar invited transgender Bhavani from Yeshwantpur to unveil the toilet on Wednesday. Jadammanavar hopes the private firm that has rented the toilet will cut

down the rent. "The rent, including maintenance, comes to around Rs 25,000 every day. But the cost will drastically come down if we rent the mobile toilet for months together. Some local leaders and influential volunteers are joining hands to bear the expenses," he told TOI. Jadammanavar said users won't be charged. He said a permanent toilet will be constructed near the junction soon.

Police sources said the staff of a private dental college, located near the spot where the mobile toilet has been placed, wants it to be shifted. "The toilet helps those who monitor traffic at Goraguntepalya junction and nearby places, which include women personnel and home guards. All these days, we were forced to use restrooms of nearby hotels or petrol bunks. Now, we can use this toilet," they said.

## **'Onti Mane' scheme back**

**C**hief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said BBMP will restart the 'Onti Mane' scheme, which provides financial assistance to build houses for the poor and backward classes. "The 'Onti Mane' scheme was stalled due to Covid-19 and it will be restarted. Those who have their own piece of land or site would get financial assistance under the scheme to construct a house. The number of houses for each ward would be fixed and an order to this effect will be issued soon," said Bommai after inspecting the K-100 waterway project.



# Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

## Precautionary Measures to Prevent Acute Gastroenteritis/Cholera

Acute Gastroenteritis/Cholera cases are reported every year and may increase during summer. Recently, due to heavy rains, chances of drinking water contamination could be there. The Public are hereby requested to take the below mentioned precautionary measures (Do's & Don'ts) to avoid spreading of the disease to other areas.



### Things to be done



- Always drink Boiled & Cooled Water
- Public Taps and Places to be kept clean
- Fresh Food to be consumed
- Before eating, hands to be washed cleanly by soap & water
- Clean your Hands with soap after using the toilet
- The Food prepared needs to be covered always so that the ants, insects do not sit on it
- Keep your Home and surrounding Environment clean
- Every 15 days clean your drinking water storage tanks with Bleaching Powder



### Things to be avoided

- Do not drink water from dirty taps
- Avoid consumption of road side unhygienic eatables / cut fruits
- The Food items which have been exposed to dust, flies, insects need to be avoided
- Waste should not be thrown on road side, foot path and drainages as it attracts the insects and may lead to Acute Gastroenteritis



If there are symptoms of Vomiting, Loose motion, please contact your nearest Health Centre.

For More Information Contact the following Phone No's:

Health Officer (East) 080 22975852 | Health Officer (South) 080 22975750 | Health Officer (West) 080 22975650  
 Health Officer (Mahadevapura) 080 28512301 | Health Officer (Bommanahalli) 080 25732447 | Health Officer (Rajarajeshwarinagar) 080 28600208  
 Health Officer (Yelahanka) 080 22975936 | Health Officer (Dasarahalli) 080 28396833 | Control Room: 080-22660000, 22221188.

**TOLL FREE No.: 1533**



"To try and achieve the Progress in all Personal and Collective activities it is the duty of each & every Indian Citizen to abide as per the Indian Constitutional Basic Rights"

**Rakesh Singh, I.A.S.,**  
Administrator, BBMP

**Tushar Giri Nath, I.A.S.,**  
Chief Commissioner, BBMP



# Why WHO Is Probing If Monkeypox Needs Global Health Emergency Tag

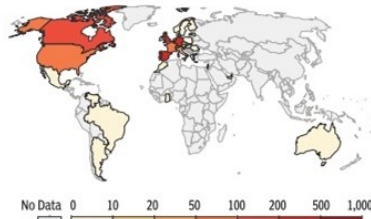
The World Health Organization is convening a meeting of experts on June 23 to decide whether monkeypox needs to be declared a global health emergency like it had to do with Covid-19 over two years back. Unlike the novel coronavirus though, monkeypox is not a new disease. But while it has been around for decades, the appearance of cases where monkeypox is not usually seen and the manner of its spread have fuelled concern

## Where Have Cases Been Reported?

Since May 13, more than 1,600 confirmed and about 1,500 suspected cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from at least 39 countries. Seven of these are African countries where the disease is endemic while the remaining are those where the disease was either not known to occur or has been previously detected only in minuscule numbers.

A total of 72 deaths have been reported in 2022 due to monkeypox, all of them confined to Africa and none so far in the newly affected countries. WHO said the appearance of monkeypox simultaneously in places without direct or recent travel links to areas where the disease is endemic “suggests that there may have been undetected transmission for several weeks or longer”. The recent cases are linked to a less lethal variant of monkeypox known as the West Africa

## MONKEYPOX: CONFIRMED CASES



clade, which has an overall mortality of fewer than one in a hundred cases.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said this “global outbreak of monkeypox is clearly unusual and concerning” with another top official noting that the risk of spread was “high” in Europe and “moderate” in the rest of the world even as gaps remain in the knowledge of how the virus is being transmitted.

WHO said that the monkeypox outbreak this time has been marked by variable symptoms among those infected and many cases are “not presenting with the classically described clinical picture for monkeypox” like fever, swollen lymph nodes, and rashes in the face and bodily extremities.

## Does Sexual Contact Have A Role?

Monkeypox is transmitted through close physical contact with a symptomatic patient. However, it is not clear whether people who do not have symptoms can spread the disease. WHO said person-to-person transmission can also occur through “respiratory droplets (and possibly short-range aerosols)”.

WHO said that a significant num-



Overseas arrivals being screened for monkeypox at Chennai airport earlier this month

## HOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF MONKEYPOX

The disease primarily spreads through close contact with those infected with the virus. Here's what you need to keep in mind

- Separate those infected from people, animals who could be at risk of infection
- Wear proper personal protective equipment – including gowns, gloves, eye protection, and a fitted N95 mask – when caring for infected patients
- Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser after caring for infected patients
- Patients should wear masks and keep their rashes or lesions covered
- Avoid contact with items such as bedding, clothing or towels used by an infected person
- If someone develops symptoms like fever, headache, swollen lymph glands or a rash, they should get in touch with a doctor
- The US CDC recommends vaccination within four days of exposure to prevent disease or up to 14 days after exposure to reduce severity of disease

ber of initially reported cases in the current outbreak have been linked to men who have sex with men (MSM) but pointed out that the modes of transmission during sexual contact remain unknown and “it is not clear what role sexual bodily fluids, including semen and vaginal fluids, play in the transmission of monkeypox”.

A WHO adviser is reported to have attributed the spread among the MSM or gay and bisexual communities in Europe to two recent raves held in Spain and Belgium. But experts and health bodies have been at pains to clarify that sexual preferences have nothing to do with the spread of monkeypox and the large proportion of cases among MSM communities only underlines the fact that transmission is common among close contacts of an infected person.

The fear of stigma attached to infectious diseases – something seen with HIV-AIDS and, more recently, with Covid-19 – though has been a worry with monkeypox as well. So much so that WHO is reported to be working on a new name for monkeypox amid calls from scientists for “a non-discriminatory and non-stigmatising” name for the virus.

## What About Vaccines?

Vaccination against smallpox is known to provide cross-protection against monkeypox but WHO notes that any immunity from such shots will only be present in persons over the age of 42-50 years since smallpox vaccination programmes ended worldwide in 1980 after the eradication of the disease.

Though some countries possess strategic supplies of older smallpox vaccines, WHO said these first-generation vaccines are not recommended for use since they do not meet current safety standards. Instead, it recommends second- and third-generation smallpox vaccines along with one vaccine (MVA-BN) that has been specifically approved against monkeypox.

But given that the supply of new vaccines is limited, WHO said it does not recommend mass vaccination at the moment and that “decisions about the use of smallpox or monkeypox vaccines should be based on a full assessment of the risks and benefits in each case”.

## WHO: Monkeypox poses real threat, Europe epicentre

**Geneva:** The WHO's top official in Europe on Wednesday called for urgent action by authorities and civic groups to control fast-rising cases of monkeypox that he said posed a real risk to public health. Europe has emerged as the epicenter of an outbreak of monkeypox, with more than 1,500 cases identified in 25 European countries, which account for 85% of global cases, Dr Hans Kluge, the WHO's director of its European region, said.

The WHO will convene its emergency committee in Geneva next week, Kluge added,

to determine if the outbreak constitutes a public health emergency of international concern, a formal declaration that calls for a coordinated response between countries. "The magnitude of this outbreak poses a real risk," Kluge said. "The longer the virus circulates, the more it will extend its reach, and the stronger the disease's foothold will get in non-endemic countries."

Monkeypox is a viral infection endemic in West Africa that has now spread to 39 countries, including 32 that have no previous experience of it,

the WHO director-general, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on Tuesday. Infections mostly result from close physical contact and mainly affect men who have sex with men, but it can also spread through respiratory droplets in prolonged face-to-face contact, Andrea Ammon, director of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said Wednesday. Monkeypox cases have also been found among close family members, but the risks of transmission among the general population, Ammon said, were "rather low."

Monkeypox is not attached to any single social group, Kluge said, cautioning that stigmatising the virus as a gay disease would undermine efforts to develop an effective public health response. The WHO has recorded 27 deaths from the disease in Africa this year but none in Europe. Infections are mostly mild and do not require hospitalisation. Kluge called for urgent action by European countries to scale up surveillance, diagnostic testing and genetic sequencing, and tracing the contacts and sexual partners of infected people. **NVT**

## BREAKING PAD IN GOVT SCHOOLS

**19.29 lakh government schoolchildren await sanitary napkins under Shuchi scheme, stalled by pandemic back in 2020 and later reinitiated in 2021 at a cost of Rs 47 crore**

# PAD-LOCKED

**‘Scheme gave 10 sanitary pads per adolescent girl a month’**

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**G**overnment schools in the city are still waiting for the state government to provide sanitary napkins to adolescent girls under the Shuchi scheme.

The Karnataka government had reimplemented the Shuchi sanitary napkin distribution scheme in the financial year 2021-22, with a budget of Rs 47 crore.

Under the scheme, every month, the department of health and family welfare used to distribute 10 sanitary pads per adolescent girl in all government schools. After the scheme had come to a halt in 2020, due to the pandemic, it was reinitiated, at least on paper, a year later.

“Of late, we have not been receiving sanitary pads from the government. Before the pandemic, we used to receive big boxes of pads under the scheme. Now, every time the BBMP officers and doctors visit, we request them for the distribution of sanitary napkins or for the installation of the vending machine

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>**



PICTURE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

**“Every time BBMP officers and doctors visit, we request sanitary napkins, vending machine and incinerator for pads...”**

— Teacher, government high school, Doddakalasandra

# Schoolchildren await sanitary napkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and incinerator for pads; we are yet to receive these," a teacher at the government high school in Doddakalasa told BM.

The cost of sanitary napkins can be unaffordable for many girls studying in government schools. Mahalakshmi, a class VII student at a government school in Kothnur, told Bangalore Mirror that she has been buying sanitary pads herself for over a year now.

"One packet costs Rs 49; I alone need more than one for a month. I have two sisters as well who will start menstruating soon," Mahalakshmi added.

Many schools are not even aware of the scheme having been re-implemented.



A teacher at the Government Model Primary School, Kothnur, said: "We have not received pads in the past three years. The girls keep asking me and other teach-

ers to provide them with sanitary pads but even we are unable to do anything."

A few schools have recently received a vending machine for sanitary pads but the machines have been empty for months now.

"The machine was set up in January or February. When they installed it, there were 4-5 pads in it. But it has been empty ever since," she added.

Meanwhile, Dr Veena V, deputy director of the Shuchi scheme in Karnataka, said the distribution has not started yet as the tender did not qualify.

A lot of girls were affected as the scheme came to a halt. The number of beneficiaries of the scheme has increased from 17 lakh in 2019 to 19.29 lakh in 2021.

# September solace for Balagere, Panathur

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**housands of residents from Balagere and Panathur have been urging elected representatives and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities to ensure proper road infrastructure in the area for the last five years. They even staged a silent protest three years ago to draw the attention of authorities concerned.

Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan took an initiative to provide two vents at the railway track to avoid flooding during monsoon and make it convenient for the motorists to reach their destinations at Panathur, Balagere, or other neighbouring areas.

A child's letter spoke of the difficulties faced by residents due to the bad infrastructure.

Sanvi Shriya, a student of Class 5 from Orchids International School, wrote to the MP on June 11, requesting him to solve the traffic jam at the turning of Panathur Road.

"Respected MP Sir, I stay in Sobha Dream Acres on Panathur Road and my school is opposite the railway track at just 2 km away. Our school has physically started and due to heavy traffic near S turning, it takes more than an hour in going and returning. Because of this, we miss our prayers and classes. Every day we small kids are facing lots of problems in traffic jams - lots of smoke and dust, heat and suffocation. We are losing our time for play and rest," read the letter.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Mohan said that he felt very bad after going through the letter.



A class 5 student submits a letter to MP PC Mohan (left); CM inspects construction of vents

"I am aware of the poor road infrastructure at Panathur and Balagere. The BBMP gave permission for constructing many apartments without taking the existing road infrastructure into consideration," said Mohan.

The MP said that he and Mahadevapura MLA Aravind Limbavali have been trying to improve the road infrastructure in the area.

"I have convinced railway authorities to construct two vents. Now the issue is the delay in acquiring private property for widening the S turning. MLA Aravind Limbavali has initiated talks with the property owners and the BBMP authorities to find a solution. The property owners are demanding cash compensation but the BBMP authorities want to give TDR to the property owners. I hope the issue will be resolved soon. I am trying my best to improve the road infrastructure," he added.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai,



BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, and BBMP engineers visited the spot and inspected the progress of vent construction work.

Meanwhile, an active citizen of Namma Balagere Group has said that residents of Balagere and Panathur are suffering on a daily basis due to narrow roads after construction of the Panathur railway under bridge (RUB).

"Our MP has assured that work will be expedited, and by September end, work for the first vent will be done. Positive news is that land acquisition at S Cross has been initiated and residents have trended stuckatPanathurRUB on Twitter as well. There were accidents too in the past week as people wanted to avoid RUB and take the incomplete road. The CM has checked the progress of work. This has given confidence to the residents that their suffering will end soon. Until then, management of traffic during peak hours is required," he said.



## Non-functional signal and incomplete skywalk prove nightmares for those trying to cross road to get to work

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he streets of Kadubeesanahalli, a prominent locality known for its IT company campuses, on the Outer Ring Road are once again busy as IT company employees return back to office after a gap of two years of 'work from home'. Here, a stretch of 10 km hosts nearly 500 multinational companies (MNCs) which see than 10,000 people including residents and Metro rail construction workers crossing the road each day. For IT professionals, crossing the road is a bigger hurdle than writing a code.

In front of the JP Morgan junction, the problem gets worse as the traffic signal there has been non-functional for six months.

A skywalk is being built nearby, but it has been a work-in-progress project for years. Work on the skywalk in Kadubeesanahalli started before the pandemic but only 60% of the work was completed after two-and-a-half years.

In 2017, the first skywalk was built here after the death of 19-year-old Sanjay Giri, a security guard at an apartment complex in Bellandur. He was hit by a car as he was crossing the median on the busy ring road. In 2019, a skywalk was built after pressure from locals. It is now named after Sanjay Giri. The following year another sky walk was built after a road accident that killed a 75-year-old resident of Sun City apartment complex at Iblur junction. In 2021, a third skywalk was built after many fatal accidents occurred in front of the New Horizon College.

### Signal defunct

Krishna Kumar, HAL Traffic Police Inspector, tells Bangalore Mirror, "A pelican traffic signal was installed for pedestrians as many accidents occurred in the past and many people cross in front JP Morgan junction, but this signal is not working now because BM-RCL work has started."

About the delay in the skywalk work, he said it was supposed to be ready by December 2021, but the pandemic had affected work.

BM spoke about the grievances that pedestrians are facing due to the delay in opening of the skywalk to BBMP Executive Engineer Savitha Padmati.

"Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has asked us to change the alignment of the skywalk due to which its completion is also delayed. It will be operational in another 25 days," she said.

She added that elevators would also be installed in the skywalk.

Swathi Vaidya, an MNC employee, speaks about how dangerous the crossing is. "It is very dangerous to cross the road as the vehicles are speeding and it is difficult for them to slow down here. It has been more than three months and I am facing this issue every day. Sometimes I have reached the office late because sometimes we have to wait here for a long time to cross the road safely," she says.

Another IT employee, Rakshitha P says she has never seen the traffic signal working here. "It is very scary to cross this junction especially in peak hours. I have heard commuters abusing pedestrians sometimes," she says.

**It is very scary to cross this junction especially in peak hours. Commuters often yell at pedestrians** -Rakshitha P



**It is very dangerous to cross the road as vehicles are going fast and it is difficult for them to slow down** -Swathi Vaidya



Work on a skywalk at the JP Morgan Junction in Kadubeesanahalli has been going on for over two years now. Every morning IT professionals and other office-goers take a risk crossing the road

# Tug-o-war as netas flex their flex muscles

KAUSHIK JN

Despite High Court order, BBMP not keen on removing illegal banners as politicians fight over what can or cannot be put up

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**K**arnataka High Court's direction on illegal banners notwithstanding, flexes and posters keep cropping up around the city. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on its part is only interested in issuing statements on banners and flexes put up illegally and not bold enough to end this menace.

Politicians are all for putting up banners for their leaders, but they take up the cudgels when it comes to others. Supporters of Congress MP DK Suresh and Minister for Horticulture Munirathna recently got into a wrangle over putting up banners and flexes in Raja Rajeswari Nagar on the eve of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's visit. Annoyed by the controversy, the Chief Minister directed the BBMP not to allow any banners to be put up in the city.

Heated arguments took place at the Bangalore University campus when Munirathna's supporters tried to put up flexes on the cam-



A flex put up weeks ago on Old Airport Road is yet to be removed though the event is long over

pus. Later, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Shivakumar visited the BU campus and extended moral support to the agitating students. Shivakumar said BU campus should not be used for political purposes.

Blaming politicians for misusing the BU campus, Dr Sudhakar, a member of BU Syndicate said the BBMP has constructed a road in the BU campus but it does not mean that political parties can misuse the BU campus for putting up flexes and banners. "We oppose

**“ We approached RR Nagar police with a complaint. I think the police are waiting for the permission from politicians to register a case**

politicians or their supporters putting up banners and flexes along the road that connects Mysuru Road to other areas," said Dr Sudhakar.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP for not acting tough against those responsible for illegal banners and flexes, Sai Datta, a social activist who played a key role in filing a PIL in the High Court against illegal flexes and banners in the city, said that Chief Minister should direct the BBMP authorities to implement the High Court order on putting up flexes and banners in the city. "It is quite disturbing to see politicians and their supporters putting up banners without any fear.

There are occasions when BBMP authorities themselves put up banners whenever the Chief Minister inaugurates a public utility or inaugurates developmental works. Though the police register

a FIR against putting up banners and flexes, not a single person is punished till date," said Sai Datta.

A few flexes of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao put up on Old Airport Road are yet to be removed. Chandrasekhar Rao was in Bengaluru to meet former prime minister and JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda.

Rueing the fact that no one is willing to obey the court order, Ravikrishna Reddy of Karnataka Rashtra Samiti said that politicians irrespective of their political affiliations are culprits.

"We approached RR Nagar police with a complaint against those responsible for putting up banners and flexes but police are yet to register a case against the accused persons. I think the police are waiting for the permission from politicians (accused) to register a case against them," said Reddy.

whatsapp  
**MIRROR**  
**9591233247**

**Problems in your area?**  
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

» **Footpath blocked**  
**KR Puram**



Footpath blocked by eateries and vendors opposite Vinayaka temple near Vinayaka jewellers KR Puram.

» **Fallen electrical pole**  
**RT Nagar**



An electrical pole has fallen again at 12th cross, RT Nagar 1st block.

» **Private parking?**  
**Jayanagar**



Pavement occupied for parking by hotel at 34th Cross and 11th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar.

# Night schools for the underprivileged

## BBMP plans to give extra education support to kids who need it

**Melvin Mathew**  
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is currently in the process of designing a night school system for underprivileged children similar to the Ballari model. While the initiative is being received well, some suggest holding it on the school premises itself.

Former CEO of Ballari Zilla Panchayat and current BBMP Special Commissioner (Estate/Education/Lake/Forest), V Ram Prasanth Manohar, has envisioned the plan.

Manohar told Bangalore Mirror, "The idea is still in the conception stage and is aimed at socio-economically challenged students. These children get their formal education by visiting schools and don't have any other system of education at home. In slum areas, there is no facility to study and they have to study in cramped rooms. There is no educator or a guide for these students post their formal education. We want to look at setting up a new system at a local level in their areas along with a tutor to take classes. We have seen good results with this model in Ballari as well."

The Palike has plans to scale up



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

**BBMP aims to set up schools at local level along with tutors**

the project based on funds available and the success of the program. These classes will be held in existing facilities or make-shift facilities on the premises. The final outline of the program is expected to be conceptualised within a week.

While the proposal has been well received, activists working in the education sector suggest the classes be conducted in the school premises itself. "For almost two years, children have been struggling with learning

There should be some sort of creative activity alongside. The programme should also be conducted for two-three years to effectively recover learning loss. When we work with children, we have noticed that some are not able to identify alphabets and face difficulty with math subjects. Apart from night school, a proper curriculum needs to be devised to engage children in studies. Discussions should be held with experts and parents before devising

**“By providing some incentive for teachers, extra hours can be spent on school premises where teachers can give special focus to Classes 1-5**

—Victor Tauro, India Literacy Project

the curriculum,” said Reshma, Program Coordinator, Action Aid.

### On campus

Victor Tauro, Programme Director, Regional Projects, India Literacy Project, said that it would be better to extend classes by a few hours in the school itself.

“Maybe having an hour extra in the morning and another in the evening could be beneficial. Some of these children come from troubled families and there is no conducive environment for studying. By providing some incentive for teachers, extra hours can be spent on school premises where teachers can give special focus to Classes 1-5. If school hours are being extended, there should be provisions for nutrition of these children as well.”





**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
N.R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

### Covid-19 - Precautionary measures to be adhered by the public



It is mandatory to wear a mask to cover the mouth and nose in public places



Frequent washing of hands with soap or sanitizer



Keep a handkerchief or other garment in case of sneezing, coughing



Avoid touching of Mouth, nose and eyes with your hand



Spitting, urinating, or littering is prohibited in public places



Maintain Safe distance from others (Physical distance at least 6 feet)

• Penalty will be imposed if the mask is not worn or maintain physical space

• If you have any symptoms kindly get yourself checked in any one of the free testing centers immediately.

The public must comply with the above instructions to help control the Covid-19 virus

**Rakesh Singh, I.A.S**  
Administrator, BBMP

**Tushar Giri Nath, I.A.S**  
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

**Control Room: 080-2266 0000, 2222 1188 TOLL FREE No. : 1533**

"ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸುಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಾಧನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮಿಸುವುದು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಾರ್ಯ"

# CM pins hopes on suburban rail, PRR to decongest city

Modi to lay stone for railway project next week, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

IN a major step towards mitigating Bengaluru's traffic congestion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Rs 15,000-crore Suburban Rail project during his visit to Karnataka next week. The news was confirmed to the media by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday.

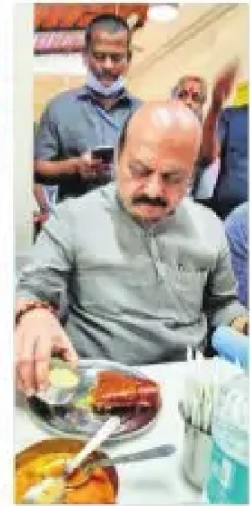
Modi will be in Karnataka on June 21 to participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations in Mysuru.

After inspecting various ongoing projects in the Chickpet Assembly segment, Bommai stressed that the primary focus of his government will be health infrastructure, education and beautification of Bengaluru city.

"Each day close to 500 new vehicles are added to Bengaluru's roads... traffic is swelling. The city needs better connectivity. Hence, the government has cleared the Rs 15,000 crore suburban rail project. The PM will lay the foundation for it next week," Bommai said.

He said the government was committed to constructing the peripheral ring road and tenders for the same will be floated soon. Bommai praised the works implemented by Chickpet MLA Uday Garudachar.

Bommai also inspected the ongoing 'waterway' project in



(Left) CM Basavaraj Bommai inspects waterway works at Shanthinagar on Wednesday; Bommai relishes a hot masala dosa at an eatery

which the stormwater drain running from Majestic to Bellandur Lake is being beautified with parks and other amenities. "This was former CM BS Yediyurappa's vision. Once the project is complete, he will be invited to inaugurate it," Bommai added. Bommai also said that his government has set aside Rs 8,000 crore for the city's development.

At present, the government is focusing on the development of rajakaluves, he said. "Once completed, flooding during the monsoon season will reduce. Once the current monsoon season ends, we will expedite the work," he added.

He further added that the government wants to focus on the revenue pockets of BBMP and is waiting for the Supreme

Court's verdict on Akrama-Sakrama.

He also said that Onti Mane scheme, where the BBMP gave financial assistance to the poor to build a house if they owned a site, will recommence soon. "The project took a hit owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. I will soon issue an order in this regard," the CM added.

The CM also inspected the rejuvenated Byrasandra lake developed at a cost of Rs 10 crore. "The CM directed me to expedite other development works at the lake area as this is a lung space for Chickpet," said MLA Uday Garudachar.

On the occasion, five beneficiaries of BBMP's free housing scheme to SCs/STs under 'Aasare' scheme were given house keys by Bommai.

## Fake delimitation draft on social media: officials

ENS @Bengaluru:

WITH time ticking for the delimitation exercise to be completed, and citizens demanding that the draft be made public, a copy of the delimitation report on 243 wards has been doing the rounds on social media.

Having taken a look at the draft, many netizens have started posting their opinions, but officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and the Urban Development Department said the document in circulation is fake.

While some citizens said they were unable to download and access the files due to technical errors, others who did said the ward names and reservation was not matching. Some criticised the government for the method adopted for bifurcation, while others also said the file with 243 wards could not be uploaded, and only 198 wards were visible. A BBMP official said: "The UDD has to upload the file, and BBMP has nothing to do with it. UDD has not yet uploaded the list of 243 wards, as the file is with the CMO for finalisation. With time ticking and only eight weeks left, pressure from citizens to make the draft public is rising."

UDD Additional Chief Secretary Rakesh Singh told *TNIE* that so far, no draft has been uploaded and nothing has been made public.

## For a cause: PSI opens mobile public toilets on B'loru-Tumakuru highway

PRAVEEN KUMAR  
@Bengaluru

AFTER failing to get a response from the authorities on building a public toilet at Goraguntepalya Junction on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru highway, Sub-Inspector Shanthappa Jademmanavar, who had started an online campaign 100 days ago, opened mobile toilets at the spot on Wednesday.

The toilets were inaugurated by a transgender.

There are 10 toilets — five for men, three for women and two for the transgender community. The sub-inspector got help from some volunteers who funded the mobile toilets.

"Nothing comes for free but the toilets which I set up are for free. Building a toilet costs around Rs 1 lakh. With the help of a few people, mobile toilets were finally opened for the public. One person looks after maintenance and cleaning of



the toilets," Shanthappa Jademmanavar, police sub-inspector attached to the Central division, told *The New Indian Express*.

He started the campaign after his mother faced difficulty in finding a public toilet at Goraguntepalya Junction on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru highway.

He had tagged the local Member of Legislative Assembly and other civic authorities, and was unable to get a response

from any of them.

"A transgender, Bhavani, inaugurated the mobile toilets. Transgenders face trouble while using public toilets. Two toilets are exclusively for them. The toilet has been set up despite some objections from locals. We got help from local traffic police," he added.

Shanthappa Jademmanavar is the same police officer whose video of cleaning public toilets in the city had gone viral recently.



Transgender Bhavani inaugurates the mobile toilets in Bengaluru on Wednesday

# Citizens write open letter to Limbavali on lake statement

ENS@Bengaluru

AS part of their campaign to save Pattandur Agrahara Lake, citizens around the water body — residents of Mahadevapura and members of Namma Whitefield — have written an open letter to Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali.

The letter criticises Limbavali's statement that the road running across the lake's buffer zone can stay.

Citizens said this was a violation

of the National Green Tribunal, Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority, Supreme Court and High Court orders.

They stated in the letter, "We are extremely outraged that a public representative who we have elected is encouraging an illegal road proposal that violates the buffer zone of Pattandur Agrahara Lake and a rajakaluve, a project that violates more than ten different laws and is non-statutory, a project that has already

been stopped by authorities and is under investigation by both the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Lokayukta for corruption. How can this be permitted? What is most ironic is that he made the statement at a meeting of lake activists called by him. This is not only insensitive and irresponsible, but smacks of pure arrogance. This is not acceptable. We will not accept such behaviour from an elected representative."

The citizens have also started an online petition against the statement



DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES
2 YEARS, 99 DAYS	648	1   0	532   400
	594	POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
TALLY	39,57,991	5.93%   5.93%	1.01%   1.01%
TODAY	39,57,991	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERY RATE
YESTERDAY	39,57,343	3,997	98.88%
		3,882	98.88%

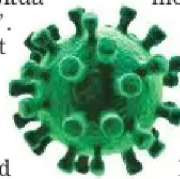
B'loru Urban: 615	Chamarajanagar: 0	Dharwad: 4	Kolar: 1	Shivamogga: 3
B'loru Rural: 1	Chikkaballapur: 0	Gadag: 0	Koppal: 1	Tumakuru: 2
Bagalkot: 0	Chikkamagaluru: 0	Hassan: 1	Mandya: 0	Udupi: 1
Ballari: 1	Chitradurga: 0	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 5	U Kannada: 1
Belagavi: 1	D Kannada: 12	Kalaburagi: 1	Raichur: 0	Vijayapura: 0
Bidar: 0	Devanagere: 0	Kodagu: 0	Ramanagara: 0	Yadgir: 0

# Covid curve on uptick: 615 cases, one death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THERE is a surge in Covid-19 cases in BBMP limits, with 615 cases and one death reported on Wednesday. A day after Covid clusters were reported from two schools in BBMP limits on Tuesday, there was a sharp spike in the number of cases.

However, senior Palike officials maintain that the situation is "under control". The report indicates that although cases are spiking, almost an equal number of people is also recovering. On Wednesday, 509 patients recovered from the Covid-19 infection. Palike officials are monitor-



ing wards that have reported more cases in the past week, and have already intensified daily testing from 16,000 to 20,000. According to the report, Bellandur reported 54 cases, Doddanekundi reported 25 cases, Varthur 24 cases, Kadugodi 16 and Haga-

duru 15 cases in the past seven days. BBMP recently announced that it would make masks mandatory in Bengaluru, and appealed to the public to follow Covid protocol, including maintaining distance, and undergoing a test in case of mild symptoms like fever, cold, cough and body ache.

# BJP hopes to cash in on Modi charisma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, who is visiting Karnataka on June 20 and 21, will be on an inauguration spree, and will lay the foundation stone for many projects in Bengaluru. Primary among these is the Rs 15,000-crore Suburban Rail project, for which the tender process is almost complete. He will lead the Yoga Day event in Mysuru on June 21.

With BBMP elections round the corner, the BJP hopes that Modi will attract massive crowds. "The Prime Minister continues to draw large crowds wherever he goes, and the crowds seem to be getting big-

ger. We recently saw massive crowds in Chennai in Tamil Nadu, and Hyderabad in Telangana, when he visited those states. With BBMP polls coming up, and Assembly elections just months away, we too will gain maximum benefit from PM Modi's visit," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reportedly told senior party functionaries and leaders at Gayatri Vihar on Palace Grounds on Wednesday.

Recalling the large crowds in Chennai, he said this could signal major changes in Tamil Nadu in the Lok Sabha elections, as surmised by some political analysts. BJP leaders who participated in the meeting included senior party func-



tionaries, former ministers, sitting and former legislators and heads of boards and corporations, who will be given various responsibilities.

The Prime Minister, who will land at Yelahanka, will visit the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus to inaugurate a facility, and also lay the foundation stone for a new building. He will arrive at IISc by road

from Yelahanka, and thereafter, will take a chopper ride to Kommaghatta to ensure there are no traffic snarls. There, he will lay the foundation stone or inaugurate six new railway projects. He is expected to participate in the inaugural of five new projects which are part of the National Highway, including a ring road connecting Bengaluru and Dabaspeta, and to decongest Bengaluru. Modi will travel to Ambedkar Institute by road, and later take the road to Mysuru, Bommai said.

BJP supporters will line the roads to welcome Modi in Yelahanka, Byatarayanapura, Malleswaram and Hebbal, as he drives to Malleswaram from Yelahanka.

# NO 4TH WAVE AS RISE IN CASES NOT DRIVEN BY NEW VARIANTS

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

IIT-KANPUR'S prediction of a fourth wave hitting India on June 22 going to come true? Experts say that despite India recording over 84,000 Covid-19 cases in two weeks, it can't be said as no new variant has been detected that could lead to a next wave.

Most of the fresh cases being reported are from seven states, with Kerala recording the highest number of cases and deaths, followed by Maharashtra, and Delhi. Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the other states with high cases.

According to Dr Samiran Panda, Additional Director General, ICMR, and head of its Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, the surge in the past 14 days cannot be termed the fourth wave. Stressing that the spike is not "a uniform phenomenon for the whole country," Panda said only a few districts in some states are reporting cases. He, however, said much depends on whether a new variant is causing the surge. "If we detect a new variant with an immune escape ability and serious disease-causing ability, then only we can think of it as a fourth wave. The good thing is we are not seeing any health-system burden as yet," Panda said.

Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of IMA's Covid-19 task force, said the uptick in numbers is small as so far no new variant has been detected. Researchers at IIT-Kanpur had predicted in February that the fourth wave would start on June 22 and would peak on August 23. They said it would end on October 24.



## ‘Covaxin booster improves efficacy against two variants’

NEW DELHI: A booster dose of Covaxin enhances vaccine effectiveness against Delta and Omicron variants BA.1.1 and BA.2, a study by ICMR and Bharat Biotech said.

The protective efficacy of Covaxin following two and three-dose immunisations against the two variants was studied in a Syrian hamster model (animal model to study human-associated diseases).

"In the Delta infection study, where we compared the protective response between the two and three-dose

regimens, we could observe the advantage of the booster dose vaccination in the protection. Although the neutralising antibody levels were comparable among the groups, lung disease severity was found more reduced after the three dose vaccination. The virus shedding and viral organ load were considerably reduced in both the two dose and three-dose immunised animals indicating the vaccine efficacy against Delta variant," said the study.

ENS

# US Panel Recommends Moderna Covid Vax for Children Six & Up

**Washington:** A panel of US medical experts on Tuesday recommended the Moderna Covid vaccine for use in children aged six through 17.

Formal authorization should soon follow, at which point families will have a second option against the coronavirus, as Pfizer's vaccine was given the greenlight for teens and younger children last year.

After weighing available data, 22 experts convened by the US Food and Drug Administration unanimously agreed that the known benefits outweighed the known risks when Moderna's vaccine was administered as two shots at the adult dose of 100 micrograms to those aged 12-17, and half of that



for children 6-11.

"This can be a valuable tool and having this available to families, particularly in areas where there's rising viral spread, and particularly (for) parents of children who may have comorbidities," said Ofer Levy, an infectious disease physician at Boston Children's Hospital. **AFP**

# EU 'Epicentre' of Monkeypox Outbreak: WHO

**Copenhagen:** The World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday Europe remained the epicentre of the global monkeypox outbreak, which posed a "real risk" with more than 1,500 cases reported in the region. The UN health body already announced on Tuesday that it would hold an emergency meeting next week to determine whether to classify the outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern.

"Europe remains the epicentre of this escalating outbreak with 25 countries reporting more than 1,500 cases, or 85 percent of the global total," Hans Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe, told a press conference Wednesday.

WHO's European region com-



prises 53 countries, including several in Central Asia.

"The magnitude of this outbreak poses a real risk. The longer the virus circulates, the more it will extend its reach, and the stronger the disease's foothold will get in non-endemic countries," Kluge said.

Until the past few months, monkeypox had generally been confined to Western and Central Africa. Kluge said that the majority of cases reported in Europe "have been among men who have sex with men", but also warned against stigmatisation.

The regional director also warned that the risk was increasing as summer had arrived with "tourism, various Pride events, music festivals and other mass gatherings planned across the region."

"These events are powerful opportunities to engage with young, sexually active and highly mobile people," Kluge said, but stressed that "monkeypox is not a reason to cancel events, but an opportunity to leverage them to drive our engagement." **AFP**

# Maha Records 4,024 New Covid Cases, 36% Rise; Two Fatalities

PTI

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra on Wednesday recorded 4,024 new coronavirus cases, a 36% rise over the previous day, and two pandemic-related deaths, the state health department said.

Wednesday's case count was the highest since February 12 when the state had recorded 4,359 cases.

On Tuesday, the state had recorded 2,956 new cases and four fatalities. The state's Covid-19 case tally rose to 79,15,418 and death toll reached 1,47,875. Four new cases of B.A.5 variant of coronavirus were also



detected in the state, the official release said. New B.A.5 cases were reported from Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai and Pune, and all

four patients were in the age group of 19 to 36 years, the department said. All four tested Covid-19 positive during May 26 to June 9, and their condition was stable, said the release. Mumbai recorded 2,293 fresh coronavirus cases – highest since January 23 when the city recorded 2,250 cases – and one fatality. The other fatality was reported from neighbouring Thane city. The state's case fatality rate stands at 1.86%. The active coronavirus case-load stands at 19,261 now. Nandurbar was the only district that did not report any active case. As many as 3,028 patients recovered from coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of recovered patients to 77,52,304.



**CORONA METER**

**CASES ON WEDNESDAY 10,837<sup>^</sup>**

**ACTIVE CASES 58,807 (+3,592)<sup>o</sup>**

**Recovered 42.68 m (+7,232)**

**Deaths 524,808 (+13)<sup>^^</sup>**

**TOTAL CASES 43,259,474**

Source: State bulletins, PTI; <sup>^</sup>12 states/UTs (excl. UP, Telangana, Rajasthan & Punjab) as of 8:08 PM; <sup>o</sup>net of recoveries/deaths (Change since 12am, 15 Jun); <sup>^^</sup>includes Kerala's 1 prior/reclassified death

4 Main Metros	CASES ON WED	ACTIVE CASES
Mumbai	2293	12341
Delhi	1375	3643
B'luru Urban	615	3843
Chennai	221	984

Source: State bulletins

**VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN INDIA 1956.96 M (+1.44 m)**

1 <sup>st</sup> dose...	2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
<b>1014.13 m (93.54%)</b>	<b>902.71 m (83.26%)</b>

(% 12yr+ population)

**BOOSTER DOSES TOTAL 40.11 m**

Source: dashboard.cowin.gov.in, 08:08 PM

**GLOBAL COUNT**

<b>Total Cases 541.94 M</b>	<b>Vaccine Doses Administered 11985.99 Million (204 countries/areas)</b>
<b>Deaths 6,334,567</b>	
<b>Recovered 517.14 M</b>	

Source: worldometers.info, 08:08 PM

**NEW INFECTIONS IN 5 WORST-HIT COUNTRIES\***

<b>Germany</b>	<b>83099</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>72312</b>
<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>66155</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>65425</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>45962</b>

\*as of Tue