



**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE  
BANGALORE**

**ENGLISH NEWS PAPER  
CLIPPINGS**

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THE HINDU

# BJP plans big Bengaluru push with Modi's visit ahead of polls

The Chief Minister has been on an inauguration spree of development projects

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party is planning a big Bengaluru push to launch its campaign for the upcoming civic polls and the 2023 Assembly polls, starting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city on Monday.

The Prime Minister will address a public rally at Kommaghatta after laying the foundation stone for the much delayed ₹15,000-crore suburban rail project. The BJP has planned a grand welcome with a large number of workers in attendance after he lands at Yelahanka Air Force Base. Arun Singh, in-charge of BJP Karnataka, is scheduled to arrive in the city on Friday and stay here till the Prime Minister leaves the State. "Ahead of civic polls in the city, the Prime Minister is coming to lay the foundation stone for a mega infrastructure project and we will definitely make the best use of it," a senior leader said.

The Supreme Court, on May 20, set a eight-week deadline for ward delimitation and reservation roster for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to be completed and elections be held subsequently, setting the stage for the civic polls in August-September 2022. BBMP has already submitted a draft of the delimited wards.

## Series of inaugurations

Since then, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds charge of the city, has gone on a development project-inauguration spree in Assembly constituencies represented by BJP in the city.

In the last 10 days, Mr. Bommai has inaugurated a slew of development works in Govindaraj Nagar, R.R. Na-



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai along with BBMP Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath checking development works in Bengaluru on Thursday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Announcements made by CM since June 1

- Foundation stone for ₹15,000 crore suburban rail project by PM on Monday
- Tenders for ₹15,000 crore worth much-delayed Peripheral Ring Road in final stages
- A vision document to decongest the city
- ₹1,600 crore for redoing storm-water drains
- A Special Task Force to clear encroachments of storm-water drains; the poor will be rehabilitated and encroachments by the rich will be ruthlessly demolished
- The State government will give bank guarantee for housing scheme beneficiaries through a ₹500 crore loan
- 'Onti Mane' scheme by BBMP, where the civic body will provide financial assistance to the poor and for oppressed communities to build houses if they have land, will be restarted soon
- Government will abolish 'B' khata and issue 'A' khata for all properties in the city after a regularisation process
- Government will take all necessary measures to implement Akrama-Sakrama, presently pending before the Supreme Court and regularise revenue pockets

gar and Chickpet constituencies. More such events, including the inauguration of the first phase of K-100, a reimagining of storm-water drains in the city, are planned, sources said. "The plan is to project a development image for the government in the city and ensure the works are visible to the people. Most of the projects being inaugurated now are

from the time of B.S. Yediyurappa and the Chief Minister is laying foundation stone for other new works as well," a senior civic official said.

## Rains and after

The havoc created by recent rains in the city has left a bad taste in the mouth of the citizens and the pathetic condition of roads became a talking point in cyberspace too.

To make a course correction in this image, the party has decided to push for a development agenda for the city, sources said. The Chief Minister was keen and pushed the filling of potholes and re-making roads on a war footing, as a first step, senior civic officials said. Laying the foundation stone for the much delayed mega infrastructure suburban rail by Mr. Modi is part of the same campaign, officials close to the Chief Minister said.

At multiple events in the city over the last 10 days, the Chief Minister has been talking of a vision document to decongest Bengaluru, to improve connectivity with mega-infra projects of suburban rail and peripheral ring road and spending ₹1,600 crore to redo storm-water drains to prevent flooding. He has also announced a slew of welfare schemes like restarting "onti mane" scheme, government providing bank guarantee for beneficiaries of housing schemes and implementing Akrama-Sakrama, with an aim to woo the poorer sections, sources said.

THE HINDU

# Karnataka among two States to host One Health pilot

The exercise, with focus on zoonotic diseases, will be launched on June 28; learnings from it will be used to develop a national framework

K.C. DEEPIKA  
BENGALURU

Karnataka will be one of two States where the 'One Health' programme will be piloted, the other State being Uttarakhand.

Set to be launched on June 28, the pilot will be used to develop a national One Health Framework, a key objective of the One Health Support Unit initiated by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India.

The framework is aimed at improving national and State-level resource allocation and policy ecosystem on early prediction, detection, and diagnosis of zoonotic diseases through increased quality, availability, and utility of data evidence.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, DAHD, said, "At the global level, four organisations



A file photo of the Rapid Response Team in a locality affected by bird flu in Mysuru. The One Health Framework is aimed at improving resource allocation and policy ecosystem on early prediction, detection, and diagnosis of zoonotic diseases.

—World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health, and the United Nations Environment Programme — have joined together to work out strategies as far as the inter-relatedness and the way to move forward for One Health are concerned. As a concept, it is as-

sumed that any health matters are all interrelated with each other and we cannot treat human, animal or wildlife health in isolation," he said.

In India, the government has been taking many initiatives to arrive at implementing the One Health concept, he added. "Since the bridge

## Six specific interventions for One Health (OH) project

- Establishing an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism at the central and State-levels
- One Health Gap Assessment at the federal level and for selected States
- Pilot of One Health platform in selected States
- Integration with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission
- Creating a roadmap for scaling up the OH programme at the national level
- Developing and implementing the OH communication strategy

between the human and wildlife health are the domesticated animals, which are the carriers of a lot of diseases

between human beings and wildlife, or which starts from the livestock sector and gets transferred to human health, the DAHD decided to operationalise this concept where all three platforms start talking and reporting to each other and do capacity build-

ing so we start asking the right questions to each other," he explained.

Apart from an apex inter-ministerial governance committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the Secretary, DAHD, comprising of authorities from the Ministry of Health and Family Wel-

fare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, ICAR, civil societies, international development organisations, and field practitioners. Along with this, there will be a State-Level One Health Committee.

The two States were chosen, said Mr. Chaturvedi, based on an exercise of identifying operational parameters — infrastructure related to diagnostic facilities, digital interventions, occurrences of zoonotic diseases, responsiveness, and proactive administration in responding to those diseases, and non-operational parameters such as human-animal interaction index, ecosystem health index, health infrastructure index, and livestock disease diversity index — on which all States were graded.

The top five States based on this were Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Assam, Maharashtra, and Odisha in that

order, of which the top two States were chosen.

The pilot in Uttarakhand was launched in April. Based on the recommendations of the PSC, six interventions have been planned for the pilot in Uttarakhand and Karnataka, including institutionalising the mechanism for data collection on disease outbreak, prevalence, management, and development of targeted surveillance. It also entails integrating the network of laboratories with a focus on strengthening communication and lab testing capacities around zoonotic diseases, developing a communication strategy across sectors with an emphasis on livestock and animal health-related issues, and integration of the data with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission to enable the analytics needed for the development of One Health Programme.

THE HINDU

# Daily COVID-19 cases cross 12,000 mark

A total of 12,213 cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, taking India's total tally of COVID-19 cases since the onset of the pandemic to 4,32,57,730 while the death toll has climbed to 5,24,803 with 11 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. stated.

India had reported over 12,000 COVID-19 cases on a single day the last time on

February 24, when it reported 13,166 new cases.

The daily test positivity rate was recorded at 2.35% while the weekly positivity rate was at 2.38%, according to the Health Ministry. Mumbai has reported the highest number of new cases, 2,366, taking the active caseload there to 13,005. The 11 new fatalities include three from Kerala.



## Covid: Positivity rate rises outside Bengaluru, woman dies in Belagavi

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Fresh Covid cases reached almost 800 in Bengaluru on Wednesday, as per the health bulletin.

Karnataka reported 833 new cases, including 791 in Bengaluru.

The positivity rate is steadily rising outside Bengaluru. The state-wide positivity rate stood at 3.47% out of 23,990 samples.

In Bengaluru, it was 3.26% out of 18,195 samples. During the day, there were 458 discharges, including 435 in Bengaluru.

A 35-year-old woman from Belagavi who had Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and was suffering from TB, died after being in hospital for 12 days. She was admitted on June 1 and died on June 12.

Karnataka has 4,371 cases, including 4,199 in Bengaluru alone. In the city, 26 people are in hospital.

Three of them are in ICU and two in HDU.

There are 18 Covid clusters in Bengaluru. Fifteen have more than five cases each and the rest fewer than five cases each.

# Can't afford to ignore long-term Covid symptoms, warn experts

Patients experience fatigue, cognitive, respiratory issues

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as the number of Covid infections sees an upward trend in the country, a global study has suggested that apart from tracking new infections, there is also a need to address long-term Covid symptoms.

According to the pre-print of the global survey, conducted by researchers from across the world, 144.7 million people suffer from long-term Covid symptoms such as fatigue, cognitive problems and respiratory problems.

The study showed that across India over 11 million incidents of long Covid were reported in 2020 alone. The numbers could be up to 27.9 million for 2021.

Of the 144.1 million, fatigue could be observed in 51%, cognitive problems in 35.4%, and respiratory problems in 60.4%. Also, 38.4% of them experienced multiple problems.



A health care worker collects swab samples from passengers for the RTPCR test at Yeshwantpur Railway Station in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The findings show that 15.1% of those who suffered from long Covid had not completely recovered even after a year of being infected.

The study suggested that there was a need to establish rehabilitative care and support, to help those suffering from long Covid to transition back to the workplace or education.

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist and member of Karnataka State Covid technical advisory committee, said there was a need to sensitise people and doctors on long Covid.

"Assuming that a majority

of our population could be infected, there is a need to track people who could be suffering from long Covid and sensitise both people and doctors to handle the situation better. Long Covid has to be considered seriously," he said.

He said there was a need to implement better workplace policies. "Workplaces should implement better sickness benefits to support those suffering from long Covid," he said.

The study also showed that long Covid prevalence was high among females at 63.2% and the peak age was set between 20 and 29 years.

## Over 5k samples collected for paediatric serosurvey

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health department, which launched the paediatric serosurvey last week, has completed the fieldwork by successfully collecting 5,360 samples as against the target of 5,072 samples.

The survey is aimed at assessing the antibody prevalence in children between the age of six years and 14 years.

According to the Department of Health, 785 samples have been collected in the BBMP limits and 494 samples in Belagavi. With 40 samples, the least number of samples have been collected from Kodagu. Though the state had conducted two rounds of serosurvey previously, the present survey holds importance since it is being conducted on

children, a majority of whom could be unvaccinated.

Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist and TAC member, said the survey results would prioritise the measures. "Earlier, the seroprevalence in adults was ascertained. It is important to study the virus seroprevalence in children since many of them could be unvaccinated," he said.



### SELCO Foundation

#### Call for Vendors

#### The Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments

#### SELCO Foundation – Procurement Officer

690, 15th Cross Rd, Jeewan Griha Colony, 2nd Phase, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560078

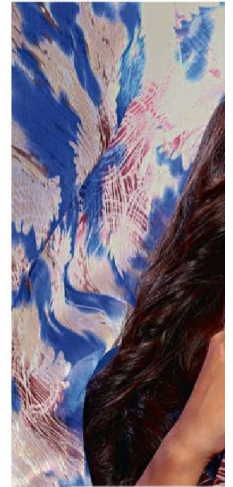
[procurement@selcofoundation.org](mailto:procurement@selcofoundation.org)

SELCO Foundation hereby invites bids for the Supply and Installation of Medical Equipment for public health centres in the state of Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland during the year 2022-2023.

The Tender Estimated value is Approximately ₹4.25 Crores (Rupees Four Crores and Twenty Five Lakhs only)

The link for the Tender is

<https://selcofoundation.org/supply-and-installation-of->



# BBMP elections: Will Bengaluru get a better deal?

The first desirable thing, soon after the elections, is for the Area Sabhas to be notified and the Ward Committees set up

KATHYAYINI CHAMARAJ

With the Supreme Court cracking the whip against state governments and ordering that all pending local body elections should be scheduled within two weeks, the state government has had to buckle down and put an end to its arbitrary and impudent procrastination of BBMP elections since September 2020 in violation of the Constitution. Several citizens' groups under the banner of 'Civil Society Forum' have come up with their own manifesto to be presented to political parties before the BBMP election envisioning a better Bengaluru.

This delay in elections has happened by delaying the delimitation of wards and reservation of seats, a task that should be assigned to the State Election Commission but has been usurped by the State government. This power must be given back to the SEC to avoid future strictures by the SC for not holding elections on time.

BBMP is facing a myriad of crises and paradoxes. There is massive corruption in road contracts, as revealed by the Contractors' Association itself, resulting in pothole deaths of several citizens. Large-scale encroachments of lakes, rajakaluves and buffer-zones are causing frequent flooding of houses, especially of the poor, while these same poor may be struggling for access to regular supply of piped water or basic sanitation. High-rises mushroom amidst slums, often in violation of zoning and building bye-laws. High-end infrastructure for private cars is prioritised while the losses of the BMTC, carrying the largest number of commuters, are not covered.

Open garbage heaps, polluted, frothing and burning lakes, and poisoned air are the norm even as the city boasts of being the IT-BT capital, 'start-up' hub and the 'silicon plateau' of the world. Officials, even after they are hauled up for contempt, ignore Court orders on these issues with brazen impunity, and lack resulting in total lack of accountability. Why are these officials, who have allowed thousands of blatant violation of laws, not punished and instead 'enquiry teams' are set up to delay, whitewash or divert attention from their open misdoings?

The 'Right to the City' – basic entitlements to housing, water and sanitation, health, education, employment, and social security – are denied to those who actually build and serve the city; their homes are demolished or they are pushed to the periphery with their livelihoods destroyed.

Local self-government with transparency, accountability and people's participation as envisaged in the 74th Constitutional Amendment for urban local bodies stands vitiated in Bengaluru with the state government and MLAs usurping the role of what is supposed to be a 'local self-government'. An MLA-chaired committee at the Assembly Constituency-level has even been introduced into the new BBMP Act



between the ward and zonal committees, in total violation of the 74th CA.

Participation of every voter in the planning and governance of his area has been denied by non-implementation of the provision for 'Area Sabhas' since 2011. The ward committees have been completely crippled now in the BBMP Act with their decisions being rendered 'advisory' in nature as there is no political will to share power with people.

BBMP will have to go beyond its current focus solely on roads, potholes, drains and garbage and fulfil the broader function assigned to local self-governments under the Nagarapalika Act of "planning for economic development and social justice".

Soon after the election, the first desirable thing is for the Area Sabhas to be notified and the Ward Committees set up within a month. These bodies need to develop a '5-year Ward Vision Plan' in

a bottom-up, evidence-based participatory planning process, setting targets to achieve human development, social infrastructure and ecological sustainability goals – in short, localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will also provide a basis for judging the performance of the councillor at the end of his/her five-year term. An exclusive website for each ward, where its Ward Vision Plan would be uploaded, will help monitor progress and also make it easier to provide regular updates.

For localising the SDGs, it would be necessary to first of all devolve to the municipality the 3Fs – funds, functions and functionaries -- for slum upgradation, running of all the PDS shops, anganwadis, elementary schools, primary health centres, vocational/skill training centres, and such others, many of which are currently controlled by line departments of the State government. These have been already devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions in rural areas.

The citizens' participatory platforms for monitoring the functioning of these institutions, such as the vigilance committees of ration shops, *balavikas samitis* of anganwadis, SDMCs of schools and *Arogya Raksha Samitis* of PHCs among others, need to be strengthened. These committees already have the local councillor as either a member or chairperson. But most councillors do not utilise these roles fully to improve the services of these institutions which are so critical for the upliftment of the marginalised and to achieve SDGs. Many of these committees exist on paper only with ghost members and ghost minutes of meetings. Information on the members of these committees, the minutes of their meetings and actions taken needs to be uploaded on the exclusive website of each ward.

The website must also carry information on the funds flowing in to the ward through various government departments, and their usage, and not just on the BBMP's work on roads, drains, etc. To facilitate this, the government recently accepted a recommendation for Treasury to assign a unique ID to each ward, which will be cited on every expenditure. This way, information on funds from various sources reaching the wards will be available on the Ward websites thereby enabling social auditing and increased accountability.

With fresh elections coming, this is an opportunity for all political parties to demonstrate their genuine commitment to build a better Bengaluru wedded to Constitutional values.

(The writer is Executive Trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore)



# NTAGI recommends reducing booster dose gap to 6 months

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC) of the NTAGI on Thursday recommended reducing the gap between the second and precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines from the current nine to six months, official sources said.

They said the health ministry will take the final call on the recommendation soon.

The government advisory panel, which met on Thursday, also reviewed the findings of a study by the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore on the feasibility of allowing as a precaution dose a Covid vaccine different from the one used for primary vaccination.

The panel members found a lack of uniformity in results upon mixing of jabs for booster shots and stated that no recommendation for it can be made

as of now. The CMC study was on Covishield and Covaxin.

The threat of monkeypox and the requirement of vaccination were also discussed in the meeting of the panel of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), the sources said.

“However, the members were of the view that a strong surveillance is what is required as of now. No case of monkeypox has been detected in the country till now,” one of the sources told PTI.

The panel also reviewed data on Covaxin and Corbevax vaccines for the 6-12 age group.

“The members opined that data of Covid burden and mortality among children is not robust enough to take any decision to begin vaccination of those below 12 years,” the source stated.





# At 4,255, Maha logs highest Covid cases in over 4 months

MUMBAI, PTI

**M**aharashtra on Thursday recorded 4,255 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily count since February 12, while three more patients succumbed to the infection even as the active tally crossed the 20,000-mark, the state health department said.

With these additions, the state's overall Covid-19 tally rose to 79,23,697, while the death toll increased to 1,47,880, the department said in a bulletin. A day before, the state had recorded 4,024 new cases and two deaths linked to the infection.

The fresh tally of 4,255 was the highest since February 12 when the state had recorded 4,359 cases.

## India reports 12,213 new cases

The single-day rise in new coronavirus infections were recorded over 12,000 after 111 days, registering 38.4% jump in daily cases while the active cases have increased to 58,215, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Thursday.

A total 12,213 cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, taking India's total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,32,57,730 while the death toll has climbed to 5,24,803 with 11 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am on Thursday stated.

As many as 2,879 patients recovered from Covid-19 in the state since previous evening, pushing up their cumulative count to 77,55,183 and leaving the state with 20,634 active cases, the bulletin said.

The recovery rate in the state stood at 97.87%. Nandurbar is the only district which

does not have active cases currently. Two more cases of B.A.5 sub-variant were reported in the state on Thursday, the health department said.

According to a report of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, the two patients were detected in Nagpur.

# Reduce gap for booster dose to 6 mths: NTAGI

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The panel members found a lack of uniformity in results upon mixing of jabs for booster shots and stated that no recommendation for it can be made as of now. The CMC study was on Covishield and COVAXIN. AGENCIES

► **'No monkeypox', P 7**

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## ‘No case of monkeypox in India yet’

► Continued from page 1

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“However, the members were of the view that a strong surveillance is what is required as of now. No case of monkeypox has been detected in the country till now,” one of the sources said.

The panel also reviewed data on Covaxin and Corbevax vaccines for the 6-12 age group. “The members opined that data of Covid burden and mortality among children is not robust enough to take any decision to begin vaccination of those below 12 years,” the source stated.

India’s drug regulator in April this year had granted emergency use authorisation for Corbevax for those aged five to 12 years and Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin for children in the age group of six to 12 years. The STSC members were learnt to have also agreed on administration of an additional third dose for renal transplant patients before the precaution dose.

# Covid deaths up 4% worldwide, reversing 5-week decline: WHO

**Geneva:** After five weeks of declining coronavirus deaths, the number of fatalities reported globally increased by 4% last week, according to the World Health Organisation.

In its weekly assessment of the pandemic issued on Thursday, the UN health agency said there were 8,700 Covid-19 deaths last week, with a 21% jump in the Americas and a 17% increase in the Western Pacific. WHO said coronavirus cases continued to fall, with about 3.2 million new cases reported last week, extending a decline in Covid-19 infections since the peak in January. Still, there were significant spikes of infection in some regions, with the Middle East and Southeast Asia reporting increases of 58% and 33% respectively.

“Because many countries have reduced surveillance and testing, we know this number is under-reported,” WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said earlier this week. He said there was



AFP/FILE

WHO said coronavirus cases continued to fall, with about 3.2m new cases reported last week. But there were spikes of infection in Middle East (58%) and in Southeast Asia (33%)

“no acceptable level of deaths from Covid-19,” given that the global community now has the vaccines, medicines and diagnostics to stop the virus.

While many rich countries in Europe and North America have mostly dropped their virus restrictions, China’s extreme Covid-19 policies have meant more mass testing, quarantines and sequestering of anyone who was in contact with a case. China’s capital put school back online this week in one of its major districts amid a new

Covid-19 outbreak linked to a nightclub. Residents in Beijing are still undergoing regular testing — mostly every other day — and must wear masks and swipe a mobile phone app to enter public places and facilitate case tracing. China has maintained its “zero-Covid” policy despite considerable economic costs and an assertion from the head of the WHO that the policy isn’t sustainable.

This week, US officials moved a step closer to authorising coronavirus vaccines for the youngest children, after the FDA’s vaccine advisers gave a thumbs-up to vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech for children under 5. The outside experts voted unanimously that the benefits of the shots outweigh any risks for children under 5 — that’s roughly 18 million youngsters. They are the last age group in the US without access to Covid-19 vaccines. If all the regulatory steps are cleared, shots should be available next week. AP

# 4cr Indians reported long Covid symptoms

Global Study Finds 3 Key Ailments; B'luru Docs Say Rehab Support, Sensitivity Important

Farheen Hussain  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** If you have been suffering from fatigue, respiratory problems or brain fog even months after recovering from Covid-19, you are not alone. A global study has found that in India alone, nearly four crore people experienced these symptoms of long Covid since 2020.

The number is more than 14 crore globally.

A paper — 'A global systematic analysis of the occurrence, severity, and recovery pattern of long COVID in 2020 and 2021' — revealed startling details. It was published by a

## TALLY SINCE 2020

group of researchers from various universities across the globe, and from the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD), a collaboration of over 3,600 researchers from 145 countries.

The researchers put various long-term effects of Covid-19 into three categories — fatigue, cognitive problems and ongoing respiratory issues. They found that 144.7 million people experienced one or more of these three symptoms three months after infection, in 2020 and 2021. Most cases arose from milder infections. Twelve months after infection, recovery was not seen in 15.1% of the cases.

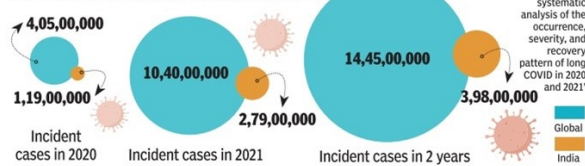
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The researchers put various long-term effects of Covid-19 into three categories — fatigue, cognitive problems and ongoing respiratory issues. They found that 144.7 million people experienced one or more of these three symptoms three months after infection, in 2020 and 2021



The state saw 833 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday

## COUNT: GLOBALLY & NATIONALLY



\* Source: 'A global systematic analysis of the occurrence, severity, and recovery pattern of long COVID in 2020 and 2021'

common long Covid symptom was respiratory trouble (89.3%), followed by post-acute fatigue syndrome (78.9%) and cognitive syndrome (55.2%). They also found that globally, more women (63.2%) than men were affected by long Covid.

The paper, which was published on medRxiv (a free online archive and distribution server for complete but unpublished manuscripts in medical, clinical and related health sciences), said a substantial number of people with long Covid need rehabilitative care and support to

transition back into workplace or education when symptoms start to wane.

"While much attention during Covid-19 pandemic was directed at daily case counts and those with serious disease overwhelming health services, increasingly, reports have appeared of people who experience debilitating symptoms after the initial infection. This is known as long Covid," the researchers, who found 84 long-term effects of Covid-19, said.

Dr Giridhar Babu, professor, head — lifecourse epidemiology — Indian Institute of

Public Health Bengaluru, Public Health Foundation of India, told TOI the study proves that Covid-19 can neither be dismissed as just another flu nor should it be dreaded. "Instead, one must identify the real concern of long Covid and its effect on young professionals, who are required to return to office, women and even children," said Dr Babu.

He said that with crores of people suffering from post-Covid fatigue and other health effects, there is a need for a system to track people with Covid illness and help

them with rehabilitation and required support.

"Within families, we must be sensitive towards them; workplaces must be more sensitive to these long Covid problems and support teams with benefits, packages etc," Dr Babu said, calling for policy support from the government as well.

Dr Sandeepa HS, interventional pulmonologist at BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital, said they have observed cases of long Covid, especially after the third wave. "People with borderline allergies have become fully allergic.

Chronic fatigue, joint pain and feeling mentally low are some other symptoms," Dr Sandeepa said.

Dr Ambanna Gowda, senior consultant physician and diabetologist, SPARSH Hospital, however, said he has only seen 1 to 10 people per 1,000 Covid patients with long Covid symptoms.

"Restlessness, increased heartbeat, insomnia, chest pain, constant headache and psychiatric symptoms are some of the complications they might experience for a period of six months to one year," Dr Gowda said.

## DPI TO SCHOOLS: IF 10 OR MORE STUDENTS TEST +VE, DECLARE HOLIDAY FOR 2-3 DAYS

The department of public instruction (DPI) has asked schools to declare holiday for two to three days if more than 10 students on campus test positive for Covid-19.

The direction comes in light of the recent Covid-19 infection clusters in two city schools.

In a circular issued on Thursday, the department asked the headmaster to inform the BEO or the DDPI and with their permission, declare a holiday for two to three days and sanitise the building, if 10 or more cases are reported.

The holidays are to be balanced by working on other government holidays, the circular added.

Apart from this, the department also asked the school authorities to

create awareness among students and parents about Covid-19 precautions to be followed on campus and at home.

"Children must be asked to carry drinking water from home. Those aged between 12 and 14 should be vaccinated and if anyone turns positive, they should be immediately sent to a health centre for a check-up," said the department, adding they must also be exempted from physical classes.

Further, schools have been asked to strictly follow Covid-19 SOPs, as well as directions from local bodies and health departments, and teachers have been compulsorily asked to wear masks at all times. "Teachers aged above 50 must take extra precaution," the department added.

## 2,780 families to receive ₹139cr to build houses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** A day after chief minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that 'Onti Mane' scheme will be restarted, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday said it has identified 2,780 families, each of whom will be provided Rs 5 lakh to build homes under the scheme.

BBMP officials confirmed that financial assistance of Rs 139 crore will be given to the beneficiaries to build houses, but they should have their own sites. The households will soon receive the confirmation and funds will be transferred to their bank accounts.

## Pedestrians in a fix as footpath caves in along collapsed retaining wall and damaged fence of Hebbal Lake

# SIDEWINDER

### 'Lack of coordination between forest dept and BBMP'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems as though the state forest department will not fix a fence until one or two hapless pedestrians fall into the Hebbal Lake.

With a portion of the retaining wall of the lake collapsing near the flyover, walking on the footpath has become dangerous for pedestrians.

The problem is the lack of coordination between the state forest department and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The footpath development was taken up by the BBMP a year ago without informing the state forest department about the collapsed retaining wall and damaged fence. The result: a stretch of the developed footpath collapsed along the retaining wall inconveniencing the pedestrians.

Criticising the BBMP for not ensuring quality and the failure to take precautions before embarking to develop the footpath, traffic expert Sanjeev Dyamannavar said the BBMP had engaged a contractor to develop the footpath but the work remains incomplete even after a year.

"The BBMP has been making tall claims on its efforts to make Bengaluru a Smart City. What is the use of such claims if it is not able to fix a footpath?" asked Dyamannavar.

He explained that many BMTC commuters who want to alight near the Hebbal Flyover and board another bus to proceed towards Yelahanka and other areas have to walk on the footpath in question to reach the BMTC bus-stop opposite to the Esteem Mall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>



**BBMP makes tall claims on efforts to make Bengaluru a Smart City. What's the use of such claims if it is not fixing a footpath?**

—Sanjeev Dyamannavar, traffic expert

# Hebbal Lake infra in shambles



Condition of retaining wall of Hebbal lake

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Water-logging happens on this road whenever it rains heavily. So, pedestrians neither walk on the road nor on the footpath when it rains. I want the BBMP to take measures to avoid water-logging on this road,” he said.

Many pedestrians narrated how dangerous it is for them to walk on the footpath after sunset. They complained that they have to be wary of snakes that come onto the footpath from the waterbody.

“I want the authorities concerned whether it is the forest department or the BBMP to ensure walking on the footpath safe for pedestrians. It is nauseating and shocking to see the condition of this footpath. The BBMP has been spending crores of rupees on development of footpaths in the central business district (CBD) area. Why cannot the BBMP spend a few lakhs to

make this footpath pedestrian-friendly?” wondered Suresh Babu, a resident of Hebbal.

Meanwhile, deputy forest range officer Shivaraju S said he had informed the authorities concerned about the poor condition of the retaining wall and fence on the eastern side of the lake eight months ago. “As of now, no funds have been sanctioned for the development of this waterbody. I sent a proposal seeking funds for the restoration of the retaining wall and fence. I am yet to get a nod from higher authorities,” Shivaraju said.

When informed about the ongoing development of a pond on the lake bund, he said the Palike has taken up the construction of an idol immersion pond. “The state forest department has nothing to do with the ongoing work at the idol immersion pond. We do not have funds to do any developmental work,” he added.



# Instant Infra



## BBMP, BDA, PWD in multi-pronged infra works prior to Prime Minister's visit

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TWEETS @Bellie\_Mirror

**T**he buzz among people in Kengeri and Kommaghatta, adjacent to Kengeri Satellite Town in West Bengaluru, is the roadworks happening there at lightning speed.

A huge playground is also being readied with big enclosures to accommodate thousands of people alongside two helipads.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to address a mega public meeting at the grounds in Kommaghatta on June 20 after a 12-km roadshow in parts of north and south Bengaluru.

The works began on June 13 and are scheduled to be finished by Friday (June 17). The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Public Works Department (PWD) have been involved in a multi-pronged operation to complete the works before the deadline.

"We have to finish all the works and handover the playground area to the event organisers, central agencies, law and order, and traffic police. The BBMP's major roadworks department is laying newly asphalted roads on the stretch from Kengeri towards Kommaghatta as well as

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>**

# Infra push for PM's visit



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

from Jnanabharathi towards Kengeri. The BDA is asphaltting the stretch of the double road (4-km stretch) along Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout, and the two helipads — one at Jnanabharathi campus and the other at the Kammaghatta grounds," Nagaraju, joint commis-

sioner, Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone, told Bangalore Mirror.

"The engineers and higher-ups are camping in and around the area. The roadworks are being carried out at an unimaginable pace - amazing speed - day and night. Sometimes asphalt gets drenched in the rain. I hope this happens if someone like the Prime Minister visits our neigh-

bourhood," said resident Shankar Rao.

Hundreds of workers are busy; the roads are filled with asphaltting machines, earthmovers and road rollers. The smell of tarring-bitumen is in the air in and around Kengeri, Bandemutt where another 4-km stretch is being asphaltted and near Kammaghatta Lake.

Soon after the state agencies are finished with their works, event organisers and the Central agencies would monitor security arrangements and vehicle movements in the area. "We are taking care of the technical aspects at these enclosures like how many visual screens, sound system, cameras and lighting have to be mounted. However, there is still confusion and lack of coordination between the state agencies and us," said a central government employee inspecting the enclosures.

The enclosures look like they can accommodate thousands who are expected to gather at the Kammaghatta grounds on June 20.

## Mask up and get tested, students: Universities

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

**W**ith Covid-19 cases increasing every day in the city, Bengaluru universities have once again implemented strict guidelines for the students and staff.

Dr Srinivasa Balli, Vice-Chancellor of Nrupathunga University, Bengaluru, said that while till a week ago, the situation was quite normal, now, the cases had started to go up.

"All the students are fully vaccinated and most of our staff have also taken the booster dose. We are making sure that everyone is wearing masks at all times also. In a few days, we will also start compulsory thermal testing and regular testing of the students and staff that we had stopped a while back," he said.

Dr Gomati Devi, Vice-Chancellor of Maharani Cluster University is also said that the university would be following all guidelines the State Government releases.

BBMP too are doing their bit to stay prepared. They made masks man-



**Not yet time to discard the face masks, says B'luru universities**

datory again in public spaces in the city on June 6.

Recently, after covid clusters were found in two schools in the Dasarahalli zone, fears of a fourth Covid-19 wave has once more emerged.

Dr Niranjana Vanalli, Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore North University, told Bangalore Mirror that the university has made sanitisation and masks mandatory in public places for staff and students. No special precautions are being taken apart from this.

However, this time, many univer-

sities are prepared for the fourth wave of Covid-19, with the majority of the staff and students being fully vaccinated.

Even Visvesvaraya Technological University is making sure that all the precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of their students.

"Most of our staff members have taken the booster dose and we are closely monitoring the ones who haven't yet taken it. Almost all the students are also vaccinated with both doses," said Prof Karisiddappa, Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University.

# Virus 'slightly weaker, in small clusters this time'

Get vaccinated, follow norms though infection is weaker this time round: Docs

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**A**mid growing concern about a fourth wave of covid, Bengaluru, on Wednesday, reported 791 fresh covid cases, the highest in over four months. Last time the city witnessed over 700 active cases in a day was on February 17, when it recorded 705 cases. This was the time the covid-19 third wave was waning.

The city also recorded one death on Tuesday (June 14) after a long time taking the total death count to 16,966. While the positivity rate on June 15 was 4.3%, it was 3.5% with 615 active cases a day before.

With an uptick in the number of cases in the city, wearing a mask in public places has been made mandatory.

Experts say while the rise in cases might point to the onset of the fourth wave, there is no need to panic. This is because the severity of the disease is considerably lower from the first two waves.

"We see that a majority of the patients show symptoms for four to five days and most of them are recovering at home without major complications. This shows that the virus has become slightly weaker as opposed to what it had been in the beginning of the pandemic predominantly due to vaccination and natural immunity which has led to herd immunity," said Dr Sandeepa HS, pulmonologist, BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital.

They also pointed out that the virus is limited to small, isolated clusters. However, they stress the importance of adherence to covid-appropriate behavior.

"While we are not expecting the fourth wave yet, however, the vulnerable section of the society, especially people with diabetes, multiple medical issues, and those who are not vaccinated must take precautionary meas-

**“**  
**The virus has become slightly weaker as opposed to what it was at the start of pandemic predominantly due to vaccination and natural immunity** —Dr Sandeepa HS  
BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital



Health workers wearing PPE collect swab samples at Majestic bus stand

ures. It is essential to follow the covid norms including using a face mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizers," said Dr. Satyanarayana Mysore, physician, Manipal Hospital.

They caution that the current positivity rate is based on the number of patients who are getting tested. However, there is a large section of individuals with symptoms of laryngitis, pharyngitis and of lower respiratory

tract infections who are not getting tested.

"Even if 1 to 2% of the affected population requires medical intervention due to complications, it will cause a burden to the health-care system. Therefore, take necessary precautions, wear masks, continue social distancing and get yourself vaccinated. There is no need to panic and with this, we will be able to safely manage this wave," said Dr Sandeepa.

# BBMP election delay impacts garbage collection

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

If you are still finding it tough to dispose of garbage via door-to-door collection, blame it on the confusion over the expansion of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The civic agency which has 198 wards is set to be expanded to 243 wards. However, delay in the reconstitution of wards has led to garbage collection not being timely.

The BBMP wanted to implement the Indore



Door-to-door garbage collection has been irregular in city



BM reported on Nov 1, 2021 that BBMP was planning to collect dry and wet waste together

model (previously reported by BM) in Bengaluru by changing its contract system for the door-to-door collection of dry, wet, and sanitary waste. Although the pre-tendering process is almost

complete, the officials are confused whether to call tenders for the existing 198 wards or for the future 243 wards. With the delimitation still moving at a slow pace, the tendering process is also being delayed.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Estates) Ram Prasath Manohar V

said, "We plan to go for a new contract system of collecting dry, wet and sanitary waste. Under the new tender process, one agency will be given in charge for the whole process. However, we are not sure whether we should call tenders for 198 or 243 wards. We are waiting for clarity."

The body has prepared a draft delimitation report in which the wards have been reconstituted as per the 2011 census. It has been a week since the draft has been submitted to the state government. There has been no further action. While the draft is to be put out in public for consultation, the state government is yet to do it. Many activists are questioning the delay, alleging that it could be a ploy to delay the BBMP elections. As per the delimitation process, the ward boundaries are being redrawn where each ward may have an average population of 35,000 residents (plus or minus 10 per cent).

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**Problems in your area?**

Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

**Dirty walls**

**Jayanagar**



Jayanagar 9th main road, 5th block was well maintained earlier. Film posters put up by cinema halls have made the walls dirty and dull. BBMP should ban this.

**Board blocks**

**RR Nagar**



Every post on Nehru Street of RR Nagar has got these flex boards blocking the footpath.

**Broken footpath**

**Dasarahalli**



The footpath outside Godrej Woodsman on the Dasarahalli Road needs attention.

# Rain or shine, this road is just filled with muck

## Soak pit dug by building owner overflows, throwing up sewage

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is not uncommon for the unpaved roads of outer Bengaluru to become slushy during the monsoon, but the main road of Meenakshi Layout, Hagadur Ward remains this way no matter the season.

For a whole year, harrowed residents have been in search of a permanent solution for this, but in vain. Navigating through potholes and craters on this road during the rains has become a part of life for them.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is yet to take measures to asphalt the road despite repeated requests from the residents who have been paying property tax to the civic body. If monsoon woes were not enough already, they are also compelled to face overflowing sewage from a soak pit dug up by a high-rise building owner.

Residents complain that the building was constructed by violating bye-laws. It was also reportedly rented out to a contractor for sheltering around 100 people engaged in Metro construction work.

"We are not able to walk on this road. Many tenants have already vacated from our apartment complex due to this menace. Senior citizens, who want to visit nearby shops, are finding it difficult to walk on this road due to the overflow of sewage onto the road. We have complained to the building owner but nothing has been done to end this problem,"



Sewage overflows to the main road from a soak pit dug by a high-rise building owner at Meenakshi Layout

“**There are around 100 people in the building. All of them have to attend to nature’s call and have a bath. One can imagine the quantity of water being let into the pit**

—JC Reddy, Meenakshi Layout resident

said Kishore Reddy, president, Oasis Breeze Residents Association.

Sreenivas Reddy, a resident of Meenakshi Layout, said, “We have to take our children either on a two-wheeler or four-wheeler to the main

road as most of the school buses do not come to this layout due to the slush on the road. I hope the BBMP authorities take action against the person for this nuisance.”

After getting tired of complaining to the BBMP authorities, the residents even approached the police seeking action against the building owner.

“We have complained to the authorities but nothing has been done to mitigate our problem. The building owner has rented the building to a contractor. There are around 100 people in the building. All of them have to attend to nature’s call and have a bath. One can imagine the quantity of water being let into the soak pit. The building owner

claims that he has assigned a contractor to drain sewage water from the soak pit on a daily basis but overflow of sewage onto the road continues to be cause of concern for us,” said JC Reddy, president, Meenakshi Layout Owners’ Association.

Sujatha B, a teacher who is a resident here, said, “Stagnated water has become a breeding place for mosquitoes.” Amana Church pastor Rajasekhar KP that around 600 devotees visit the church on Sundays and they are finding it tough to walk on the road. “It will be too tough for devotees in the monsoon to visit Amana Church because of the sewage problem. I have also advised the building owner not to let sewage onto the road, but in vain,” he said.

# PM visit: 'Festival clean-up' for city

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AHEAD of PM Narendra Modi's visit, BBMP workers are toiling day and night to fill up potholes, fix footpaths and re-lay roads. While Bengalureans are delighted that roads are being repaired, they also took to social media to point out that it took a visit by the PM to get city roads tarred.

Netizens also listed out roads which need to be repaired, and tagged the PM on Twitter, asking him to visit their areas, so BBMP would fix the roads too. Some even suggested the best eateries in town, and also open spaces he could visit.

BBMP has started relaying roads along Old Airport Road, in Yeshwanthpur, especially around the IISc campus, roads leading to Mysuru Road and Outer Ring Road. To ensure that traffic jams are limited, lanes leading to arterial roads are also being tarred.



Earth movers at work on vacant land at Visvesvaraya Layout near Kengeri to prepare a makeshift helipad for PM Narendra Modi, on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR

Thimmanna, a resident of Yeshwanthpur, said: "We have been struggling for many years for roads to be laid after the BWSSB completed laying pipes. Now, as the main road connecting to IISc has been relaid, roads in the locality have also been done. We are thankful to the PM for this."

Reacting to the issue, a senior BBMP officer, not wanting to be named, said: "Whenever there is a festival at

home, we clean the area and make it look good. It's the same ahead of the PM's visit. Improvement is being done so that Brand Bengaluru image is secure."

BBMP Engineer-in-chief Prahalad sought to play it down, saying road repairs are part of infrastructure improvement schemes, and are ongoing. Work has been prioritised and is being executed, he said.

# BBMP allocates ₹139cr for PMAY scheme

ENS @ Bengaluru

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FOUR days after CM Basavaraj Bommai said that emphasis will be given to building one lakh houses for the poor in Bengaluru as part of the PM Awas Yojana (Urban), the BBMP has allocated ₹139 crore in its 2022-23 budget.

Dr Ramprasad Manohar, special commissioner for BBMP (estates), said the BBMP has allocated ₹28 crore to construct individual houses for pourakarmikas in the current budget. Each beneficiary will get about Rs 5 lakh. He said ₹55 crore was allocated for single houses under SC/ST scheme while ₹25 crore was for the backward classes and minorities, and ₹10 crore for specially abled people, who reside in the BBMP limits. He also said the tender process of garbage collection is ready and it will be processed after the bifurcation of wards.



DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES
<b>2 YEARS, 100 DAYS</b>	833 ◀ 648	1   1	458   532
	<b>POSITIVITY RATE</b>	<b>MORTALITY RATE</b>	
	5.93%   5.93%	1.01%   1.01%	
	<b>TALLY</b>	<b>RECOVERY RATE</b>	
<b>TODAY</b> ◀ <b>YESTERDAY</b>	39,58,824 ◀ 39,57,991	4,371 ◀ 3,997	98.88% ◀ 98.88%

B'loru Urban: 791	Chamarajanagar: 0	Dharwad: 3	Kolara: 4	Shivamogga: 0
B'loru Rural: 4	Chikkaballapur: 0	Gadag: 0	Koppal: 0	Tumakuru: 0
Bagalkot: 0	Chikkamagaluru: 0	Hassan: 0	Mandya: 0	Udupi: 5
Ballari: 4	Chitradurga: 0	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 12	U Kannada: 1
Belagavi: 2	D Kannada: 6	Kalaburagi: 0	Raichur: 0	Vijayapura: 0
Bidar: 0	Davanagere: 0	Kodagu: 0	Ramanagara: 1	Yadgir: 0

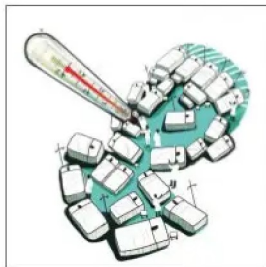
# Beware! Viral infections on the rise in B'loru

Doctors blame it on weather changing rapidly, living conditions; kids bearing brunt of cold-related infections

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WHILE Karnataka is yet to see monsoon in full vigour, viral infections are on the rise across the state. Doctors from both government and private hospitals in Bengaluru claim that there has been an increase in people approaching them with common flu, leptospirosis, water-borne diseases like cholera and diarrhoea and even severe dengue cases.

"We are seeing a spike in number of patients suffering from non-Covid respiratory infections, gastroenteritis and rashes. There are many patients suffering from dengue and den-



gue-like illness, having body ache, fever and low platelets," said Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya, Consultant, Internal Medicine,

Manipal Hospitals, Whitefield.

With schools resuming in full swing, children are also bearing the brunt of cold and related infections. "Children were not exposed to several of these common respiratory viruses in the last two years as they were confined to their homes. Now with exposure to these virus it is common for children to fall sick and also bring the viral infections home. But parents should not panic," said Dr Ravi Mehta, Pulmonologist, Apollo Hospitals.

Meanwhile, doctors insist that not all infections need antibiotics. "Most patients are treated symptomatically and monitored regu-

larly. The decision about starting relevant antibiotics is taken based on the symptom severity, clinical examination and lab investigations. Most of them are recovering uneventfully within 3-5 days," explained Dr Suchismitha.

BBMP's health department seems to have got a double whammy with Covid-19 and these viral infections to handle. However, Dr Thrilok Chandra, BBMP Commissioner (Health), said the Palike's health officials have been visiting slums and low-lying areas in the city and conducting tests to check for SARI/ILI patients. "If someone is negative and if they have viral symptoms, then medicines

are given," he explained.

Doctors say that most viral infections in Bengaluru are on the rise due to weather conditions changing rapidly and living conditions.

"Civil and metro work across the city has led to unhygienic surroundings which is one of the reasons. To prevent viral infections, children and adults, especially the elderly, need to improve their immunity by having fresh fruits and vegetables and keep themselves warm and avoid exposure to extreme weather conditions," Dr Priti Shankar, General Physician, Apollo Clinic, Indiranagar.

## POLITICAL THEATRE

## *AAP opens B'luru office with eye on BBMP polls*

Bengaluru: With an eye on the upcoming BBMP polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) kickstarted its campaign by opening its office in the city on Thursday. The new office is expected to serve the purpose of the party establishing its connect with the people, including ticket aspirants for the crucial BBMP polls which are expected to take place in September-October. "The AAP 'Vijaya Yatra' will begin from the BBMP polls and the party will come to power in Karnataka by winning the assembly polls, like in Delhi and Punjab," said AAP Karnataka in-charge and Delhi MLA Dileep Pandey. Prithvi Reddy, AAP Karnataka chief, hoped that people will join the party across the state and back alternative politics by keeping aside the "inactive and corrupt" political parties. Leaders Bhaskar Rao and Mukhyamantri Chandru among others were present. **ENS**

# Advisory group recommends reducing gap for Covid booster jab to six months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

A panel of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) on Thursday recommended reducing the gap between the second and the booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from the current nine months to six months for those above 18 years of age, official sources said.

The NTAGI's Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC) gave its recommendation to the Union Health Ministry, which will take the final call, official sources said.

The decision came amidst a spike in Covid-19 cases in some states in the past 15 days. India's Covid-19 vaccine coverage has exceeded 195.67 crores, till

Thursday morning, as per Union Health Ministry data.

At the moment, all those above 18 who have completed nine months after administering the second dose are eligible for the booster or precaution dose. The Union Health Ministry last month allowed those travelling abroad to get the jab before the stipulated nine-month waiting period as required by the guidelines of the destination country. The members also discussed and reviewed the findings of a study by the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore on the feasibility of allowing as a precaution dose a Covid vaccine different from the one used for primary vaccination.

Officials said the panel found a lack of uniformity in results upon mixing of jabs for booster shots and stated that no recommendation for it can be made as of now. The CMC study was on Covishield and Covaxin.

The panel, among other things, also discussed the threat of monkeypox, which has spread to 25 European countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for urgent action to control the fast-rising cases of monkeypox.

So far, no monkeypox case has been reported in India, with authorities issuing detailed guidelines for its prevention and control. Surveillance has been heightened at airports and ports.



# '144 m People had Long Covid Symptoms after 3 Months'

People suffered from 3 common symptoms – fatigue, cognitive and respiratory issues, finds a global study

Teena.Thacker@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Globally, 144.7 million people experienced one or more of three symptoms of long Covid — fatigue, cognitive problems and respiratory problems — three months after infection in 2020 and 2021, a new study has revealed.

The findings, published in medRxiv, a preprint server, are yet to be peer reviewed.

The persistence of symptoms has led experts to call for “rehabilitative care” and “support” to transition back into the workplace or education when symptoms start to wane.

“The study suggests that a high proportion of persons, including young adults (20-29 years), suffer from a cluster of symptoms for a longer duration. Specialist rehabilitative services are required to address mental as well as



disease-specific physical symptoms,” said Giridhara Babu, senior epidemiologist.

“Returning to work and resuming routine activities is extremely challenging, at least in the shorter term, for the affected persons and they need specialised services to cope and recover. The study also shows that women and children are more vulnerable and need support while suffering from a cluster of

symptoms.”

Experts said the study is based on detailed information of 1,906 community infections and 10,526 hospitalised patients from the 10 collaborating cohorts, three of which included children.

“We added published data on 37,262 community infections and 9,540 hospitalised patients, as well as ICD-coded medical record data concerning 1.3 million infections,” the study said.

Researchers have found that globally, in 2020 and 2021, 144.7 million people suffered from any of the three symptom clusters of long Covid. This corresponds to 3.69% of all infections. The fatigue, respiratory and cognitive clusters occurred in 51.0%, 60.4%, and 35.4% of long Covid cases, respectively.

They found that those with milder infection had a quicker estimated recovery (median

duration 3.99 months than those admitted for acute infection (median duration 8.84 months).

At 12 months, 15.1% continued to experience symptoms of long Covid.

“The occurrence of debilitating ongoing symptoms of Covid-19 is common. Knowing how many people are affected, and for how long, is important to plan for rehabilitative services and support to return to social activities, places of learning, and the workplace when symptoms start to wane,” the study said.

According to Babu, there is a need for more sensitivity towards people facing such problems. “The health systems will have to look out for these manifestations and address them appropriately. Also, the workplace settings need to be accommodative, including providing adequate coverage and benefits,” he said.

# Shanghai to Mass Test Whole City Weekly to Keep Covid at Bay

**Beijing:** Shanghai, which reported just 16 Covid-19 cases for Wednesday, will conduct mass testing drives every weekend until the end of July in the latest display of the lengths authorities are going to in order to maintain a zero-tolerance approach to the virus that's disrupting its economy and leaving it isolated.

A temporary lockdown will also be imposed on residential complexes where a Covid case is detected in the week leading up to the weekend testing, Zhao Dandan, an official with the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission, said at a briefing



## TEMPORARY LOCKDOWN



A temporary lockdown will be imposed on residential complexes where a Covid case is detected

Wednesday. The lockdown will be lifted once everyone in the compound has been tested, he said.

In an effort to detect cases early and break transmission chains, the city's residents will need to take nucleic acid tests at least once a week until the end of July, with workers at supermarkets, barbers, drugstores, shopping malls and restaurants required to undergo daily testing. Delivery workers need to take both a nucleic acid and rapid antigen tests every day. Staff at banks, gas companies and industrial entities should also do an antigen test every day. **Bloomberg**

# US Recommends Covid Vaccines for all Children Under Five Years

AFP

**Washington:** A panel of experts convened by the US Food and Drug Administration unanimously recommended Covid-19 vaccines on Wednesday for children under five, the final age group awaiting immunization in most countries.

Formal authorisations for Moderna and Pfizer should follow soon, with the first shots in arms expected early next week, just over a year-and-a-half after the first Covid vaccines were greenlighted for the elderly in December 2020.

“This recommendation does fill a significant unmet need for a really ignored younger population,” said Michael Nelson, a professor of medicine at the University of Virginia, one of the 21 experts asked to vote for the milestone meeting.

Unlike regulators in other countries, FDA offers livestreams of its internal deliberations and its stamp of approval is considered the global gold standard.

Opening the discussion, senior FDA scientist Peter Marks said that despite studies showing the majority of children have now been infected with the coronavirus, the high rate of hospitalisations among infants, toddlers and young children during last winter’s Omicron wave underscored an urgent need for vaccination.

“We are dealing with an issue where we have to be careful we don’t become numb to the pediatric deaths because of the overwhelming number of older deaths,” he said.



## CORONA METER

**CASES ON THURSDAY 6,029<sup>^</sup>**

**ACTIVE CASES 61,791 (+2,405)<sup>o</sup>**

**Recovered 42.68 m (+3,621)**

**Deaths 524,813 (+3)<sup>^^</sup>**

**TOTAL CASES 43,266,796**

Source: State bulletins, PTI; <sup>^</sup>12 states/UTs (excl. Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, UP, Rajasthan & Punjab) as of 8:19 PM; <sup>o</sup>net of recoveries/deaths (Change since 12am, 16 Jun)

4 Main Metros	CASES ON THU	ACTIVE CASES
Mumbai	2366	13005
Delhi*	1375	3643
B'luru Urban*	615	3843
Chennai	258	1139

Source: State bulletins; \*Wed

**VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN INDIA 1958.61 M (+1.44 m)**

**1<sup>st</sup> dose... 1014.33 m (93.56%)** | **2<sup>nd</sup> dose 903.74 m (83.36%)**

(% 12yr+ population)

**BOOSTER DOSES TOTAL 40.55 m**

Source: dashboard.cowin.gov.in, 08:19 PM

### GLOBAL COUNT

**Total Cases 542.63 M** | **Vaccine Doses Administered 11989.99 Million**  
**Deaths 6,337,020** | **(204 countries/areas)**  
**Recovered 517.95 M**

Source: worldometers.info, 08:19 PM

www.bloomberg.com

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

US	99100
Taiwan	68877
Brazil	68769
France	51954
Germany	37291

\*as of Wed