Vaccine- Health Ministry (The Asian Age: 20210312)

Covid cases; nation witnesses 23,285 new infections

Spike in daily Covid cases; nation witnesses 23,285 new infections (The Tribune: 20210312)


Spike in daily Covid cases; nation witnesses 23,285 new infections

Photo for representation only. Tribune file
India recorded 23,285 cases of coronavirus infection in a day, the highest in around 78 days, taking the total tally of Covid cases to 1,13,08,846, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll increased to 1,58,306 with 117 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The total active caseload increased to 1,97,237, which now comprises 1.74 per cent of the total infections, while the recovery rate has dropped to 96.86 per cent.

On December 24, 24,712 new infections were reported in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to1,09,53,303, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.4 per cent, the data stated.

According to the ICMR, 22,49,98,638 samples have been tested up to March 11 with 7,40,345 samples being tested on Thursday. PTI

Pandemic

One year of pandemic

Vaccine a bright spot, but no dearth of challenges (The Tribune: 20210312)


A year has passed since the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic after over a lakh cases of Covid-19 were confirmed across the world, transforming nearly every aspect of life and livelihood in critical ways. Effective tools have been developed to control the pandemic, but the repercussions of even momentary complacency have played out in recent weeks with a surge in coronavirus cases. Downplaying the risk factor, especially with the emergence of newer variants, is fraught with danger. Some sobering statistics need to be highlighted to mark 365 days: more than 11.74 crore confirmed cases and 26 lakh deaths in 221 countries and territories.

That eight vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, have been approved by at least one country indicates a miraculous collaborative effort. Yet, the rollout can only be seen as a starting point. The race to end the pandemic and reduce it to a sporadic or endemic disease will be a long-drawn one. Studies predict that most high-income countries will have vaccinated their populations by early next year, but bigger hurdles need to be overcome: over 80 poor countries will have to wait until 2023. Simply put, the world won’t be back to normal travel, trade and supply chains until maybe 2024 unless rich countries play a proactive role in
ensuring a level-playing field by waiving patents and supporting delivery. New Delhi’s outreach in this regard deserves global applause and recognition.

The post-vaccine patterns in Israel and the UK have shown promising results, as the rate of new infections seems to be declining. Extensive research is already underway the world over to determine, among other things, how long the protection lasts, whether booster doses are required and the vaccine’s impact on viral transmission. Until high levels of population immunity via inoculation are achieved, precautionary measures will have to be kept in place. Any letup in outbreak responses could mean inviting serious trouble. The year gone by has been witness to immeasurable pain. Ensuring there’s no repeat demands individual and collective responsibility.

**Covaxin**

* Covaxin shows potency (The Tribune: 20210312)  
  Lancet report, phase 3 trial results encouraging  

The peer-reviewed article based on the performance of India’s indigenous Covid vaccine, Covaxin, published by the Lancet Infectious Diseases Journal, comes as a shot in the arm for the country’s hobbled vaccination drive and puts it on the road to being a vaccine superpower. The endorsement of phase 2 trials of Covaxin as being safe and generating an immune response without any serious side effects should help gain the people’s trust in getting themselves jabbed. The common adverse events noted in this phase were pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue and fever. Riddled by scepticism and concerns of safety and efficacy among the scientific community following the clearance of Covaxin for emergency use by the drug regulator even as phase 3 human trials were still on, the inoculation campaign has been marked by hesitancy ever since its rollout in mid-January.

The crucial phase 3 data that emerged last week is also promising as it addresses another significant concern: that of the vaccine’s efficacy. Bharat Biotech, which has manufactured the vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology, Pune, announced that interim phase 3 trial data showed that the vaccine has shown 81 per cent effectiveness. If this claim is also corroborated by peer-reviewed analysis subsequently, then Covaxin should be on the roll as one of the most efficient doses globally and overcome the acceptance hurdles that it is currently facing — both in India and with prospective buyers abroad. The latest findings should alleviate some doubts of potency, such as those expressed in Brazil which had bought Covaxin doses.

Credibility is the key to the success of the vaccination programme, which, in turn, is vital for taming the coronavirus that has seen an alarmingly upward curve in the past couple of weeks
in Punjab and some other states. With just 2.3 crore doses of the two vaccines approved for use — the other being Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield — having been administered in the nearly two months of the immunisation drive, the target of vaccinating 30 crore people by August at this rate is a long shot.

**AstraZeneca vaccine**

**Coronavirus | Denmark, Norway, and Iceland suspend use of AstraZeneca vaccine (The Hindu: 20210312)**


Denmark was first to announce its suspension, "following reports of serious cases of blood clots" among people who had received the vaccine.

Denmark, Norway and Iceland on Thursday temporarily suspended the use of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine over concerns about patients developing post-jab blood clots, as the manufacturer and Europe's medicines watchdog insisted the vaccine was safe.

**Coronavirus**

**Coronavirus | 60% of new COVID-19 cases in Maharashtra (The Hindu: 20210312)**


126 deaths in the 24 hours ending 8 a.m. on March 11.

Maharashtra reported the highest daily new COVID cases at 13,659 (almost 60% of the daily new cases) with the country reporting 22,854 new cases in the last 24 hours, a release issued by the Health Ministry said on Thursday. Maharashtra is followed by Kerala with 2,475 cases while Punjab reported 1,393 new cases.

You have reached your limit for free articles this month.
Covid -19 (The Asian Age: 20210312)

409 Covid cases in Delhi in 24 hrs, highest in over 2 months

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

Delhi on Thursday recorded 409 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day rise in nearly two months, while the positivity rate rose to 0.59 per cent, according to health department data.

The death toll climbed to 10,934 with three more fatalities, the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi Health Department stated.

Delhi had recorded 370 new cases on Wednesday and 320 on Tuesday. The city reported three deaths due to the disease on Wednesday and four on Tuesday.

On Sunday and Monday, 286 and 239 cases, respectively, were recorded in the national capital. The city had registered 321 coronavirus cases and one death last Saturday, and 312 cases and a fatality on Friday.

A total of 385 cases were reported on January 1 and 384 on January 4. The daily count had dropped to 306 on January 11 and risen again to 386 on January 12, according to official figures.

The numbers had started to come down in February. On February 26, the month’s highest daily count of 256 cases was recorded.

On Thursday, 409 new coronavirus cases were recorded, taking the infection tally to 6,42,439, the bulletin said.

The number of active cases of the disease in the city rose to 2,020 from 1,900 on Wednesday, while the positivity rate rose to 0.59 from 0.52 per cent the previous day.

Health experts and doctors have attributed this “sudden rise” to people turning complacent, not following Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and “assuming all is well now”.

The total number of tests conducted on Wednesday stood at 69,810, including 42,187 RT-PCR tests and 25,623 rapid antigen tests, the bulletin said.

The number of people under home isolation on Thursday rose to 1,028 from 982 on Wednesday, it said, adding that over 6.29 lakh people have recovered from the infection till date.

Noida recorded four new cases of Covid-19 on Thursday that pushed the infection tally in Gautam Buddh Nagar district to 25,543, official data showed.

The active cases in the district came down to 82 from 85 the previous day, according to data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period.

Seven patients got discharged during the period with the overall recoveries reaching 25,470, the fifth highest in the state, the data showed.

Gautam Buddh Nagar has a death toll of 91 with a mortality rate of 0.35 per cent.

The recovery rate of patients reached 99.32 per cent, according to the statistics.

AAP’s Raghav Chadha tests +ve, goes for self-isolation

New Delhi, March 11:
Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi Jal Board vice chairman Raghav Chadha on Thursday said that he has tested positive for Covid-19. He said that no serious symptoms have surfaced yet but as a precautionary measure he is practicing self-isolation for the next few days.

“I would like to inform you all that I have tested positive for Covid-19,” Chadha, who is also an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson, tweeted.

“My humble appeal to all who have come in direct contact with me in the last few days – if you notice any symptoms, please get yourself tested and take all necessary precautions. It is our responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe, preventing further spread of the virus,” he said on Twitter. — PTI
Post-COVID world.

We’ve handled Covid well. But we must remain vigilant (Indian Express: 20210312)


Awareness, alertness and prompt action will help minimise the threat posed by the virus and save lives as we move forward into the challenges of a post-COVID world.

The pandemic wreaked havoc globally and crippled the economies of the richest nations in the world, sparing none.

India’s COVID-19 management abilities were put to a severe test by the raging pandemic around this time last year. Experts were apprehensive of the toll it would take on a densely-populated country like ours. However, India took confident, considered and well-calibrated steps. It formulated a well-coordinated strategy to meet this threat.

In a timely move to prevent the spread of the virus, about two weeks after WHO characterised the novel coronavirus as a pandemic on March 11, the government of India decided to impose a nationwide lockdown.

This early pre-emptive action helped cut the chain of transmission, saving thousands of lives across the country. Proving the predictions of scaremongers wrong, our frontline COVID warriors in all states, strove determinedly to ward off the challenge posed by the dangerous coronavirus. In this gigantic effort of waging a war against a deadly virus, our medical fraternity including doctors, para-medical staff, health and sanitation workers, as also our brave police personnel, ASHA workers in villages, our scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and vaccine manufacturers, worked tirelessly, racing against time to save precious lives. I salute all our frontline warriors for their indefatigable efforts in the fight against COVID. I would also like to place on record my highest appreciation and gratitude to our scientists and vaccine manufacturers for developing vaccines against this deadly virus.

Viruses travel across countries in a matter of hours in a globalised scenario, testing the preparedness of nations. The pandemic, which killed and caused sickness as it cut through large swathes of the human population across continents, humbled and brought some of the most powerful nations in the world to their knees. The virus, which infected millions of people and took the lives of thousands of others globally, hit India with all its severity around this time last year.
Adversity steeled the nation’s resolve, bringing Team India together as one to meet the threat. It is in this spirit that all states joined the fight against COVID-19, while leaders of political parties rose above all differences to serve the people in this unprecedented global health crisis.

Manufacturers worked at breakneck speed to meet the need for life-saving supplies — from sanitisers, facial masks, PPE kits and surgical gloves to ventilators and vaccines. This unprecedented national effort was in keeping with the spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat — a glowing example of a cohesive, self-reliant endeavour.

The media played a stellar role in educating, informing and enlightening all of us on the novel coronavirus and a vast array of related topics. To their credit, media persons, braving all odds, stood at the front lines when the pandemic was its peak, working on a 24×7 basis to keep the country updated on emerging developments with regard to COVID-19.

The pandemic wreaked havoc globally and crippled the economies of the richest nations in the world, sparing none. Inevitably, it cast its long shadow on the Indian economy as well. While every single sector was severely battered by the impact of the COVID-19-induced lockdowns, India’s farmers stood tall. The country’s agriculture sector proved its resilience in the face of adverse conditions. India’s agriculture and allied activities registered a growth of 3.4 per cent during 2020-21, hitting a record production of 296.65 million tonnes for 2019-20, which was 11.44 million tonnes higher than the production of foodgrains of 285.21 million tonnes achieved in the previous year. Currently, as experts and analysts have pointed out, the worst appears to be behind us, and the economy is back on an upward trajectory.

It is the spirit of collaboration with other countries that proved to be a valuable takeaway from this pandemic. Our shared effort was a true reflection of the ancient Indian world view that the people around the world are one family and they need to work together. This collective vision and effort, marked by resilience and transparency helped us to achieve among the lowest fatality rates in the world.

The way forward involves a multi-pronged, long-term strategy in developing pandemic responses on a global scale through shared resources.

The novel coronavirus continues to impart valuable lessons to us on pandemic management. Doctors have been advising that we must stay active physically and mentally. Those who are used to a sedentary lifestyle should find time for regular physical exercise. We should try yoga and meditation to reduce the high stress levels. Experts have also recommended that we should move towards a nutritious, balanced diet, which boosts our immunity and that we should ensure that our homes have natural lighting and ventilation.

Even as the biggest vaccination drive in the world is now underway, we must be mindful of the fact that, as a country, we are not yet out of the woods and the pandemic is still a reality that can take a more fierce shape if we do not adopt the right measures in time. As a society, we can ill-afford to lower our guard and be cavalier in our response to the virus. We must continue to adhere to the essential practices of washing hands frequently, maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks and avoiding crowds and gatherings. One should heed the advice of doctors
and get oneself vaccinated without any hesitation. Awareness, alertness and prompt action will help minimise the threat posed by the virus and save lives as we move forward into the challenges of a post-COVID world.

World Glaucoma Day 2021

World Glaucoma Day 2021: An ophthalmologist debunks some common myths (Indian Express: 20210312)

https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/world-glaucoma-day-2021-ophthalmologist-debunks-myths-eye-health-prevention-7223514/

On World Glaucoma Day 2021, let us demystify some of the common myths, courtesy Dr Smriti Jain, ophthalmologist, Practo.

World glaucoma day 2021, when is world glaucoma day, what is glaucoma, glaucoma symptoms, myths related to glaucoma, indianexpress.com, indianexpress, Surgical and laser treatments exist for treating glaucoma when the disease is not controlled by medication and should not be delayed. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Glaucoma, which affects the optic nerve of the eye, is a potentially blinding disease. But, there are many misconceptions surrounding it. On World Glaucoma Day, observed annually on March 12, let us demystify some of them, courtesy Dr Smriti Jain, ophthalmologist, Practo.

Myth #1: Glaucoma affects only elderly people

Fact: While the incidence of glaucoma is higher among the elderly, glaucoma can affect anybody at any age, even newborns. It is important to get regular eye examinations even when you are young and have no apparent eye problems to ensure glaucoma is detected early. Vision loss due to glaucoma cannot be reversed, so early detection is crucial.

Myth #2: If I have good vision, I do not have glaucoma

Fact: This is a huge misconception. Most types of glaucoma will not have any symptoms and the vision may also be 6/6 till late stages which is why glaucoma is called the “silent thief of sight”. Often people are surprised when the diagnosis of glaucoma is made. The later the disease is diagnosed and treated, the worse the long-term outcome.

Myth #3: No one in my family has glaucoma, so I won’t get the disease.

Fact: While a family history of glaucoma is a risk factor for developing this eye disease, there are many glaucoma patients who do not have anybody in their family who has glaucoma.
Sometimes family history may not be there because all family members were never properly examined for glaucoma which is why it is important that all patients who are diagnosed with glaucoma get their family members examined for it.

Myth #4: Glaucoma is there only if I have high IntraOcular Pressure (IOP).

Fact: While most people with glaucoma will have high IntraOcular Pressure (IOP) or fluid pressure in the eyes, and it is definitely a risk factor, many patients may never have an increased IOP and yet have a severe type of glaucoma called ‘Normal Tension Glaucoma’. On the other hand, some people with high IOP may not have Glaucoma – this is called Ocular Hypertension.

ALSO READ |Glaucoma: Know the types, symptoms, risk factors and how to manage the condition

Myth #5: There is no cure for glaucoma so no point in taking treatment

Fact: Vision already lost due to glaucoma cannot be recovered but treatment can stop glaucoma progression and prevent further loss of vision. Glaucoma is a progressive disease where constant monitoring and therapy is required otherwise it can lead to blindness. It is extremely important to get proper treatment from a glaucoma specialist and not just a general eye doctor.

Myth #6: If my glaucoma is not controlled by medicines and eye drops, I have no other options

Fact: Surgical and laser treatments exist for treating glaucoma when the disease is not controlled by medication and should not be delayed. In certain types of glaucoma e.g. ‘Angle Closure Glaucoma’ which is widely prevalent in India, laser treatment is highly recommended and if not done may lead to progress of the disease to a point of complete loss of vision. Patients with glaucoma must consult a qualified and experienced glaucoma surgeon and get a full understanding of all the options available to them including surgical and laser treatments which general eye doctors may not be aware of.

Mental stress

**Can sedentary lifestyle, mental stress lead to hormonal imbalance in middle-aged women? (Indian Express: 20210312)**


A complete blood count (CBC) test is recommended to identify general infection, iron studies to look for iron deficiency. Since the bone disease is common in women, calcium and vitamin D are recommended. Along with this cholesterol, glucose levels and liver check is also needed,” said Dr Prerna Agarwal, technical operations, Apollo Diagnostics
Many females experience hormonal fluctuation at some point in their lives. Hormonal imbalance strikes in when the endocrine gland fails to function appropriately. It occurs owing to diabetes, stress, a sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise, and improper eating habits. Hormonal imbalance causes PCOD, thyroid problems, and infertility. In order to keep the condition at bay, one must stick to a well-balanced diet, get some physical activity, and sleep well, say experts.

Dr Kaishreen Khan, obstetrician and gynaecologist, Apollo Clinic Pune says, “Females in the middle-aged group — 20-50 years — encounter hormonal imbalance due to a sedentary lifestyle, mental stress, a high percentage of body fat or an over or underactive thyroid. The symptoms of hormonal imbalance are mood swings, poor sleep, low libido, weight gain, anxiety, tiredness, heavy and painful periods, irregular periods, delayed menses or early menses, excessive facial hair, acne, fatigue, and anxiety. Hormonal imbalance can also cause PCOD and infertility.”

Hormones can be termed as messengers in one’s body. They tell you what to do and when. Hormones regulate one’s mood, body temperature, sleep, growth, appetite, stress, metabolism, and reproductive cycles. Hormonal imbalance in females can be seen during puberty, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and menopause. It indicates a fluctuation in one’s estrogen, progesterone, thyroxine, prolactin, and cortisol levels. Many factors give a tough time to the endocrine system causing fluctuation of the hormones.

Dr Khan added that the treatment of hormonal imbalance depends on the underlying cause and “may vary from person-to-person”. “Your doctor will be able to determine the right kind of treatment for you. Along with treatment, you will also have to follow some lifestyle modifications such as getting sound sleep at night, exercising daily for half-an-hour, eating a well-balanced diet, and maintaining an optimum weight. Minimise the intake of sugary and packaged foods and schedule regular health check-ups,” she explained.

“Opt for blood tests in order to check your overall all health — thyroid, estrogen, prolactin, testosterone, cortisol levels. A complete blood count (CBC) test is recommended to identify general infection, iron studies to look for iron deficiency or anaemia. Since the bone disease is
common in women, calcium and vitamin D are recommended. Along with this cholesterol, glucose levels and liver check is also needed,” said Dr Prerna Agarwal, technical operations, Apollo Diagnostics.

Coronavirus (Hindustan: 20210312)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_694493_84940360_4_1_12-03-2021_3_i_1_sf.html