Covid infections

By June-end, expect 93% dip in Covid infections (The Tribune: 20210527)


The Covid-19 SUTRA mathematical model predicts that the daily average of new cases would fall to 15,520 by June 30, just 7% of the 2,08,921 cases recorded today.

By June-end, expect 93% dip in Covid infections

The latest SUTRA model prediction by the top experts says daily new cases will fall rapidly starting May-end to 305 by August 31.

India’s top Covid-19 modelers have projected a fall of 93 per cent in average daily infections by June-end with the pandemic’s second wave expected to hit the rock bottom by August 31.

The Covid-19 SUTRA mathematical model, developed by leading experts — Prof M Vidyasagar of IIT, Hyderabad, Prof Manindra Agrawal of IIT, Kanpur, and Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar, part of the medical team under the Chief of Defence Staff, predicts that the daily average of new cases would fall to 15,520 by June 30, just 7% of the 2,08,921 cases recorded today.

Prof Vidyasagar, who heads the three-member National Covid-19 Super Model Committee, recently made accurate predictions about the peaking of the second wave post May 7 followed by a steady decline in new infections and active cases.

The latest SUTRA model prediction by the top experts says daily new cases will fall rapidly starting May-end to 305 by August 31.

The predictions are along similar lines as those made by the Singapore University, which recently studied 131 nations, projecting that India would be relatively free of the current Covid burden by the later part of June.
Vaccine

Vaccine mix-up: 20 UP villagers get wrong 2nd dose of vaccine (The Tribune: 20210527)


They're being closely monitored, say health officials

Vaccine mix-up: 20 UP villagers get wrong 2nd dose of vaccine

For representation only. PTI file photo

In a major goof-up, health workers in Uttar Pradesh’s Siddharthnagar district administered Covaxin to 20 villagers who had been given Covishield in the first dose.

The incident has been reported from the primary health centre in Barhni where people from Audahi Kala and another village received Covaxin shots on May 14.

Chief Medical Officer Sandip Chaudhary on Wednesday said he has ordered an inquiry into the matter and assured stern action against those found responsible for this negligence.

He said that no one has yet reported any health complaints and a health department team has already met them.

The incident came to light when one of the villagers, Ram Surat, brought to the notice of the health workers that he received different vaccines in the first and the second dose.

Accepting the shortcoming on the part of the health workers, the CMO said 20 people have been administered a mix-up of vaccines and the medical teams are keeping a close watch on them.

The people who got different vaccines are under stress but no problem has been reported with any one of them so far, health officials said. — PTI
Antibody protection

Mild Covid-19 induces lasting antibody protection, study finds (The Tribune: 20210527)


The researchers found antibody-producing cells in people 11 months after first symptoms.

Months after recovering from mild cases of Covid-19, people still have immune cells which produce antibodies against the novel coronavirus, according to a study.

The researchers from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, US, noted that such cells could persist for a lifetime, churning out antibodies all the while.

The study, published on Monday in the journal Nature, suggests that mild cases of Covid-19 leave those infected with lasting antibody protection and that repeated bouts of illness are likely to be uncommon.

"Last fall, there were reports that antibodies wane quickly after infection with the virus that causes Covid-19, and mainstream media interpreted that to mean that immunity was not long-lived," said senior author of the study Ali Ellebedy, an associate professor at Washington University School of Medicine.

"But that's a misinterpretation of the data. It's normal for antibody levels to go down after acute infection, but they don't go down to zero; they plateau," Ellebedy said.

The researchers found antibody-producing cells in people 11 months after first symptoms.

These cells will live and produce antibodies for the rest of people's lives, and that's strong evidence for long-lasting immunity, they said.
New Delhi, May 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described Covid-19 vaccines as "absolutely important to save lives and defeat the pandemic", noting that this "once-in-a-lifetime" crisis has brought tragedy and sufferings at doorsteps of many and caused huge economic impact.

Delivering the keynote address on the occasion of "Vasak Global Celebrations" on Buddha Purnima, he said the pandemic has impacted every nation, adding that the planet will not be the same after this and the events in future will be remembered as either pre or post-Covid.

He, however, added that there have been many noteworthy developments which strengthen our strategy to fight it.

"Most importantly, we have the vaccine which is absolutely important to save lives and defeat the pandemic," Mr Modi said, asserting that the emergence of jabs within a year of the Covid-19 outbreak shows the power of human determination and tenacity.

India is proud of its scientists for developing vaccine, he said, and also saluted healthcare and frontline workers for risking their lives to save others. Offering condolences to those who have suffered and lost near and dear ones in the pandemic, the Prime Minister said he grieved with them.

In Covid-19, the humanity has faced its worst cri...
Cases dip, but black fungus big worry

Continued from Page 1 in the last 24 hours, with nearly three lakh recoveries, India's recovery rate is now 89.66 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is 11.46 per cent. Officials said the daily positivity rate was 9.42 per cent and was less than 10 per cent for two consecutive days.

Several cities have started easing restrictions. In Punjab's Ludhiana, shops can now remain open till 3 pm and home delivery by restaurants is allowed till 8 pm, while night curfew timings have been changed in 36 Gujarat cities from 8 pm to 6 am instead of 8 pm to 6 am.

However, the bigger challenge for the government is to tackle the rising cases of black fungus. The Centre's records show 11,717 patients under treatment for black fungus, or mucormycosis. The highest number of such patients are in Gujarat (2,859), Maharashtra (2,770), Madhya Pradesh (732) and Telangana (744). In Delhi, though the Centre's list shows 119 patients are under treatment for black fungus, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said the number was actually 629. He said that a shortage of medicines was hampering its treatment.

"Delhi is getting about 400 vials of Amphotericin B needed to treat the fungal infection from the Central quota while 4,000 vials are required daily," said Mr Kejriwal. However, chemicals and fertilisers minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda said 23,600 vials of Amphotericin B were supplied across the country on May 21, and an additional 19,420 vials were allocated on May 24. On Wednesday, 29,250 more Amphotericin B vials were allocated to all states and Union territories.

The Centre said that India was the second country after the US to cross 200 cumulative Covid-19 vaccination coverage, adding that 42% of the population above 60 had got the 1st dose of the vaccine.

Covid-19 (The Age: 20210527)

Protest in time of Covid needs urgent resolution

Thousands of farmers protesting against the three laws that will govern Indian agriculture henceforth on Wednesday observed a “black day”, marking the completion of six months of their agitation at the gates of the national capital. “We are not going anywhere,” they said and insisted that they have no plans to go home unless the government listened to them, repealed the three laws and offered them legal guarantee for minimum support price for their produce. They also want protection from the impact of the proposed Electricity Bill. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and several other states also joined the protest, called by the umbrella organisation of farmers unions, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM).

The government has been playing hot and cold on the issue of the repeal of the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

It is curious that all the tall figures in the government, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to agriculture minister Narendra Tomar to defence minister Rajnath Singh who tried to mediate with the farmers, have all declared their intention to alleviate the fears of the farming community but they have remained on the streets for the last six months despite 11 rounds of talks!

The farmers have been apprehensive of the intentions of the government when it legally and effectively opens up the Indian farm sector and leaves it for the market forces to control. They cannot be faulted given that the government’s track record of planning and executing its ideas on the ground has been dismal. If its bungling on demonetisation and the introduction of Goods and Services Tax is not enough, then the government’s vanishing act while the nation fell prey to the second wave of the pandemic Covid-19 would add to the fear in the minds of the farming community.

The Opposition parties have also lent their support to the farmers’ demands. The government must stop being obdurate and immediately resume talks with the SKM, they have stated in a letter to the Prime Minister this week, reminding the government that it will help “protect lakhs of our annadatas becoming victims of the pandemic so that they can continue to produce food to feed the Indian people”.

While the government has been saying it had the welfare of the farming community at its heart, anti-social elements have been working overtime to malign the agitation. They almost succeeded in their mission with the drama played out on the Republic Day but for the dexterous move by the Bharat Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait. A similar attempt was made when a section of the media accused the protesters of stopping oxygen carriers to Delhi. That, too, was exposed in no time.

The government must realise that no agitation can be drawn this long unless there is a genuine cause. The government must resume talks at the earliest and convince the farmers about its earnestness or be convinced by their fears. Letting the annadatas go on an unending agitation does not behave a democratic government.
Vaccination

Naturally, selection: On vaccinating the vulnerable in 18+ group (The Hindu: 20210527)


Prioritising the vulnerable in COVID-19 vaccination for 18-plus group is essential

When supply is finite, it is a no-brainer that a burgeoning demand will not be met. Tailoring supply for optimal effect would then be the prudent way ahead, a strategy that the Centre would do well to employ in its COVID-19 vaccination programme. Though the ideal, distant at this stage, is to achieve vaccination of the entire population or enough to create herd immunity, supply considerations will necessarily mean prioritisation of groups for vaccination. While the vaccines have been shown to be effective in preventing death or severe disease by and large, the vaccine’s effect on interrupting or reducing transmission is also an important consideration in deployment. Studies have shown an inverse correlation between vaccinations and infections; a study in Tamil Nadu showed that the percentage of people over 60 years infected in the second wave had come down by 7%, even as the numbers in other age groups rose. This age segment was among the early priority groups for vaccination. With the government opening up vaccinations for all adults, it is imperative that some line list of priority be readied, on the basis of vulnerability and societal role.

Primary among them are people in the services sector — those whose jobs mandate interactions with multiple people. This would include those in banks, delivery agents, transportation staff, store workers, vendors, lawyers and journalists. As States begin free vaccinations for the 18-plus age group, it will be prudent to draw up a priority list even in the 18-44 age category, as Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have done, for instance. While Kerala seeks to prioritise those with co-morbidities, disabilities and 43 categories of field staff of various departments, Karnataka has included 18 categories of people in its priority list for the 18-plus age group — including bank workers, forest department staff and construction workers. Tamil Nadu has determined a broad list of categories including the disabled, vendors, e-commerce staff, pharmacy and grocery store staff, those in the transportation sector, and school and college teachers, besides mediapersons. The Centre, which has assumed a sutradhar’s role in this entire pandemic, must draw up a list of priority categories that each State can then adapt to its local requirements. While lockdowns, in force in most States, will slow down the pace of transmission and give health-care resources a much-needed break, the way ahead is certainly vaccination — and prioritised vaccination. Once vaccine supply picks up, a more expansive first-come, first-served basis, as in the private sector now, can be adopted. Until then, it is the
government’s bounden duty to ensure an equitable coverage among vulnerable groups of people who are most at risk, and carry a higher risk of transmission, because of the sheer number of people they interact with daily.

Coronavirus

Coronavirus | Rising cases are because of carelessness of people, says CCMB chief Mishra (The Hindu: 20210527)


We need to study how the virus behaves in people with different comorbidities, says CCMB Director Rakesh Mishra, ruling out the possibility of mutations causing the surge in cases.

Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Rakesh Mishra speaks exclusively to The Hindu about the concerns regarding the present surge of COVID cases in India and how the virus is manifesting differently in different people and the possible role of mutation in the current surge of cases. The CCMB has been doing analysis of coronavirus variants in India, studying the evolution of the virus, its mutations and strains ever since the pandemic hit the country. The CCMB is also part of the SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG), comprising 10 institutes, set-up by the Central Government for sequencing of coronavirus genomes.

What explains the constant rise in cases in States such as Kerala and Maharashtra?

Though we have not found a concrete reason for it, there could be a couple of possibilities. One, this surge is caused by a more transmissible variant from outside India but we don’t have any such indication. Around 300 cases of new variants in the country are insignificant.

Second possibility is of a new variant emerging within the country. To confirm this possibility, we need to analyse larger number of people for a longer period. But since we have not found any common mutation or common change in the cases that are occurring, it is less likely to be the cause. And third possibility is that the people are not taking adequate preventive measures. Well, we feel that there are high chances of this to be true. It can lead to a chain reaction, and a sudden surge of cases.

Kerala controlled the epidemic very fast in the beginning, which means not many people got infected or exposed to the virus in the State and so not many developed the protective antibodies. It means a lot of people are vulnerable to catching the infection in the State. Though people across country are becoming complacent, same degree of indiscipline on people’s part in State like Kerala may lead to much more cases of COVID.
It is the same time of the year last year when Covid cases began to rise. Now again the cases are rising. Can we see another wave? How important is vaccination?

Another wave is always possible. As summers are harsher in India, people tend to stay indoors, switch on their ACs and coolers and then come out in the evening in masses. This could lead to rise in infection. But the co-relation between the last year and this year’s rise could just be a coincidence.

Looking at the trend of rising cases, one thing is very clear that these are because of carelessness at people’s part and we can easily stop the spread by following COVID-appropriate behaviour which include wearing mask, washing hands, avoiding large gatherings, avoiding indoor crowding.

Vaccination is a powerful tool and I think so far the vaccination drive has gone well. But now we may think of opening it up to private sector so that we can reach a large number of people in less time. If we can double or triple the number of people getting vaccines, we can stop or curb COVID spread effectively.

Covid is also manifesting differently in different people. Why?

This is the least understood part of COVID. Most of our time so far has gone into fighting the disease and managing it. Now we need to conduct serious studies to understand the clinical features of the disease, how it effects organs, what all organs it affects, etc. We need to study how it behaves in different people with different co-morbidities. We will take a couple of years to explain every aspect of the disease.

This virus binds to the Ace2 receptor, protein sitting in the surface of the cell, to gain entry into the cell. Depending upon the health condition of the person, and expression level of the receptor on a given cell type, it may cause more damage to some organs than others.

Recently strains from South Africa, UK, Brazil have been reportedly found in India. Is this a cause of worry for us?

The source of infection in most of these cases is from outside India. We checked several other samples of those who have currently tested positive for Covid, we have not found any of these variants in them which means there is no spread of the variant in the country. So, as of now it is not a cause of worry.

It also means that the recent rise in cases is not because of these new variants; it is because people have lowered their guards, they have become complacent, and are not following Covid norms.

How do we keep a track of the virus?
There are many ways we track a virus. We have found an interesting and easy way to see its presence and prevalence in a locality. We can detect virus RNA in a sewage sample, and by studying the number of RNA molecules present, we can tell what percentage of people in a locality have infection. It is a much faster way to track a virus. Recently, we were able to validate this way of measuring level of infection in the population by sero-survey method. We might be able to use this method to track other pathogens as well.

Can mutations in the virus lead to reinfections?

501Y mutation in the U.K. has shown an increase in the number of infections but not reinfection. In Brazil too, there are not many cases of reinfection. In fact, all over the world, the reinfections are fewer. But this is the current situation, it does not mean that more rounds of mutations will not lead to re-infections. So, it is important that we keep a tight vigil and prevent spread of the disease as much as possible by social vaccine of mask, hand hygiene and social distancing, especially avoiding clustering of people in closed space.

Zinc (The New Kerala: 20210527)

Zinc use linked to black fungus but more research needed: Experts (The New Kerala: 20210527)

New Delhi, May 26: Amid the spread of 'black', 'white' and 'yellow' fungus in Covid-recovered patients, health experts on Wednesday said that multiple factors are playing a role and -> View it-->

Fungi Bacteria

Study shows how fungi, bacteria can activate genes associated with head, neck cancer Brasilia (The New Kerala: 20210527)

[Brazil], May 26: A research group at Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) has analyzed how Candida albicans fungi and Staphylococcus aureus bacteria influen-> View it-->
Vitamin-rich superfoods

Vitamin-rich superfoods to aid reduce anxiety, stress(The New Kerala: 20210527)

New Delhi, May 26: A healthy diet, exercise, yoga, meditation, listening to music, or engaging in a hobby are all known stress-reduction strategies. Vitamins are an essential component in your q-> View it-->

Infection (Hindustan: 20210527)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832852_108994734_4_1_27-05-2021_0_i_1_sf.html
राजधानी में संक्रमण दर दो फीसदी से नीचे उतरी

देश में सर्वाधिक रिकवरी दर

देश में दिल्ली 97% रिकवरी दर के साथ शीर्ष पर है। इसके बाद यूपी, बिहार, और हरियाणा हैं जहां 94% रिकवरी रेट है। महाराष्ट्र, तेलंगाना, झारखंड, छत्तीसगढ़ में रिकवरी रेट 93% के करीब है।

अनुसार, दिल्ली में कोरोना की जांच के लिए मंगलवार को 77103 टेस्ट हुए जिसमें 1.93% फीसदी मरीज संक्रमित मिले। दिल्ली में घटते मामलों के बीच हॉटस्पॉट की संख्या चटकर 36873 रह गई है।

संबंधित खबरें पेज 03

Antibody Cortile (Hindustan: 20210527)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832853_108258570_4_1_27-05-2021_2_i_1_sf.html
एंटीबॉडी कॉकटेल से होगा संक्रमितों का उपचार

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

राजधानी में संक्रमण के मरीजों को भी अब कोरोना की एंटीबॉडी कॉकटेल दवा दी जाएगी। इसकी शुरुआत ओखला के फॉर्टिस एस्कॉर्ट अस्पताल में होगी। देश में सबसे पहले गुरुग्राम के मेदाता अस्पताल में भरी मरीज को यह दवा दी गई थी।

फॉर्टिस एस्कॉर्ट अस्पताल के चेयरमैन डॉ. अशोक सेठ ने कहा कि अस्पताल में गुरुग्राम से कोरोना के इलाज में इस्तेमाल होने वाली दवा का कासिरिकमेब और इम्देवीमेब का कॉकटेल है, इसकी डोज कोरोना के रोगियों को दी जाएगी। यह दवा कोरोना रोगियों की स्थिति बिगड़ने से पहले मध्यम लक्षणों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करती है। मंगलबार को हरियाणा के 84 वर्षीय मरीज मोहब्बत सिंह को गुरुग्राम के मेदाता अस्पताल में इसकी डोज दी गई थी। दवा लेने वाले वह देश के पहले मरीज थे। जब पिछले साल अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप कोरोना पॉजिटिव हुए थे तब उनके इलाज में एंटीबॉडी कॉकटेल का इस्तेमाल किया गया था।

Coronavirus (Hindustan: 20210527)
[https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832853_80679592_4_1_27-05-2021_2_i_1_sf.html](https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832853_80679592_4_1_27-05-2021_2_i_1_sf.html)
दाय: कोरोना वायरस के नए स्तर पर भी टीका बेहतर असरदार

सरकारी अस्पताल में बेड, निजी में संकट

Health Care Services (Hindustan: 20210527)

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832854_108994658_4_1_27-05-2021_3_i_1_sf.html
Vaccination ((Hindustan: 20210527))

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_832854_108993704_4_1_27-05-2021_3_i_1_sf.html
राज्य-केन्द्र सरकार को मिलकर टीम इंडिया की तरह काम करना होगा

टीकाकरण में दुनिया से छह माह पिछड़े: सीएम

पाक से युद्ध होने पर राज्य क्या अथवा-अलग हिस्सेदार खरीदेंगे: मुख्यमंत्री

बायरस पर वार

वैक्सीन के मुद्दे पर बस राजनीति कर रहे हैं

आजने-साजने

मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीwalने कहा है कि अपनी गठबंधन में किसी भी भारत की वैक्सीनेशन के पूरे देश में वैक्सीन की डोजियां फैल रही है। अब राज्यों और केंद्र सरकार ने मिलकर टीम इंडिया की तरह काम करना होगा।

राज्य-केन्द्र सरकार को मिलकर टीम इंडिया की तरह काम करना होगा।

मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल ने अफ्गानिस्तान हवाई अड्डे के उड़ाने के लिए ब्रिटिश फिल्म कांस्टर्टन्स के केरल के विभिन्न गृहरो ने दुनिया से छह माह बढ़ाए जा रही है।

नई दिल्ली के केंद्र सरकार ने आज टीकाकरण में दुनिया से छह माह पिछड़े कहा जा रहा है। यह केंद्र सरकार ने आज टीकाकरण में दुनिया से छह माह पिछड़े कहा जा रहा है।

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प्रकोप से युद्ध होने पर राज्य क्या अथवा-अलग हिस्से खरीदेंगे: मुख्यमंत्री

केजरीवाल ने कहा कि इस वक्त हमारे देश के इलाके युद्ध कर रहे हैं। ऐसे युद्ध के समय हम इसके लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

वैक्सीन के मुद्दे पर बस राजनीति कर रहे हैं

केजरीवाल ने कहा कि इस वक्त हमारे देश के इलाके युद्ध कर रहे हैं। ऐसे युद्ध के समय हम इसके लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

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सभी केंद्रों के बाद एक भी राज्य वैक्सीन की खरीदने में सक्स्त मूल नहीं है।

वैक्सीन के मुद्दे पर बस राजनीति कर रहे हैं

केजरीवाल ने कहा कि इस वक्त हमारे देश के इलाके युद्ध कर रहे हैं। ऐसे युद्ध के समय हम इसके लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल ने आज टीकाकरण में दुनिया से छह माह पिछड़े कहा जा रहा है।

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