Omicron tally in India

Omicron tally in India rises to 1,892 as 37K new Covid cases reported (The Tribune: 20220104)

Maharashtra has recorded the maximum number of 568 cases, followed by Delhi (382), Kerala (185), Rajasthan (174), Gujarat (152), and Tamil Nadu (121).


Omicron tally in India rises to 1,892 as 37K new Covid cases reported

Photo for representation purposes. Tribune

A total of 1,892 cases of omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories so far, out of which 766 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union health ministry's data updated on Tuesday.

Maharashtra has recorded the maximum number of 568 cases, followed by Delhi (382), Kerala (185), Rajasthan (174), Gujarat (152), and Tamil Nadu (121).

India’s Covid tally rose to 3,49,60,261 with 37,379 new cases, while the active cases increased to 1,71,830, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The death toll climbed to 4,82,017 with 124 more fatalities, the data showed.

The active cases comprise 0.49 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded at 98.13 per cent, the health ministry said.

An increase of 26,248 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.
The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.24 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.05 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,43,06,414, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.38 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid vaccination drive has exceeded 146.7 crore.

The 124 new fatalities include 71 from Kerala and 13 from West Bengal.

A total of 4,82,017 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,41,553 from Maharashtra, 48,184 from Kerala, 38,351 from Karnataka, 36,796 from Tamil Nadu, 25,110 from Delhi, 22,916 from Uttar Pradesh and 19,794 from West Bengal. PTI

Covid surge

Covid surge: 50% Central staff can work from home (The Tribune: 20220104)


38 jawans of CRPF unit CoBRA test positive in Sukma

Covid surge: 50% Central staff can work from home

The Centre has allowed 50 per cent of its employees below the level of Under Secretary to work from home amid rising Covid cases, according to a Personnel Ministry order issued on Monday.

Persons with disabilities and pregnant women employees have been exempted from attending the offices, it said.

Central government officers/staff will have to follow staggered timing – 9 am to 5.30 pm and 10 am to 6.30 pm – to avoid overcrowding in the offices, the order said.

Fresh cases 33,750

Total deaths 4,81,893

Active cases 1,45,582

123 deaths in 24 hours
All officers/staff residing in Covid containment zones have also been exempted from coming to office till containment zones are de-notified, it said in the order issued to all central government departments.

“Physical attendance of government servants below the level of Under Secretary shall be restricted to 50 per cent of the actual strength and the remaining 50 per cent shall work from home. A roster may be prepared accordingly by all the departments concerned,” the order said.

All officers of the level of Under Secretary and above are to attend office on a regular basis, it said.

“Meeting, as far as possible, shall be conducted on video-conferencing and personal meetings with visitors, unless absolutely necessary in public interest, are to be avoided,” the order said.

All officers/staff have to ensure strict compliance with Covid-appropriate behaviour, it said. — PTI

Boosters raise vax effectiveness against Omicron to 88%: Studies

A girl receives a Covid vaccine in Karawang, West Java, Indonesia, on Monday. REUTERS

A third dose of Covid-19 vaccine can provide up to 88 per cent protection against hospitalisation from infection by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, according to early results from studies conducted in the UK.

The findings compiled in a report by the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) show significantly higher protection provided by third vaccine dose against the highly mutated variant first identified in Botswana and South Africa in November, compared to two doses.

Eric Topol, professor of molecular medicine and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in the US, noted that vaccine effectiveness dropped to 52 per cent against Omicron around six months after taking the second shot of a Covid-19 vaccine.

However, a booster dose substantially increased immunity and lowered the odds of being hospitalised with Covid-19 infection.
"That's a big boost of protection. Vaccine effectiveness increased from 52 per cent (due to two
dose waning after six months) to 88 per cent after the third dose," Topol tweeted on Sunday.

The UKHSA report cited two studies that examined the association between both variant and
vaccination status and risk of hospitalisation.

The first study is based on approximately half a million Omicron cases, and includes all age
groups while the second one uses a smaller dataset and is restricted to ages 18 and over.

The first study confirms the previous finding of reduced overall risk of hospitalisation for
Omicron compared to the Delta variant. —PTI

Israel to admit foreigners with presumed immunity

Jerusalem: Israel will admit foreigners with presumed Covid-19 immunity from medium-risk
countries as of January 9, the Health Ministry said on Monday, moving to reverse a ban on
entry by foreigners imposed in late November in response to Omicron surge. Reuters

Omicron milder, putting fewer people into ICU, says UK PM
Covid infections

State of economy amid a surge in Covid infections (Hindustan Times:20220104)

https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ArticleView

By Roshan Kishore India is clearly witnessing the beginning of a third wave of Covid-19 infections. The seven-day average of daily new cases was 6,780 on December 27 and 18,236 on January 2. This number has been increasing continuously for exactly seven days now. How are economic indicators reacting to this development? What is the state of the Indian economy at the cusp of yet another wave of the pandemic?
1. Stock markets seem unperturbed at the top

The BSE Sensex, India’s benchmark stock market index, gained 929 points on January 3 to close at 59,183. This is the highest close in 97 days, and the market has closed at the highest level since November 18. Among subindices, BSE Bankex that tracks banking stocks gained 2.55%. Bajaj Finance was the top gainer at 3.51% among the Sensex stocks.

![BSE SENSEX Graph](image)

2. NIBRI at an all-time high in the week ended

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) reached an all-time high of 120.3, gaining marginally over the reading of 120.2 in the previous week. To be sure, the rise in NIBRI seems mainly on account of an increase in the Apple driving index, which increased by 10.4 percentage points. Workplace mobility actually fell by six percentage points, and even labour participation rate fell marginally from 40.7% to 40.6%.

“States have announced more restrictions, but elevated mobility and a rising positivity rate suggest a further rise in new cases. While early signs point to a lower mortality rate, it bears close monitoring. The restrictions could derail the recovery in contact-intensive services in Q1, but global experience suggests a smaller impact than previous waves and a swift growth rebound once cases peak,” Nomura Global Markets Research said in a research note.

![NIBRI Graph](image)

3. Manufacturing PMI continued to be in expansion zone in December

The IHS-Markit Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for manufacturing was 55.5 in December 2021, the sixth consecutive month when it was above 50. However, the index fell from 57.6 in November.

![PMI MANUFACTURING Graph](image)
More than 4 million teens, or over 5,500 every minute, were given coronavirus vaccines in a mere 12 hours after they became eligible for shots on Monday, sending a perceptible sense of relief among parents and children who queued up at vaccine centres under the shadow of a budding third wave of cases.

Between 8am and 8pm, 4.12 million doses were delivered, data from the Union government’s Co-Win dashboard showed. This age-group accounted for 42% of all doses delivered till that time on Monday.

“Well done Young India! Over 40 lakh (four million) between 15-18 age group received their first dose of #COVID19 vaccine on the 1st day of vaccination drive for children, till 8 PM. This is another feather in the cap of India’s vaccination drive,” said Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a tweet.

The turnout was encouraging also because, just on the first day of the vaccine drive being expanded, it accounted for 5% of the estimated eligible population in this cohort, and 79% of the 5.1 million who signed up for shots under this age group.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India has taken an important step in protecting its youth against the disease. “Congrats to all my young friends between the age group of 15-18 who got
vaccinated. Congrats to their parents as well. I would urge more youngsters to get vaccinated in the coming days!” he said on Twitter.

If this rate is maintained – although the opening day of a new phase typically has the highest demand – all of the estimated 74 million children are likely to be covered with the first doses within this month.

The Day 1 excitement was palpable at the vaccination centres at schools, hospitals, and special vaccination sites.

“I was looking forward to the vaccinations being opened for my age group. We have been cooped up inside our houses for nearly two years now, with schools being opened only on-and-off. Offline classes have not been very helpful. I am hoping that with maximum children coming for vaccinations, physical classes will finally resume,” said Rishvi Rajvanshi (16), a resident of south Delhi’s Malviya Nagar.

Parents accompanying their children, too, said getting children at least the first dose was their priority.

“I cannot tell you how anxious we were to get our children vaccinated, especially after the havoc that the second Covid wave wrecked. We lost my father to the virus in May and we have seen what this virus can do. As soon as the vaccination for children was announced, we have been on the lookout for registrations. I am glad that my son and my niece got their first doses,” said Arunima Singh, who was accompanying 15-year-old Niha and 17-year-old Dhruv to the Kautilya Sarvodaya School in Greater Kailash.

Officials at the vaccination centres said the process went smoothly.

“Everything went very smoothly today. Children were excited and parents were also relieved to have their kids protected. Many children were also curious about how the vaccination will protect them,” said Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director, Lok Nayak Hospital.

At present, only Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin is approved to be administered to recipients under the age of 18.

The new phase of the vaccine drive comes at a time of a sharp acceleration in cases, driven largely by the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The variant is the most transmissible yet and is more resistant to immunity from past infection or vaccines than other configurations of the virus. But it is linked to significantly lower odds of hospitalisations, especially among those who have some immunity.

Several countries accelerated their vaccination and booster drives last month when the Omicron variant, designated a variant of concern, began spreading after being first detected by South Africa in mid-November.

“It is day one of children getting jabbed, and just into the new years which usually was going to add to vaccine hesitancy; however, given the circumstances, the response has been good. It could also do with the fact that the numbers have suddenly started to rise again and it has brought people out of their comfort zone that many were in. We should see further rise in vaccination numbers,” said Dr Anupam Sibal, senior paediatrician, and group medical director, Apollo Hospitals.

Overall, the 45-60 age group population has the biggest two-dose vaccine coverage at 73.2%, data from the Co-WIN dashboard analysed by HT showed, followed by people in the 60-plus age group at 68.5%.
Among states, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh administered the highest share of doses to children, while Punjab, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh recorded the least turnout in this age group.

On January 10, India’s coronavirus vaccination drive will further open up by allowing people above the age of 60 with certain illnesses and those in health care and front-line jobs to take their third doses, which the government has called “precaution doses”.

These doses can only be taken if the primary vaccination course was completed more than nine months prior.

According to estimates by HT based on 2021 Census projections, these newly eligible people – including the adolescent age group -- will add demand for another 104 million doses this month.

As on Monday, according to the Union government’s daily vaccine supply bulletin, states already have close to 200 million doses at hand, indicating that the number of doses will not be a problem.

Gagandeep Kang, vaccine expert, and senior faculty, Christian Medical College, Vellore, said, “Eventually, we will have to vaccinate everyone, but it makes sense to protect subsets as much as possible and as early as possible such as those who are immunocompromised, elderly, comorbidities.”

**Vaccination Drive (Hindustan Times:20220104)**

India Covid Cases Surge (The Asian Age:20220104)

40 lakh 15-18 kids get jab as India’s Covid cases surge: 33,750 in 24 hrs

Centre issues new rules for employees; Omicron tally up to 1,838

SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, JAN. 3

As India gears up to contain a new Covid-19 surge stoked by the highly infectious Omicron variant, over 40 lakh children in the 15-18 age group got their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine on Monday. The Centre will also decide within the next two to three days which vaccine should be administered as a “precaution” dose to healthcare/frontline workers and senior citizens above 60 with co-morbidities from January 10.

“Well done Young India! Over 40 lakhs between 15-18 age received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine on the first day of vaccination drive for children till 8 pm. This is another feather in the cap of India’s vaccination drive.” health minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted.

Amid the rising Covid-19 cases, the Centre has restricted the attendance of its employees below the level of undersecretary at government offices.

Persons with disabilities and pregnant employees have been exempted from attending office. An order by the department of personnel directed the officers and staff residing in Covid-19 containment zones not to come to office until their location is de-notified. Even the biometric attendance of employees has been suspended with immediate effect.

"AS MANY as 1,838 Omicron cases have been detected across 23 states and Union territories so far. Maharashtra has the maximum number of 578 cases, followed by Delhi at 351.

all its departments to 60 per cent, and they have been asked to work from home. It has also directed its officers and staff to follow staggered timings in order to avoid the overcrowding of Central government offices.

- PTI

Positivity Rate (The Asian Age:20220104)

4,099 Covid cases in Delhi, positivity 6.46%

**Omicron Challenges (The Asian Age:20220104)**

Global friction, Omicron: Challenges for govt rising

K.C. Singh

As the new year 2022 dawns, the far more transmissible COVID-19 strain christened Omicron is lurking in India and ravaging several nations in the West. Alongside this persisting challenge, with global economic concerns, a number of geopolitical friction points are also looming. What then does the new year really augur?

The geopolitical friction points are — the Russian threat to Ukraine, the Iranian nuclear program and Israeli "red lines" and Chinese jingoism over Taiwan and its territorial claims. But the immediate danger is from the new COVID variant Omicron. The medical consensus is building around a few points. Data from nations already hit by it constitutes the initial evidence. For one, it is highly transmissible. Also, so far it appears to be less lethal than the Delta variant. Further, according to several experts, being exposed to Omicron builds up antibodies that counter the Delta or other past strains. Finally, the storm of infection, as distinct from the waves in the past, comes quickly, runs through a community and drops off equally fast. In India, we are at the beginning of this possible steep up and down infection curve.

The effect of this new tsunami will vary from situation to situation. China presents an interesting example. In Xinjiang, 15 million people have been forced indoors and restricted to their homes. This kind of draconian methodology China has so far used to very effectively contain Covid outbreaks. But this time the foe is different. Many experts feel that Omicron will escape any quarantine.

If that happens, China will face a very serious problem as its vaccines are not very effective and the population has not been exposed to any wide surge. Thus, community-level immunity may not have developed. China faces two additional problems. At the beginning of February, its annual spring vacation begins, when normally there is a huge movement of people internally. Also, the 2022 Winter Olympics is due to kick off on February 4. Already the United States and a number of Western nations have announced boycotts due to the gross breach of human rights in Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Quarantining athletes for a fortnight on arrival would not work as it hampers their fitness. Other nations like Australia and New Zealand also face similar challenges as they used quarantine to stem the pandemic, and not vaccines and community exposure. India is better prepared this time and a combination of increased testing, home quarantine of asymptomatic or non-seriously symptomatic infected should help get over the surge. But the dislocation of normal life and the economy is inevitable.

The other major issue will be the fate of liberal democracies in 2022. The Summit for Democracy called by US President Joe Biden on December 9 last year received mixed reviews. First was the controversy over the list of invitees. With China and Hungary left out, the question asked was — how do you grade repressing democracies? Moreover, after the damage done to America's global image by former President Donald Trump and the ongoing tinkering with electoral rules attack on Islam and Christianity can alienate opinion in a wide swathe of nations, even if the governments largely ignore it for political and diplomatic reasons.

Republican-controlled states cast further aspersions on US democracy. This is why it was difficult for China and Russia to debunk the summit and even question the quality of US democracy. The ambassadors of both nations penned a joint op-ed in a major US publication to decry the "Cold War" thinking. The Chinese foreign ministry even alleged that the US was using democracy as a "weapon of mass destruction" to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. China convened a rival gathering of 120 nations, that it named the International Forum on Democracy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended Mr. Biden's virtual summit and described it as a "timely platform" for further cooperation among democracies. Despite protests, India, which was invited, but Sri Lanka was not, decided to skip it to make common cause with China.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman instantly described Pakistan as a "real iron brother," but the issue before India will be the growing gap between the activities of the BJP at home and the government's liberal posturing abroad. This may not continue to be ignored by the US as President Biden is planning an in-person summit to follow up on the cause of democracy later this year.

Even if one discounts the BJP's electoral need to polarise when facing extremely vital state elections in Uttar Pradesh and four other states, the attack on churches and the tumultuations by religious leaders to eliminate Islam at Haridwar, including the use of violence, are concerning. This bid by the BJP to systematically implement its Hindutva agenda will face resistance at home as the Opposition consolidates around issues of poor governance. Supplanting a constitutional model on which the nation has been governed for 75 years will not be easy. It is a reminder of Rome in AD 384 when supporters of a church survived from the pagan Altar of Victory from the Roman Senate, after four centuries of it being there. The New York Times, in a piece on Christianity's decline as an "organising principle for Western civilisation," notes the views of pagan Roman philosopher Symmachus. He rejected the dogmatic claims of the new religion to truth with the injunction that there "cannot be only one path toward such great mystery". This is the concern of governments of Hinduism as they try to constrict the Ganga-like openness and flexibility of traditional Hinduism.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, who provided the moral moorings for his nation during and after the apartheid era, has just passed away. He argued that anger at apartheid was natural, but it must not be allowed to turn into hatred. He correctly noted that "Whites, in being those who oppress others, dehumanised themselves." This is a lesson that Mahatma Gandhi also espoused. Can the BJP also abide by it and neutralise elements, all of which feed on real and imagined historical hurts and religious prejudices. Hopefully, the hope of the five states would vote sensibly and endorse the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and Archbishop Tutu.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He is the author of several books.
Medical Education (The Asian Age:20220104)

New Omicron symptoms

Ongoing study reports two new Omicron symptoms; all you need to know (The Indian Express:20220104)

As per Tim Spector, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at King's College London, who is leading the study, these symptoms are common in those who are double-jabbed or even boosted.

nausea

The Omicron variant — or B.1.1.529 — which has been designated as a variant of concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) has been spreading faster, even though the symptoms have been mild. Now, shedding more light on the same, a Covid-19 fitness tracking app in the United Kingdom, called ZOE Covid study app, has reported two new symptoms that have been seen in Omicron patients — nausea and loss of appetite.

Also Read | Covid-19: Your complete guide to caring for someone at home

As per Tim Spector, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at King’s College London, who is leading the study, these symptoms are common in those who are double-jabbed or even boosted.

“Quite a few of them had nausea (and therefore lack of appetite), slight temperature, sore throats and headaches,” he said in a YouTube video.

Using recent data from London, where Omicron prevalence is higher than other region of the UK, ZOE data scientists analysed symptom data from positive cases recorded in the study and compared with data from early October when Delta was dominant. They found that only 50 per cent of the patients have experienced the classic three symptoms of fever, cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste. They also found that there was no significant difference in the symptom profile of Delta and Omicron variants.

“These findings come from a very small batch of data who have reported their RT-PCR to be positive and includes but suspected and confirmed Omicron cases. We need to look into a larger data to confirm the same,” said Dr Chetan Rao Vaddepally, consultant pulmonologist, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad.

“Omicron-related infections are very mild, and include throat issues, loss of appetite, and generalised weakness. The conventional symptoms like cough, cold, breathlessness, loss of sense of smell and taste are not seen in majority of cases, as per national and international data,” Dr Gopi Krishna Yedlapati, consultant interventional pulmonologist, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad told indianexpress.com in an earlier interview.

Agreed Dr Sanket Jain, pulmonologist Consultant, Masina Hospital who also shared that “one of my patients, just five days back, got admitted with a complaint of loss of appetite, nausea, and vomiting. As per protocol, we conducted RT-PCR, and it came positive. Such symptoms are commonly being observed nowadays especially in infections of Omicron”. 
Should you get tested if you have nausea and loss of appetite?

As per the study, people infected are between 40 and 70 per cent less likely to be admitted to hospitals. “While Omicron and Delta may feel like a cold to many of us, it can kill and leave 1 in 50 with long-term symptoms that disrupt their day-to-day lives,” warns the study app.

What can you do to protect yourself and others from Omicron?

Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain noted that people with no travel history found infected with Omicron means “it’s gradually spreading in community”.

As per ZOE app, it is important to

* Recognise “all of the symptoms of Omicron, get tested and isolate when you experience them”
* If you live in an area experiencing high rates of infection, consider staying home and reducing social contact
* Get fully vaccinated
* Wear a mask in crowded places
* Improve your immune health with small changes to your diet

As per MoHFW, it is essential to mask yourself properly, take both doses of vaccines (if not yet vaccinated), maintain social distancing and maintain good ventilation.

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**Children’s vaccination begins**

**Children’s vaccination begins: 41 lakh get first shot on Day 1(The Indian Express:20220104)**

MP, Gujarat top list; Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu record just over 1 lakh each.

Beneficiaries aged 15 to 18 years await Covid vaccination at the BKC jumbo centre in Mumbai. (Express Photo by Amit Chakravarty)

OVER 41 lakh children received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccines on Monday, the first day of the vaccination drive for those in the age group of 15-18 years, according to provisional data.

While 41,27,468 doses of Covaxin were administered to the 15-18 years age group, the total vaccination figure touched 146.71 crore, according to provisional data. With 33,750 new cases
being reported in the last 24 hours, the active caseload has touched 1,45,582; the daily positivity rate is 3.84 per cent.

“Today we have taken an important step forward in protecting our youth against Covid-19. Congrats to all my young friends between the age group of 15-18 who got vaccinated. Congrats to their parents as well. I would urge more youngsters to get vaccinated in the coming days,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

According to official data, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat topped the list of vaccinations (15-18 years group) on Monday. Madhya Pradesh reported 7,71,615 doses and Gujarat 5,55,312 doses. Three states reported over 3 lakh doses in this age group: Andhra Pradesh (4,87,269), Karnataka (4,14,723), and Rajasthan (3,57,018).

The health ministry’s guidelines said children could be registered onsite by the verifier/vaccinator in facilitated registration mode; appointments can also be booked online or onsite (walk-in). (Express photo by Nirmal Harindran)

However, five big states administered just over 1 lakh doses in this age group: Uttar Pradesh (1,66,996); Maharashtra (1,81,561); West Bengal (1,03,564); Bihar (1,70,603); and Tamil Nadu (1,87,710). Five other states administered just over 50,000 doses: Odisha (82,756); Himachal Pradesh (72,808); Assam (77,124); Uttarakhand (72,075); and Haryana (66,217).

On December 25, less than a year after India rolled out one of the world’s largest adult Covid-19 vaccination drives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced vaccination for children in the age group of 15-18 years. The decision came in the backdrop of rising cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant across various pockets in the country, and schools and colleges re-opening in a phased manner.

A day before the rollout, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya held a meeting with the states on Sunday and asked them to ensure orientation of vaccination team members for the 15-18 years age group, and identification of dedicated session sites.

The states were asked to plan for distribution of Covaxin to the earmarked sites well in advance, as it is the only vaccine cleared for this age group. “To avoid the mixing-up of vaccines during administration, separate CVCs (Covid vaccination centres), session sites, queues (if at same session site where adult vaccination is ongoing) and separate vaccination team (if at same session site) are to be strived for,” Mandaviya told the states.

The covid-19 vaccination of children in the 15-18 age group began on Monday as centres across the country started administering the shots to the younger population. (Express photo by Nirmal Harindran)

On Monday, just hours after some media reports alleged that expired vaccines were being administered, the Union Health Ministry issued a clarification stating that the reports were “false and misleading and based on incomplete information.” The ministry underlined that the shelf life of vaccines “is extended by the national regulator based on comprehensive analysis and examination of stability study data furnished by the vaccine manufacturers”.
“The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on 25th October 2021, in response to M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited’s letter no: BBIL/RA/21/567 has approved the extension of shelf life of Covaxin (Whole Virion, Inactivated Coronavirus Vaccine) from 9 months to 12 months. Similarly, the shelf life of Covishield has been extended by the National Regulator from 6 months to 9 months on 22nd February 2021,” the ministry said.

**Omicron variant**

**How heavily mutated Omicron variant is spreading so fast, sparing lungs (New Kerala:20220104)**

New Delhi, Jan 3: As India braces for the peak of the third Covid wave with Omicron taking over all other existing variants, scientists are scrambling to find how this heavily-mutated variant is spreading so fast, sparing lungs.

[View it](https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/1351.htm)

**Alzheimer's disease**

**Study finds sildenafil as candidate drug for Alzheimer's disease (New Kerala:20220104)**

Washington, January 3: A new study by the Cleveland Clinic has found that sildenafil, an FDA-approved therapy for erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension, is a promising drug candidate for Alzheimer's disease.

[View it](https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/1186.htm)

**Top infectious disease**

**Long Covid still a risk with Omicron despite mild illness (New Kerala:20220104)**

Even after causing mild illness, people infected with Omicron are likely to suffer from long Covid, top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci has said.

[View it](https://www.newkerala.com/news/2022/995.htm)
MRI

Study finds MRIs may help in CTE diagnosis (New Kerala: 20220104)

A new study has found evidence to date that MRIs might help in the diagnosis of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).


Omiscure Kit

Omiscure Kit: ओमीक्रोन संक्रमण के RT-PCR टेस्ट किट ओमीस्योर को ICMR की मंजूरी, जानें क्या है यह (Navbharat Times: 20220104)


Omicron Test Kit: कोरोना से संमत मरीज वैक्सीन चेक करने के लिए देश में बने टेस्ट किट ओमीस्योर को आईसीएमआर की मंजूरी मिल गई है।

Omicron Variant India: वरदान बन सकता है ओमीक्रोन वेरिएंट! ये या नहीं, इसका पता लगाने के लिए दे शमस परिवर्तन का उपयोग होगा।

चिकित्सा क्षेत्र के अनुसंधानों की राज्यविभाग विशेषज्ञ संस्था भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) ने कोरोना वायरस के नए वेरिएंट ओमीक्रोन से लंबाई की जांच के लिए निर्मित स्वदेशी किट ओमीस्योर (Omiscure) को मंजूरी दी है। ओमीस्योर को देश की बहुजीतीय कंपनी टाटा ने नवी दिशा में तैयार किया है। इस टेस्ट किट का उपयोग हो रहा था।

कैसे करेगा जांच, कितनी दे में रिपोर्ट

ओमीस्योर टेस्ट किट अन्य आरटी-पीसीआर टेस्ट किट की तारीख तक काम करेगा। इस टेस्ट से जांच के लिए भी नक्सल मुंह से निराकरण होगा।
अब तक ओमीक्रो के टेस्ट किट से हो रहे वीज्जन के 99% मरीज फिर हो जा रहे हैं। इमैनी मरीज दो दिन में हो जाती है, इसलिए एसजीटीएफ के टेस्ट किट से नहीं मत गलत करें।

ICMR

पिछले माह में इमैनी ने आवेदन मंगाया था कि शिफ्टेंज भारतीय जनक टेस्ट के लिए टेक्नोलॉजी में विक्रेताओं से आवेदन मंगाना चाहती है। इमैनी ने अप्रैल 2021 के बाद यह आवेदन मंगाया था। हालांकि, बॉम्मे देश में ओमीक्रो के लिए इस टेस्ट किट का उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

प्रश्न- भारतीय व्यक्ति के लिए इस टेस्ट किट की शुरुआत कब होगी?

RT-PCR

ओमीक्रो के आरटी-पीसीआर टेस्ट के लिए ओमीक्रोहैमोस किट को मंजूरी (सांकेतिक) दी गई है।

Navbharat Times News App: देश-दुनिया की खबरें, अभी शहर का हाल, एजुकेशन और विज्ञान एप, फिल्म और खेल की रूपक बनायें, वायरल न्यूज़ और धम-कम... आपकी ताज़ा खबरें डाउनलोड करें NBT ऐप

लेटेस्ट न्यूज़ से अपडेट रहें के लिए NBT फेसबुक पेज लाइक करें।
बीमा नियमक IRDAI ने कहा है कि स्वास्थ्य बीमा पॉलिसियां जो COVID उपचार की लागत को कवर करती हैं, वह ओमिक्रॉन के कारण होने वाले संक्रमण के इलाज के खर्च को भी कवर करेगी। इसके साथ ही IRDAI ने बीमा कंपनियों को निर्देश भी दिया है।

नई दिल्ली, पीटीआई। देश में तेजी से कोरोना वायरस संक्रमण के नए बेरिएंट ओमिक्रॉन के केस मिल रहे हैं, ऐसे परेशानों के लिए, जिन्हें एक दिन में कोरोना वायरस के लागत का शिकार होता है, उनको भी बीमा कंपनियों के नियम के अनुसार ओमिक्रॉन के कारण होने वाले संक्रमण के इलाज के खर्च को भी कवर करेगी।

भारतीय बीमा नियमक और विकास प्राधिकरण ने (IRDAI) ने एक विवाद में कहा, "सभी सामान्य और स्वास्थ्य बीमा कंपनियों द्वारा जारी सभी स्वास्थ्य बीमा पॉलिसियां, जो COVID-19 के उपचार की लागत को कवर करती हैं, पॉलिसियों के अनुसार ओमिक्रॉन के बेरिएंट इलाज की लागत को भी कवर करेगी है।" नियमक ने ओमिक्रॉन बेरिएंट के मामलों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए सामान्य और स्वास्थ्य बीमा कंपनियों को निर्देश जारी किया है।

Health Insurance

Health Insurance: आपके स्वास्थ्य बीमा से Omicron का इलाज होगा या नहीं? IRDAI ने दी जानकारी (Dainik Gagaran:20220104)