



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY
Tuesday 20210824

Poliovirus: WHO

Afghan military conflict risk for global spread of poliovirus: WHO (The Tribune; 20210824)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/afghan-military-conflict-risk-for-global-spread-of-poliovirus-who-301135>

Afghan military conflict risk for global spread of poliovirus: WHO

People stranded in Afghanistan arrive by a special repatriation flight of IAF at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad. PTI

With the civil war in Afghanistan escalating and people moving across borders, the World Health Organisation's expert committee on polio has warned member nations of the risk of international spread of polio virus and called for coordinated global response.

Panel calls for int'l response

The Emergency Committee under International Health Regulations, 2005, calls for coordinated international response to meet the challenge on poliovirus

Says over 3 million Afghan children were missed in national immunisation day rounds since October last

Wild poliovirus 1 is currently endemic only to Afghanistan and Pakistan. India stopped it in January 2011

The Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations, 2005, after its 29th meeting on the international spread of poliovirus, commended the progress made, but said there was no room for complacency.

“The ongoing inaccessibility in many provinces of Afghanistan coupled with increasing military conflict remains a major risk. Around three million children were persistently missed

in 2020 and 2021 so far, with around one million children in southern Afghanistan missing out on vaccination for almost three years. The cohort of missed children continues to grow,” the committee said.

It unanimously agreed that risks of international spread of poliovirus remained a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and extended its recommendations to member nations for three more months.

Globally, wild poliovirus types 1 and 2 were certified as eradicated after 2012. As of 2020, wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV 1) affects only Pakistan and Afghanistan. India stopped wild polio transmission in January 2011.

Erratic supply hits vax drive in Amritsar district

Erratic supply hits vax drive in Amritsar district (The Tribune; 20210824)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/erratic-supply-hits-vax-drive-in-amritsar-district-301351>

Around 4,800 jabbed in last two days | Beneficiaries sent back(The Tribune; 20210824)

Erratic supply of vaccine during the ongoing Covid-19 inoculation drive has become a cause for concern for the administration and beneficiaries ahead of the anticipated third wave.

The Health Department on Monday was able to vaccinate only 3,208 beneficiaries due to extreme shortage of jabs.

On August 22, the authorities were able to inoculate 1,624 persons. Whereas on August 21, a total of 15,019 residents were jabbed in the district.

Those who reached at the Civil Hospital on Monday had to return without getting vaccinated. Residents said the government should arrange sufficient stock.

Satish, who visited the Civil Hospital, said, “I visited the hospital today to get jabbed, but staff informed me about non-availability of vaccine. They have asked me to come again.” A health official said, “Gradually, people have started showing interest in getting jabbed. Earlier, health workers had to motivate resident. Now, they are coming forward on their own.”

Health officials said they would soon get the stock. They said the state government allocates vaccine to districts as per the usage.

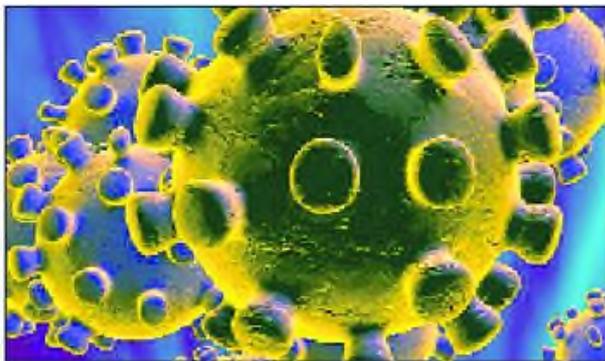
Amritsar district reports two positive cases

Amritsar: With two positive cases reported on Monday, the total count of cases in the district has increased to 47,199. The new cases are influenza-like illness cases. The Health Department

has also reported recovery of 19 cases with which the total recovery count has increased to 45,572. The district at present has a total of 38 active cases. TNS

Tarn Taran sees no fresh case, casualty

The district reported one positive case and no causality on Monday. The toll stands at 376 while active cases have reduced to 10. DC Kulwant Singh said the teams of the Health Department had collected 1,174 samples from various places and the report of 977 was yet to be received. OC



HELPLINE NUMBERS FOR COVID PATIENTS

■ Control Room: **0183-2500398, 0183-2500498, 0183-2500598, 0183-2500698, 0183-2500798** (Open 24*7)

■ Health Dept helpline: **0183-2535322, 0183-2535323**

■ Medical helpline: **104**

■ Contact a doctor: **1800 180 4104**

■ Bed availability and status: Punjab Covid App (updated daily at 5 pm)



COVID UPDATE

NEW CASES	2
TOTAL CASES	47,119
NEW DEATHS	0
TOTAL DEATHS	1,589
NEW RECOVERY	19
TOTAL RECOVERY	45,572
ACTIVE	38

New Cases

India sees single-day rise of 25,072 new Covid cases, lowest in 160 days(The Tribune; 20210824)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/india-sees-single-day-rise-of-25-072-new-covid-cases-lowest-in-160-days-300978>

The tally of Covid cases has increased to 3,24,49,306 while the death toll has climbed to 4,34,756 with 389 daily fatalities

India sees single-day rise of 25,072 new Covid cases, lowest in 160 days

Photo for representation only. Tribune file

India saw a single-day rise of 25,072 new Covid cases, the lowest in 160 days, while active cases declined to 3,33,924, comprising 1.03 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Monday.

The tally of Covid cases has increased to 3,24,49,306 while the death toll has climbed to 4,34,756 with 389 daily fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The active cases have declined to 3,33,924, the lowest in 155 days, while the national Covid recovery rate has increased to 97.63 per cent, the highest since March 2020, the health ministry said.

A reduction of 19,474 cases has been recorded in the total number of active Covid cases in a span of 24 hours.

Also, 12,95,160 tests were conducted on Sunday, taking the cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid in the country to 50,75,51,399.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.94 per cent. It has been less than 3 per cent for the last 28 days.

Weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.91 per cent. It has been below 3 per cent for the last 59 days, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,16,80,626, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulatively, 58.25 crore Covid vaccine doses have been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive till Monday morning.

The 389 new fatalities include 145 from Maharashtra, 69 from Odisha and 66 from Kerala.

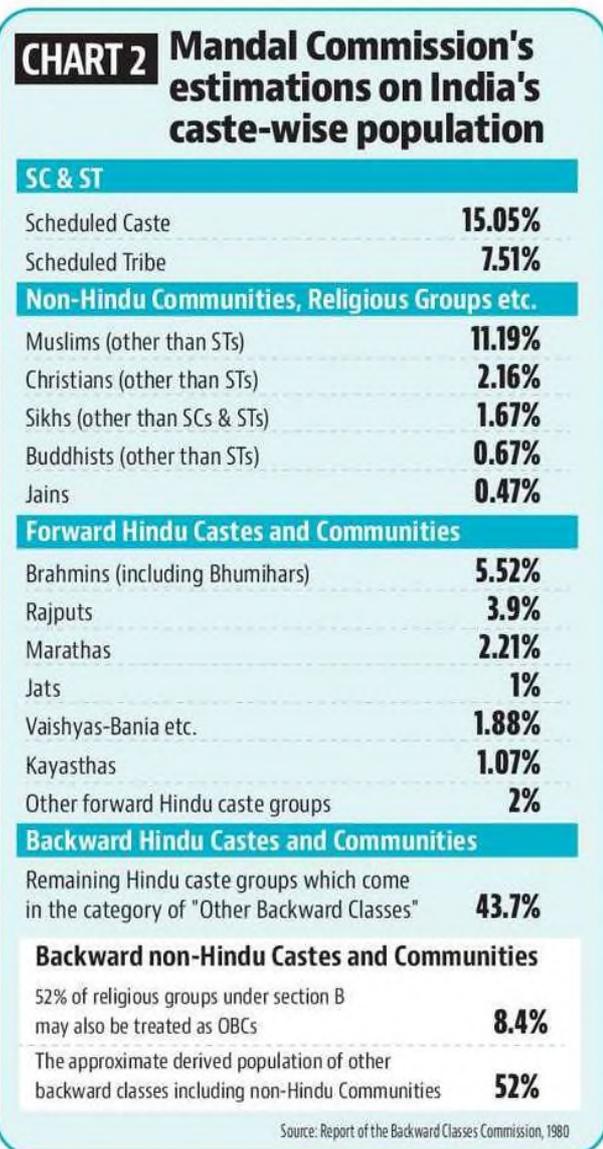
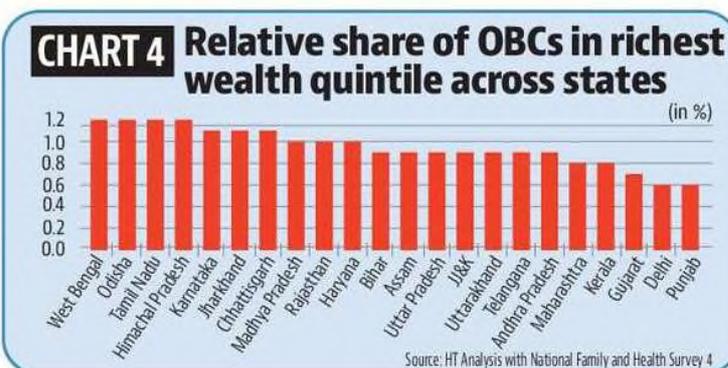
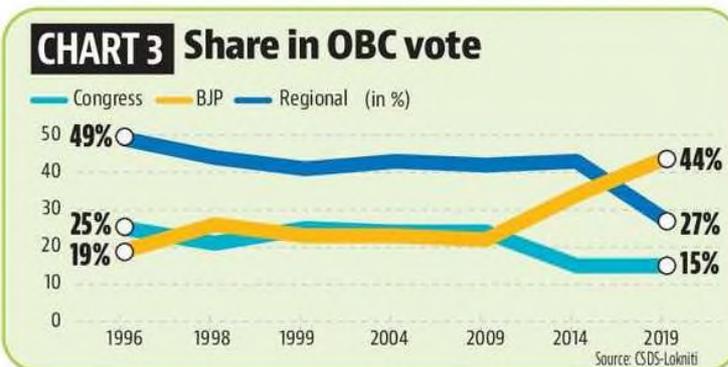
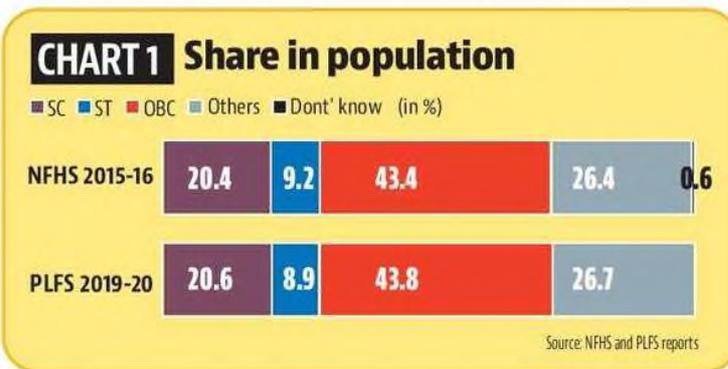
A total of 4,34,756 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,35,962 from Maharashtra, 37,145 from Karnataka, 34,709 from Tamil Nadu, 25,079 from Delhi, 22,792 from Uttar Pradesh, 19,494 from Kerala and 18,364 from West Bengal. PTI

Caste census

Decoding the purpose and politics of caste census (Hindustan Times: 20210824)

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

Statistics on caste in India



New Delhi : An all-party delegation from Bihar led by chief minister Nitish Kumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday to demand a caste census in the country. While speaking to the press after the meeting, the Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav, leader of opposition in the Bihar assembly, suggested that the caste census could be a part of the normal decadal census, which anyway counts religious groups and Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) separately.

Such suggestions, while they appear logical, may not help achieve the objective of a caste census: Enhance our understanding of India's socio-economic inequalities. Here are four charts which explain why.

India has not conducted a caste census after 1931, but there are reasonable estimates available

The British used to enumerate caste in their decadal censuses between 1881 and 1931. This practice was discontinued thereafter and independent India did not restore it as part of the regular census. What the census does count, however, is the number of people belonging to SC-ST groups. This share was 21.54% in the 1971 census and gradually increased to 25.26% in the 2011 census. The trend is not surprising, as the SC-ST population continues to be the most economically backward in the country, and fertility rates are higher when income levels are lower.

The fact that the census does not count social groups other than SC-ST does not mean that there are no reasonable estimates of the broad social break-up of India's population. Various government surveys such as the ones conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) collect data on broad share of SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the population. The summary findings from the latest NFHS and NSSO rounds are given below. (Chart 1)

Of course, shares by caste such as those collected by NFHS and NSSO are survey based estimates unlike the census. The latter is actually an enumeration of every person in the country. It is this fact which allows the former to be questioned politically.

What is often forgotten in this debate is the fact that today's NFHS-NSSO estimates of caste shares are not very different from what the Mandal Commission Report assumed them to be, based on an extrapolation from 1931 census numbers. (Chart 2)

Reconciling the caste-census demand with reservations

Demands for a caste census are deeply linked with the policy of reservations in government jobs and educational institutions. This is not a benign statistical enumeration

There are two factors which matter: a continuing quest for including more social groups into the list of those eligible for reservations and demands for relaxing the Supreme Court mandated 50% quota on reservations in India.

The former is bound to generate more traction for the latter, as inclusion of more communities into the reserved category will shrink the probability of the groups which were there earlier gaining from reservations. The Mandal Commission's recommendation of providing 27% reservations for OBCs was a direct result of the 50% cap on reservations.

The report says this unequivocally. "The population of OBCs, both Hindu and non-Hindu, is around 52% of the total population of India. Accordingly 52% of all posts under the Central government should be reserved for them. But this provision may go against the law laid down in a number of Supreme Court judgments wherein it has been held that the total quantum of

reservation under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution should be below 50%. In view of this, the proposed reservation for OBCs would have to be pegged at a figure which when added to 22.5% for SCs and STs, remains below 50%. In view of this legal constraint, the Commission is obliged to recommend a reservation of 27% only, even though their (OBC) population is almost twice this figure.”

It is in this context that recent demand for doing away with the 50% cap on reservations — the groups demanding this are the most consistent in demanding a caste census too — needs to be seen. But reservations are for Other Backward Classes not Other Backward Castes

OBCs, especially in the realm of politics, are always seen as a social group. This does not hold when it comes to provisions for reservations.

Constitutionally speaking, OBC reservations are not at par with reservations for SC-ST groups. The biggest proof of this is the fact that unlike in the case of SC-ST population, OBCs belonging to creamy layer – a threshold which looks at various things, but primarily income limits – cannot avail of reservations.

This underlines the importance of class rather than a caste aspect when it comes to OBC reservations.

Reservations and politics

The biggest information black hole around implementation of OBC reservations is not the overall benefits to OBCs as a result of reservations. Reservations have clearly helped.

“Representation of SCs and STs is more than the prescribed percentage of reservation, (15% and 7.5%, respectively). The representation of OBCs in the Central Government services is 21.57%, which is less, as compared to the prescribed percentage of reservation for them. However, reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) has shown an increasing trend since it started in September, 1993. As per available information, representation of OBCs, as on 1.1.2012, was 16.55%, which has increased to 21.57%, as on 01.01.2016”, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on July 17, 2019.

The gap in knowledge is the extent to which these benefits have helped sub-castes within the larger group currently classified as OBCs. It is this fact which led to the Narendra Modi government setting-up the Justice Rohini Commission on sub-categorization of OBCs in 2017.

There are 2,633 Other Backward Castes in the Central List and earlier this year the commission proposed to divide them into four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and split the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10%, respectively. If accepted, the recommendations are likely to have a major impact on politics, especially in north India where the rise of powerful OBC groups such as Yadavs defined the 1990s.

The Commission’s term was extended by another six months on July 14. As is obvious, the recommendations of the Justice Rohini Commission will unleash a major political churn, as dominant OBCs, who the commission believes have benefitted disproportionately from the current policy, might end up losing their advantage within the broad OBC group. Data from CSDS-Lokniti suggest that the BJP stands to gain by tilting the OBC reservation gains away from dominant OBC groups such as the Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The BJP’s support among lower and upper OBCs was 22% in 2009. By 2019, the party enjoyed support of 47% lower OBCs. This number had increased to 41% for upper OBCs. Among Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the BJP actually lost support between 2014 and 2019: from 14% to 9% in Bihar and 26% to 24% in Uttar Pradesh. (Chart 3)

Clubbing caste census with normal census can't do justice to the cause of equity within OBCs

The fact that OBC reservations must also take into account class and not just caste, and the current government has already set the ball rolling for restructuring the existing 27% OBC reservations, means that a simple enumeration of OBCs along with SC-ST groups in the census will not help the cause of equality among OBCs.

Any such exercise must also collect detailed information on economic status of various sub-castes, which is not possible in the census. This is something the Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 promised to do. But its findings were never released. However, we have more than enough evidence to question claims that the communities which are classified as OBCs have the same economic status.

For example, a 2018 World Bank paper by Shareen Joshi and others found that intra-caste divisions can play a bigger role in creation of inequality than inter-caste factors. “While average figures for the broad caste groups confirm to the received wisdom, with upper castes being most well off and STs being the worst off, intra-caste or *jati* based trends do not always conform to this broad hierarchy”, a HT story on August 6, 2018 noted based on the paper’s findings.

To be sure, the World Bank paper’s findings might have been affected by its mandate to provide baseline estimates of poverty in Bihar, which might have led to a disproportionate focus on poorer households.

However, evidence from larger surveys such as NFHS also underlines the prevalence of differentiation in economic status of OBCs across India’s states. For example, an HT story dated April 4, 2019 calculated relative share of OBCs in top 20% households by wealth and found significant divergences across states, suggesting that economic status of OBCs is not uniform across the country. (Chart 5)

These numbers clearly show that the politically convenient demand for clubbing a caste census with the normal census, and using it to justify either a reorganization or expansion of OBC reservations, might help political ends, but will not take India towards a more egalitarian and well-informed affirmative action policy framework.

And if at all a comprehensive caste census with economic attributes is conducted, and the findings seek to disenfranchise or reduce the existing benefits available to certain groups, the country could have a huge social-political disruption to deal with.

Holistic wellness

Can holistic wellness help treat diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses? (The Indian Express: 20210824)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/can-yoga-meditation-help-treat-diabetes-hypertension-and-other-chronic-illnesses-7456537/>

Physical and mental health are linked and that is where yoga and meditation "play a huge part", says an expert

meditation Yoga and meditation can lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and resting heart rates. (Source: pixabay)

In trying to protect ourselves from Covid, one of the most important lessons that we have learnt is to not take our health for granted. Focusing on our physical and mental well-being is no longer optional, it is what we need to work on constantly. Since the first wave, as we tried various hacks and tips to boost immunity, many realised how health and fitness are based on much more than undergoing treatment for short-term results. Think of all those government advisories or numerous social media posts by nutritionists and wellness experts who emphasised on holistic and sustainable way of living — from immunity-boosting foods to exercise — to keep illnesses at bay.

There is growing consensus among experts about how holistic wellness can help manage or cure even chronic illnesses, more so amid the pandemic. This involves making tweaks in your diet, working out, sleeping well, taking care of your mental health and so on — all directed towards a balanced and, therefore, healthy lifestyle.

“Rather than focusing on illness or specific parts of the body, this approach considers the whole body and how we interact with our environment. It takes everything into account — from how much sleep you get to how stressed you are, how varied your diet is and whether you are happy. Any imbalance in one aspect affects you in others and causes illness. This is more important in the current health scenario where an increasing number of health problems are considered psychosomatic in nature or diet and lifestyle-related,” Dr Pratap Chauhan, director, Jiva Ayurveda, tells indianexpress.com.

diabetes Stress can be one of the major causes for negatively impacting glucose levels. (Source: getty images)

Treating chronic illnesses from their roots

Chronic illnesses have been on the rise in recent years. A 2019 study published in the journal Preventive Medicine found that globally, one in three adolescents are at the risk of diseases like diabetes and cancer due to unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity. Again, a 2020 study in the journal Diabetologia found that more than half of the men and nearly two-thirds of women in their 20s in India could develop diabetes during their lifetime.

According to WHO’s 2019 Global Health Estimates, heart diseases have also taken more lives than ever in recent years, recording an increase of more than two million since 2000.

The ideal way to combat such diseases is to correct them from the roots, and that is exactly what holistic wellness aims to do, according to Dr Chauhan. “For example, when a person with migraine visits an Ayurvedic doctor to get holistic treatment for his problem, instead of walking out solely with medicines, the doctor will take a detailed look at all the potential factors that may be causing the person migraine headache, such as other health conditions, his diet and sleep habits, stress factor and gut health. The treatment plan will involve personalised medicines to treat the disease from its root along with diet and lifestyle modifications to help prevent the headaches from recurring and improve the overall quality of life.”

Also Read |[Luke Coutinho shares simple tips for holistic immunity](#)

Interplay of physical and mental health and how yoga can help

Not just physical health, holistic wellness experts lay equal emphasis on boosting one's mental health. For instance, Mindhouse, a digital wellness platform, combines the techniques of yoga, meditation and nutrition to treat chronic illnesses. The company's co-founder, Pooja Khanna says, "Most of the chronic or physical health issues can impact a person's mental health and vice versa – most mental health issues can impact a person's well-being. Take for example diabetes. Stress can be one of the major causes for negatively impacting glucose levels. Similarly, diabetes can be a cause for stress, particularly in the early days when you have been diagnosed. While there is a lot of emphasis on treating physical health, we often tend to overlook the mental health which needs to be brought to the forefront."

mental health Yoga and meditation have been found to help cope with chronic mental illnesses. (Source: getty images)

Several studies have also analysed the link between physical and mental well-being. A 2019 study in the journal Health Psychology found that women with symptoms of depression were at an increased risk of multiple chronic diseases like stroke, diabetes and cancer.

According to Khanna, yoga and meditation "play a huge part" in managing chronic illnesses. "Different yoga poses can positively impact different parts of the body helping control specific symptoms related to a medical condition."

Agrees Dr Chauhan. "Clinical effects of meditation impact a broad spectrum of physical and psychological symptoms and syndromes, including reduced anxiety, pain, and depression, enhanced mood and self-esteem and decreased stress. It is also proven to be effective in the management of chronic illnesses such as fibromyalgia, cancer, hypertension, and psoriasis."

Also Read |[Effective lifestyle tweaks to strengthen immunity](#)

It can also help keep heart diseases at bay, says the doctor. "Yoga and meditation can lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and resting heart rates, and help slow the progression of atherosclerosis – all risk factors for heart disease. While almost any exercise is good for the heart, yoga's meditative component gives it an extra boost by helping to stabilise the endothelium, the lining of the blood vessels which, when irritated, contributes to cardiovascular disease. Since the lining is reactive to stress, and meditation can lower stress hormones, yoga may be causing a cascade of events that could reduce a person's risk of getting a heart attack or stroke.

"Another example of yoga alleviating chronic problems is for arthritis patients. People with various types of arthritis who practise yoga regularly can reduce joint pain, improve joint flexibility and function, and lower stress and tension to promote better sleep."

heart disease, hypertension Yoga and meditation can help manage hypertension too. (Source: getty images)

PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome) and diabetes are among other health issues that can be controlled with these practices. "We see a lot of people with PCOS, diabetes and hypertension who opt for non-clinical solutions rather than taking medication. This is of course done in consultation with a doctor keeping in mind their specific symptoms," Khanna states.

Meditation and yoga can aid in chronic mental illnesses as well. Nikita Sulay, psychologist and outreach associate, Mpower -The Foundation, another wellness platform, says, “In illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or other neuropsychological issues, we may use yoga and meditation as techniques to help deal with certain emotions, calm the mind, increase awareness and use body as a medium of expression. However, there is no strong scientific evidence that one can be cured with meditation and yoga. Nonetheless, they are very effective to aid medical procedures and other psychotherapies.”

Holistic wellness or medical treatment — what should you opt for? Experts say both go hand in hand. “While surgeries and medicines work on managing the disease symptoms, a little yoga or meditation practice integrated into dincharya (lifestyle) can even keep the illnesses at bay. These practices empower you not to only take care of your physical health but your mental well-being,” Dr Chauhan asserts. “Nowadays, even a lot of surgeons suggest their patients meditate before or after surgery to ease anxiety or post-operative pain, improve the psychological state, and recovery time. Meditation and yoga also benefit those seeking relief from mental and physical stresses encountered during their hospital admission, as seen in Covid patients.”

Sulay adds, “Yoga and meditation are alternative healing therapies which means that they are ways of treatment that are used in tandem with mainstream therapies. For instance, if one suffers from a knee injury the main therapy would be physiotherapy and yoga can be used along with it.”

Holistic wellness in India

Dr Chauhan says a “paradigm shift” has been noticed in people in India, especially between the ages 20 and 50, when it comes to holistic wellness. “People are eating consciously, indulging in physical activities, sleeping on time to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The government is also introducing programmes to promote the wellness industry in India.”

Khanna, however, adds that this “ever-increasing demand” in the wellness industry is met with a “fairly unstructured supply”. “There is no one place for people to turn to for all wellness solutions that are suited to their needs. That is why we are looking to create a platform offering yoga, meditation, nutrition, counselling, supplements, Ayurveda, and more, to help people,” she says.

Three foods to manage post-Covid hair fall

In an Instagram post, nutritionist Munmun Ganeriwal suggested three foods which can make a lot of difference(The Indian Express: 20210824)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/post-covid-hair-fall-foods-diet-7453201/>

covid hairfall, post covid hair fall, indianexpress.com, post covid hair fall diet, how to reduce post covid hairfall, how to reduce post covid hair fall, munmun ganeriwal, immunity and hairfall,Here's what to keep in mind about post-covid hair fall. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Many people, after recovering from Covid, have experienced hair fall. “Post-Covid hair fall is a reality that many people are facing presently,” said nutritionist Munmun Ganeriwal.

What’s the connection?

Experts say that hair fall and thinning during the recovery phase is due to a weakened immune system, which is compounded by stress. However, a good way to manage the same is by paying attention to one’s diet, which should not only be seasonal but also freshly-prepared. This helps in replenishing the body with essential nutrients that help build immunity and in turn, aiding hair growth, and controlling hair fall.

In an Instagram post, Ganeriwal suggested three foods that can make a lot of difference. Take a look:

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

US regulators give full approval to Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (The Hindu: 20210824)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/us-regulators-give-full-approval-to-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine/article36061807.ece>

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech now carries the strongest endorsement from the Food and Drug Administration

The U.S. gave full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, a milestone that may help lift public confidence in the shots as the nation battles the most

Delta variant

Delta variant driving infections in India: Report(The Hindu: 20210824)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/delta-variant-driving-infections-in-india-says-india-sars-cov2-genome-consortium-report/article36019514.ece>

Vaccination continues to be very effective in reducing severe disease and death, according to an update from the India Sars Cov2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG).

The Delta variant remains most responsible for the continuing spread of infections in India, according to a weekly update from the India Sars Cov2

WHO

WHO Africa: COVID-19 booster shots make 'mockery' of equity (The Hindu: 20210824)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/who-africa-covid-19-booster-shots-make-mockery-of-equity/article36006022.ece>

WHO says less than 2% of the population of 1.3 billion people in Africa is fully vaccinated

Rich countries' decisions to roll out COVID-19 booster shots while so many people across Africa remain unvaccinated "threaten the promise of a brighter

Mixing vaccines

Mixing vaccines, meeting targets, and more | In Focus podcast (The Hindu: 20210824)

<https://www.thehindu.com/podcast/mixing-vaccines-meeting-targets-and-more-in-focus-podcast/article35938875.ece>

Dr. Srinath Reddy speaks to us on how much faster our vaccination campaign needs to be to meet the target of covering all beneficiaries by year-end

As of August 16, 8.8 % of India's population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while 30.9% has received at least one dose. Earlier this month, the

Healthcare services

Has COVID-19 affected our other healthcare services? | In Focus podcast(The Hindu: 20210824)

<https://www.thehindu.com/podcast/has-covid-19-affected-our-other-healthcare-services-in-focus-podcast/article35759669.ece>

Dr. Rajib Dasgupta tells us what governments can do to ensure that healthcare services do not suffer

Since March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic first struck India, a majority of our health resources have been allocated towards battling the virus. The country went through a first wave last year with an intense lockdown in plac