



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY
Wednesday 20211103

Infection surge

Serbia introduces evening Covid passes amid infection surge (The Tribune: 20211103)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/serbia-introduces-evening-covid-passes-amid-infection-surge-327116>

Coronavirus infections also have been rising in neighbouring Croatia

Serbia introduces evening Covid passes amid infection surge

A healthcare worker administers a dose of Pfizer's coronavirus disease vaccine to a woman at Belgrade. Reuters

Serbia on Wednesday introduced Covid-19 passes for indoor venues late at night following weeks of surging infections and relatively low vaccination rates.

Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said the new measure will take effect on Saturday and will be applied starting from 10 pm in bars, restaurants, nightclubs or any other indoor gatherings.

Medical experts repeatedly have urged Serbian authorities to tighten the country's loose anti-virus measures. Serbia has seen several thousand new infections a day since early October and about 50 virus-related deaths a day.

Infections also have soared in other Central and Eastern European countries where vaccination rates are lower than European Union average.

Brnabic said the introduction of Covid-19 passes will be confirmed at a government session on Thursday. She said late evening hours are when nightclubs have their biggest crowds. The passes will show a person's vaccination status, or if they have recovered from the virus or tested negative recently.

“We hope this will boost vaccinations,” said Brnabic after a session of Serbia’s pandemic crisis group.

“This is the only way to beat the coronavirus.”

Serbia has had more than 1 million infections and nearly 10,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Around half of the adults in the country of 7 million have been fully vaccinated.

Coronavirus infections also have been rising in neighbouring Croatia, which on Wednesday reported more than 3,000 new cases, the highest number in months and about 1,000 more than last week.

Croatia also has a vaccination rate around 50% of its adult population. Media reported that people lined up Wednesday at a vaccination site in the capital of Zagreb following the latest uptick in infections. — AP

Active Covid cases

India logs 14,623 new Covid cases, 197 more deaths Active Covid cases in country lowest in(The Tribune: 20211103)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/india-logs-14-623-new-covid-cases-197-more-deaths-327029>

India logged 14,623 new coronavirus infections, taking the total tally of Covid cases to 3,41,08,996, while the active cases declined to 1,78,098, the lowest in 229 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 4,52,651 with 197 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 30,000 for 26 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 115 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.52 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded at 98.15 per cent, the highest since March 2020, the ministry said.

A decrease of 5,020 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The 197 new fatalities include 77 from Kerala and 49 from Maharashtra.

A total of 4,52,651 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,39,865 from Maharashtra, 37,967 from Karnataka, 35,928 from Tamil Nadu, 27,002 from Kerala, 25,090 from Delhi, 22,898 from Uttar Pradesh and 18,998 from West Bengal. PTI

Covid-19 vaccine

Can Covid-19 vaccine for children affect puberty, fertility? Experts weigh in (The Indian Express: 20211103)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/experts-future-infertility-risk-covid-vaccination-children-7603848/>

"Conducting vaccination trials in children is a humongous task due to various inhibitions amongst parents, unfounded beliefs, and also ethical considerations involved," said Dr Suresh Kumar Panuganti.

Covid-19 third wave, Covid-19 third wave and kids, flu vaccine, flu shot, influenza vaccine, flu vaccine versus Covid-19 third wave in kids, health, indian express news Conducting vaccination trials in children is a humongous task due to various inhibitions amongst parents, said Dr Panuganti. (Source: Pixabay)

As the call for vaccination for children picks up steam — with many countries already allowing children below 12 years to be vaccinated — a new survey has found one of the biggest worries that parents of five to 11-year-olds face is whether Covid-19 vaccines can negatively affect fertility and puberty in children.

The survey released by Kaiser Family Foundation found that 66 per cent of such parents raised concerns amid ongoing vaccination trials in young children. According to a CNN report, the US Food and Drug Administration issued emergency use authorisation for Pfizer's vaccine in this younger age group, and vaccine advisers to the CDC will meet to discuss whether to recommend its use in these young kids.

While in India, discussions, and talks are ongoing, we reached out to experts to understand whether such concerns hold any ground.

Dr P G Samdani, senior pediatrician, Bhatia Hospital, said he has not received any queries from parents on the effects of Covid vaccine on children's fertility. "In fact, I have got more positive queries on its availability and their keenness to get their little ones protected from the virus. The misconception or claim linking Covid vaccine with infertility has not been proven. There is no data to support this. Viral vaccines have been used in the past, so this misconception is baseless. Also, no side-effects have been reported so far among the trial participants of children in India," he said.

Dr Suresh Kumar Panuganti, lead consultant – pediatric critical care and pediatrics, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad, said vaccination is well-tolerated in children because of the immunological response their body produces following immunisation.

“Fertility cannot be and has not been scientifically studied in trials which are conducted in the age group 2-18 years, hence it should not be considered as a riskfactor. Most vaccines confer immunity following injection of a killed virus or a part of the virus into the human body which stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies that fight against the infection. Given the desperate times, it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure maximum vaccination coverage as no one is safe until everyone around us is safe,” he explained.

Dr Chetan R Mundada, senior consultant pediatrician and lead pediatric intensivist, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad mentioned that there is no such adverse effect noted in adults vaccinated so far, and more importantly, there are billions of other vaccine doses given to children worldwide for decades, and infertility has not been reported as a side effect or unintended consequence!

Dr Panuganti added that in India, like Covid-19 vaccines for adults underwent various trials (though at a short interval, given the unusual circumstances and nature of once in a lifetime pandemic), in children, too, they are “waiting for the approval of Drugs Controller General of India for emergency usage approval”.

Health officials believe that vaccinating children will reduce virus spread to vulnerable adults. (Representational image via AP)

“Conducting vaccination trials in children is a humongous task due to various inhibitions amongst parents, unfounded beliefs, and also ethical considerations involved.

Various phases of trials need to be completed and the data needs to be assessed by qualified teams of various departments before a vaccine is made available for public use,” Dr Panuganti told indianexpress.com.

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Healthy ageing

As the world’s population grows older, here’s how to focus on healthy ageing (The Indian Express: 20211103)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/healthy-ageing-meaning-signs-functional-ability-nutrition-mental-health-physical-activity-7589840/>

Interestingly, healthy ageing does not necessarily mean being completely disease-free. Certain health conditions can be controlled in many older adults, which then hardly affects their overall well-being, says the health body.

healthy ageingBy 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65 (16 per cent, according to United Nations. (Source: pixabay)

With a significant rise projected in the coming 30 years, the world's population is also growing older, mentions a 2019 United Nations report — 'The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights', attributing it to increasing life expectancy and falling fertility levels.

“By 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65 (16 per cent), up from one in 11 in 2019 (9 per cent). Regions where the share of the population aged 65 years or over is projected to double between 2019 and 2050 include Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean,” reads the report.

This means we will soon have more older people than children. Keeping this in mind, the World Health Organisation (WHO) talks in the report 'Global Health and Aging' about the central role that health will play moving forward. To ensure people get to live a long and healthy life, it is, therefore, important to focus on healthy ageing.

Pollution (The Asian Age: 20211103)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15940806>

■ Air quality likely to worsen further after Diwali

Delhi's air quality enters red zone

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

Air quality in the national capital entered the "very poor" category for the first time this season on Tuesday due to unfavourable conditions for dispersion of pollutants. Stubble burning reportedly accounted for six per cent of PM2.5 pollution in Delhi. The rest of the pollution is due to local sources, said Gufran Beig, the founder project director of SAFAR, a government framework for air quality forecasts.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution is predicted to increase to 38 per cent by November 6, two days after Diwali. According to SAFAR, which is the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality forecast agency, the contribution of farm fires in Delhi's air pollution has remained low this season so far due to the record-breaking rainfall in

▶ **LAST YEAR**, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution had peaked to 42 per cent on November 5. In 2019, crop residue burning accounted for 44 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on November 1.

October and favourable wind direction.

However, it is likely to increase up to 38 per cent by November 6 as the wind direction is expected to change to northwesterly after Diwali, Mr Beig said.

Northwesterly winds carry smoke from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana towards the national capital. Last year, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution had peaked to 42 per cent on November 5. In 2019, crop residue burning accounted for 44 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on November 1.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the capital recorded a 24-hour average air quality

index (AQI) of 303. It was 281 on Monday, 289 on Sunday and 268 on Saturday. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (306), Ghaziabad (334), and Noida (303) also recorded very poor air quality.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". "It is (very poor air quality) a result of accumulation of pollution from local sources due to low temperature and low mixing height," Mr Beig said.

Mixing height is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed. Delhi did not record even a single day of "very poor" or "severe air quality" in October as an extended monsoon season and western disturbances led to record-breaking rainfall in the month.

Dengue (The Asian Age: 20211103)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15940810>

Delhi logs nearly 1,200 dengue cases in October

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Over 1,530 cases of dengue have been reported in Delhi this year so far, of which nearly 1,200 were recorded in October alone, the highest count for the month in the last four years, official data showed.

The national capital had registered a higher count of 2,022 dengue cases for October in 2017, according to figures shared by the civic authorities. Five fatalities due to dengue were registered on Monday. With this, the total fatalities in the city caused by the vector-borne disease reached six, also the highest since 2017 when the official death tally stood at 10.

According to a report on vector-borne diseases released on Monday by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)—the city's nodal agency for tabulating data on the matter—1,537 dengue cases have been recorded this season till October 30, the highest count since 2018 for the same period.

The number of cases reported between January 1 and October 30 in the previous three years was 612 in 2020; 1,069 in 2019; and 1,595 in 2018, the report showed. — *PTI*

Covaxin (The Asian Age: 20211103)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15940881>

Let science take a call on global access to Covaxin

The delay in the grant of emergency use listing (EUL) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to the indigenously developed and manufactured Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, is perplexing, and it creates room for several interpretations.

The Drugs Controller General of India had accorded emergency use authorisation (EUA) to the vaccine on January 3 this year and close to 12 crore doses of it have been administered since. The manufacturers of the vaccine, which has been developed in collaboration with state-owned institutions the Indian Council for Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology, have been making every effort at getting the world health body's clearance which would make international travel a lot easier for those who have received the jab.

WHO officials have been assuring the manufacturers and the people of India that the world body has been examining the data on the phase III clinical trials for efficacy and a decision would come soon. Yet despite the passing of several indicative dates, the nod is yet to come from the Special Advisory Group of the WHO. There is another meeting scheduled for Wednesday for a final "risk-benefit assessment" of Covaxin.

The WHO, on its part, must stop playing hide and seek and make it plain if the data provided to it meets its standards for clearance or not. It defies logic that there is not enough data...

It is in this context that comments and statements coming from various quarters must be viewed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told the G-20 grouping that India can supply five billion doses of the vaccine to the global community if the Indian product is given the EUL. On the face of it, the Indian Prime Minister was making an offer to the global community to help secure itself from the pandemic but it could be interpreted as an effort to exert political pressure on the WHO to clear the Indian product for global use. Experts in India had voiced their concern about the data of the trials of Covaxin when Indian authorities granted it EUA. While none had a grudge against the Indian company and its collaborators, many had criticised the DCGI for bypassing

scientific protocols. The same charge could be made if the world body does not subject the vaccine to due process.

The WHO, on its part, must stop playing hide and seek and make it plain if the data provided to it meets its standards for clearance or not. It defies logic that there is not enough data, for the vaccine has been in use for about 10 months; of late, the Australian authority has approved the same. Either the data has not reached the WHO or it has not been assessed with the urgency with which it must be. The world body, which has already approved six vaccines from all over the world, will not be covering itself with glory if it finds one excuse or the other in coming out with its assessment results for the Indian vaccine. Such dithering could also be giving credence to the argument that it has given preferential treatment to China-made vaccines. On India's part, the government should let the scientific community attend to the task instead of escalating it at the political level. It must tell the world that it will allow the process of science to take its course seeing as a bona fide decision will do the global community more good than anything else.

Public-private partnership

Public-private partnership built in fight against COVID-19, can strengthen healthcare system, (The Hindu: 20211103)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/interview-public-private-partnership-built-in-fight-against-covid-19-can-strengthen-healthcare-system-says-dr-naresh-trehan/article37264447.ece>

‘We don’t know if this virus can come in a new mutant form. Besides, active surveillance across India is required to contain any future outbreak at the earliest.’

Strong public-private partnership built during the country’s collective fight against COVID-19, can go a long way in strengthening India’s healthcare system, says Naresh Trehan, chairman and chief cardiac surgeon, Medanta–The MediCity, and who is on the 12-member COVID-19 Task Force set up by the Supreme Court, in an interview with The Hindu.

post-Covid era, community-based rehabilitation

In the post-Covid era, community-based rehabilitation is most urgent: Balakrishna Venkatesh (The Hindu: 20211103)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/in-the-post-covid-era-community-based-rehabilitation-is-most-urgent-balakrishna-venkatesh/article37226421.ece>

With the glaring limitations in our healthcare services exposed, community involvement and rehabilitation for the disabled poor become absolutely essential, says the activist

The COVID-19 pandemic has more than ever before highlighted the need to strengthen rehabilitation services for the most vulnerable sections of society, which include the elderly and persons with disabilities. While communities have come forward and offered support, the pandemic has also exposed grave limitations in several low- and middle-income countries where there are little to no health or rehabilitation services available for those living in poverty.

From 1979, the World Health Organization has advocated Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) as an integral component of healthcare.

Food and Nutrition

The seven-day cleansing diet (The Hindu: 20211103)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/diet-and-nutrition/the-sevenday-cleansing-diet/article1999028.ece>

Rid your body of accumulated toxins once or twice a year with a seven-day diet consisting of fruits and vegetables

You don't have to wait to fall ill to cleanse your system. It is wise to eliminate the accumulated toxins and cleanse the body once or twice a year to restore physical and mental health, vigour and vitality. Remember to consult your doctor before starting this cleansing diet plan.

Note: It is essential to drink at least eight glasses of water during these seven days to aid elimination.

Kidney disease

Increased temperatures contribute to more cases of kidney disease (New Kerala:2021101103)

The world's largest study of the link between temperature changes and kidney disease has revealed that 7.4 per cent of all hospitalisations for renal disease can-> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/156380.htm>

Monoclonal therapy

Monoclonal therapy can 100pc tackle severity of Delta variant' New Kerala: 2021101103)

Delta Covid infection, which can progress to ICU admissions and death, can be stopped in its tracks by monoclonal antibody therapy, claims a new study.--> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/156295.htm>

Diabetes

Choose a healthy track to manage diabetes New Kerala: 2021101103)

New Delhi, Nov 2: The festive season is around the corner and with sugar-laden sweets, snacks and luncheons, festive eating tends to tip towards an indulgence. The pandemic alongside the festive season gives -> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/156290.htm>