



# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY  
Wednesday 20220803

## Ayushman scheme

### **Ayushman scheme: Dues unpaid, PGI halts treatment of Punjab patients (Hindustan Times: 20220803)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/ayushman-scheme-dues-unpaid-pgi-halts-treatment-of-punjab-patients-418180>

Ayushman scheme: Dues unpaid, PGI halts treatment of Punjab patients

After the Punjab Government failed to clear dues of seven months amounting to Rs 16 crore under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, a health insurance scheme, the PGI has stopped treatment under the scheme for patients hailing from the state. - File photo

After the Punjab Government failed to clear dues of seven months amounting to Rs 16 crore under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, a health insurance scheme, the PGI has stopped treatment under the scheme for patients hailing from the state.

Will clear payments in a week

The government owes Rs 300 crore under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The matter is with the Finance Department and the dues are expected to be cleared within a week. Ajoy Sharma, Principal Secy, Health, Punjab

Every month, the institute sees around 1,200-1,400 patients from Punjab seeking treatment under the insurance scheme. With the PGI halting the treatment due to non-reimbursement of funds and no government hospital in Punjab offering treatment under the scheme, the patients will be at the receiving end. Manjinder Singh from Fazilka district said, "For the past four months, we have been denied treatment under the insurance scheme for my aunt's knee surgery. The PGI was our hope, but it has stopped treatment now."

An amount of nearly Rs 16 crore in claims raised by the PGI since December 21, 2021, is lying pending with Punjab.

"The beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana from Punjab are not eligible for benefits under the scheme from August 1 onwards. Any beneficiary seeking fresh admission will have to pay

user charges like routine patients. The beneficiaries from other states will continue to avail of the services as usual,” a statement released by the PGI nodal officer for the scheme read.

PGI Deputy Director Kumar Gaurav Dhawan said, “The State Health Authority, Punjab, has been requested to clear the pending payment.” Last month, the PGI had also written to the National Health Authority, the implementing agency for the scheme, seeking its intervention so that the claims could be reimbursed.

The Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, had halted the treatment of patients hailing from Punjab from March this year after the dues accumulated to Rs 2.3 crore. The Punjab Government owes over Rs 3 crore under the scheme to the GMCH, Sector 32, the GMSH, Sector 16, and private hospitals in Chandigarh.

The Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Ajoy Sharma, said, “The PGI, along with the GMCH and the GMSH, will start getting their payments in a week’s time.”

The Ayushman Bharat Mukh Mantri Sehat Bima Yojana was launched on August 20, 2019. The scheme is designed to provide health protection by providing a financial cover to at least 65 per cent of the population of Punjab. It is an entitlement-based health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Under the scheme, cashless and paperless treatment is available at government and empanelled private hospitals.

## **Cervical cancer**

### **SII to offer 1 cr cervical cancer shots by December (The Tribune: 20220803)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/sii-to-offer-1-cr-cervical-cancer-shots-by-dec-417963>

Days after the national drug regulator granted market authorisation approval to the first indigenous vaccine for cervical cancer, makers Serum Institute of India (SII) told the Health Ministry they could supply one crore doses for the national immunisation programme by December this year.

Prior to the approval by the Drug Controller General of India, the National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation has looked at SII's data for the shot and approved its inclusion in the national immunisation plan.

The ministry is planning to roll out the shot -- the indigenously developed Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) -- by the year-end.

The development would mean huge self-reliance in a major sector. Currently, India depends on imports for the HPV vaccines with cervical cancer being the second highest after breast cancer.

The ICMR data show in 2020, among women, breast cancer was estimated to contribute the highest 2 lakh (14.8 per cent) cases per year and cervix cancer contributed 0.75 lakh (5.4 per cent).

## **Monkeypox**

### **Monkeypox: Delhi govt orders six hospitals to create 70 isolation rooms Of India's eight confirmed monkeypox cases three are from Delhi (The Tribune: 20220803)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/monkeypox-delhi-govt-orders-six-hospitals-to-create-70-isolation-rooms-418163>

Monkeypox: Delhi govt orders six hospitals to create 70 isolation rooms

Delhi government on Tuesday ordered six state government hospitals to create 70 isolation rooms between them for management of suspected and confirmed cases of monkeypox.

Lok Nayak Hospital has been asked to create 20 isolation rooms, 10 each for suspect and confirmed cases.

Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Kailash Deepak Hospital, MD City Hospital and Batra Hospital have been told to create ten rooms each (5 for suspected and five for confirmed cases).

Of India's eight confirmed monkeypox cases three are from Delhi.

## **Monkeypox case**

### **City reports 3rd monkeypox case, first patient discharged (Hindustan Times: 20220803)**

<https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=384d00e0f7&imageview=0>

Delhi on Tuesday confirmed its third monkeypox case after a 31-year-old man, who was admitted to Lok Nayak Hospital with suspected symptoms on Sunday tested positive, doctors from the Delhi government-run hospital said.

Also, the first confirmed patient of the infection, a 34-year-old west Delhi resident, was discharged from the hospital, the doctors said.

Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director, Lok Nayak Hospital -- the nodal hospital for monkeypox patients in Delhi -- said that currently two monkeypox patients are admitted to the isolation ward of the hospital. The first patient is a 35-year-old man who tested positive on Monday and the second is a 31-year-old man, whose samples returned positive on Tuesday from the National Institute of Virology in Pune.

Both the patients are Nigerians who were living in Delhi and do not have any foreign travel history.

“Two patients are admitted with us. The first case of monkeypox, a west Delhi resident, was discharged today (Tuesday),” Dr Kumar said.

Dr Kumar said the west Delhi resident was discharged 25 days after he reported the symptoms. According to global health agencies monkeypox infection typically lasts for two-four weeks.

Tuesday’s case has taken Delhi’s monkeypox tally to three and India’s total case count has now reached eight. Rest of the five infections have been reported from Kerala, according to Union health ministry records.

Doctors from Lok Nayak said that the 31-year-old patient was admitted to the hospital on Sunday after he developed symptoms including fever and rashes on the skin. They also said that apart from the two confirmed cases, the hospital is also tending to two suspected patients, whose reports are currently awaited. One of these patients was admitted to the hospital on Monday and the other was brought there on Tuesday.

Though doctors said that both suspected patients are Africans, the hospital authorities did not confirm their details.

Health experts said that the three cases in Delhi are slightly worrying because none of them have a history of foreign travel, indicating the local spread of the infection. Experts also said that while there is no reason for panic, people must follow hand hygiene, masking, refrain from unprotected sex, report symptoms immediately and seek medical care.

“There is no need to panic because the infection is not virulent and people are recovering well. From Delhi’s cases, we can establish that there is a local transmission. The monkeypox virus may survive for almost three months in the body. This means that even if a patient may not have travelled abroad, there is a chance that they may have come into contact with a person who has come from abroad but was not showing symptoms,” said Dr JA Jayalal, former national president of the Indian Medical Association.

Dr GC Khilnani, chairperson, (pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine) at Pushpawati Singhanian Hospital and Research Institute (PSRI), said monkeypox infection is known to be transmitted by large respiratory droplets, close contact and sexual activity.

“Surely, there is no place for panic. However, one should be vigilant about symptoms such as skin lesions with fever and body ache, especially those with a history of recent travel should be careful,” said Dr Khilnani.

## Don't panic, say experts

Preventive measures can help control the spread of monkeypox, doctors have said



Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with respiratory secretions or skin lesions of an infected person

Transmission via respiratory particles requires prolonged face-to-face contact

Transmission can also occur via the placenta from mother to foetus or during close contact during and after birth

While close physical contact is a risk factor, it is unclear if monkeypox can be transmitted specifically through sexual routes

**DO'S** ✓

- Wear a mask
- Maintain social distancing
- Follow hand hygiene
- If travelling from a country which has reported monkeypox, look out for symptoms such as fever and skin eruptions
- Isolate if symptoms appear
- Contact a health professional

**DON'TS** ✗

- Do not panic
- Do not ignore symptoms
- Do not pick on lesion
- Do not stigmatise people who have been infected
- Do not start home remedies

Source: WHO

## India monkeypox tally hits 8

**India monkeypox tally hits 8; Delhi count at 3(Hindustan Times: 20220803)**

<https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=3886a18d77&imageview=0>

: Two new cases of monkeypox — one each from Delhi and Kerala — were reported on Tuesday, taking India's tally to eight, the health ministry said, while states separately began preparations to intensify surveillance and isolation of suspected and confirmed cases.

Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya separately held a meeting with Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer of Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), to discuss the possibility of a vaccine being developed for the disease, and told parliament that the government had begun the process of developing testing kits and inoculations.

**1,506 fresh Covid cases, positivity rate at 10.63%(**

**1,506 fresh Covid cases, positivity rate at 10.63%(Hindustan Times: 20220803)**

<https://epaper.hindustantimes.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=38f6d1c439&imageview=0>

Delhi reported 1,506 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Tuesday, the highest daily count of infections since June 26 when the city logged 1,819 cases, data from the Delhi government's daily bulletin showed. On Monday, the Capital recorded 822 cases of the viral disease.

Tuesday's cases came at a positivity rate of 10.63% as the city conducted a total of 14,165 tests. It was the second consecutive day when the test positivity rate was over 10%. On Monday, the metric was recorded at a six-month high of 11.41%. To be sure, the city conducted only 7,205 tests on Sunday -- the data that is reflected in the bulletin a day later.

On Tuesday, three people also succumbed to Covid-19 infection, according to the government data.

Senior officials from the Delhi government's health department said on Tuesday that the administration was monitoring the Covid case count in the Capital closely, and district authorities have been directed to ensure that there are enough testing camps set up across the city to ensure early detection of cases.

"We are in constant touch with the district administrations and we are closely monitoring the situation. We have asked the districts and the police to tighten vigilance and ensure that people are following Covid appropriate behaviour in crowded public places," said a senior health department official who asked not to be named.

The government bulletin also showed that of the 9405 dedicated Covid hospital beds, only 353 were occupied as of Tuesday, and 9052 beds were vacant.

Experts suggested that people must follow Covid appropriate behaviour, and also take their booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccines to stay safe.

HT reported last week that the current spike in Covid cases is largely being steered by Omicron's BA.2.75 sub-variant. Genome sequencing data of the city shows that BA.2.75 was the most dominant strain in Delhi, followed by BA.2.76 and BA.5, scientists said.

"The BA.5 sub-variant of Omicron is definitely more transmissible as compared to BA.1 and BA.2. However, there is no evidence of it being more dangerous than the other two variants. With less severe infection, the number of anti-bodies that a patient's body makes also reduces. That is why we are seeing so many re-infections since Omicron," said Dr Lalit Kant, former head of the epidemiology and communicable diseases department in the Indian Council of Medical Research.

# STATUS REPORT



NEW CASES

**1,506**

NEW DEATHS

**03**

POSITIVITY RATE

**10.63%**

ACTIVE CASES

**5,006**

## Vaccination

**Why is it too early to talk about mass vaccination against Monkeypox? Epidemiologist Dr. R Gangakhedkar explains how the disease spreads, what preventive measures are necessary, and whether men are at a higher risk of contracting the infection (Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health-specials/monkey-pox-mass-vaccination-against-monkey-pox-8059417/>

Dr R Gangakhedkar is a part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) scientific advisory group on origins of novel pathogens.

Dr Gangakhedkar was the head of the department of epidemiology and communicable diseases at the country's apex Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also a part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) scientific advisory group on origins of novel pathogens. He has been working on HIV/AIDS since the 1980s, contributing significantly towards the national policies in place today. He was also instrumental in handling the Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala in 2018.

## Cancer

**Resistant starch in your diet can reduce cancer in those at risk  
Resistant starch may reduce cancer development by changing the bacterial metabolism of bile acids and reducing those types of bile acids that can damage our DNA and eventually cause cancer. However, this needs further research, feels John Mathers, lead author of the study and professor of Human Nutrition at Newcastle University. (Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health-specials/resistant-starch-in-your-diet-can-reduce-cancer-in-those-at-risk-8066304/>

Resistant starch is found naturally in peas, beans and oats.

European researchers have found that adding resistant starch in the diets of those who are genetically predisposed to certain cancers can halve their risk of occurrence.

The novel study showed that the impact was significant on cancers of the upper gastrointestinal tract like oesophageal, gastric, biliary tract, pancreatic and duodenum cancers. Resistant starch is found naturally in peas, beans and oats. As part of the study, half the participants received a daily dose of 30 g of resistant starch while the other half had a placebo

powder for two to four years. Although there was no difference in the incidence of bowel cancer in both the groups, fewer people developed several other types of cancers in the intervention group. The study involved nearly 1,000 people with a genetic condition called Lynch Syndrome – an inherited cancer syndrome that increases the risk of developing colorectal, endometrial and bowel cancers among others. They were followed for ten years, supplemented with data for another 10 years from the UK and Finnish cancer registry.

“Resistant starch is a type of carbohydrate that isn’t digested in your small intestine. Instead, it ferments in your large intestine, feeding beneficial gut bacteria. In effect, it acts like dietary fibre in your digestive system. We think that resistant starch may reduce cancer development by changing the bacterial metabolism of bile acids and reducing those types of bile acids that can damage our DNA and eventually cause cancer. However, this needs further research,” said John Mathers, lead author of the study and professor of Human Nutrition at Newcastle University, in a release.

The researchers also studied the impact of aspirin in these patients. “Based on our trial, NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) recommends aspirin for people at high genetic risk of cancer. The benefits are clear – aspirin and resistant starch work,” said Prof Sir John Burn, professor of clinical genetics at Newcastle University. The team is now enrolling 1,800 people with Lynch syndrome to look at whether smaller, safer doses of aspirin can be used to help reduce the cancer risk.

Oncologists and researchers have now started looking at diet as an essential component of prevention as well as treatment of cancers. “We now know that diet is a very important factor in preventing and treating cancers. Certain diets can make the cancers more receptive to the treatment already being given, especially in cases where immunotherapy is used. Diets can also help the immune mechanism tackle cancer cells more effectively,” said Dr PK Julka, former professor of radiotherapy at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-New Delhi and the current Chairman for Max Oncology Daycare Centre.

He added, “Although when it comes to the results of the current study, it cannot be extrapolated to the general population. This is because people who have Lynch Syndrome are also prone to developing conditions such as ulcerative colitis that may result in deficiencies of starch.”

Renowned Indian-American oncologist-researcher, Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, had also hinted at the importance of diet during an Idea Exchange at The Indian Express, saying, “There are five pillars of (cancer) treatment. The four standard pillars were radiation, surgery, chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The fifth pillar is nutritional or dietary therapy.”

## **Heart transplants**

**Maharashtra: Over 175 heart transplants in state in 7 yrs  
Dr Anvay Mulay, Director, Advanced Cardiac Surgery and Heart Transplant, Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital, who announced the completion of more than 150 successful heart transplant surgeries along with**

**the team, said it felt deeply satisfying to celebrate these patients. (Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/maharashtra-over-175-heart-transplants-in-state-in-7-yrs-8066744/>

In Mumbai, the Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital will be lit in red throughout the week. On Tuesday, heart transplant survivors were felicitated at a function by Dr Mulay and a team of surgeons. (Express Photo)

SEVENTY ONE-year-old Rajendra Mashru, who hails from Junagadh in Gujarat, and now staying in Mumbai, is perhaps the oldest patient in Maharashtra who underwent a heart transplant a month ago. Dealing with a cardiac ailment that was detected more than 20 years ago, Mashru eventually got an Automated Implantable Defibrillator (AICD), a device that enabled him to fix abnormal heart rhythms. But when the device's battery got exhausted and all seemed to have been lost, top cardiac surgeon Dr Anvay Mulay restored his confidence and told him age was not a limitation for a heart transplant. "When nothing seemed to work, it was Dr Mulay who held my hand and insisted that I had a right to live," Mashru told The Indian Express.

On August 3 every year, the country observes National Heart Transplant Day. Coincidentally, Maharashtra's first heart transplant was also recorded on August 3, 2015 when the heart of a 42-year-old brain dead woman from Pune was flown by a team to Mumbai and transplanted in 22-year-old Anwar Khan. Till date, more than 175 heart transplants have been performed in the state with a majority in Mumbai and Pune. As a mark of gratitude to organ donors, a human heart chain was made by heart transplant patients from across Maharashtra in Mumbai to encourage organ donation.

In Mumbai, the Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital will be lit in red throughout the week. On Tuesday, heart transplant survivors were felicitated at a function by Dr Mulay and a team of surgeons. Among these include Mumbai-based 60-year-old Anirudh Nansi, who went on to win the state-level swimming championship 2022 in less than a year of his heart transplant surgery and 28-year-old J Crasto who recalled the challenging time they had due to pandemic lockdown to fly from Los Angeles to Mumbai in March 2020. After a heart transplant, he is now living his second life with renewed optimism.

## **Insomnia**

**Struggling with insomnia? Practise these five yoga asanas for better sleep "Next time if you are awake till late in the night, stop stalking on social media or binge-watching shows, practice these Yoga asanas instead and see the difference for yourself," the expert wrote on Instagram (Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/insomnia-sleep-deprivation-yoga-asanas-poses-7992212/>

sleepThe time of day when you take your medicine can also affect how well it works and how severe any side effects might be. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

No matter what you eat or how much you exercise, one of the most crucial indicators of a healthy lifestyle is quality sleep. However, due to several factors, many people struggle to get a good night's sleep and end up feeling tired and lethargic all day. Sleep deprivation is also linked to irritation, heart diseases, diabetes, and hypertension, among other things.

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As such, it is necessary to ensure that your body relaxes at the end of the day and you get quality sleep. "Today, many people, especially young adults, struggle with falling asleep night after night. But a regular bedtime yoga routine can help to manage symptoms of insomnia and relax the body which can help you fall asleep quicker," yoga trainer Anshuka Parwani wrote, sharing five yoga asanas that "can help you sleep faster and improve your quality of sleep as well".

## **Food and Nutrition**

### **Keep seasonal diseases at bay with these five monsoon essentials**

**"The drastic fluctuation in temperature and humidity, which happens during the rainy season, lowers the body's immunity and makes it susceptible to bacterial and viral attack," Dr Rachna Agarwal said(Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/seasonal-diseases-monsoon-essential-food-tulsi-garlic-ginger-turmeric-healthy-8031010/>

Monsson foodKnow what kind of healthy food to put on your plate this monsoon season. to keep diseases at bay (Photo: Getty/Thinkstock)

Monsoon is all about sudden showers, a hot cuppa with fritters, and never-ending conversations. But, it is also when seasonal illnesses like dengue, malaria, diarrhea, among others, spread widely. Hence, keeping yourself healthy and fit during these rainy months is extremely necessary.

"The drastic fluctuation in temperature and humidity, which happens during the rainy season, lowers the body's immunity and makes it susceptible to bacterial and viral attack," Dr Rachna Agarwal, a nutritionist, said.

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To prevent such infections and seasonal woes, one must add certain immunity boosters to their diet. “It’s time to update your grocery list with these ingredients to beat the seasonal ailments this monsoon,” nutritionist Lovneet Batra wrote on Instagram.

Also Read | |This monsoon, keep digestive issues at bay with



## Diabetes

### Dietitian lists the ‘classic symptoms’ of diabetes

**"If your body is showing any of these symptoms, then its time to book a consultation with your doctor and get a screening test done," said dietitian Garima Goyal (Indian Express: 20220803)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/dietitian-symptoms-diabetes-weight-loss-fatigue-8056154/>

diabetesMake sure to check for these symptoms of diabetes (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)’s June 2022 data, there has been a 150 per cent rise in cases of people with diabetes , according to the updated Type 1 Diabetes

care recommendations. It also notes that India has the world's second-largest population of adult diabetics. As such, it is extremely important to take care of one's dietary habits and also exercise regularly.

But, dietitian Garima Goyal points out that it is equally essential to understand the 'classic symptoms' of diabetes to seek timely treatment.

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"Here are the classic symptoms of diabetes — if your body is showing any of them, then it's time to book a consultation with your doctor and get a screening test done," the expert wrote on Instagram.

She listed these symptoms

**Increased thirst:** When leaving the kidney, glucose takes water along with it. This, in turn, leads to an unusual increase in thirst.

Also Read |Vegan diet and diabetes: All you need to know

**Frequent urination:** Glucose is osmotically active. Therefore, it extracts more water into the blood.

**Unexplained weight loss:** Fluids are lost through urine. As such, to get energy, the body converts fat into free fatty acids which leads to unusual weight loss.

**Delay in wound healing:** Increased glucose reduces circulation towards the wound. Therefore, wound healing takes time.

Also Read |Five simple health tips to manage diabetes

Increased tiredness

menstrual cycle, menstrual cramps, menses, dysmenorrhea, painful periods, what is dysmenorrhea, types of dysmenorrhea, causes and treatment for dysmenorrhea, indian express news Feeling tired most times can be a sign (Photo: Getty/Thinkstock)

Glucose is unable to reach the cells of the body due to which there is lack of adequate energy and thus, a person feels tired.

**Increased hunger:** Due to lack of glucose for body functions, a mechanism is triggered to get more food for functioning. That creates a feeling of perpetual hunger.

## **Monkeypox**

**Monkeypox: Central Govt constitutes task force to take a call on vaccination of close contacts (The Hindu: 20220803)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/monkeypox-central-govt-constitutes-task-force-to-take-a-call-on-vaccination-of-close-contacts/article65717128.ece>

Health Minister says disease is not new and there is no need to panic

The Central Government-constituted task force on Monkeypox will take a call on vaccinating close contacts of those who have tested positive for the virus and as of now there are no specific plans to vaccinate any segment of the population, said a senior Health Ministry official on Tuesday.

This follows Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya's statement in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday where he said that India has 8 positive (5 in Kerala and 3 in Delhi) confirmed cases of the virus and that the country has initiated strict surveillance and contact tracking.

"The disease is not new and nothing to panic about," added the Minister

Stating that the Monkeypox virus strain has been isolated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which has also floated an expression of interest for the development of vaccine and diagnostics kits, the Minister said that the World Health Organization is not currently recommending mass vaccination for Monkeypox.

Dr. Pragya D. Yadav from maximum containment laboratory, ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, said that India currently doesn't have a smallpox vaccine.

#### ALSO READ

Explained | All we know about the monkeypox virus outbreak so far

Elaborating on the availability of vaccines for Monkeypox, Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, regional director World Health Organization, South-East Asia Region said that it will take some time to fully assess what is available and how these vaccines can be used to greatest effect.

"There is a vaccine for monkeypox recently approved by some countries for which supplies are limited. Some countries may hold smallpox vaccine products which could be considered for use according to national guidance," said Dr. Singh.

She added that vaccine products may be available in limited quantities through national authorities, depending on the country.

Many years of research have led to the development of new and safer (second- and third-generation) vaccines for smallpox, some of which may be useful for monkeypox and one of which has been approved for prevention of monkeypox.

This vaccine is based on a strain of vaccinia virus (known generically as modified vaccinia Ankara Bavarian Nordic strain, or MVA-BN). This vaccine has been approved for the prevention of monkeypox in Canada and the United States of America, explained Dr. Singh.

Also, a senior paediatrician, who works with India's immunisation policy but declined to be identified, said that India didn't have a smallpox vaccine.

"In the early 80s, a decision was taken to stop vaccinating children with the smallpox vaccine because the disease had been eradicated and the allergic reactions it provoked were painful," the person told The Hindu.

"The two vaccines now available are for smallpox but we don't know if this will be effective for monkeypox. However, it shouldn't be a challenge for India to import these vaccines if necessary at short notice."

## ALSO READ

The monkeypox virus: origin, symptoms and vaccine

In 2019, the United States Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) approved the JYNNEOS vaccine for the prevention of smallpox, monkeypox and other diseases caused by orthopoxviruses, including vaccinia virus, in adults 18 years of age and older and categorised as having a "high risk of infection".

These include contacts of those who have been confirmed to have contracted a monkeypox infection, sexual partners (with contact within previous two weeks) of those confirmed with an infection and those whose immune systems are compromised.

As of July 29, doses were available in Brazil, Canada (Toronto, Montreal,) Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Europe, France, Germany (Berlin), Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal (Lisbon), Scotland, Spain (Madrid) and the U.K. (London) with the company claiming to have delivered around 300,000 doses.

Meanwhile, the Minister said that India is taking a step-by-step approach and is implementing the best of the learnings that were gained due to coronavirus.

"When cases started appearing in the world, India had already started preparations. Before the first case in Kerala, we had issued guidelines to all the states. We have written to the governments at the international level that the screening report of the travellers should also be sent to us," the Minister told Rajya Sabha.

## **COVID-19 vaccine**

**Bharat Biotech expects regulator's nod for intranasal COVID-19 vaccine this month (The Hindu:20220803)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/bharat-biotech-expects-regulators-nod-for-intranasal-covid-19-vaccine-this-month/article65714909.ece>

Bharat Biotech completed clinical trials of the nasal vaccine with about 4,000 volunteers and there is no side effect or adverse reaction reported so far

Bharat Biotech, which is working on an intranasal COVID-19 vaccine candidate is hopeful of getting regulatory licenses this month, if all goes well, Chairman and Managing Director of the company, Krishna Ella said.

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Please write complete sentences. Do not type comments in all capital letters, or in all lower case letters, or using

## **Human body**

### **MIT researchers make stamp-size stickers that can scan the human body (The Hindu:20220803)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/mit-researchers-make-stamp-size-stickers-that-can-scan-the-human-body/article65714881.ece>

MIT professor Xuanhe Zhao said the development could open a new era of wearable imaging. MIT researchers have developed small stickers that can capture images of heart, lungs, and other internal organs using ultrasound technology.