

Puducherry adds 663 fresh Covid cases, tally goes up to 47,771

Puducherry: Puducherry registered 663 new coronavirus cases during the last 24 hours taking the overall tally to 47,771, a senior official of the Department of Health and Family Welfare Services said on Sunday. Three more people (all in Puducherry) succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours ending 10 AM Sunday, pushing the death toll to 708, Director of the Health and Family Welfare Department S Mohan Kumar said in a release. The number of active cases in the union territory stood at 4,468 while the recoveries was 42,595 so far, he added.



A medic collects swab sample for COVID-19 test, amid surge in corona virus cases across the country, in Bengaluru, Sunday

Bus services remain crippled as employees' stir enters 12th day

BENGALURU: Bus services in Karnataka remained paralysed as the indefinite strike by the employees of state owned transport corporations over wage related issues entered the 12th day on Sunday. Of the 17,000 buses, only 7,100 could operate by 4 pm, the transport department said in a statement. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation operated 3,225 buses, Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation -- 1,387, North East Karnataka Transport Corporation -- 1,200 and North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation -- 1,288 buses by 4 pm. The workers have been demanding the implementation of 6th pay commission recommendation for them, which the government has refused, saying it won't be possible in the present circumstances.

Karna CM Yediyurappa is stable and recovering

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa who is undergoing treatment for coronavirus at a private hospital is now stable and recovering, his office said on Sunday. "The Chief Minister who was admitted in a hospital on Friday for COVID treatment is being monitored by a team of expert doctors. The health of the Chief Minister is stable and he is recovering," the office of the Chief Minister tweeted on Sunday. Yediyurappa is spending his time in the hospital reading his favourite books and is in touch with officials to give them necessary directions, the tweet further said.

3 held for hoarding, blackmarketing Remdesivir, vital for Covid treatment

BENGALURU: Three people who hoarded Remdesivir injections, vital for COVID patients in critical stages, and were selling it for Rs 10,500 per vial have been arrested, a senior police officer said. "With reports emerging about hoarding and blackmarketing of Remdesivir injection required for Covid treatment, the Central Crime Branch conducted a drive across Bengaluru and arrested three people," Bengaluru Joint Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil said in a statement. The accused are Rajesh and Shakeeb, who run Gurushree Medicals, and Sohail.

Covid cases: Ker Health Minister underlines need for strict measures

BENGALURU: Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar on Sunday underlined the need for more stringent action in Bengaluru in view of rising coronavirus cases leading to speculations about lockdown in the coming days. "There is a need for more stringent measures in Bengaluru.

India records single-day rise of 2,61,500 C-cases

WITH 1501 DEATHS, TOLL REACHES 177150

AGENCIES
New Delhi

A record single-day rise of 2,61,500 coronavirus infections has taken India's total tally of COVID-19 cases to 1,47,88,109, while active cases have surpassed the 18-lakh mark, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll increased to 1,77,150 with a record 1,501 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Registering a steady increase for the 39th day in a row, the active cases stand at 18,01,316, comprising 12.18 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has dropped to 86.62 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,28,09,643, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.20 per cent, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed 20



Lucknow Nagar Nigam launched a sanitization drive in the city during weekend lockdown imposed in the wake of rising Covid-19 cases across the country, in Lucknow on Sunday

lakh on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20

and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, 26,65,38,416 samples have been tested up to April 17 with 15,66,394 samples being tested on Saturday.

Kejriwal writes to Modi, seeks help to fight surging Covid

NEW DELHI

With an unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases in the last few days, the national capital is facing shortage of beds and oxygen as daily positivity rate has jumped to 30 per cent, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said this in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday.

"Covid-19 situation is at a very critical stage. There is a shortage of beds and oxygen in Delhi hospitals, almost all ICU beds have been occupied by Covid-19 patients. We are trying our best, we seek your help," Kejriwal said in his letter to PM Modi.

Kejriwal thanked the Prime Minister for providing 500 ICU beds through the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

According to the CMO, the DRDO is set to reopen

its Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Covid Hospital in Delhi Cantt to deal with the massive spike in infections and will provide 500 ICU beds in the national capital.

Kejriwal has requested Modi to direct the DRDO to increase the number of ICU beds from 500 to 1,000.

"There are around 10,000 beds in Centre-run hospitals, of which only 1,800 are reserved for Covid-19 patients. Observing the situation of the national capital at present, I would request you (PM) to direct to re-serve at least 7,000 beds for Covid-19 patients," Kejriwal wrote in his letter.

Kejriwal told the media that he has spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan and told them about the critical situation Delhi is facing due to the increasing Covid cases.

Declare national health emergency: Sibal

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Amid rising cases of Covid-19 former Union Minister and Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Sunday demanded that the Centre declare a national health emergency in the country. He also urged the Election Commission to declare a moratorium on election rallies. He said on Twitter,

"COVID-19...Infections faster than recoveries. Modiji: Declare a National Health Emergency. Election Commission: Declare a moratorium on election rallies... Courts: Protect people's lives..."

Army pulls out from some areas of western Assam

KOLKATA

With the return of peace in insurgency-affected Assam, the army has started pulling out of areas where normalcy has returned.

"Assam has been a hotbed of insurgency over the last few decades. Various parts of the state have been under the strict vigilance of the Indian Army. However, with continued efforts over time, many of the insurgency affected districts are gradually returning to normal," army press officer said in a statement.

With incidents of violence at their lowest in nearly three decades, deployed troops of the Red Horns Division are being withdrawn from active insurgency (CI) operations from some districts of western Assam. The Army has vacated the large Hatingimari camp in South Salmara. Camps in Mankachar has also been vacated.

"The camp has been successfully handed over and will now be administered by the local civil administration and the security forces," an army officer in Western As-

sam said. The camp's area of responsibility has seen no incidents in the recent past, the officer said. "Local populace and Ex-servicemen were also present at the time of troops moving out of Company Operating Base. The moving out of the troops was welcomed by the local populace and they thanked the Army for their contribution towards achieving peace and restoring normalcy in the district," they added. This area has witnessed high pitch insurgency by the ULFA and the Bodo rebel groups in the past.

Diet drinks, soda might be harming your fertility

Are you fond of fizzy drinks or diet cola breaks? Do you prefer sugar in your brew for a sweetener? If so, your diet beverage could be messing with your pregnancy plans. Did you know, artificial sweeteners are chemical-based and all the soda's and sugary drinks are made of artificial sweeteners? There are so many things to think about when you're trying to increase your chances of conceiving. But did you know or ever think that maybe your daily intake of soft drinks can affect your chances of having a baby?

Couples planning a pregnancy should consider limiting their consumption of

these beverages, especially because they are related to other adverse health effects. Research has shown women undergoing fertility treatments found that frequent consumption of the artificial sweeteners commonly found in these beverages significantly decreased their chances of conceiving a child.

To conceive, 'consider cutting back on sodas': Sugared sodas, and diet sodas are among the most popular beverages consumed by reproductive aged men and women. Research has shown that drinking one soda per day is linked with a 20-25 per cent reduction in the average month-

ly probability of conception for both men and women. These adverse effects are not only limited to natural conception but may also have implications if you are pursuing fertility treatments like IUI & IVF.

Soda and infertility: Studies have found that excessive consumption of soda is strongly linked to infertility in both men and women. Men who consume soda regularly are at four time's the risk of lowering the sperm count, motility, and other parameters that affect fertility. Moreover, soda being an acidic beverage alters the pH of the body which further affects fertility.

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