

9 children affected by Covid in AP; doctors call for action plan

Andhra government to likely discuss an action plan on dealing with third wave

D SURENDRA KUMAR @ Tirupati

AMID reports that the third wave of Covid-19 would impact children more, around nine children in the age group of 4-10 were infected with Covid-19 and admitted in S V R Ruia Government General Hospital in Tirupati.

Three children were undergoing treatment in the ICU while six have been getting treatment on non-ICU oxygen beds. Apart from the nine who tested positive, Ruia hospital Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr E B Devi told *TNIE* that eight others were admitted in the Covid suspected ward where their covid confirmatory test results are awaited.

According to Dr Devi, there are 7 ICU beds, 7 non-ICU oxygen beds and 10 beds in Covid suspected ward in Paediatric block. Meanwhile, the hospital administration has already set up a special paediatric Covid ward with a capacity of 255 beds in the hospital.

"An action plan would be announced within a short period. Now, we have arranged 150 oxygen beds and 55 non-oxygen beds in the pediatric block. Pediatricians have been closely observing the inmates of the Covid ward and providing proper treatment to them," said Dr Devi.

The hospital administration has also set up a team of doctors for providing treatment to children. Now,



Medical staff tend to children at a corona ward at Ruia hospital in Tirupati on Sunday | MADHAV K

the team has been closely monitoring the condition of children infected with the virus. Hospital authorities have also arranged 60 beds for treating non-Covid cases for children.

On the other hand, administration of Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) is also setting up 100 beds for treating children in Padmavati hospital. These beds

would be set up at Paediatric blocks. "We have been making arrangements for setting up of beds for treating children. District Collector M Harinarayanan instructed us to take all measures to face the third wave," said SVIMS Director B Vengamma.

Meanwhile, the State government is likely to discuss an action plan on dealing with third wave of covid-19.

An action plan would be announced within a short period. Now, we have arranged 150 oxygen beds and 55 non-oxygen beds in the pediatric block

Dr Devi, Resident Medical Officer, Ruia Hospital

FILLIP TO AGRICULTURE

AP govt to boost sericulture, mulberry plantation activity

S GURU SRIKANTH @ Vijayawada

Shifting its focus to sericulture this year, the Government has decided to expand the existing 1.18 lakh acres of mulberry plantation to 1.27 lakh acre besides focusing on the development of sericulture industries and extending subsidies for farm mechanization. Further development of mulberry plantation is encouraged under MGNREGS.

There was a long market silence during Covid pandemic, putting farmers in a dilemma as to whether to continue with mulberry production or not. During October-November last year, the situation seemed to turn for the better, but again with the Second wave, farmers were made to adopt a wait and watch policy.

However, now with the dipping curve of Covid-19, the situation may really turn for the better and with government's encouragement, mulberry farmers and silk cocoon producers are expecting to cover up the losses they suffered during past months.

Presenting Agriculture Budget for the current fiscal, Minister for Agriculture Kurasala Kannababu allocated ₹97.36 crore and said they will encourage mulberry plantation and sericulture in the state, particularly in the drought prone regions and extend subsidies and financial aid for setting up sericulture sheds, farm mechanisation, automatic and multi-end reeling

units. "We will be encouraging sericulture among SCs and STS and implement all the related schemes with 90 percent subsidy," he said and added mulberry plantation can be taken up under MGNREGS like the previous fiscal.

An action plan with a goal to create sustainable livelihood to farmers and stakeholders through sericulture activities was prepared. As per the action plan besides expansion of mulberry acreage from existing 1.18 lakh to 1.27 lakh acres by adding 9,000 acres during the year, it was decided to encourage farmers for adopting organic farming, so soil can be enriched.

The strategies to be adopted in the current fiscal also include encouraging Chawkie rearing, cluster approach in pre and post cocoon sectors, incentivising Chawkie, cocoon and raw silk productions. Further it was decided to establish automatic reeling units to produce international 3A and above grade raw silk.

According to a senior official, the prime objectives before them is to increase quality cocoon production from 66,900 metric tonnes at present to 69,100 MT and at the same time increase production of quality raw silk from 9,120 MT to 9,452 MT. The State which has been encouraging Bivoltine Cocoons by providing incentive of ₹50 per kg of cocoon will take measures for improving productivity of Bivoltine Cocoons per 100 DFLs to 75 kgs from the present 73 kg.

EXPRESS READ

Cartoonists play action against Manjul

Kochi: The Kerala Cartoon Academy (KCA) on Sunday condemned the decision of the Centre which sought action against political cartoonist Manjul. The office-bearers of KCA said Manjul has received an e-mail from Twitter saying the Centre had told the micro-blogging site that the content on his Twitter page violated the laws of the country. "The Centre is trying to interfere with the creative freedom of cartoonists. They want to handcuff those behind cartoon which is an art of criticism," said the functionaries in a statement.

List all languages in 8th schedule: TN govt

Chennai: Chief Minister M K Stalin said his government will strive to have all languages in the country listed in the eighth schedule (official languages of the Republic of India) of the Indian Constitution. Stalin said that obtaining the classical-language status for Tamil was one of the crucial contributions of the late former chief minister M Karunanidhi, who began his endeavour to protect Tamil at the age of 14. Stalin recalled that it was on June 6 in 2004, that the Centre declared Tamil as a classical language, Stalin said that the DMK-led government would continue to work to strengthen the Tamil language further, he added in a statement.



FUN AND FROLIC

During leisure hours, a group of youngsters came out to play cricket on the streets of Vijayawada on Sunday | PRASANT MADUGULA

Pvt hospitals fleecing black fungus patients

SHAINU MOHAN @ T'Puram

MANY people who are under treatment for black fungus infection at private hospitals in the state have landed in trouble as the health providers are charging exorbitant rates. This has caught many patients and their families off guard and pushed them into huge financial debt. Also, the unavailability of the highly expensive antifungal drug, Liposomal Amphotericin B, for treating the disease is also adding to their woes.

Kerala has recorded around 64 black fungus/mucormycosis cases and 15 deaths so far. Currently, around 45 patients are under treatment in the state while five have recovered. According to patients' families, the high-end medicine for treating the disease costs around ₹60,000 to ₹70,000 daily at private hospitals.

Recently, the Maharashtra government capped the treatment rates for black fungus in private hospitals following growing complaints. The Kerala government has made the government medical college hospitals the nodal hospitals for black fungus treatment, but little efforts are being taken by the authorities to make available the medicine in the private sector. Due to shortage, the state has announced that only Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd (KMSCL) can procure this medicine.

"My uncle was diagnosed with black fungus infection on May 18 and I contacted the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital but, unfortunately, no bed was available there. He needed emergency surgery too and hence we approached a private hospital here. Per day, the medicine alone costs around Rs 70,000 here. It's been more than two weeks now and I am in a huge debt. He will be needing two more weeks of treatment here," says Preeta (name changed).

and appears to be well-built, it does not mean they have lower risk for infection. There is no scientific proof yet that the virus is suddenly affecting youth in a severe manner.

A high contagiousness is attributed to the newer strains. Hence more infections in a shorter period of time.

Are infections among youth higher because of their going outside when the lockdown is relaxed?

Of course. Not many of the elderly come out during relaxations compared to youth. Most frontline workers are also youth. Also, early vaccination for the elderly has helped minimise the burden of severe disease.

In the first wave, it was widely said: "There is no risk to children." Is that changing now?

Youth in their 20s without comorbidities are succumbing to Covid-19. How do healthy individuals end up in ICU and also die?

It is not just the virus that's harming humans being, but also their immunity. Just because a person is young

The disease is still less intense in children. Over 90 per cent of the children testing positive are asymptomatic, and some have very mild symptoms.

There is no credible evidence to show that the virus may infect children severely in the third wave as well. But still, we must not let our guards down in following Covid-appropriate behaviour.

What is the condition of happy hypoxia reported in youth?

Normally, when a patient's oxygen saturation goes down, the brain recognises it and stimulates the respiratory system to work harder.

With Covid-19 infection, despite having low levels of oxygen saturation, some patients may continue to feel well and do not experience a difficulty in breathing.

This condition is termed 'happy' hypoxia or 'silent' hypoxia. This causes a delay in the admission of the patient to a hospital.

Patients should keep vigilant about hypoxia. They can use a pulse oximeter or do a six-minute walking test. If the SpO2 levels are still low after walking, they can report to health authorities.

How important is it to fast-track vaccination for those in the 18-44 age group, and where do we stand at vaccinating people below 18?

Age and comorbidities are a priority when it comes to vaccination. There is a global lobby working to convince developed countries to spare some of their vaccine stock. Of course, 18-44 age group needs to be covered in the earliest.

To vaccinate people below 18 years of age, we need credible data. Pfizer has done trials for children and has received favourable results. Moderna's trial data will soon be published.

Here in India, we are just in the process of paediatrics trials for vaccines. We will have to wait and watch how it pans out. Also, Bharat Biotech has come up with a nasal vaccine. If it is successful, it will be a game-changer as it is administered via the nose. The logistical expenses, too, may be lesser than that for other types of vaccines.



To vaccinate people below 18, we need credible data. Pfizer has done trials and received favourable results

REGIONAL OFFICE SALEM RURAL Plot No-15/20, First Floor Indira Gandhi Road Fairlands Salem -636016 Phone: 0427-2331800 Fax: 0427-243150

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
REGIONAL OFFICE SALEM RURAL DP CODE: 6955

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in their respective Gold loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and/or other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 18.06.2021 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank through e-Auction at the cost of the borrower. The Auction will be conducted Online through <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 18-06-2021 from 11AM to 01:00 PM with unlimited extension of 5 mins each or on any other convenient date thereafter without prior notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank. Please contact 6359575981 / 6351896640 for auction related queries.

The Notice is applicable to the borrower or the legal heirs of the borrowers as the case may be:

| S NO | Date of Loan | Branch Name | Loan Number | Name and address of the borrower |
|------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 18.06.2019 | Komarapalayam | 1208842051148 | Pugalenthi D S/O N Duraisamy 8/23 SeerangaGoundenPalayam Komarapalayam 638 183 |
| 2 | 01.10.2018 | Komarapalayam | 1208842047253 | Panneer C S/O Cheran 181 Nataraja Nagar Komarapalayam |
| 3 | 22.01.2021 | Komarapalayam | 1208836001719 | Raja M S S/O Srinivasan M R 71 Mettukadai Thevur PO Sangari TK Salem DT |
| 4 | 31.07.2018 | Komarapalayam | 1208842046380 | Vanitha M W/O Mathes M D NO 55 Poosarikadu Main Street 2 Komarapalayam |
| 5 | 04.07.2020 | Komarapalayam | 1208842056749 | Sekar S S/O Sengodan G 1/220 Yadakuvalavu PullagoundampattiAgraharam 637 104 |
| 6 | 17.12.2018 | Marurpatti | 4046842015394 | Ramakrishnan V S/O Venkatraj 6/47 Ward 6 Kollar Street VeeraganurGangavalli |
| 7 | 12.03.2019 | Mohanur | 1211842038132 | Sumathy V W/O Vijayakumar N 32/2B Bazaar Street Mohanur Po |
| 8 | 27.03.2019 | Mudalaipattu | 761842056941 | Thanabakkiam P W/O Palaniappan A1 33, Housing Board Colony Mullai Nagar Trichy Road 637 003 |
| 9 | 21.01.2019 | Mudalaipattu | 761842055704 | Karuppannan N S/O Nachigounder 195 Sengapalli Kadapalli PO 637 109 |
| 10 | 13.10.2020 | Pillanallur | 1047842062838 | Venkatchalam K S/O V Kandasamy 1 3, Earikadu P Ayeepalayam 637 403 |
| 11 | 03.08.2019 | Pillanallur | 1047842057920 | Dhanamani K (A) Dhanalakshmi K D/O Kandasamy 10 79A OmkalliammanKoil St Pillanallur |
| 12 | 08.09.2020 | Pillanallur | 1047842062452 | Dhanamani K (A) Dhanalakshmi K D/O Kandasamy 10 79A OmkalliammanKoil St Pillanallur |
| 13 | 05.03.2018 | Seerapalli | 0735842030153 | Obuliraj V S/O M Venugopal 30 North St Seerapalli Po |
| 14 | 11.05.2018 | Seerapalli | 0735842030863 | Subramanian D S/O SengamalaiUdayarAylipatty Po Via Mangalapuram |
| 15 | 01.03.2019 | Seerapalli | 0735842033764 | Subramanian D S/O SengamalaiUdayar Aylipatty Po Via Mangalapuram |
| 16 | 21.03.2019 | Seerapalli | 0735842034027 | Ravi V S/O Varathan D No 53 Gandhi Nagar Colony Seerapalli Po |
| 17 | 21.02.2019 | Seerapalli | 0735842033656 | Madheswaran P S/O Perumal Naidu 5 667 P Kanavaipatty Kamaraj Nagar Karkoodaipatty Rasipuram Tk |
| 18 | 07.11.2020 | Tiruchengode | 1272836001304 | Thangamani S D/O T A Sundaram 3/223E Kuthirapalayam KaruveppampattiTiruchengode |
| 19 | 24.10.2018 | Uthiragadikaval | 4048842016561 | Murugesan V W/O Venkatchalam 4 No 20 Kudi Street Malaiveppankuttai Po Uthiradikaval |
| 20 | 30.12.2020 | Irukkur | 4379842008146 | Ranjith Kumar R S/O Ramasamy 7/65 Kudi Street KarattupalayamZaminElampallipo ParamathiVelur Tk. |

OFFICE OF THE BANK
AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
DATE: 07-06-2021