



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY
Thursday 20210729

AstraZeneca finds small clot risk after 1st Covid shot, less after 2nd

AstraZeneca finds small clot risk after 1st Covid shot, less after 2nd (The Tribune: 20210729)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/astrazeneca-finds-small-clot-risk-after-1st-covid-shot-less-after-2nd-289476>

Study finds TTS rate 8.1 per million after 1st dose; 2.3 per million after 2nd dose

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine carries a small extra risk of rare blood clots with low platelets after the first dose and no extra risk after the second, a study led and funded by the drugmaker showed on Wednesday, after worries over side-effects.

The study, published in the Lancet medical journal, found that the estimated rate of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) after the first dose was 8.1 per million in those inoculated, AstraZeneca said.

After the second dose of the vaccine, branded Vaxzevria and invented by Oxford University, the rate was 2.3 per million, comparable to that seen in unvaccinated people, the Anglo-Swedish company added.

AstraZeneca's shot has faced several setbacks, including production delays, and rare cases of severe side-effects, including TTS, which led to several countries restricting or stopping use of the vaccine, probes by regulators and warning labels.

The European Union's (EU) drugs regulator has been looking into cases of TTS since March and has found a possible link to Vaxzevria, and to Johnson & Johnson's single-dose Covid-19 shot. It has, however, maintained that overall benefits of both vaccines outweigh any risks posed by them.

Wednesday's findings evaluated cases reported as of April 30 that occurred within 14 days of receiving the first or second dose, using AstraZeneca's global safety database, it said.

Public focus has been high on the vaccine as it had been hailed as potentially the world's best weapon against the pandemic because it is cheap and easily transportable.

The study said limitations of the analysis included reliance on data provided by healthcare providers and those who got vaccinated, which might lead to under-reporting of cases.

It added that "heightened media attention might have led to event misclassification."

As of the cut-off date, 13 cases of TTS had been identified globally after the second dose in people aged 45 years to 85 years, including eight women. Some 399 cases were reported after the first, the study showed, while data used for the number of doses administered was limited to the EU, European Economic Area, and Britain.

"Unless TTS was identified after the first dose, these results support the administration of the two-dose schedule of Vaxzevria, as indicated, to help provide protection against Covid-19 including against rising variants of concern," AstraZeneca senior executive Mene Pangalos said in a statement.

The EU drug regulator in May advised against a second AstraZeneca shot for people reporting TTS after the first. Reuters

Sputnik-Astra vaccine

Russia approves Sputnik-Astra vaccine combined trials (The Tribune: 20210729)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/coronavirus/russia-approves-sputnik-astra-vaccine-combined-trials-289237>

Russia approves Sputnik-Astra vaccine combined trials

Russia's health officials have given a go-ahead to testing a combination of the AstraZeneca shot and the single-dose version of the domestically developed Sputnik V vaccine, according to the country's registry of approved clinical trials. - File photo

Russia's health officials have given a go-ahead to testing a combination of the AstraZeneca shot and the single-dose version of the domestically developed Sputnik V vaccine, according to the country's registry of approved clinical trials.

The small study, scheduled to end in March next year, will enroll 150 volunteers and look at the mixed regimen's safety and capability to trigger immune response. — AP

TRACKING COVID	
NATION	DEATHS
 US	6,27,040
 BRAZIL	5,50,586
 INDIA	4,21,712
 MEXICO	2,38,595
 UK	1,29,303

WORLDOMETER
TILL JULY 27, 11 PM



Active Covid cases register increase for second consecutive day

Active Covid cases register increase for second consecutive day(The Tribune: 20210729)

43,509 new cases, 640 more deaths reported

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/active-covid-cases-register-increase-for-second-consecutive-day-289978>

Active Covid cases register increase for second consecutive day

Photo for representation only. Tribune file

India logged 43,509 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid cases to 3,15,28,114, while the active cases registered an increase for the second consecutive day, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 4,22,662 with 640 fresh fatalities.

The active cases have increased to 4,03,840 and comprise 1.28 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded at 97.38 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

An increase of 4,404 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.38 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,07,01,612, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulative vaccine doses administered so far has reached 45.07 crore under the nationwide vaccination drive.

The ministry said the 640 new fatalities include 286 from Maharashtra and 131 from Kerala.

A total of 4,22,662 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,32,145 from Maharashtra, 36,456 from Karnataka, 33,995 from Tamil Nadu, 25,049 from Delhi, 22,755 from Uttar Pradesh, 18,109 from West Bengal and 16,286 from Punjab. PTI

New Cases (The Asian Age: 20210729)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15737440>

After fall, India logs 43,654 Covid cases

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

India logged 43,654 fresh Covid-19 cases taking its tally to 3,14,84,605, while 640 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,22,022, according to Union Health Ministry data on Wednesday.

The number of active cases stood at 3,99,436, an increase of 1,336 in a span of 24 hours, and comprises 1.27 per cent of the total infections. The national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to 97.39 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

As many as 17,36,857

Covid-19 tests were conducted on Tuesday, taking the total number of tests conducted so far to 46,09,00,978.

The daily positivity rate increased to 2.51 per cent from 1.73 per cent on Tuesday. The weekly positivity rate stood at 2.36 per cent, the data showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,06,63,147, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, it stated.

The total number of Covid vaccine doses administered so far as part of the nationwide vaccination drive has

reached 44.61 crore.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark 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.

The caseload crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

The 640 new fatalities include 254 from Maharashtra, 156 from Kerala and 60 from

Odisha.

Kerala recorded 22,056 fresh cases pushing the infection caseload to 33,27,301, with the number of people who succumbed to the virus rising to 16,457 with 131 more deaths.

A total of 4,22,022 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,31,859 from Maharashtra, 36,437 from Karnataka, 33,966 from Tamil Nadu, 25,046 from Delhi, 22,754 from Uttar Pradesh and 18,095 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Covid Fight (The Asian Age: 20210729)

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=15736734>

How Kerala lost Covid fight

It's ironical that Kerala is now contributing almost one half of the total number of new cases of Covid-19 infections nationally, given that the state had performed exceptionally well during the first wave of the pandemic. The state reported 22,129 cases on Wednesday when India reported 43,634 cases; the corresponding figures for Tuesday were 11,586 and 29,689, respectively. While it is widely believed that the state has managed to control the number of deaths, a fresh controversy has been triggered after it was revealed that the state recorded 23,486 deaths although the official account was 15,871. The Opposition walked out of the Assembly on Wednesday saying the government's Covid containment strategy has failed.

Kerala has one of the best health infrastructure systems in the country and its doctors are renowned for their knowledge and skills world over. The state has managed to inoculate 37 per cent of its population. These factors together may have ensured that deaths have not gone out of control.

Experts are at pains to explain the unprecedented rise in the number of Covid cases, but most point the fact that, during the second wave, Kerala has tried to defeat the virus with a policy no other state has adopted. The government believes in shutting down the economy. Shops are allowed to open only three days a week, resulting in an avoidable rush of people. Neighbouring Tamil Nadu, and most other states, have opened themselves up and still managed to contain the pandemic.

Kerala must review its Covid strategy against its own during the first wave and against the experience of other states. It is universally accepted that local self-government bodies and people's representatives were at the forefront of the fight against the virus in the first wave but that focus is not seen there now. The government relies more on bureaucratic tools, including the police, though proven strategies come handy, especially in times of uncertainties.

Amid pandemic

Amid pandemic, Argentine couples ask 'can I bring a child into this world?' (The Indian Express: 20210729)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/feelings/amid-pandemic-argentine-couples-ask-can-i-bring-a-child-into-this-world-7427010/>

Argentina has seen birthrates dip since 2016, but that accelerated sharply during the pandemic. In the populous city and surrounding province of Buenos Aires, births fell 25 percent at the start of this year versus the start of 2020, official data show

Argentina covid-19, Argentina birth rate, Argentina childbirth, Argentina pandemic Claudia Becerra, 38, and Agustin Cacciola, 32, pose for a picture at their home, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (REUTERS/Matias Baglietto)

In the Argentine capital Buenos Aires, a city famed for its passionate tango dancing and romance, the pandemic is putting a dampener on couples making babies, with birthrates down by a quarter since COVID-19 struck early last year.

Claudia Becerra and her boyfriend Agustín Cacciola have long dreamt of having a child, but strict quarantines and economic malaise from the impact of the virus have made them put off their plans.

“Uncertainty is the most difficult thing we face,” Cacciola, a 32-year-old lawyer, told Reuters alongside Becerra, an accountant, at their home in the Belgrano neighborhood. He lost his job earlier in the pandemic, which hit their finances.

ALSO READ |All you need to know to have a safe pregnancy (and post pregnancy care)

Becerra, 38, “Being a mother had to be postponed a bit due to our professional issues, and last year due to an economic issue for both of us and just everything that happened,” she said.

Argentina has seen birthrates dip since 2016, but that accelerated sharply during the pandemic. In the populous city and surrounding province of Buenos Aires, births fell 25% at the start of this year versus the start of 2020, official data show.

“I hear a lot of people say: ‘How can I bring a child into this world?’” gynecologist and sexologist Silvina Valente told Reuters by Zoom, adding that chronic stress from economic issues and the fear of the pandemic led to the drop in births.

Argentina covid-19, Argentina birth rate, Argentina childbirth, Argentina pandemic Doctor Maria Florencia Veiga looks through a microscope at an embryology laboratory, in a fertility center, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (REUTERS/Matias Baglietto)

The trend has been reflected in Latin America and beyond.

Mexico registered a 15.1% drop in January-May 2021 versus the same period in 2020, while Brazil had the lowest number of births in the first half of 2021 since data began to be compiled in 2003. In Colombia, the birth rate fell 17.4% in 2020 from the previous year, though it has started to bounce in 2021.

“The pandemic impacts a lot of decisions in family life and obviously it impacted the decision to have children,” said Patricio Zalabardo, director of Buenos Aires province’s registry of persons.

Argentina has loosened some restrictions, administered over 30 million vaccines for its 45 million people, and seen case numbers ease from recent peaks, spurring hopes that couples may return to home making.

ALSO READ |Tips for pregnant women to stay safe from COVID-19

Cacciola recently found a new job and the couple are planning to move to a larger apartment, which they say is making conditions easier to decide to start a family.

“Things have begun to get back into some order and there are fewer restrictions on social activities and medical appointments,” said Becerra.

“So this year we are going to make the decision about having a baby.”

Simple ayurvedic remedies

Simple ayurvedic remedies to relieve constipation in children (The Indian Express: 20210729)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/simple-ayurvedic-remedies-relieve-constipation-children-7426674/>

However, if the condition persists to become chronic, then one should seek a doctor's advice to understand the root cause

contipation in kids, how to relieve constipation in children, children and constipation, indianexpress.com, indianexpress, constipation issue, constipation and ayurveda,Here's what to do if your child suffers from constipation. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Parents often face difficulties when it comes to their child's nutrition and health. And with the pandemic restricting children's physical activity, many tend to experience digestive issues like constipation. However, a few tweaks on a daily basis can help. Ayurvedic practitioner Dr Dixa Bhavsar mentioned how constipation in children is a common issue these days.

“Never thought this could be one of the most common ailment among kids, but can we blame them? Well, it's not their fault. Its our current lifestyle that has made the kids love their indoor games and screens more than getting dirty in mud and playing in nature. On top of that, lockdown has imposed more restrictions to the outdoor games. And because of that I see mothers are always worried about their kid's over all health these days (especially the bowel movements),” she wrote in an Instagram post.

She continued that of late, she has also been consulting so many parents who come with complaint of constipation/piles/hard stools for their kids. “So, I just thought of talking about it today, so it could be useful for more parents,” she said.

Post-pandemic

Virulence and variance: On post-pandemic economic strains (The Hindu: 20210729)

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/virulence-and-variance-the-hindu-editorial-on-post-pandemic-economic-strains/article35595227.ece>

Policymakers have little option but to renew economic activities after rapid vaccination

The IMF's latest update to its World Economic Outlook spotlights the starkly widening variance in the global recovery from the economic strains caused by the pandemic. And the primary fault line precipitating the divergence of the world's economies into two blocs — those that are normalising activities from the COVID-19-induced curbs and those that are still struggling — is vaccine access and the pace of vaccination coverage. Three months since its April forecast, the IMF projects the global economy to expand at an unchanged pace of 6% this year. But it sees the world's advanced economies registering faster growth than forecast earlier, while emerging markets and developing economies are expected to post appreciably slower recoveries. The IMF projects Advanced Economies to grow by 5.6% in 2021, 0.5 percentage point quicker than forecast in April. Undergirding this anticipated acceleration, the U.S. economy is seen expanding by 7% — a 0.6 percentage point upgrade — on the back of an expansive vaccine roll-out that has helped enable substantial normalisation in activity, and expectations of additional fiscal support. Emerging market and developing economies on the other hand are seen expanding by 6.3%, 0.4 percentage point slower than projected in April.

India is seen as the largest drag, with the Fund cutting its growth forecast for South Asia's largest economy by 3 percentage points to 9.5%. Citing the impact of the 'severe second wave' and expected 'slow recovery in confidence' as a reason for its downgrade, the IMF has warned that "countries lagging in vaccination, such as India and Indonesia, would suffer the most among G20 economies" in the event of the emergence of a super-contagious virus variant. With just a little over 7% of the population fully vaccinated, India significantly lags the estimated global average of almost 14%, Brazil's 18% and is way behind the 50% and 55% coverage achieved in the U.S. and the U.K., respectively. The Fund was effusive in its praise for India's 'decisive action' in January, when it forecast 11.5% growth for the fiscal year ending in March 2022, before raising that projection to 12.5% in April, after the economy appeared to rebound well in the January-March quarter. That it has now downgraded its outlook so substantially reflects the extent to which the second wave has severely impaired momentum. With inflation looming as a visceral threat, demand yet to regain traction and political appetite in government for more fiscal support negligible, India's policymakers have little option but to hasten the vaccine roll-out on a war footing. Failure to expedite the coverage could cost the country dearly.

COVID-19 | Booster dose

COVID-19 | Booster dose: govt bodies deliberate on scientific evidences related to schedule(The Hindu: 20210729)

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/booster-dose-govt-bodies-deliberate-on-scientific-evidences-related-to-schedule/article35583316.ece>

Current isolation, quarantine, treatment and other public health measures remain valid in case of reinfection also, says Minister in RS

The currently available COVID-19 tests and knowledge do not mention about the duration of immunity and protection against reinfection that is required to differentiate reinfection from persistent virus shedding, since the number of people testing positive more than once does not necessarily indicate reinfection, the Health Ministry said in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha on the cases of those who have been reported as COVID-19 positive more than once.

Responding to the question, Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar remarked in the House earlier this week that the current isolation, quarantine, treatment, and other public health measures remained valid in case of reinfection also.

In response to a question on booster dose of vaccines, she stated that the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and National Expert Group on vaccine administration for Covid (NEGVAC) were deliberating and considering scientific evidences related to the dose schedule.

Dr. Bharati noted that there were cases of reinfection. She pointed out that SARS- CoV-2 reinfection had been published in the journal of Epidemiology and Infection, Cambridge University Press. “The study has concluded that while COVID-19 reinfection is still rarely reported, nonetheless, immunity should not be assumed and public health measures such as physical distancing, hand-hygiene and use of masks should be followed after recovery from the first event of infection,” she asserted.

On booster dose, she observed, “So far, no specific recommendation regarding COVID-19 vaccine booster dose has been made by NTAGI or NEGVAC. There are at present no recommendation on booster dose from the World Health Organisation”. The vaccines have been developed very recently and, therefore, scientific evidence was still evolving globally on the duration of protection.

Covaxin facility augmentation

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, was supporting the implementation of ‘Mission COVID Suraksha- the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine

Development Mission'. Under the mission, facility augmentation for Covaxin production was being supported, whereby Bharat Biotech and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, (Mumbai); Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), (Hyderabad); and Bharat Immunologicals Biologicals Limited (BIBCOL), (Bulandshahr), were being supported.

Additionally, technology transfer for Covaxin production to a consortium of partners, including Hester Biosciences and OmniBRx Biotechnologies Pvt. Ltd., led by Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, was being facilitated by the Department of Biotechnology, she stressed.

“These efforts are expected to enhance the production of Covaxin in the coming months. The Central Government has also provided 100% advance to domestic vaccine manufacturers in respect of procurement orders placed with them. These funds can be used by such manufacturers for their capacity augmentation. The Central Government has also provided advance to one of the vaccine manufacturer -- Biological E for ‘At-risk manufacturing’ of COVID-19 vaccine. Regulatory norms have also been streamlined for approval of vaccines in India that have received Emergency Use License (EUL) by FDA of United States, MHRA of the United Kingdom, PMDA of Japan or WHO-EUL,” said the information released by the Health Ministry.

Healthy lifestyle

Healthy lifestyle may help mitigate high genetic risk of cancer, researchers find (New Kerala: 20210729)

Washington, July 28: Healthy lifestyle factors such as abstinence from smoking and drinking, low body mass index, and exercise correlated with decreased cancer incidence-> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/106632.htm>

Inhalable dry antiviral powder

Inhalable dry antiviral powder may be effective against Covid (New Kerala: 20210729)

Hong Kong, July 28: A team of researchers has developed an inhalable dry powder formulation of tamibarotene -- a repurposed drug -- which has showed broad-spectrum antiviral activity again-> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/106605.htm>

Postmenopausal women

Postmenopausal women can dance their way to better health (New Kerala: 20210729)

: Study Washington, July 28: Women often struggle with managing their weight and other health risk factors, such as high cholesterol, once they transition through menopause. A new study sugges-> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/106576.htm>

Blood clots

Blood clots in people with severe COVID-19 may be related to abnormal antibody response, (New Kerala: 20210729)

study finds London, July 28: Inflammation and blood clotting seen in very severe cases of Covid-19 may be caused by the antibodies sent to fight the disease act-> View it--> <https://www.newkerala.com/news/2021/106566.htm>