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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: COVID-19

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India records 1.7 lakh fresh COVID-19 cases, 904 deaths

Maharashtra adds 63,294 infections, U.P. sees 15,276 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

India reported 1,69,899 fresh cases of COVID-19 as of 11.30 p.m on Sunday, marking the biggest single-day spike since the beginning of the pandemic last year. As many as 904 deaths were also recorded on the day. This is the second straight day the country reported more than 1.5 lakh new cases.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Ladakh. The data are sourced from covid19india.org, an independent aggregator of daily COVID-19 figures.

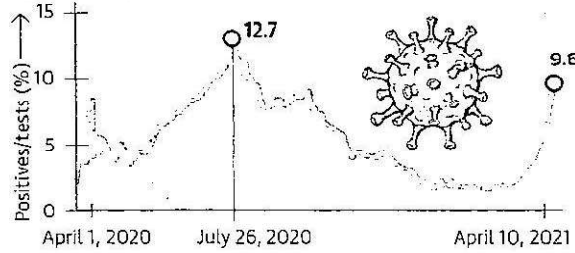
Maharashtra reported 63,294 infections, accounting for nearly 37% of the new cases, followed by Uttar Pradesh (15,276) and Delhi (10,774).

Maharashtra also recorded 349 casualties, followed by Chhattisgarh (122), Uttar Pradesh (67) and Punjab (59).

The country has so far re-

Sharp spike

The test positivity rate in India (9.6% as of April 10) is fast approaching the 12.7% mark recorded in the first wave



ported a total of 1,35,25,364 cases cases and 1,70,209 deaths. As many as 75,288 recoveries were recorded on Sunday, taking the total to 1,21,53,621.

The number of vaccine doses administered in India has crossed 10 crore, with 10,43,65,035 shots recorded as of 8 p.m. on Sunday.

UDDHAV DEFERS LOCKDOWN
PLAN ▶ PAGE 10
COVID-19 TEST REPORT MUST TO
ENTER HIMACHAL ▶ PAGE 10

Remdesivir export banned

The Centre has prohibited the export of Remdesivir injection and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, stating that there was a spike in the demand for the drug. Seven Indian firms produce the injection under a licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences of the U.S. ▶ PAGE 10

COVID-19 test report must to enter Himachal

Rule for those from 6 States and Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Amid the surge in COVID-19 cases, the Himachal Pradesh government on Sunday announced that after April 16, people from Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh will be required to show a negative RT-PCR test report, which is not older than 72 hours, before entering the State. Delhi and the six States have been reporting a high caseload.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who presided over a meeting with the senior officers here to review the COVID-19 situation, said as of

now the government would continue to allow tourists to visit the State. Hotel owners and tourists should strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures issued by the government, he said.

The Chief Minister laid stress on testing, tracing and treatment with effective surveillance of micro containment zones.

"The health department must also take steps to increase bed capacity. The virus is spreading at a fast pace which is a big concern. During the last 45 days, the State reported 10,690 new cases. The number of deaths has also increased rapidly," he said.

Uddhav defers lockdown plan

Maharashtra CM holds crucial meeting; Health Minister says decision soon

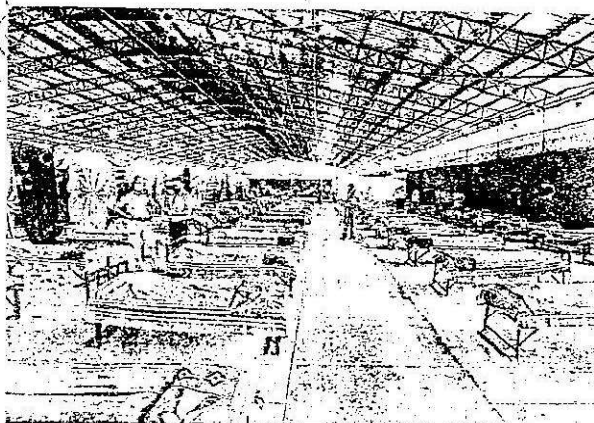
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

With Maharashtra on the verge of a lockdown, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday held a crucial meeting with the COVID-19 task force of doctors and municipal authorities as the State continued to reel under a record spike in case load.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said a decision could be taken on the lockdown in two or three days.

The two-hour meeting focused on the availability of oxygen and beds in hospitals, the use of Remdesivir, treatment protocols, ways to enhance the capacity of facilities and the imposition of restrictions and fines for violating COVID-19 norms.

"In today's meeting, the task force has acknowledged that a situation warranting a



Gearing up: A new 350-bed facility set up at Thakkar Dome in Nashik, Maharashtra. ■ PTI

lockdown has been created in the State. Issues such as the duration of the possible lockdown, management of medical facilities and hospitals, enhancement of medical infrastructure to cope with rising cases were discussed... The Chief Minister

may take a decision on or after April 14 after the Cabinet meeting later in the week," Mr. Tope said.

Principal Secretary, Health, Pradeep Vyas said a staggering four lakh cases had been reported across the State between April 4

and 10, apart from 1,982 deaths.

"The positivity rate is 26% and the more tests we do, the higher the positivity rate. At present, 75% of the 20,250 ICU beds are full and 40% of the 67,000 oxygen beds are full. Beds are not available in 11 or 12 districts," Mr. Vyas said.

Yet another series of meetings is expected over the next two days, including a discussion with the Finance Department, said sources, adding that Mr. Thackeray's meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Finance Department Secretaries on Monday would be regarding provision of relief packages in the event of a lockdown. Some doctors in the course of the two-hour videoconferencing are believed to have recommended a 14-day lockdown.