

# Telangana wants job for all public service staff

Employees with high exposure must get vaccine without age bar, it tells Centre; southern States struggle to curb new cases

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Telangana has requested the Central government to allow COVID-19 vaccination for all those who have high exposure to the public, such as teachers, bus and cab drivers, bank staff and employees of commercial establishments. The State Director of Public Health G Srinivasa Rao also cited street vendors, shopkeepers, and others as facing risk.

The official said that a response to the request was expected in a few days. For a few months now, private companies had come with requests to vaccinate all their employees regardless of age group.

## COVID-19

On Saturday, COVID-19 incidence remained high in southern States. Kerala added 2,055 cases, after testing 52,288 samples. The test positivity rate (TPR) rose to

3.93%. A.P. reported 947 infections.

In Kerala, the addition of 14 deaths which took place over the past few days raised cumulative fatalities to 4,553. Ernakulam reported four deaths, Alappuzha and Kottayam three each, Kannur two while one death each was reported from Kollam and Wayanad.

Among districts, Kozhikode reported the maximum of 263 daily cases, Ernakulam 247, Kannur 222, Kottayam 212, Thrissur 198, Thiruvananthapuram 166, Kollam 164, Malappuram 140, Palakkad 103, Pathanamthitta 80, Kasaragod 78, Alappuzha 62, Idukki 62 and Wayanad 58 cases.

In Andhra Pradesh, a day after 66 students tested positive at the hostels of Andhra University College of Engineering, the district administration declared the area a containment zone. District Collector V. Vinay Chand said there was no need to panic, as AU was not an indi-

### Cutting risk

People are getting vaccinated to keep the viral infection at bay. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States

**COVID-19 Registration**

**Awaiting their turn:** People registering for the first dose of vaccine at a hospital in Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

STATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	DEATHS
TELANGANA*	3,05,804	1,685	2,99,878	
TAMIL NADU	8,77,279	12,659	12,157	
A.P.	8,97,810	7,203	4,715	
KARNATAKA	9,83,930	12,492	21,252	19 non-COVID deaths
KERALA	11,15,777	4,567	24,231	310 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons

cation of a second wave. He said all the cases in the institution were asymptomatic. In the past day, 42,696 samples were tested and 2.22% returned positive. More than 60% of new infections were from four districts of Chittoor (180), Visak-

hapatnam (156), Guntur (145) and Krishna (113). ICU admissions in Telangana increased from around 350-370 patients a day from March 1 to 14, to over 600 patients a day now. On Friday, 58,029 samples were tested and results of 984 were

awaited. Two more COVID-19 patients died. The 495 new cases included 142 from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation region. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Saturday chaired a meeting with Principal Secretaries and officials

of 12 States, along with Municipal Commissioners and District Collectors of 46 worst-hit districts.

These districts from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab and Bihar, had higher mortality.

After over four months, fresh coronavirus infections exceeded 2,000 in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. A total of 2,089 persons tested positive for the infection, taking the overall tally of cases to 8,77,279.

November 12, 2020 was the last time the State recorded over 2,000 cases (2,112). This new high since then pushed the active cases to 12,157, of which Chennai accounted for a major chunk as 4,785 persons were under treatment followed by Chengalpattu (1,254) and Coimbatore (1,092).

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Chennai bureaus)