

Cong raises concern over spike in Covid-19 cases

Party said govt should speed up nationwide vaccination campaign and asked what was its strategy to complete drive within 12 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Raising concerns over the recent surge in coronavirus cases, the Congress on Sunday demanded that the government speed up the nationwide vaccination campaign and asked what was its strategy to complete the drive within 12 months.

Citing Chhattisgarh's demand of more Covishield doses, the opposition party also urged the government to decentralise the vaccination drive and provide adequate vaccines to the states.

India on Sunday recorded 25,320 COVID-19 infections, the highest daily rise in 84 days, taking the case tally to 1,13,59,048, according to Union health ministry data. Also, the death toll increased to 1,58,607 with 161 new fatalities, the highest in 44 days.

Congress spokesperson Shaktisinh Gohil raised concerns over the rising coronavirus cases and said experts have stated that another wave of COVID-19 is starting.

"The government is trying to hide facts by giving a maze of vaccination figures. If you look at the government's claim of total vaccinations till now, it is 2,82,18,457. If you look at the 11 days of March, it is 95,90,594. Of the over 135 crore people in the country, only 1.5 per cent have got vaccines, including those who have got just the first dose,"



Gohil said. Only 47.29 lakh have got both doses of vaccines which means only 0.35 vaccination has been done, he said.

"By this rate 70 per cent people will get vaccinated in 12.6 years. For 100 per cent vaccination, it will take 18 years. We have vaccines, enough of it is there. Why is the government not giving it?" he posed and accused the government of being busy in elections and not caring for the people.

Raising questions for the Narendra Modi government, Gohil asked that with experts and scientists suggesting the emergence of various coronavirus mutants, has the government scaled up genome sequencing to identify newer

variants. "What is the government's plan to complete nationwide vaccination within 12 months and not 13, 16 or 18 years," he asked.

Gohil also asked whether the government was conducting faster and sufficient RT-PCR tests.

"As it has been established worldwide, test, track and isolate is the gold standard to fight coronavirus. Is the Modi government pursuing it in the right direction?" he asked.

Gohil also demanded that journalists, delivery persons, and government servants who were engaged in essential services be considered a priority group for vaccination. He also demanded decentralisation of the vaccination programme

and scaling it up on priority.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated and vaccination of the front-line workers started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 for those who are above 60 years and for people aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield are the two vaccines that are being administered in the country. According to the health ministry, over 2.91 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the country.

Society needs transparent leadership - Deepak



New Delhi: Pandiya Rashtriya Lokniti Party started for the reconstruction of the nation Rashtriya Lokniti Party will bring forward new thinking and leadership in a new perspective Today we envisage a society and nation where even the last person of the society realizes that he also has an important role and stake in every development of the country. The euphoria of democracy and the emancipation of its sweat in the upliftment of the nation, only then the Ram-state of Lokshahi will be established in the true sense. A society that guarantees respect for elders, protection of

facilities are available to the doorstep of every citizen. On the occasion of the launch of the Rashtriya Lokniti Party, the national officials of the Rashtriya Lokniti Party were unanimously selected, including Brigadier B. K. Khanna as Chief Convener, Deepak Pandia Convener Admin, renowned financial expert and former Sr. Public sector banker Sh. M.K. Sharma as Convener Finance, Dr. L. C. Sharma was appointed as Mentor and Renu Negi as Convener Media Relations. The party's National Advisory Board includes renowned Election Technology provider ELECTION

said that today's conditions have changed so much that all areas including education, health, administration, agriculture, industry, including individuals, family, society, have become completely new and different. In such a situation, politics based on our age-old administrative structure has proved completely meaningless. The aim of our party is to bring door to door services with new reforms in Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and all other divisions so that people can function with 100 percent capacity in their services, employing 15 people from the same area

through democracy, otherwise it would be a daydream. J. P. Singh said that if the system is changing then why should we not change, along with the leaders, the rating of citizens should also be fixed, when other countries can do it, why should we not. The party's agenda is absolutely right, it is going to set a new direction. He gave the example of Prashant Manti Bhartoya Janaushdhi Pariyojana which is lacking mass acceptance in the country due to doctors not prescribing Generic drugs due to large multi-national drug companies mafia like hold and

Chhattisgarh govt plans to allow use of Covaxin in state, says Health Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government is considering allowing the use of Covaxin, a vaccine against COVID-19, in the state after the Centre dropped its 'clinical trial mode' tag, state Health Minister T S Singh Deo said on Sunday.

In January, Singh Deo had requested Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to halt the supply of Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech, to the state until its phase-3 trials are completed and results are made available.

The Serum Institute of India (SII)-made vaccine Cov-

ishield is being used in the state as part of the vaccination drive.

Talking to PTI, Singh Deo said, "We are considering allowing Covaxin for those who wish to opt for it after the Government of India dropped the vaccine from clinical trial mode, even though the complete data of its third phase of trials is yet to be published."

The data (of phase-2 trials) of Covaxin published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases journal has indicated that its safety is not in question so now the only question pending is about its efficacy, he said.

However, when the Centre has removed the vaccine

from clinical trial method, then there are many people who are willing to take it...so that is the issue, he said.

"The sole point I had been trying to make was that we must complete the procedure. This is an emergency situation so that is why vaccines, which were (generally) made in 10 to 15 years, were prepared in 10 months. "But even in those 10 months, the procedure which other companies have completed...every company should complete before it is allowed to use the vaccine. Otherwise what is the point of phases-based trials," the minister said.

"We are proud of our indigenous vaccine, but strictly believe that due process as per international norms need to be adhered before bringing it into general use. Our primary concern is well-being of our citizens and only implement any vaccine once its efficacy is proven," he said.

Singh Deo, who is in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19 last week, said that as he had stated earlier, he will take Covaxin after recovering from the infection.

Covaxin will initially be allowed to use only in medical colleges and district hospital premises in separate facility, he added.

Around 60% polling in elections to 2 MLC seats in Telangana

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD: Nearly 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the keenly-fought elections to Telangana Legislative Council from two Graduates' constituencies on Sunday.

Voting began at 8 AM and concluded at 4 PM for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy- Hyderabad Graduates' constituencies. The polling was by and large peaceful, official sources said.

The approximate poll percentage up to 4 PM in Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency was 64.70, while it was 59.96 in the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad seat, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shashank Goel said in a release.

The final percentage would be known after polling gets completed in all polling stations, he said.

Jumbo ballot boxes and big-sized ballot papers were used for polling in view of the large number of candidates in fray.

As many as 93 candidates were in the fray from Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad constituency, while 71 nominees contested from the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency.

Over 10 lakh graduates were eligible to exercise their franchise in preferential method at 1,530 polling stations.

'Cooperate, if you don't want another lockdown'

BENGALURU: Expressing concern over spike in fresh COVID-19 cases, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said the pandemic seemed to be going out of control in the state and asked people to cooperate by adhering to the preventive measures if they don't want another lockdown.

"Appeal to the people with folded hands for cooperation.... if people cooperate I'm

confident that without lockdown we can control," he said, announcing that he has convened a meeting of experts and officials on Monday in the wake of the spurt in fresh cases in recent days.

His appeal comes in the backdrop of lockdown being clamped in parts of neighbouring Maharashtra recently in view of sharp rise in fresh cases there.

Earlier, the nation-wide lockdown imposed in March last year was relaxed in phases under Unlock guidelines and the Karnataka has allowed almost all activities.

For the first time since January 22, the daily COVID-19 cases in Karnataka crossed the 900 mark on Saturday. It reported 921 cases with 630 of them from Bengaluru Urban district alone. AGENCIES

AIADMK unveils super populist manifesto for Assembly polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: The ruling AIADMK on Sunday unveiled a super populist manifesto for the April 6 Assembly polls, promising, among others, houses free of cost to people, Rs 7,500 annual subsidy to farmers, free solar cooking stoves and washing machines.

Educational loan waiver government jobs to families without anyone in state service and many more sops were announced.

Notably, the ruling party, an ally of the BJP, said it would urge the Centre to scrap the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act and strive to bring education to the state list from the concurrent list of the Constitution.

Essential commodities given through Public Distribution Outlets would be door delivered to beneficiaries.

An initiative along these lines was recently launched by the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh government.



Increase in maternity leave for women government employees from nine months to one year and construction of new buildings with modern medical facilities for about 2,000 Amma Mini Clinics found mention in the manifesto.

To those not owning houses, the government would build and provide houses free of cost in rural and urban areas under the 'Amma Illam Thittam' (Amma Housing Scheme) and interest on housing loans availed from cooperative housing societies would be waived on loan repayment.

As part of measures to bring about economic equality, Rs 1,500 per month would be disbursed to all ration card holders and the amount would be credited to bank accounts of woman family heads, senior AIADMK leader C Ponnaiyan said here.

Women would get a 50 per cent fare cut in town buses, Ponnaiyan, also the party's organising secretary said, underscoring the important aspects of the manifesto at the party headquarters.

Distribution of solar powered cooking stoves, washing machines and six LPG cylinder

women and golden future of navigators with transparent leadership, modern technology and noble intentions was to said Deepak Pandiya, Rashtriya Lokniti Party's Convener, He said that where the government is not in the ego of the donor and the public as the petitioner, But the government should discharge its responsibility and ensure that all the necessary

AWAAZ's Managing Editor J. P. Singh, Sr. Media Correspondent and Ex Director ALL INDIA COUNCIL Sh. Alok Kumar, IAS Retired Gautam Marwah, Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi and Brigadier Vinod Dutta. Brigadier Khanna is an international personality, he has rendered his services to the country by staying in the army .M. K. Sharma

in each Panchayat. Those who will provide every service at home, uniform arrangements, fee structure and other facilities in government and private schools are also to be made equal. It is a big truth that India is the largest democratic republic in the world, which we are also proud of. But a country should be considered democratic only when there is good governance established

inducements prevalent through their system. This is gross violation of Supreme Court directions to Medical Council of India, the regulator of doctor's practicing certificate. JP Singh further stressed on the usage of IT and artificial intelligence methods to be implemented right from the beginning as effective utilization of data which is already existing with the govt.

PSPCL launches pilot project for resolving consumer grievances

AMRITSAR: In line with the directives of A Venu Prasad, CMD PSPCL and motivation of director distribution Er. Daljit Inderpal Singh Grewal, Er. Pradeep Kumar Saini, Er-In-Chief/DS, border Zone Amritsar, launched the project of resolving consumer grievances in paperless, faceless and contactless manner at Seva Kendra Batala. This will ensure far better services to the electricity consumers. This project has been started from Batala city as a pilot project which will be gradually implemented in the entire Border zone and later in the whole of Punjab.

Now power consumers of Batala city can lodge complaints related to electricity bill in any way, such as dropping their mobile number in the complaint box, making missed calls to 9646120579, 9646120579 on WhatsApp and Hello. Hi "send, ae-ds-east-batala@pspcl.in e-mail, scan the QR code and register on 1912 without visiting any office from the comfort of their homes. In

case of any urgency to go to the office, the employee sitting in the service centre will allocate the available timeslot to consumer in advance. The entire system was inspected by Er. Pradeep Kumar Saini Engineer-in-Chief and instructions were issued to the staff/officers present to co-ordinate and cooperate for the success of the project.

The project in-charge Er. Parupkar Singh Addl. SE/Protection appraised all about various aspects of this unique initiative and on this occasion Er. Ramesh Sarangal Deputy Chief Engineer/DS, PSPCL,

circle Gurdaspur, Er. Jagjit Singh Bajwa Addl. SE/DS, city divn Batala, Er. Mohtam Singh Addl. SE/DS, suburban divn. BatalaEr. Harjit Singh, Er. Jagdish Singh, Er. Tirath Raj, Er. Davinder Singh, Er. Sukhjinder Singh, Harish Kumar Revenue Accountant and other staff were present.



Er. Ramesh Sarangal Dy. Chief Engineer/DS, circle Gurdaspur appealed to all the valuable consumers to avail this facility to the maximum by registering any complaint related to electricity or electricity bills in any of the above manner from home. #P05T