





India's total caseload crosses 25m, active cases fall 1.5L+ in a day; record daily infections in Assam, Meghalaya; 1K fatalities in Maharashtra;

**CASES ON MONDAY** 260,080\*

**ACTIVE CASES** 3,362,149 (-160,770)

**Recovered** 21.58M (+416,580)    **Deaths** 278,684 (+4,270)

**TOTAL CASES** 25.23M

Source: covid19india.org, 11:26 PM. \*net of recoveries/deaths Change since 12am, 17 May

**VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN INDIA** 184.42 M (+1.48M)

**TOTAL, ON DAY** 122    **1st** 9.66 m    **2nd** 6.65 m

**FLW** 14.50 m    **8.22 m**

**60+** 54.66 m    **17.91 m**

**45+** 57.65 m    **9.24 m**

**18-44** 5.93 m    **0**

**MON**    **1st** 12,973    **2nd** 8,055

**HCW** 52,069    **20,534**

**60+** 143,853    **77,368**

**45+** 370,705    **130,706**

**18-44** 663,329    **0**

Source: MoHFW, 8pm. (+) change over prev. day HC/FLW: healthcare/frontline workers

**Samples Tested so Far\***

**316.42 MILLION**

**1.57M in last 24 hours\***

Source: ICMR, 16 May\*. ^cumulative, 3-day average

**Daily Infections**

**5 worst-hit states**    **CASES ON MON**    **DEATHS**

Karnataka 38603 476

Tamil Nadu 33075 335

Maharashtra 26616 1000

Kerala 21402 87

West Bengal 19003 147

**SHARE IN DAILY CASES: 53.33%**

Source: covid19india.org, 11:27 PM

**5 Main Metros\***    **CASES ON MON**    **ACTIVE CASES**

B'lu Urban 13338 364382

Chennai 5980 48156

Delhi 4524 56049

Kolkata 3899 26026

Mumbai 1232 32761

[Districts/metros]

**SHARE IN DAILY CASES: 10.67%**

Source: covid19india.org

**GLOBAL COUNT**

Total Cases 164.06 M

Deaths 3,399,249

Recovered 142.70 M

Million (196 countries/areas)

Source: worldometers.info, Bloomberg, 10:43 PM

## 'Pfizer, Moderna Jabs Work against Indian Variants'

**WASHINGTON:** The Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines should remain highly effective against two coronavirus variants first identified in India, according to new research carried out by US scientists. The lab-based study was carried out by NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Langone Center. "What we found is that the vaccine's antibodies are a bit weaker against the variants, but not enough that we think it would have an effect on the ability of vaccines," senior author Nathaniel "Ned" Landau said on Monday. —AFP

**HCL Technologies, Dabur, PepsiCo, Capgemini, Flipkart, Ashok Leyland and several others have introduced new policies to support employees and their families in battling the pandemic and managing its aftermath, as a larger number of the workforce is getting infected now compared with the first wave of Covid. This month, Dabur has decided to support the families of employees who have lost their life to Covid, by continuing to pay their monthly salary for a year, in addition to extending the company's term insurance cover to the dependents for the same period.**

This covers all employees — about 5,000 India and around 2,000 abroad. "While we understand that this can in no way make up for the loss, we feel this small gesture would help support the family through this tough period," chief executive Mohit Malhotra said.

PepsiCo has recently started offering advance salaries to those infected by the virus. This facility is available to its

# 'Infected Should Defer Shots by up to 9 Months'

Govt panel's recommendations sent to health ministry for approval

Teena.Thacker@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A government panel has recommended that those who have had Covid-19 infection wait for three to nine months after the recovery to get their vaccine shots. The recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has been sent to the health ministry for approval.

"We have recommended a vaccine 'sparring strategy' which includes a longer waiting period for the first dose for those who have tested Covid-19 positive," said a senior government official.

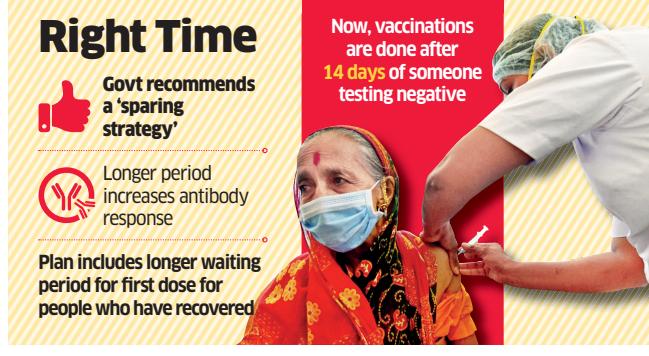
The longer time period increases the antibody response and hence it has been recommended that people who have been infected can get their vaccination done between three and nine months, added the official.

At present, such people who have recovered are vaccinated 14 days after testing negative, said a senior government official.

The government committee has also recommended to make pregnant and lactating women eligible for vaccination.

The recommendations are likely to be approved soon.

"The recommendations are based on scientific data. We are not



following any other country blindly," added the official.

It has also recommended that people who have received plasma during their treatment wait for at least a period of 12 weeks before taking the vaccine.

Last week, the government approved NTAGI's recommendation that extended the interval between two doses of the Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks.

This was the second time the Covishield dosage interval was extended. In March, the government decided to stretch the gap from four weeks to six-eight weeks citing better results.

The decision to extend it further was taken taking into account real-life evidence from the UK, the

health ministry said in a statement.

Balram Bhargava, director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research, said that a lot of "scientific deliberation" had taken place. He said before the decision was made, discussions were also held with University of Oxford, which developed the vaccine with AstraZeneca.

Niti Aayog member VK Paul called it a "science-based" decision. "UK has done it for a period of time. A real-life experience of large numbers is available. There is confidence that if we increase it there will be no risk. This is a dynamic situation and the decision is a part of a periodical review," he said.

## 'Minuscule but Definitive Risk of Blood Clots Post Covishield Shot'

Health ministry issues advisory regarding symptoms people will have to watch out for

Teena.Thacker@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government panel investigating serious adverse events arising from Covid-19 vaccinations has issued an advisory after finding minuscule but definitive risk of blood clots following the administration of Covishield vaccines.

Bleeding and clotting cases following Covishield, the Covid-19 vaccine by the Serum Institute of India (SII), are "minuscule" and in line with the expected number of diagnoses of these conditions in the country. National AEFI (Adverse Event Following Immunisation) Committee said in a report

by the UK's regulator and 10 events per million doses in Germany. The health ministry said it is issuing advisories to ensure people are aware of suspected thromboembolic symptoms occurring up to 20 days after receiving any Covid-19 vaccine.

The symptoms that beneficiaries will have to watch out for include breathlessness, pain in chest, pain in limbs, bruising of skin, persistent abdominal pain with or without vomiting, seizures in the absence of previous history of seizures, paralysis of limbs, blurred vision or pain in eyes, and change in mental status.

"Covishield continues to have a definite positive benefit risk profile and tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths due to Covid-19 across the world and in India," the government said in a statement.

The report comes in the backdrop of alerts being raised in some countries on post-vaccination "embolic and thrombotic events", particularly with AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine.

## Plasma Therapy Dropped from Covid Care Protocol

Teena.Thacker@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government on Monday removed convalescent plasma therapy from the country's clinical management guidelines on Covid-19 after an expert group found that the therapy was ineffective in reducing the progression to severe disease or death.

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

tute of India did not respond to ET's queries. The tenders for UP, Odisha and Tamil Nadu are valid till May 21, May 28 and June 5, respectively.

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses

Tamil Nadu has issued a tender for the supply of 35m doses