



# Hope springs anew for La Liga

Barcelona players return to training, Real Madrid likely to start on Monday. *Page 10*

# DH



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# In tweaked policy, pre-discharge test only for severe Covid cases

**New norms exempt checks for patients with mild illness before hospital exit**

SAGAR KULKARNI  
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Migrant labourers wave to fellow workers being ferried to Chikkabanavara railway station from Kodigehalli in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The Centre has tweaked the discharge policy for Covid-19 patients where only those with severe illness or compromised immunity will undergo RT-PCR tests before they are allowed to leave the hospital.

Patients with very mild, mild, pre-symptomatic or moderate illness need not undergo any tests before being discharged from Covid-19 care facilities.

The revised discharge guidelines are a departure from the earlier policy that required a laboratory confirmed patient to undergo a test after 14 days of hospitalisation and a repeat test within 24 hours — with both results negative — before being discharged from the healthcare facility.

“Mild/very mild/pre-symptomatic cases will undergo regular temperature and pulse oximetry monitoring. The patient can be discharged after 10 days of symptom onset and no fever for three days,” the revised guidelines said. “There will be no need for testing prior to discharge,” they said. The patient will be advised to follow home isolation for a further seven days.

► **Test, Page 5**



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## 14-day institutional quarantine for stranded

BENGALURU, DHNS: All international passengers and the asymptomatic (category 2) will now have to undergo institutional quarantine for 14 days, according to the new standard operating procedure (SoP) issued by the Karnataka government for a third time.

The SoP, which has been revised twice, was issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department on Saturday.

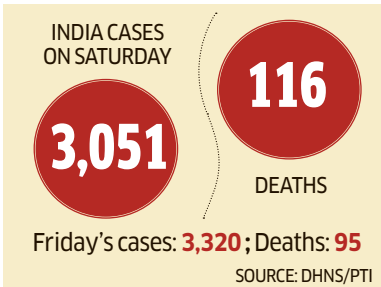
Earlier, international passengers had to undergo seven days of institutional and seven days of home quarantine. Passengers will also be tested only

twice — once on arrival and for the second time on the 14th day — instead of the earlier decision to test thrice. They will be discharged from the facility if they test negative.

The first group of 350 people are expected to arrive from London at 3am on Monday at the Kempegowda International Airport, said Lakshman Reddy, Joint Director, Social Welfare Department.

Flights are expected from Singapore on May 13, Jeddah on May 14 and San Francisco on May 15.

Among the stranded include 4,408 tourists and visitors, 3,084 students, 2,784 migrants and 557 ship crew.



### In India

- Tamil Nadu moves SC against HC order barring counter sale of alcohol
- CISF reports 13 fresh Covid-19 cases; max in Delhi metro unit
- Telangana to roll out AI-based system to check face mask violations
- Evaluation for class 10, 12 board exams to be done at home by teachers

### Across the globe

- Trump admin working to temporarily ban work-based visas
- UK plans 14-day compulsory quarantine for all airport arrivals
- Iran reports more than 1,500 cases
- Legislation introduced in US Congress to give Green Card to 40,000 foreign nurses, doctors
- Ivanka Trump's personal assistant, VP Pence's press secretary test positive

# Shah scotches rumours about health, says he's fine

**Four booked in Gujarat for posts on social media**

SHEMIN JOY & SATISH JHA  
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Scotching rumours that he is seriously ill, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said he remains in perfect health, even as the police in Gujarat booked four people for spreading the rumours.

Shah's statement came after social media was abuzz with speculation over his health citing his "absence" in public, with some even suggesting that he was suffering from cancer and could even lose the battle to it.

"In the past few days, some friends on social media have been spreading rumours about my health. It went to the extent that some people even wished my death through tweets," he said.

Shah said he was working till late night everyday as the country was fighting Covid-19 and he was not aware of it initially. When it was brought to his notice,

he said he felt that if some people were "happy" about it, they should be allowed to remain happy and so no clarification was issued.

However, he said lakhs of party workers and well-wishers expressed concern in the past two days, which he could not overlook.

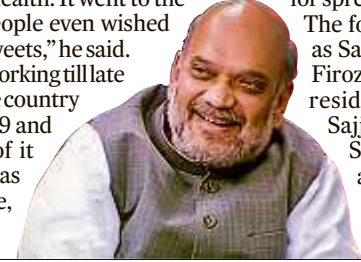
"That is why I am issuing a clarification now. I am healthy and I have no ailment," he said.

He also went on to say that according to Hindu beliefs, such speculation and rumours add to one's years and that people should not waste time. He also said he has no ill-will against those who spread rumours against him.

In Ahmedabad, the Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) booked four persons for allegedly sharing a screenshot of a fake tweet in Shah's name and spreading fake information about his health.

Special Police Commissioner, DCB, Ajay Tomar said they have been booked for spreading false information.

The four have been identified as Sarfaraz Memon (40) and Firozkhan Pathan (48), both residents of Ahmedabad, Sajjadali Nayani (56) and Sirajhussain Virani, who are from Bhavnagar. ► **Amit Shah, Page 5**



# Panic at Vani Vilas after pregnant woman tests positive for Covid-19

AKHIL KADIDAL  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Panic gripped Vani Vilas Women and Children's Hospital on Saturday after a pregnant mother in late-stage labour was diagnosed with Covid-19 on Friday night, forcing hospital authorities to quarantine several staff members who came in contact with the woman.

Concerned by the discovery of a positive case in their midst, nurses and hospital staff protested at the hospital on Saturday morning.

Patient 765, a 20-year-old woman from Padarayanpura, was brought to the hospital with another woman from the same locality at around 11.30 am on Friday.

The other woman, Patient 738 (noted as a neighbour), had been found Covid positive earlier by BBMP officers carrying out screening activities at Padarayanpura and was immediately transferred to the Trauma Care Centre at Victoria Hospital.

However, Patient 765 was asymptomatic and was initially held at Vani Vilas, said Dr C R Jayanthi, Dean-Director of Bangalore Medical College and Research



Doctors and medical staff protest at Vani Vilas hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

Institute (BMRCI).

"She was in late-stage pregnancy and we did not know that she was positive. A swab test had been done and we were awaiting the results," Dr Jayanthi added.

When she was found Covid positive, some staff from the hospital had spent over four hours with her, a source said, adding that a sizeable number of primary and secondary contacts had been generated.

► **Vani Vilas, Page 5**

## Prepared for worst: Health Minister

As India's Covid-19 count continued to mount, Health Minister Harshvardhan said the country's health infrastructure was ready for the worst scenario, reports DHNS. **Details on Page 8**

## Good news from Mysuru

Mysuru district, which is still in the red zone with a total of 90 positive cases, but no casualties and recovery of 86 patients, has some good news amid the crisis, as the remaining four are also on the path to recovery. **Details on Page 5**

## Nationwide tally crosses 60,000

The nationwide tally of confirmed Covid-19 cases crossed 60,000 on Saturday and the death toll neared the 2,000 mark after more people tested positive for the virus. **Details on Page 8**

# Huge skill gap could hamper industry revival

**Skilling schemes are beset by low numbers, lack of employment opportunities and a gap between training and market needs**

SHRUTHI H M SASTRY  
BENGALURU, DHNS



With Covid-19 changing the business scenario across the world, experts believe that a skilled workforce is crucial to rebuild the economy. In Karnataka, the government's skill development initiatives have become all-the-more relevant now, when industry leaders are preparing themselves to meet post-Covid market requirements. Experts, particularly those in the MSME sector, believe that the government must up its skilling game to be able to tap into the market opportunities.

"Post the Covid-19 crisis, the government should look at rapidly expanding MSMEs, as there will be a lot of demand for Indian companies. Quality and delivery schedules can be maintained only if there is skilled workforce. Hence, skilling is an important aspect to convert the anticipated demand into a national opportunity. Moreover, Karnataka is the machine tool capital of India and has huge potential for employment generation. The government should tap into it," said Prithvi Raj, former president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA).

However, more than three years into the state government's 'Chief Minister's Kaushalya Karnataka Yojane', which envisaged to skill five lakh youth annually, a glimpse into the implementation of the

programme leaves much to be desired.

Following the Chief Minister's budget speech in 2016-17, the state government created the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood (SDEL) and initiated the Chief Minister's Kaushalya Karnataka Yojane (CMKKY).

Subsequently, the government also brought out the Skill Development Policy (2017-2030), with an aim to "increase the number of youth and adults having relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills for employment, in decent jobs and entrepreneurship by 2030." The new policy was pitched as an improvement over the previous State Policy on Skill Development (2008), which sought to skill youth in Karnataka through Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation.

As per what the government itself acknowledged in its new skill development framework, the 2008 policy lacked monitoring and evaluation. The government also identified that there was a need for real-time information on the labour market and strong career guidance and placement capability, to effectively implement the programme.

As per procedure, a Training Provider must register with the government. The registration will be accepted if the Training Provider/ Training Centre meets the requisite criteria. Once they register, they can access the list of applicants seeking training from the government website and reach out to the applicants seeking their willingness. Once the government officially allots a set of candidates to a particular centre, the government will physically inspect the training centre to ensure adequate infrastructure, including CCTV for monitoring classes and biometric system for transparency in attendance. The government sanctions 50% of the funding at this stage, while it will disburse another 30% once the candidates successfully complete the training and the rest 20% once they get employment. The centres are expected to ensure placement of at least 70% of candidates.

However, there is a huge gap between the desired outcome and the ground reality. The government's ambitious target of reaching out to five lakh youth has remained an aspiration on paper. According to sources in the Skill Development department, when the scheme was launched, district officials aggressively pursued a grassroots campaign for enrolment of youth into the programme, which led to several dummy enrolments. ► **Skill gap, Page 4**

### INSIGHT



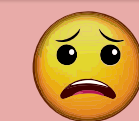
# PRANAVAYU

An Initiative of BBMP to monitor progress of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) to Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) through PULSE OXIMETER



**AN INITIATIVE TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE CITIZENS OF BENGALURU FOR SELF MONITORING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SARI**

- Home based monitoring of patients with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) using a simple Pulse Oximeter which records Oxygen Saturation.
- Drop in oxygen saturation below 90% is clear sign for reaching hospital for critical care
- Aims for early diagnosis and intervention
- Intends to reduce mortality and need for ventilator support.



Below 90% Critical



Above 90% Normal

**M. Goutham Kumar**  
Mayor

**Ramamohan Raju C.R.**  
Deputy Mayor

**G. Manjunath Raju**  
Chairman, Public Health Standing Committee

**Munindra Kumar K.A.**  
Leader of Ruling Party

**Abdul Wazid**  
Leader of Opposition Party

**Nethra Narayan**  
Leader of JDS Party

**Dr. Ravi Kumar Surpur, IAS**  
Special Commissioner (Projects & Health)

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
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**B.H. Anil Kumar, IAS**  
Commissioner



As enshrined in our Constitution, "to protect & improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

#pranavayu

#stayhome

#BBMPfightsCOVID19