Coronavirus News October 29 Highlights: India's COVID-19 caseload crosses 80 lakh mark; active cases fall for 26th day in row

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**Coronavirus News LIVE Update: WHO plans COVID-19 vaccine insurance scheme for poor nations**

A vaccine scheme co-led by the World Health Organization is setting up a compensation fund for people in poor nations who might suffer any side-effects from COVID-19 vaccines, aiming to allay fears that could hamper a global rollout of shots.

**Coronavirus News LIVE Update: Punjab records 10 more COVID-19 deaths, 468 new cases**

Ten more deaths due to COVID-19 in Punjab pushed the related toll to 4,168 while 468 fresh cases brought the infection tally to 1,32,727 on Thursday, according to a medical bulletin. Two fresh fatalities each were reported from Faridkot, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur and one each from Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Mansa and Patiala, the bulletin said.

**Coronavirus News LIVE Update: 1,594 fresh COVID-19 cases, eight more fatalities in Haryana**

Haryana on Thursday reported 1,594 fresh novel coronavirus cases taking the total caseload to 1,63,817 while eight more COVID19 related deaths took the toll to 1,766 in the state, a health bulletin showed. Of the fatalities, three were from Yamunanagar, two from Fatehabad, while one death each was from Gurugram, Hisar and Kurukshetra, according to the state health department's daily bulletin.
The COVID-19 tally in Goa reached 43,201 after 233 more persons tested positive for the infection on Thursday, an official from the health department said. With the death of five patients during the day, the toll rose to 597, the official said.

The COVID-19 infection count in Gujarat reached 1,71,040 on Thursday after 987 people tested positive in the last 24 hours, the state health department said. As many as 1,083 patients recovered during this period, which took the state's recovery count to 1,54,078, it said.

Social gatherings during festivities, deteriorating air quality, increasing incidences of respiratory disorders are among a few reasons attributed to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Delhi, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday. A review meeting on the status of the infection in Delhi, West Bengal and Kerala was held by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan in the presence of V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, and Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR, according to a statement by the health ministry. Delhi with 29,378 active cases has recorded nearly 46 per cent increase in the fresh cases over the past four weeks, and the positivity rate over the past four weeks has escalated by nearly 9 per cent, the ministry said.

The count of recovered COVID-19 patients crossed the 15,000 mark in Amravati district of Maharashtra after 89 of them were discharged on Thursday, the authorities said. The recovery count now stands at 15,081, while its rate has reached 93.09 per cent, the civil surgeon office said in its report.
President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russian COVID-19 experimental vaccines were effective and that Russia hoped to start mass vaccinations by the end of the year.

As many as 1,979 fresh COVID19 cases pushed Uttar Pradesh's virus count to 4,77,895 on Thursday, while the death toll climbed to 6,983 as 25 more people succumbed to the disease, a senior official said. “The number of active cases in the state is 24,858, while 4,46,054 patients have been treated and discharged,” Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health, Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters.

The COVID-19 tally in Mumbai’s slum colony of Dharavi increased to 3,536 with the addition of 14 new cases on Thursday, according to a senior BMC official. He said 3,088 COVID-19 patients in Dharavi have already recovered and discharged from hospitals.

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia did not plan to impose blanket restrictions or a national lockdown to curb the surge in coronavirus cases.

Some recovered COVID-19 patients may still carry the novel coronavirus, according to a new study which recommends that people leaving quarantine to avoid close contact with others, wear a face mask, and possibly undergo an additional test to confirm if they are free of the virus. The study assessed 131 COVID-19 patients who met the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria for discontinuation of quarantine and found that close to 17 percent of them, who were considered fully recovered, tested positive for the virus in follow-up screening.

Singapore will allow some foreign workers, who have largely been confined to dormitories since March due to the spread of the coronavirus, to visit recreation centres, as the country eases norms after low infection rates in the community. All foreign workers from the dormitory, who test negative for COVID-19, will be able to visit recreation centres on their days off from Saturday, reported Channel News Asia, citing Ministry of Manpower (MOM). But these workers from the dormitories, which were the biggest coronavirus spreading points at the peak of local infections, must not be from dormitory that has active COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Manpower said.
Coronavirus News LIVE updates: India’s average daily COVID-19 tests in past six weeks at about 11 lakh, says Health Ministry

Nearly 11 lakh COVID-19 tests have been conducted daily on an average in the past six weeks as the cumulative tests have crossed 10.65 crore-mark, the Health Ministry said on Thursday. In a statement, the Health Ministry said 15 lakh tests can be done everyday now. "The declining trend of cumulative positivity rate in the past three weeks is a testimony of the wide expansion of the country’s testing facilities," it said. "With 10,75,760 tests conducted in the last 24 hours, the cumulative tests have crossed 10.65 crore (10,65,63,440). Nearly 11 lakh tests have been conducted daily on an average during the past six weeks," it added. Giving break-up from the states, the ministry said 79 per cent of the new cases are from 10 states and union territories. "Kerala continues to be the state reporting a very high number of new cases with more than 8,000 cases, followed by Maharashtra with more than 6,000 cases," it said.

Coronavirus News LIVE updates: Ready to restart Mumbai local train services: Railways to Maharashtra

The Western Railway and Central Railway on Wednesday said they are ready to augment suburban services keeping social distancing norms.Get latest India online at cnbctv18.com

Coronavirus News LIVE updates: Two out of five Srinagar residents have COVID-19 antibodies, sero-survey shows

Over 40 percent people living in Srinagar district have developed COVID-19 antibodies, according to the latest seroprevalence study which suggests a large fraction of the population in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir may have been infected by the novel coronavirus. The results of the study conducted by the Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC) reveal a quantum jump from 3.8 percent seroprevalence recorded in a similar study conducted in the city in June.

Coronavirus News LIVE updates: Singapore to allow migrant workers from dormitories to visit recreation centres

Singapore will allow some foreign workers, who have largely been confined to dormitories since March due to the spread of the coronavirus, to visit recreation centres, as the country eases norms after low infection rates in the community. All foreign workers from the dormitory, who test negative for COVID-19, will be able to visit recreation centres on their days off from Saturday, reported Channel News Asia, citing Ministry of Manpower (MOM).
The West Bengal government has asked all state-run and private medical establishments to send details of frontline health care workers (HCWs) and other staff who would be administered COVID-19 vaccine on a priority basis, an official said on Thursday. All medical establishments like medical colleges (allopathic, homoeopathic and AYUSH), health centres, private healthcare units and polyclinics have been asked to send the list of workers, the senior official of the Health department told PTI.

Eighteen more people succumbed to COVID-19 in Andhra Pradesh, pushing the death toll in the state to 6,643, health officials said. During the last 24 hours, the state reported 2,949 new infections, taking the tally to 8,14,774, the health officials said on Wednesday. Of the fresh fatalities reported, Anantapur, Guntur, Krishna and West Godavari districts accounted for three deaths each. Two persons each succumbed in Chittoor and East Godavari while Prakasam and Visakhapatnam reported one death each. During the last 24 hours that ended 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the state saw 3,609 people recovering from COVID. This has taken the total number of recoveries to 7,81,509. At 95.92 per cent, Andhra Pradesh has the highest recovery rate while the mortality rate is 0.82 against the national average of 1.50 per cent. Total active cases in the state now stand at 26,622. East Godavari district has the highest number of active cases at 4,877 followed by West Godavari (3,836), Guntur (3,603) and Krishna (3,082).

Thirty-nine residents of Rangrik in the remote Spiti Valley of Lahaul-Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh have tested positive for coronavirus, health officials said on Thursday. As a precaution to contain the virus, authorities have sealed the village and barred in and out movement, except in emergency. Medical teams will carry out further testing of primary contacts mainly in Kaza, the headquarters of Spiti and some 320 km from the state capital Shimla, on Thursday, said an official. “Most of the people in Spiti are aware about the disease despite no internet connectivity in larger areas. They are taking precautions on maintaining social distance while working in the fields too,” Assistant Public Relations Officer Ajay Banyal told IANS over phone. Kaza was the first in the state to sanitise the entire block. The entire Spiti Valley is populated mainly by tribals. The climatic conditions of the district are harsh as much of the land forms part of a cold desert where the mercury drops below minus 20 degrees Celsius during winter. A total of 332 Covid-19 cases were reported in the state on Wednesday, taking the total tally to 21,149. The state has 2,646 active cases with 295 deaths.

The three-week long protest and an indefinite hunger strike by the resident doctors of the North Municipal Corporation of Delhi run hospitals has ended after the pending salaries of a majority of the healthcare workers were credited to their accounts. The strike ended on Wednesday late evening after which the doctors resumed their work. Mayor (North MCD) Jai Prakash reached the Hindu Rao Hospital premises and ended the strike by offering the protesting doctors juice. “The strike by agitating doctors was called off as North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash offered juice to the medics on hunger strike. Salaries of all doctors have been released, till September,” the NDMC said in a statement.
Agra recorded its 144th death from Covid-19, even as 34 fresh cases were reported in the last 24 hours. District Magistrate P.N. Singh said the total number of cases so far is 7,098, while 6,636 have been discharged after recovery. The number of active cases has come down to 318. The total number of samples collected for testing is 2,58,150. The recovery rate is above 93 per cent, said Singh. Though there has been a dramatic drop in the number of Covid-19 positive cases in the Taj city, for the past fortnight, doctors warn this could be a deceptive lull before the imminent surge as temperature drops in the coming weeks.

"It is too early to say that Delhi is experiencing the 3rd wave of #COVID19 cases. We must wait for another week in order to definitively say that, but it possible that we're already in that phase: Satyendar Jain, Delhi Health Minister on the spike in COVID cases pic.twitter.com/yxxEyZnsZ6"

— ANI (@ANI) October 29, 2020

The US Air Force has confirmed that General David D. Thompson, the second highest official in the US Space Force, has tested positive for the novel coronavirus. General David D. Thompson, Vice Chief of Space Operations, tested positive today for Covid-19. He took the test today after learning that a close family member, with whom he had contact, tested positive for the virus," CNN quoted the Air Force as saying in a statement on Wednesday. "In accordance with established Covid-19 policies, General Thompson is self-quarantining and working remotely from home," it added. The Space Force, which has assigned approximately 16,000 military and civilian personnel. was officially established as an independent military service in December 2019.

Global gold demand declined by 19 per cent during the July-September quarter to 892.3 tonnes, the lowest quarterly total since Q3 of 2009, due to coronavirus-induced disruption, World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report. The total global demand during July-September 2019, stood at 1,100.2 tonnes, according to WGC’s Q3 Gold Demand Trends’ report. Though the overall demand declined during the third quarter of this year, there was a significant growth in investment demand, the report said. The overall investment demand grew by 21 percent at 494.6 tonnes as investors globally bought 222.1 tonnes of gold bars and coins and an additional 272.5 tonnes through gold-backed ETFs (electronically traded funds). Year-to-date, gold ETFs have increased their holdings by a record 1,003.3 tonnes, it added. In the third quarter of 2019, the overall investment demand stood at 408.1 tonnes, out of which 149.4 tonnes was for bars and coins and 258.7 tonnes for ETF.

A vast majority of individuals infected with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 mount a "robust" defence via antibodies that is relatively stable for "at least five months", according to a new study which says this immune response significantly reduces the risk of re-infection with the novel coronavirus. The research, published in the journal Science, found that this antibody response correlates with the body’s ability to neutralise the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. "While some reports have come out saying antibodies to this virus go away quickly, we have found just the opposite—that more than 90 per cent of people who were mildly or..."
moderately ill produce an antibody response strong enough to neutralise the virus, and the response is maintained for many months,” said Florian Krammer, a senior author of the study from The Mount Sinai Hospital in the US.

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Coronavirus News LIVE Updates: 108 new cases push Arunachal’s COVID-19 tally to 14,580

Arunachal Pradesh’s COVID-19 tally rose to 14,580 on Thursday as 108 more people, including three security personnel, tested positive for the infection, a senior health official said. The Capital Complex region reported the highest number of new cases at 28, followed by Lower Subansiri (12) and Siang (eight), he said. “Two Army jawans and an Indian Reserve Battalion personnel are among the new patients,” State Surveillance Officer Dr Lobsang Jampa said. Three undertrial prisoners lodged in Jully Central Jail and three health workers also contracted the disease, he said. Arunachal Pradesh now has 2,064 active coronavirus cases, while a total of 12,480 people have been cured of the disease so far, the official said, adding the recovery rate among the COVID-19 patients in the state stands at 85.59 percent.

Oct 29, 2020
Jharkhand’s COVID-19 caseload rose to 1,00,569 on Thursday as 345 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said. Four more patients succumbed to the infection, pushing the state’s coronavirus death toll to 880, he said. Ranchi district reported the highest number of new cases at 92, followed by Dhanbad (53) and Bokaro (30), the official said. Two fresh fatalities were reported in Ranchi, and one each in Lohardaga and Deoghar districts, he said. The state now has 5,333 active coronavirus cases, while 94,356 people have recovered from the disease so far, the official said. Jharkhand has tested 35,347 samples for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, he added.

#COVID_19 India Updates | Active Cases continue to fall, but last 24-hr fall has been the lowest in last 17 days. Deaths rise by more than 500 for 2nd consecutive day while recoveries have seen the lowest single-day rise in last 2 months. Single-day testing remains above 10 lk pic.twitter.com/0RA1yVN9o9

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