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## COVID-19 cases breach one million mark in State

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Nearly 13 months after recording its first COVID-19 case, Karnataka breached the one million mark and hit 10,01,238 cases, as 4,234 persons tested positive on Thursday. Over 43% of this total caseload is from Bengaluru Urban alone.

Over 10% of the caseload has been reported in the past three months. The State had reported 9,00,214 cases

till December 12 and has since added 1,01,024 cases to its tally. This brings Karnataka to the third position in the country, after Maharashtra and Kerala. With 30,865 active cases as on Thursday, Karnataka is in the second position among States, after Maharashtra, on this count. Fueled by a spike in cases in Bengaluru, the situation in the State took a turn for the worse from the beginning of July by breaching the 2,000

mark daily initially. It subsequently jumped to over 5,000 cases per day, and later to over 10,000 a day in September.

### 18 new deaths

With 18 deaths on Thursday, the toll touched 12,585. This is apart from 19 deaths of patients because of other deaths. Over 96% of COVID-19 fatalities in the State had been reported till December-end. The State's dai-

ly Case Fatality Rate (CFR) now stands at 0.42%.

From 101 cases in March 2020, the State witnessed a four-fold rise in April and subsequently a six-fold increase in May. From May to June, there was a five-fold rise and then an eight-fold increase from June to July, when the number of cases crossed one lakh and touched 1,08,873.

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## COVID-19 cases breach one million mark

Subsequently, the numbers more than doubled every fortnight and touched 8,02,817 till October 25.

After that, there was a decline in new cases, and by December the State started recording less than 1,000 cases. Following that the daily cases reduced to less than 500 cases by February-end. However, the number of cases again started rising from the first week of March. The State has been reporting more than 4,000 cases for the past two days.

### Weak contact tracing

V. Ravi, nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in Karnataka and member of the State's Technical Advisory Committee, said the State had failed in properly communicating to people about the seriousness of the second wave. "This coupled with weak

### How cases spiked

(A. Lakshmi Prasad, 30, 2020, and after reported by 1,000)

First case reported on March 8, 2020

May 15	1,056	September 25	5,57,212
July 16	51,422	September 30	6,01,767
July 27	1,01,465	October 6	6,57,703
August 5	1,51,449	October 10	7,00,786
August 13	2,03,200	October 16	7,51,390
August 20	2,56,975	October 25	8,02,817
August 26	3,00,406	November 10	8,51,212
September 1	3,51,481	December 12	9,00,214
September 7	4,04,324	February 26, 2021	9,50,207
September 13	4,59,445	March 7	9,54,393
September 18	5,02,982	April 1	10,01,238

contact tracing is hitting us hard at the onset of the second wave," he said.

"During the corresponding period last year, we were tracing 47 contacts for every positive case detected. Now, it is as low as 1:10. We need to trace at least 20-30 contacts

for every positive case," he said.

He said it was important for the State to initiate district-specific data-driven interventions. "Testing targets and management strategies based on prevalence in various districts should be ta-

ken up on a war footing. Otherwise, by this month-end we will be going the Maharashtra way, reporting 25,000 to 30,000 cases a day," he said.

### Complacency

C.N. Manjunath, nodal officer for labs and testing in the State's COVID-19 task force, attributed the rising cases to complacency in people, a false sense of belief that the curve had flattened since November onwards, mutations in the virus, and waning immunity among those who had been infected earlier.

"The false sense of belief that the curve has flattened led to a release phenomena resulting in relentless crowding, gathering and violation of COVID-19 norms," he said, adding that slowing down the rate of transmission was entirely in people's hands now.