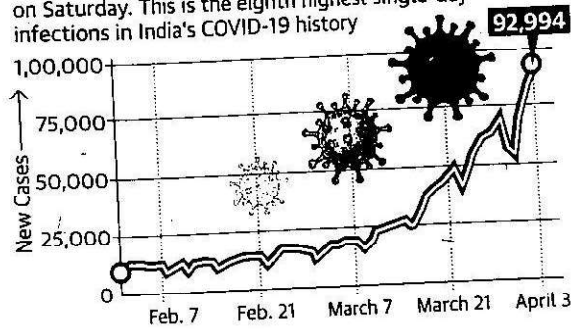


India reports 92,994 new cases, 514 deaths

Nearly 50,000 cases in Maharashtra

On the rise

For the first time this year, COVID-19 cases in India crossed the 90,000 mark, by recording 92,994 infections on Saturday. This is the eighth highest single-day infections in India's COVID-19 history



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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India reported 92,994 new COVID-19 cases, 514 deaths and 60,059 recoveries on Saturday.

The data was sourced from *covid19india.org*, an independent aggregator of daily COVID-19 figures.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh have witnessed a steep rise in cases, with more than 80% of the new cases on Saturday reported from these seven States.

Maharashtra recorded 49,447 new cases, followed by Chhattisgarh (5,818) and Karnataka (4,373).

The active caseload in the country stood at 6,87,433, with Maharashtra accounting for more than 58% of the cases.

Nine-fold jump

"In the last two months (February 3 to April 3) Maharashtra has shown a nine-fold jump - the maximum increase in the number of active cases during this period - while in percentage terms, Punjab has reported the maximum increase in active cases," a statement

Freeze on registration for healthcare staff

No fresh registration for COVID-19 vaccination in categories of healthcare and frontline workers will be allowed with immediate effect, a senior Health Ministry official said on Saturday. An order issued by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said ineligible beneficiaries were taking the vaccine. ▶ PAGE 9

released by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday morning said.

India's cumulative recoveries stood at 1,16,27,122.

Giving the vaccination figures, the Ministry said the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered in the country had crossed the 7.3 crore mark. A total of 7,30,54,295 vaccine doses had been administered through 11,53,614 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Freeze on CoWIN registration for healthcare and frontline workers

Ineligible beneficiaries are taking the vaccine, says Health Ministry order

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
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No fresh registration for COVID-19 vaccination in categories of healthcare and frontline workers will be allowed with immediate effect, a senior Health Ministry official said on Saturday.

The one-page order issued by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan comes after "various inputs were received from different sources that in some of the vaccination centres, ineligible beneficiaries are being registered as healthcare and frontline workers and getting vaccinated in complete violation of the prescribed guidelines," the Ministry said.

The order further states that there has been a 24% increase in healthcare workers databases in the past few days.



On priority: The vaccination drive opened to healthcare and frontline workers on January 16. • FILE PHOTO

"This issue was discussed with State representatives and experts and per recommendation of National Expert Group on Vaccine Admi-

nistration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) no fresh registration will be allowed in these categories," said Mr. Bhushan.

Registrations of persons aged 45 years and above will continue to be permitted on CoWIN platform.

7.44 crore doses

The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered has crossed 7.44 crore on Saturday, said the Health Ministry.

The provisional report till 8 p.m. put the figure at 7,44,42,267.

They include 89,53,552 healthcare workers (HCWs) who have taken the first dose and 53,06,671 HCWs who have taken the second dose, 96,19,289 frontline workers (first), 40,18,526 FLWs (second), 4,57,78,875 more than 45 years old (first) and 7,65,354 for more than 45 years old (second).

It said 13,00,146 vaccine doses were given till 8 p.m.