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25 MPs test positive for Covid on day 1

17 from LS, 8 from RS
found to be infected
during monsoon
session

SAGAR KULKARNI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

At least 25 parliamentarians tested positive for Covid-19 on the first day of the monsoon session on Monday, in a grim reflection of the pandemic situation in the country.

BJP Lok Sabha MPs Meenakshi Lekhi, Parvesh Sahib Singh and Sukanata Majumdar were among the 17 from the Lower House who tested positive in the RT-PCR tests that are mandatory for attending the monsoon session, where the virus is likely to be one of the main talking points.

As many as 359 Lok Sabha members, of the present strength of 541, are attending the Parliament session wearing masks and taking precautions.

In the Rajya Sabha, eight members had tested positive for Covid-19.

Some members such as Lekhi and Verma took to Twitter to convey their Covid-19 positive results.

RLP member Hanuman Beniwal, who had submitted his DNA samples at the testing centre in Parliament on September 11, was flummoxed over his Covid positive result, as his samples turned out to be negative when he got himself



MPs pay tribute to Pranab Mukherjee, classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj and others who passed away this year. PTI

Monsoon session off to stormy start

Meeting under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, the monsoon session of Parliament got off to a stormy start on Monday, with the Opposition targeting the Modi government for scrapping the Question Hour and accusing it of resorting to "coercive federalism" while ushering in "so

called reforms" in the farm sector. The session began on a sombre note, with tributes to former president Pranab Mukherjee, sitting member H Vasanthakumar, Pandit Jasraj and former MPs who passed away during the inter-session period.

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tested again in Jaipur.

"I got myself tested in the Lok Sabha premises for Covid-19 which came out positive. After that, I got my test done at SMS hospital in Jaipur, which showed the result as negative. I am sharing both these reports with you. V. Which report should be considered accurate?" Beniwal tweeted.

Of the 785 members in both the Houses, 200 are above the age of 65, which makes them vulnerable for infection.

Despite all odds, Samajwadi

Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav, 80, was seen in the Lok Sabha alongside Saugata Roy (73) of Trinamool and JMM founder Shibu Soren, 76, who took oath as Rajya Sabha member.

The two Houses met in separate shifts that allowed members to spread across chambers of both the houses to ensure physical distancing.

Around 200 members were seated in the Lok Sabha chamber, while the Rajya Sabha was sparsely filled.