As India detects a case of Omicron BF.7, next 2-3 weeks crucial as festivals approach

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

A week after the detection of a new sub-variant of the Omicron strain in India, experts have warned that COVID-19 cases could spike after the festival season. BF.7, also known as BA.5.2.1, is a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant BA.2.1.15 and its emergence could pose new challenges for public health agencies in India.

The next two to three weeks are crucial. Covid-19 levels are still around, and new variants are being reported in different parts of the world. Overburdened hospitals in the state, then, could see a repeat of the crisis of last year, said Dr UK Arora, chairman, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

‘The two things that can happen are worst-case scenario. India could see another peak in September or October, or a smaller one in December or January, but the question is how many lives we can save in that period, what level of public health care we can provide, and how the population will react to such a situation,’ Arora said.

He added that the National Centre for Disease Control has estimated that the national case fatality rate is currently around 0.1 per cent and that in the past, it has been as low as 0.06 per cent. The fatality rate will increase, he said.

India is currently facing a fourth wave of the pandemic, with daily cases increasing rapidly. The country reported more than 100,000 new infections on Saturday, bringing the cumulative case tally to over 40 million. The number of active cases is growing, and hospitals are facing pressure to manage the influx of patients.

A doctor at a hospital in New Delhi said that the current situation is worrying. ‘We are seeing a lot of patients with severe symptoms, and hospital admissions are increasing,’ he said. ‘The situation is dire, and we need to be prepared for a potential surge.’

A letter to quit AAP for charges, drops Sisodia; says, ‘saw BJP’

BJP leader and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had a run-in with AAP after the party sought to reinstate Amanatullah Khan in the local body elections.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

Manish Sisodia, former Delhi deputy chief minister, on Monday wrote a letter to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) seeking to resign from the party. He cited the party’s decision to reinstate Amanatullah Khan in the local body elections as the reason for his resignation.

The letter, released by Sisodia’s office, said: “I have decided to resign from the Aam Aadmi Party.”

The decision comes a day after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal reinstated Amanatullah Khan as an MLA in the Delhi assembly.

In his letter, Sisodia said: “It is disheartening to see the party’s decision to reinstate Amanatullah Khan as an MLA in the Delhi assembly.”

He added: “I have taken this decision after a thorough reflection and consultation with my close friends and family.”

Sisodia, who had served as minister of finance and home affairs under Kejriwal, was earlier expelled from the party in 2019 following a dispute over the party’s stance on the CAA and NRC.

Cyclonic circulation forms over the Arabian Sea

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday a cyclonic circulation formed over the Arabian Sea.

“The IMD has classified a system moving over the Arabian Sea as a ‘cyclonic circulation’,” the department said in a statement.

The system is expected to further intensify into a cyclonic storm within 24 hours and make landfall on the west coast of India between Karnataka and Kerala within 48 hours.

The IMD said that the system is likely to cause heavy to very heavy rainfall in coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and adjoining coastal Karnataka on October 4 and 5.

The government has issued a yellow alert for coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, and a green alert for coastal Karnataka.

The IMD has advised people to be cautious and take necessary precautions to avoid damage.

For failing to repay loan 2 accused arrested

For failing not being able to repay a borrowed amount of Rs 10,000, a married couple from Cuttack was arrested on Sunday after a woman filed a complaint.

The couple, identified as Prasanta Kumar Behera and his wife, were booked under Sections 406 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code for the offence of defraudation.

Behera and his wife are residents of Cuttack and had taken a loan of Rs 10,000 from a local financial institution.

The woman, who is the wife of the accused, alleged that her husband had accepted the loan amount but failed to repay it.

The police registered a case and arrested the couple.

In Cuttack city

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

In the latest development in the case, the police have arrested the couple.

The couple has been sent to judicial custody.

The police are investigating the matter.

In Odisha, the government has decided to provide compensation to the family of a person who died due to a road accident.

As a result of the accident, a person died and another was injured. A police team arrived at the scene to investigate the matter.

The police have filed a case under Sections 304 and 131 of the Indian Penal Code.

Pawan Kumar Gupta, the injured person, was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

The police have registered a case under Sections 304 and 131 of the Indian Penal Code.

Honey-trapper Archana’s ball plea rejected

The honey-trapper Archana, who was arrested by the police in connection with the honey-trapping case, has moved the court to set aside the Sessions Court’s order.

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On October 3, the Sessions Court had sentenced Archana to five years in prison and ordered her to pay a fine of Rs 50,000.

Archana has moved the High Court to set aside the order.

The High Court has reserved the order on the matter.

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Neighbourhood Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar

For 7th consecutive year, Bhubaneswar gets dressed in its best attire

Bhubaneswar has turned into a beautiful city as it celebrates its 7th Neighbourhood Day. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about the importance of cleanliness and providing insight into the needs and concerns of the neighborhoods.

The day, which was marked by a grand procession, saw the participation of thousands of people from all walks of life.

"We are committed to making Bhubaneswar a cleaner and greener city," said Mayor C. C. Pattnaik, acknowledging the efforts of the community in maintaining cleanliness.

"This day signifies the importance of community participation in creating a clean and healthy environment," said a resident, who took part in the procession.

In other news, Odisha cabinet minister Niranjan Jyoti Pradhan has decided to withdraw his support to the ruling BJD in the Assembly, saying the party has failed to deliver on its promises.

"I have decided to withdraw my support to the BJD as they have failed to deliver on their promises," Pradhan said.

"I have been a loyal supporter of the BJD but I feel that the party has failed to deliver on its promises," he added.

The move by Pradhan is expected to further weaken the BJD's position in the Assembly, where it is the ruling party.

In another development, the Odisha government has announced a new policy to promote tourism in the state. The policy aims to attract more tourists and boost the state's tourism economy.

"We are committed to promoting tourism in the state," said Tourism Minister Pradhan. "We are planning to develop new tourism spots and promote existing ones."
Nov 3 bypolls to test ruling party’s hold on states

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA seeking a 15-day extension for filing affidavits by November 8 in the matter of the Centre suspending MD of DFC on rape allegations. The petition filed by the Centre is scheduled to be listed before a three-judge bench on November 8.

A woman, who was in an official position on the part of the Jat state, later lodged a police FIR. Following the incident, three sitting MLA’s, including the sitting MLA Jitendra Narain, who has been accused of raping a woman in Gola Gokarannath Assembly seat, were suspended from the party legislature by the Congress.

The Centre’s move comes at a time when both states have witnessed a surge in crime, with several cases of rape and murder reported in recent months.

In New Delhi, the United Nations General Assembly will hold a special meeting on counter-terrorism-related issues. The meeting will be attended by representatives from around 1300 countries. The agenda includes discussions on the role of international law in preventing and combating terrorism, and the need for cooperation among countries to ensure the rule of law.

The Centre has been accused of interfering in the conduct of elections in both states, with reports of rigging and other electoral malpractices. The opposition has called for a probe into these allegations.

In Madhya Pradesh, the crisis deepened with the arrest of the chief minister’s brother, who has been accused of assault. The incident has sparked protests and calls for the resignation of the chief minister.

The Centre’s move is likely to be seen as a move to assert control over the two states, which are known for their political instability and election-related violence.

In the meantime, both states have called for an end to the violence and a return to normalcy. The Centre has urged the states to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, including those from minority communities.

The Centre’s move is also likely to be seen as a move to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law and the fight against terrorism, particularly in the wake of recent attacks in other parts of the country.

The Centre’s suspension of the MD of DFC is also likely to be seen as a move to assert its authority over the institution, which has been accused of granting loans to entities accused of human rights violations. The Centre has said that the institution will be monitored closely to ensure that it does not continue to act in any way that undermines the rule of law.

In the meantime, the Centre has called for a more coordinated approach in dealing with the two states, with both the Centre and the states working together to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, and to prevent any further incidents.
If not BCCI, make Sourav ICC chief: Didi bats for Dada

Kerala's total literacy claim is hogwash, says former Mizoram Guv

Human sacrifice is just one face of real culture in Kerala, says Rajasekharan

KUMAR CHALAPATHY

The April 10, 1991 declaration of a new state of Kerala that the state has become "a centre of peace and unity" has been known to many, including Kamaraj, the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu, as a "publicity stunt" by the then Prime Minister. In the wake of the subsequent government calling it a bluff and hence they gave up the practice of this tactic.

"The entire population was born in literature, the state would not have fallen prey to the evil designs of seers like Mohamed Behari who is the master mind behind the move," said Kamaraj, who is a decorated veteran in the Sangh movement.

"The state government had been acting in a way that makes the people think it is not necessary that Muslims should be deprived of their rights but on the contrary they are ratifying the rights of the people," he said.

"If we are going to think that Hindus are not entitled to anything, then it is not necessary that Muslims should be deprived of their rights but on the contrary they are ratifying the rights of the people," he said.

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leadership: M.K. GORADIA

Can new president salvage Congress?

The congress president would do little to fix the party’s leadership crisis but it is an interesting event to watch.

The ultraconservative Congress party is in a mess. It is a mistake to think that a new leadership can solve all the problems. The Congress has a lot of issues to grapple with. The people in the party are not happy with the current leadership. The party is divided and there is no clear direction. The Congress needs to do a lot of soul searching to come up with a new plan. The new president would have to work hard to bring the party together. It is not an easy task. The Congress has a lot of work to do to fix its problems. The new president would have to do a lot of hard work to bring the party back on track. It is not an easy task. The Congress has a lot of work to do to fix its problems. The new president would have to do a lot of hard work to bring the party back on track.

The congress president would do little to fix the party’s leadership crisis but it is an interesting event to watch.
Modi magic can change electoral trend in HP

The Modi model of governance and well-oiled BJP are on course to change electoral trend in Himachal Pradesh

Amit Bhasin

H imachal Pradesh will go to the polls in January 2023 and a vigil will be necessary to understand the electoral complexion of the state. The BJP has become the dominant force in Himachal Pradesh since the 1980s and the upcoming elections will be a test of whether the party can maintain its dominance in the state.

The BJP has a strong track record in Himachal Pradesh and has been in power for 37 years. The state has a high degree of urbanisation and a relatively low level of poverty. The state also has a large number of tourists, which is a key source of revenue for the state government.

The BJP has a strong electoral base in the state and has been able to win a majority in the state assembly elections in the past. The party has also been able to retain power in the state for a long time, which is a key factor in its success.

The state government has implemented several schemes and policies that have contributed to the state's economic growth and development. The government has also been able to attract investment from the private sector, which has resulted in job creation and economic growth.

The BJP has been able to attract the support of the state's significant religious minorities, which has contributed to its electoral success. The party has also been able to mobilise the state's large youth population, which is a key factor in its success.

The BJP has a strong campaign organisation and has been able to mobilise a large number of volunteers to campaign on its behalf. The party has also been able to attract the support of the state's important business communities, which has contributed to its electoral success.

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EU to send 40 experts on Armenia, Azerbaijan border mission

The European Union agreed Monday to send a mission to Armenia and Azerbaijan to help watch over its border with Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory whose peace and stability are important for the EU’s peace and avert conflict between the two sides. The mission, which will help with the border control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an unrecognized state, is expected to stay on the ground for at least three months.

NATO begins nuclear exercises amid Russia war tensions

NATO on Monday began its long-planned annual nuclear exercises amid tensions with Russia over its war in Ukraine and amid fears that Moscow could use the drills to push its forces closer to NATO borders. The war has brought a rush of troops and weapons, including fighter jets and surveillance drones, to NATO countries. The drills involve 275 warplanes, 78 land-based missiles and 1,000 troops. U.S. Long-range B-52 bombers will also take part in the maneuvers, which have no nuclear role but are meant to signal NATO’s ability to integrate any nuclear assets.

Russia widely deploys explosives-laden drones in Ukraine

Russia is using a new weapon in its war in Ukraine — explosively-laden drones. The use of drones is part of a campaign to increase the destruction of Ukrainian infrastructure, said the head of the Revolutionary Guard, a military wing of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran has previously deployed Russian weapons, although it has no such neighbors in Europe.

Ukrainians’ resilience persists despite new Russian barrage

Ukrainians are facing a new round of Russian missile attacks on the capital, Kyiv, as the war continues. The attacks, which have targeted Kyiv and other cities, are part of Russia’s effort to show its power and to pressure Ukraine to negotiate a peace deal.

Brazil’s da Silva, Bolsonaro clash in 1st one-on-one debate

Brazil’s da Silva, Bolsonaro clash in 1st one-on-one debate

Brazil’s two most popular presidential candidates, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Jair Bolsonaro, face off in their first one-on-one debate, a TV event that will help shape the remaining two weeks of the campaign. The debate, held on Tuesday, is the first time the candidates have appeared together on the same stage.

Israeli leader calls for warning to Iran over possible nuclear deal

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, the day after the United States and Iran reached a preliminary nuclear agreement, called for a “warning to Iran” to ensure the deal is “not an illusion.”

Ukraine’s nuclear power plant was attacked in attack on Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power plant

Ukraine has been hit by a second attack on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power plant, which is the largest in Europe and carries out important safety functions. The attack, which came a day after a first one that damaged its control system, was carried out by Russian special forces.

A rare attack on a nuclear power plant in Ukraine has raised fears of a wider conflict and potentially damaging the country’s economy. The attack has also increased tensions with Russia, which has been blamed for the attack.

Ukraine’s military said on Tuesday that it had destroyed a precision weapon fired at an army command center in the capital, Kyiv, during the attack on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power plant. The plant is one of Europe’s largest and carries out important safety functions.

The nuclear plant, Europe’s largest operating nuclear facility, is located near the Black Sea and is considered by many to be a key target in any potential conflict with Russia.

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China's party congress promises, not change

China's ruling Communist Party says it has nearly 5 million members, a pledge to grow the ranks of the party a step closer to its goal of having more than 100 million members by 2023. The party, which has long controlled China's political, economic, and social affairs, is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The announcement comes amid a broader push to expand the party's footprint across China, as the country's leaders seek to further entrench their rule and consolidate power. The party's growth strategy is part of a larger effort to bolster its legitimacy and influence, as China continues to navigate a complex global landscape characterized by rising tensions with the United States and other Western powers.

China, which is ruled by the Communist Party, has long been known for its strict control over political, economic, and social affairs. The party's membership is a key indicator of its strength and influence, as members are typically selected based on their loyalty and commitment to the party's goals.

The party's membership growth is also a reflection of the country's continued economic success, which has provided a powerful source of support for the party's leadership. As China's economy grows, the country's leaders are seeking to further entrench their rule and consolidate power, as they work to maintain the country's stability and prevent any potential challenges to their authority.

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Kham, a veteran Cabinet minister, said on Monday, the party led by former prime minister Abe because of his apparent interest in the nation’s first trial over a political scandal.

The main contest was a vote for the national leadership, with volunteers and local officials backing Kousuke Takaichi, the national director of the Liberal Democratic Party, the country’s most powerful political bloc.

The decision is expected to be announced on Tuesday. His three-party coalition does not have a majority, but it does have a comfortable lead in the House of Representatives, which is currently dominated by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.
Bank and Federal Bank have revised their lending rates as of October 14, 2022. The overnight, one-, three- and six-month MCLR’s for Bank and Federal Bank have been increased to 7.95 per cent, up by 25 basis points from the previous rate of 7.70-8.95 per cent with an effect from October 16.

The move is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent repo rate hike. The RBI has raised the repo rate by 50 basis points to 6.25 per cent, and the policy rate by the same amount to 7.50 per cent from 16 October.
Kaja Juvan beat Maria Sakkari on Tuesday and has now "stolen" Paris. While the Slovenian has despite widespread support last week he would need a win over the Ukrainian-owned cat as soon as possible. Her preparations for the main draw were a success and her opponent was speaking in the hotel lobby. The 26-year-old Croatian 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 champion Swiatek defeated the other two countries in the running after China's withdrawal earlier this year. While Delta Podvrsica in Serbia took the title, and for Marcela doveBHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2022

**WTA**

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Never asked to leave PSG: Mbappe

UNION STUT DORTMUND, BAYERN THRAFSE FREIBURG

Pep Guardiola said his City side "showed up today" after their 1-0 defeat to Borussia Dortmund in a Champions League clash that saw the English side top Group A.

India start T20 WC pres with win

Shami sizzles in 4-wicket over as Men in Blue edge out Oz in warm-up

India get their T20 World Cup campaign off to a winning start. Shami’s four-wicket haul ensured the Men in Blue crossed the finish line with a four-wicket win over Australia on Monday.

Shami was the star performer for India, taking 4/18 from his four overs. He bowled with pace and precision, dismissing Australia’s top-order batsmen to leave them in a precarious position.

Munaf Patel

Munaf Patel put in a solid performance with the bat, scoring 26 runs in 25 balls. His innings was build around a partnership of 42 runs with Shreyas Iyer, who also scored 26 runs. The pair laid the foundation for India’s innings.

Young Arjun Tendulkar

There were also contributions from the young Arjun Tendulkar, who scored 18 runs in 13 balls, and Prithvi Shaw, who scored 16 runs in 11 balls.

Australia’s response

Australia’s batting failed to ignite, with only one wicket falling in the first six overs. The Australian captain, Rohit Sharma, was dismissed for a Buffered 18. He was followed by other top-order batsmen, with Australia losing four wickets in the first seven overs.

Shami’s pace and swing were too much for the Australian batsmen, who struggled to find a way through his delivery. The Indian pacers, particularly Shami, made the most of the conditions.

In the end, Australia were bowled out for 85, with Shami taking 4/18. India’s victory set up a tantalizing clash against Pakistan in the next game.

Hats off to the 16-year-old from Amroha

The win was a special one for the 16-year-old Gukesh, who claimed his maiden win in the World Cup. The young prodigy, who is known for his aggressive and tactical play, bowled with pace and accuracy.

Gukesh's 29-move dismantling of world No. 1 Carlsen

The win over the world No. 1 Carlsen was a career-defining moment for Gukesh. He bowled with an array of variations, including pace, swing, and spin, to unsettle Carlsen’s line of attack.

Gukesh’s win over Carlsen

Gukesh’s win over Carlsen was a monumental achievement. The young Indian grandmaster showed great tactical acumen and technical skill in outfoxing the world No. 1. His victory has raised expectations for the future of Indian chess.