HIGH ALERT

World scurries to contain new Covid variant

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ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Hague, November 27

WITH EACH PASSING hour, new restrictions were being slapped on travel from countries in southern Africa as the world scurried Saturday to contain a new variant of the coronavirus that has the potential to be more resistant to the protection offered by vaccines.

A host of countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada Iran, Japan, Thailand and the United States, joined others, including the European Union and the UK to impose restrictions on southern African countries in response to warnings over the transmissibility of the new variant against the advice of the World Health Organisation. Despite the shutdown of flights, there was increasing evidence that the variant is already spreading. Cases have been reported in travellers in Belgium, Israel and Hong Kong, and Germany also has a probable case. Dutch authorities are checking for the new variant after 61 passengers on two flights from South Africa tested positive for Covid-19.

The global health body has named the new variant Omicron, labelling it a variant of concern because of its high number of mutations and some early evidence that it carries a higher degree of infection than other variants. That means people who contracted Covid-19 and recovered could be subject to catching it again. It could take weeks to know if current vaccines are less effective against it.

With so much uncertainty about the variant and scientists unlikely to flesh out their findings for a few weeks, countries around the world have been taking a safety-first approach, in the knowledge that previous outbreaks of the



People line up to get on an overseas flight at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa

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pandemic have been partly fuelled by lax border policies. "It seems to spread rapidly," US President Joe Biden said of the new variant, only a day after celebrating the resumption of Thanksgiving gatherings for millions of American families and the sense that normal life was coming back at least for the vaccinated. In announcing new travel restrictions, he told reporters, "I've decided that we're going to be cautious." Nearly two years on since the start of the pandemic that has claimed more than 5 million lives around the world, countries are on high alert.

Dutch authorities have isolated 61 people who tested positive for Covid-19 on arrival in the Netherlands on two flights from South Africa on Friday. They are carrying out further investigations to see if any of the travellers have the omicron variant. The planes arrived in the Netherlands from Johannesburg and Cape Town shortly after the Dutch government imposed a ban on flights from southern African nations.

The 539 travellers who tested negative were allowed to return home or continue their journeys to other countries. Under government regulations, those who live in the Netherlands and are allowed to return home must self-isolate for at least five days. A German official also said Saturday that there's a 'very high probability' that the omicron variant has already arrived in the country

Kai Klose, the health minister for Hesse state, which includes Frankfurt, said in a tweet that "several mutations typical of omicron" were found Friday night in a traveller returning from South Africa, who was isolated at home. Sequencing of the test had yet to be completed.

The variant's swift spread among young people in South Africa has alarmed health professionals even though there was no immediate indication whether the variant causes more severe disease. In just two weeks, omicron has turned a period of low transmission in the country into one of rapid growth. A number of pharmaceutical firms, including AstraZeneca, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer, said they have plans in place to adapt their vaccines in light of the emergence of omicron. Professor Andrew Pollard, the director of the Oxford Vaccine Group which developed the

AstraZeneca vaccine, expressed cautious optimism that existing vaccines could be effective at preventing serious disease from the omicron variant. He said most of the mutations appear to be in similar regions as those in other variants. "That tells you that despite those mutations existing in other variants the vaccines have continued to prevent serious disease as we've moved through alpha, beta, gamma and delta," he told BBC radio. "At least from a speculative point of view we have some optimism that the vaccine should still work against a new variant for serious disease but really we need to wait several weeks to have that confirmed."

He added that it is "extremely unlikely that a reboot of a pandemic in a vaccinated population like we saw last year is going to happen." Some experts said the variant's emergence illustrated how rich countries' hoarding of vaccines threatens to prolong the pandemic. Fewer than 6% of people in Africa have been fully immunised against Covid-19, and millions of health workers and vulnerable populations have yet to receive a single dose. Those conditions can speed up spread of the virus, offering more opportunities for it to evolve into a dangerous variant.

Kejriwal urges PM Modi to stop flights from countries affected by new strain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, November 27

DELHI CHIEF MINISTER Arvind

India: Active

cases down

to 1,07,019

INDIA SAW A SINGLE-

DAY rise of 8,318 new

Coronavirus infections

taking the country's

total tally of Covid-19

cases to 3,45,63,749,

while the active cases

1,07,019, the lowest in

541 days, according to

ministry data updated

on Saturday. The death

toll has climbed to

4,67,933 with 465 daily

fatalities, according to the data updated at 8

am. The daily rise in new

Coronavirus infections

has been below 20,000

for 50 continuous days

and less than 50,000

daily new cases have

been reported for 153

declined to 1,07,019

comprising 0.31% of

the total infections, the

lowest since March

2020, while the national

Covid-19 recovery rate

98.34%, the highest

since March 2020, the

A decrease of 3,114

cases has been recorded

in the active Covid-19

caseload in a span of

rate was recorded at

0.86%. It has been less

than 2% for the last 54

days. The weekly positiv-

ity rate was also recorded

at 0.88%. It has been

below 1% for the last 13

days, according to the

health ministry. The

number of people who have recuperated from

the disease surged to

3,39,88,797. The case

fatality rate was recorded

at 1.35 %. The cumula-

tive doses administered

in the country so far

under the nationwide

Covid-19 vaccination

drive have exceeded

121.06 crore. India

crossed the grim mile-

stone of two crore Coron-

Date: November 27, 2021

avirus cases on May 4.

The daily positivity

24 hours.

health ministry said.

recorded at

The active cases have

consecutive days now.

Union

declined to

health

Kejriwal on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop flights coming to India from those countries which are affected by a new variant of the Coronavirus infection. In a tweet, he emphasised that the country had "recovered" from the Covid-19 pandemic with "great difficulty"."I urge Hon'ble PM to stop flights from those countries which are affected by new variant. With great difficulty, our country has recovered from Corona. We shud do everything possible to prevent this new variant from entering India," Kejriwal tweeted. Prime Minister Modi will chair an important meeting on the Covid situation and the vaccination drive in the country with top officials on Saturday, official sources said earlier in the day.

The meeting comes amid rising global concerns over a new strain of the Coronavirus which the World Health Organisation has named 'Omicron' and classified as a highly transmissible virus of concern. The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 120.96 crore, according to the Union health ministry.



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal

Order on suspending Ansals' jail terms in evidence tampering case reserved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, November 27

A DELHI COURT reserved for December 3 its order on whether to suspend the sevenyear jail terms awarded to real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar cinema fire, which had claimed 59 lives. Additional Sessions Judge Anil Antil reserved the order on appeals filed by the Ansals against their conviction and jail terms by a magisterial court. Besides challenging their conviction and punishment, the Ansals had urged the sessions court to suspend their jail terms till the appeal is decided. The court heard the arguments of the accused, the victim and police, and reserved the order. Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for the Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT), had opposed the appeals and told the court that the offence of tampering with evidence is extremely serious.

> Last date/ time of receip of tender through

> > 09.12.2021

upto 3:00 P.M.

Sd/- (S.P. Singh

EE(Project)W-V

27.11.2021 9:00AM

1500/-

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT)W-VI CHANDRAWAL WW-II, CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054 SHORT NIT No. 03 (2021-22) Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211687 Earnest Tender Last date/ time of receipt Name of work of tender through tender in e-No. Cost (Rs.) procurement solution e- procurement solution Boring and Installation of tubewells at Coronation Waste Water 27.11.2021 9:00AM 09.12.2021 Treatment Plant facing Model Town 2,11,17,586/- Exempted upto 3:00 P.M. Colony and other Suitable locations Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211687 SHORT NIT No. 04 (2021-22) Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211699 **Earnest** Last date/ time of receipt **Estimated** Name of work tender in eof tender through Cost (Rs.) procurement solution e- procurement solution Boring and Installation of tubewells a Southern Side of Coronation Waste 27.11.2021 9:00AM 09.12.2021 Water Treatment Plant and other 2,11,17,586/- Exempted upto 3:00 P.M. Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211699 Last date/ time of receipt Name of work tender in eof tender through Cost (Rs.) procurement solution e- procurement solution Boring and Installation of tubewells a Coronation Waste Water Treatment 27.11.2021 9:00AM 09.12.2021 Plant facing Coronation Park and 2,46,11,758/- Exempted upto 3:00 P.M other Suitable locations Tender ID- 2021 DJB 211700 SHORT NIT No. 06 (2021-22) Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211701

1,90,42,030/- Exempted

The complete details can be seen on website **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.** The tender has been up

Assam govt to roll out microfinance relief scheme, distribute cheques among borrowers

MITHUN DASGUPTA Kolkata, November 27

THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT will begin distributing cheques to the segment of the state's microfinance customers, who were regular in loan repayments, from Sunday to provide them incentives under the mega microfinance relief scheme announced earlier this year. Over 10 lakh borrowers fall under this segment and the governments' spending on incentivising them would be around ₹2000 crore.

To start with, the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government is scheduled to roll out the special one-time relief in a three-day event commencing on November 28. This will be the first phase of the cheque distribution programme. After the special relief was announced on June



Manoj Nambiar, MD of Arohan Financial Services

18, the government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with microfinance lenders for the implementation of the scheme in August.

"From November 28, the government will start distributing cheques to the Category 1 customers, who were regular in repayments without any dues as of March 31, 2021. Each cus-

The three-day event commencing on November 28 will be the first phase of the cheque distribution programme

tomer will receive a sum of ₹25000 or outstanding whichever is lower as an incentive to them to continue maintaining good credit discipline. Over 10 lakh customers will get this benefit, and roughly ₹2000 crore is what the government's payout for this category," Manoj Nambiar, MD, Arohan Financial Services, told FE. As per the broad contours of the special relief, the government will also pay the overdue of delinquent customers to make them regular and clear the loan outstand-

ing for really stressed customers impacted by the pandemic. Speaking on the MoU signing occasion in Guwahati in August, Sarma had said the scheme, Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021, would involve ₹12,000 crore credit portfolio, out of which the state government would be required to expend around ₹7200 crore. "The customers, who were regular in repayments, are being singled out first so that the incentive and the rewards go first rather than relief for the delinquent customers. These customers have been regular and they have kept the name of the state high by their behaviour. That is why the chief minister and the government are prioritising them initially," Nambiar, who is a part of the lenders's teering committee, pointed out.

Reliance Communications Limited

Website: www.rcom.co.in

Delivery Mains at Wazirabad WTP and other

Tender ID- 2021_DJB_211701

ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 675/(2021-22)

Registered Office: H Block, 1st Floor, Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City, Navi Mumbai - 400 710

I. Extract from the Consolidated Financial Results for the

CIN: L45309MH2004PLC147531

Quarter and Half Year ended September 30, 2021. (₹ in crore) Quarter ended Half Year ended Year ended **Particulars** 30/9/2021 30/6/2021 30/9/2020 30/9/2021 30/9/2020 31/3/2021 (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Audited) (Unaudited) Total Income from Operations (net) 148 154 199 302 414 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before tax. (45)(75)(120)(142)(200)Exceptional and/ or Extra Ordinary Items) Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (200)(45)(75)(66)(142)(120)(after Exceptional and/ or Extra Ordinary Items) Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (76)(123)(152)(211)(after Exceptional and/ or Extra Ordinary Items) Profit/(Loss) after Tax from Discontinued Operations (1,536)(1,355)(2,683)(1,582)(3,118)(5,601)Total Comprehensive Income for the period (1,627)(1,630)(1,399)(3,257)(2,803)(5,771)[Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] Equity Share Capital (Equity Share of Rs. 5 each) 1,383 1,383 1,383 1,383 1,383 1,383 Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (Basic and Diluted) - Rs. (Before exceptional Items) (a) Continuing Operations (0.17)(0.28)(0.26)(0.45)(0.55)(0.77)(b) Discontinued Operations (0.89)(0.88)(3.16)(0.70)(1.77)(1.47)(c) Continuing and Discontinued Operations (2.22)(3.93)(1.06)(1.16)(0.96)(2.02)(After exceptional Items) (a) Continuing Operations (0.28)(0.17)(0.26)(0.45)(0.55)(0.77)(b) Discontinued Operations (5.75)(5.58)(4.92)(11.33)(9.74)(20.33)(c) Continuing and Discontinued Operations (5.92)(10.29)(5.85)(5.17)(11.78)(21.10)*Not annualised for Quarter and Half Year

II. Additional Information of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended September 30, 2021.

SI.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half Year ended		Year ended
No.		30/9/2021 (Unaudited)	30/6/2021 (Unaudited)	30/9/2020 (Unaudited)	30/9/2021 (Unaudited)	30/9/2020 (Unaudited)	31/3/2021 (Audited)
1	Turnover	81	94	128	175	269	483
2	Profit /(Loss) before tax	(57)	(79)	(75)	(136)	(165)	(252)
3	Profit /(Loss) after tax	(57)	(79)	(75)	(136)	(165)	(252)
4	Profit /(Loss) after tax from Discontinued Operations	(1,315)	(1,273)	(1,129)	(2,588)	(2,240)	(4,637)

Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

IV. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the Company, www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and www.rcom.co.in.

(Reliance Communications Limited is under corporate insolvency resolution process pursuant to the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. With effect from June 28, 2019, its affairs, businessand assets are being managed by, and the powers of the board of directors are vested in, the Resolution Professional, Mr. Anish Niranjan Nanavaty, appointed by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench, vide order dated June 21, 2019 which was published on the website of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench on June 28, 2019).

Place: Mumbai

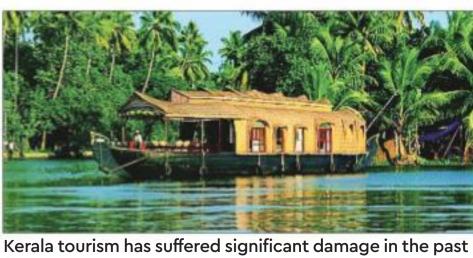
New Delhi

Kerala tourism launches STREET project for experiential tourism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Thiruvananthapuram,
November 27

IN A PIONEERING initiative to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland, Kerala Tourism will launch the 'STREET' project in select spots in seven districts, which would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. In the first phase, the project would be implemented in Kadalundi in Kozhikode, Thrithala and Pattithara in Palakkad, Pinarayi and Ancharakkandi in Kannur, Maravanthuruthu and Manchira in

financialexp.ep



few years courtesy: kerala tourism

Kottayam, Valiyaparamba in Kasaragod, Kanthalloor in Idukki and Chekadi in Wayanad. The project, conceived by the

Responsible Tourism Mission, is

inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), an official statement said. The STREET

lage life experience street, experiential tourism street, agritourism street, water street and art street are the themes that have been planned as part of the project, it said. These streets will be in tune with the peculiarities of each of these locations and would focus on experiential tourism. Tourism and public works minister PA Mohammed Riyas said the project offers a huge potential for growth in the tourism sector and would usher in significant changes.

is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experi-

ential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs. Green street, cultural street, vil-