

# THE BEACON

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## Free vaccination supply to continue for states and UTs

Ahana Bagchi

The Ministry of Health and family Welfare reiterates its commitment to expand the scope of Covid-19 vaccination by continuing to supply more vaccines to states and Union Territories free of cost.

More than 63.09 crore vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far as per the release by the ministry. Apart from this, more than 4.87 crore balance and unutilized vaccine doses are still available with States/UTs with 21.76 Lakh doses in the pipeline.

"The Union Government will procure and supply for free of cost 75% of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to states and UTs," stated the release.

"It is great that the government is continuing to give vaccines free of cost," said Shammi Khan, a student of Bengaluru City University. The new phase of universalization of COVID-19 vaccination started from 21st June 2021. The vaccination drive has improved through availability of more vaccines to States and UTs, and streamlining the vaccine supply chain.

## 'One million Afghan children at risk'

Priyansha

UNICEF predicted on Sunday that about one million children under five in Afghanistan will suffer from severe acute malnutrition—a life-threatening condition. George Laryea-Adjei, Regional Director for UNICEF South Asia said that children, the least responsible for the crisis in Afghanistan have paid the heaviest price.

Speaking on the current crisis in Afghanistan he said that not only have some children been forced from their homes and cut off from their schools and friends, but they are also deprived of the basic healthcare that can save them from diseases such as polio and tetanus.



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"UNICEF predicts that one million children under 5 in Afghanistan will suffer from severe acute malnutrition. Meanwhile, over 4 million children, including 2.2 million girls, are out of school. Around 300,000 children have been forced out of their homes, some in their pajamas as they slept, some

while they sat quietly reading school books. Too many of them have witnessed scenes that no children should ever see," said Adjei. UNICEF recently launched an appeal for USD 192 million and urged donors to step up their support to the vulnerable families and children who are struggling.

Explaining the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, Saumya Aggarwal, CEO of Youth for Peace International, a Delhi-based youth social service organization, told Beacon that the lives of children are being affected due to internal displacement in Afghanistan. "It is a humanitarian crisis

unfolding in Afghanistan and many Afghans are leaving the country to find safe space. As humans, we can build pathways to resolve issues by having meaningful, inclusive, and constructive dialogues," she said.

She added, "It is important for all the parties in the conflict to take measures to protect human rights. The situation is worrying, especially for Afghan women and children. We have to amplify them by providing psycho-emotional and social support. Youth for Peace International is providing free- mental health helplines for Afghans as mental- health is the last thing people focus on."

## Closure of meat shops on Janmashtami

Akshara DM

**BENGALURU:** Meat vendors and the general public expressed mixed responses to the closure of meat shops by the BBMP on account of Krishna Janmashtami.

Mudasir Ahmed, owner of Dressed Chicken Shop in Richmond town says this is the first time such a measure is imposed. "The BBMP gave us the notice, not to open shops today. When we questioned why such orders are being passed all of sudden they just said it is a

government order and must be followed," says Ahmed. "We further requested them that the business is not like before and we are at loss already but they paid no heed to it, and replied that the order must be strictly enforced," he adds.

In contrast to Ahmed, Harish, the owner of Jayshree Meat Shop says, "I don't mind this order being passed. We are Hindus, Krishna is also our god and we abide by this order. I think it's not right to harm animals on such an auspicious day." Harish who closes his shop

on all Hindu festivals adds that "Whether they pass an order to close the meat shops on such occasions or not is secondary, we close it by our own conscience."

Gururaj agrees with Harish's point, "I don't think it as a big issue, it is one of the main festivals for us and we Hindus give more prominence to this festival and closing meat shops will cause no harm and we can celebrate our festival peacefully that day." The BBMP had passed the order on August 27.

## Netizens highlight rape allegations against Ronaldo amid transfer



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Aamir Sohail

A small but vocal section of football fans have tried to highlight allegations that Cristiano Ronaldo raped several women which has been overshadowed by the celebration of the star player's transfer to Manchester United. People posting on social media about the allegations have been reported to have received backlash from Ronaldo's and Manchester United's fans. Critics of the footballer have said that there is ample evidence to convince the court of Ronaldo's guilt. It is alleged that Ronaldo paid nearly 400,000 dollars or 28,000,000 rupees in a

settlement to the victim in exchange for signing a non-disclosure agreement in 2009. Moreover, the victim went public with the allegations in 2018, having said that she drew inspiration from the Me Too Movement. Critics also point to other allegations levied against Ronaldo more recently. Tweets from Noorudean, a journalist based in Manchester, and Sankul Sonawane are two more prominent posts circulating at the time of writing. People posting about this online have reported having received backlash to their comments by the fans saying that the footballer has not been convicted and is innocent until proven guilty.

## Varied reactions as schools set to reopen in Delhi

Ahana Bagchi

As the Delhi Disaster Management Authority's (DDMA) guidelines were released on August 30 regarding the reopening of schools, parents and students have varied reactions.

"I think it is not the right decision for the school to reopen when there is a chance that an evolved form of covid can hit India anytime soon," said Yatharth Mangain, an eighth-grader from Mount Carmel School, Delhi. However, Dhruv Kaistha, another eighth-grader from the same school



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opined, "I want the school to open, as studying online is not serious and my eyes might as well die, also I miss being with friends."

"I want the school to open in like term two and hopefully most kids will be

vaccinated by then. Anyways, many schools in Delhi have started to ask for consent from parents for letting their kids come to school," he added.

The idea of reopening the schools evoked mixed

responses amongst the parents and teachers too. "This is for sure that studies are suffering and many children are trying to deal with different mental issues due to this pandemic," said Debjani Bagchi, a parent and a teacher from Mount Carmel.

But she also expressed doubt about the safety of children. "This is not the correct time to open. We should wait and observe how things develop during the third wave and then take the decision. When we have waited for all these days why not wait another two or three months," she added.