

B'LUREANS, KEEP CALM AND WAIT FOR THE PEAK

As Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai see a slow drop in cases, Bengaluru is yet to reach the peak; experts however, say there's no reason to worry

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Among major cities affected by Covid, Bengaluru seems to be the most affected while Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai seem to be past the peak. On Wednesday, Bengaluru reported 22,427 cases and eight deaths, Delhi 7,498, Chennai 5,973 and Mumbai 1,858 cases.

Vijay Anand, an independent covid data analyst said that Mumbai has seen the steepest fall at 5 per cent from 30 per cent in 18 days, followed by Delhi at 11 per cent and Chennai at 23 per cent while Bengaluru's graph was still on the upside.

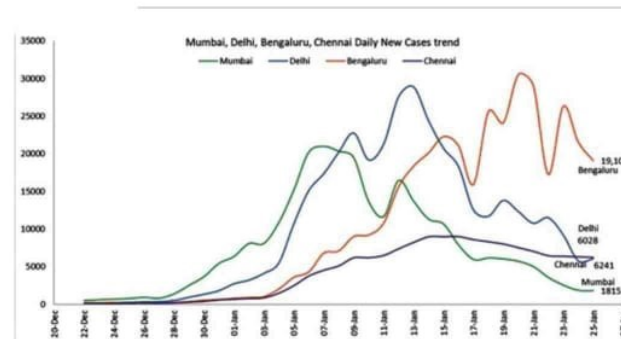
"Data science projection models help to understand when the peak comes and how much people can be affected and loaded to the hospitals. Common man can see the charts to understand the trend so they prepare to protect themselves with masking, vaccination etc."

Dr Pradeep Rangappa, Consultant Intensivist and Critical Care, Manipal Hospital, Yeswanthpur, and one of the government-appointed spokespersons for Covid said that his analysis of Bengaluru data since January 10 showed that the positivity rate has been hovering around 20 per cent without significant increase.

"The number of cases in Mumbai and Delhi appears to be seeing a downtrend since last one week with Mumbai and Delhi reporting 1,815 and 6,028



At Republic Day celebrations, citizens get tested by health workers; (below) a graph showing covid trends in major cities



Vijay Anand, Independent Covid Data Analyst

new covid cases respectively on Tuesday. Initial surge was seen in these cities followed by Bengaluru; one could possibly

look at cases plateauing and go down in first week of February here also. Emphasis on Covid-Appropriate Behaviour has to

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— Dr K Sudhakar

be strengthened without letting the guard down to tide over the third wave safely.”

State Covid task force chairman Dr MK Sudarshan said that the cases in Mumbai and Delhi generally report a month earlier and hence the cases have started decreasing earlier in those cities.

However, Dr S N Aravinda, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster RV Hospital, felt that testing was happening in greater numbers in Bengaluru as compared to Mumbai and Delhi that could be the primary reason.

“Most people are being cautious and getting themselves tested even on mild symptoms. The actual numbers could be much higher in Mumbai and Delhi,” he added.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr K Sudhakar said cases were decreasing in Bengaluru. “Though the cases are rising in non-Bengaluru districts, the hospitalisation numbers are one to two per cent.

As a result, it is not straining the health infrastructure. If we compare the case fatality ratio with the previous two waves, the current wave has 0.004 per cent. We are also seeing an increase in discharges as well.”