

Philippines reports 3rd day of record virus cases

India starts booster shots for vulnerable amid omicron surge

NEW DELHI, Jan 10, (AP): Health-care and front-line workers along with people above age 60 with health problems lined up Monday at vaccination centers across India to receive a third dose as infections linked to the omicron variant surge.

The doses, which India is calling a "precautionary" shot instead of a booster, were given as new confirmed coronavirus infections rocketed to over 179,000 on Monday, nearly an eight-fold increase in a week. Hospitalizations, while still relatively low, are also beginning to rise in large, crowded cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Dr. Ravindra Kumar Dewan, who heads the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases in New Delhi, queued up for his shot. He said boosters are a "significant step" because there are still many unknowns about the omicron variant.

"Yesterday, the mortality ... has increased in Delhi. So, whether our health care system will get overwhelmed or not is yet to be seen," he said.

India is better prepared now than it was last year when the delta variant overwhelmed hospitals. When cases spiked in March last year, not even 1% of its population of nearly 1.4 billion was fully vaccinated. India's creaky medical infrastructure meant millions likely died.

Since then, the government has bolstered healthcare, built oxygen plants and added beds to hospitals. About 47% of the population is now fully vaccinated and many have antibodies from previous infections. This may provide "hybrid immunity" -- a combination of immunity from previous infections and vaccines -- comparable to boosters, said Dr. Chandrakant La-

hariya, an Indian epidemiologist.

Although the omicron variant seems to cause less severe illness than the delta variant, India's massive population, crowded cities, and understaffed hospitals mean that health systems may still become strained. Elections may further spread the more infectious variant, allowing it to infect vulnerable people that previous variants didn't reach. But the biggest fear is that hospitals will be overwhelmed because of sick medical personnel, said Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the city of Pune.

"There would be beds (in hospitals) but no people to take care of individuals," she said.

India's hospitals are short-staffed at the best of times and health workers are distributed unevenly across states. Already, hospitals are becoming crippled as hundreds of health workers fall sick with the variant. Federal hospitals have been forced to relax quarantine rules and some have stopped routine services.

"Every third doctor is either symptomatic or positive. There is an acute shortage of staff. And there is an acute crisis," said Dr. Anuj Aggarwal at New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, one of India's largest government hospitals.

At the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi city, the capital of Jharkhand state, a quarter of the 800 health workers were down with mild infections, said Dr. Prabhat Kumar, in charge of COVID-19 treatment there.

The delay in providing boosters could be costly, said Dr. T. Jacob John, former chief of virology at Christian Medical College in southern India. He said that having to administer third shots as a surge threatens to overwhelm hospitals would put an ad-



The crater fire named 'Gates of Hell' is seen near Darvaza, Turkmenistan, Saturday, July 11, 2020. The president of Turkmenistan is calling for an end to one of the country's most notable but infernal sights — the blazing desert natural gas crater widely referred to as the 'Gates of Hell.' (AP)

Turkmenistan's leader wants 'Gates of Hell' fire put out

The president of Turkmenistan is calling for an end to one of the country's most notable but infernal sights — the blazing natural gas crater widely referred to as the "Gates of Hell."

The desert crater located about 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of the capital, Ashgabat, has burned for decades and is a popular sight for the small number of tourists who come to Turkmenistan, a country which is difficult to enter.

ditional burden on health workers.

The belated boosters are being given to high-risk groups who were among the first to receive vaccines last year

and whose immunity may be waning.

Unlike other countries, where many people receive a different vaccine as a booster, most Indians will receive

the same type, in most cases the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by India's

Serum Institute, the world's largest vaccine maker. The benefits of this

The Turkmen news site Turkmenportal said a 1971 gas-drilling collapse formed the crater, which is about 60 meters (190 feet) in diameter and 20 meters (70 feet) deep. To prevent the spread of gas, geologists set a fire, expecting the gas to burn off in a few weeks.

The spectacular if unwelcome fire that has burned ever since is so renowned that state TV showed President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov speeding around it in an off-road truck in 2019. (AP)

are "relatively limited," and India had been hoping to have more vaccines available so it could mix the booster shots Lahariya said.

"India does not have that kind of choice," he said.

Serum Institute's AstraZeneca vaccine accounts for nearly 90% of all doses that have been administered in India, even though emergency approvals have been given to eight vaccines.

Some Indian vaccine makers have had manufacturing woes, while others such as Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have asked for protection from lawsuits over side effects, which India has been reluctant to grant.

Also:

MANILA, Philippines: The Philippines reported a record high number of new COVID-19 cases for the third day, logging 33,169 infections.

The positivity rate, or percentage of tested people whose results came out positive, also soared to 46%, another record high since the pandemic started two years ago.

Monday's tally brings the Philippines' total infection count nearer to the 3 million mark at 2,998,530. The death toll stood at 52,293 with 145 new deaths recorded.

Officials said they are assuming that local transmission of the highly contagious omicron variant is driving the current spike in cases.

Some experts have called for increased restrictions as cases surge and hospital operations are being hobbled by the number of infected health workers. But officials said on Monday that there is still no need to raise the alert to the fourth level of the five-step alert system.

The sports smartwatch scientific fitness system, real-time heart rate monitoring, accurate track positioning, AI running coach, and boasts a 2-week battery life bolstered by the new HUAWEI Health Lab

The new HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner: Your personal assistant on how to train like an Olympic champion



Huawei Consumer Business Group (BG) today announced its first sports watch, the HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner. The latest smartwatch is not only the wearer's smart assistant, but also their personal training coach. Through recording environmental and health data, the HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner can formulate scientific and effective training plan, providing users with comprehensive and professional fitness experience boosted by the opening of the new 4680m² HUAWEI Health Lab facility in Songshan Lake, Dongguan, China. The new HUAWEI Health Lab represents a breakthrough in R&D project that will support more than 80 types of testing requests for R&D personnel in fields such as professional research, ecosystem co-development, and health and fitness scenario incubation.

Country Manager for Huawei Consumer Business Group UAE, Keith Li, said, "Since 2015, the concept of health management has become increasingly popular. As people pay more and more attention to their health, the demand for health monitoring of smart devices is becoming stronger. We put forward the concept of active health management in 2018, using our leading technology capabilities to provide users with top notch active health detection management services. This is also in line with Huawei's vision committed to bringing the digital world to everyone, every family, and every organisation, and build a smart world with all things connected."

HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner

As one of the important means of daily health management for people, running training also has a lower entry requirement and can be benefit to most users. Therefore, Huawei focused on investing in running projects. Huawei's strategy for health and fitness does not stop here. In fact, what Huawei wants to do is a whole new set of health systems based on smart wearable devices that connect users' body data and life scenarios, and HUAWEI TruSport™ is just a component of this strategy.

In addition, the large amount of data generated during running, such as heart rate, pace, calorie consumption, etc., are like consumers' personal check-ups, but for most people, it is difficult to interpret the data and provide training guidance based on the results. HUAWEI Health Lab has an extensive professional team, ranging from sports science researchers to medical experts, and from data acquisition engineers to algorithm engineers. These experts cover biology, sports training, medicine, software engineering, algorithm engineering, test engineering, biological engineering, applied sensor technology research, and more.

Huawei's latest HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner intelligently defines the user's physical ability level according to the user's own physical state and exercise habits, and exclusively customise the scientific training plan. The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner is compatible



with Huawei devices as well as other Android and iOS devices. The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner will be available in Kuwait on 19th January 2022 at the price of KWD 99.900 on Huawei's official website and select retailers.

Built for Sports

After nearly 6 years of development, Huawei finally developed a set of scientific fitness system and named it HUAWEI TruSport™. With the algorithms, it can accurately collect various physical indicators generated by the human body during running, scientifically analyse the collected data, and present the most reasonable training tips. Based on HUAWEI TruSport™, Huawei developed the Running Ability Index (RAI). To measure the running performance, which is hard to measure before, Huawei developed the RAI, using HUAWEI TruSport™ algorithm to calculate the relationship between heart rate and pace to get a personal score.

HUAWEI TruSport™ provides training load, which can scientifically evaluate training volume. It can help runners to scientifically quantify their training and Huawei proposes to use training load instead of running volume to measure training volume. Training load can also be measured by HUAWEI TruSport™ to advise runners on the degree of recovery and recovery time for a single training session. In this way, runners can plan a more reasonable amount of training.

HUAWEI Health Lab

Furthermore, HUAWEI TruSport™ can determine the degree of recovery and monitor short-term fatigue while also provides training index for users to understand their training status.

The HUAWEI GT Runner is a professional runner watch that was built for sports. It features the new HUAWEI TruSeen™ 5.0+ heart rate monitoring technology, bringing a newly upgraded heart rate module, 8 PDS in a circular arrangement, enhanced dynamic heart rate monitoring, more signal input, and an overall improved heart rate monitoring accuracy.

In the development process of the new HUAWEI TruSeen™ 5.0+, Huawei is dedicated to offering a more accurate heart rate monitoring experience. Thanks to the new PPG 5.0 module, the accuracy of heart rate monitoring is greatly improved compared to the previous generation. The deviation of 10 bpm in most scenarios can reach more than 97%, which is as

accurate as a heart rate belt. The HUAWEI TruSeen™ 5.0+'s powerful anti-interference and noise reduction design can better cope with the motion noise caused by irregular movement, and improves the accuracy of heart rate measurement when working out, including during HIIT, yoga, aerobics, skipping rope, etc.

HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner has great performance in a small watch body and features five major satellite systems: GPS + Beidou + GLONASS + Galileo + QZSS. In addition, it also has a built-in Dual-Band Five-System GNSS positioning chip with a suspended hidden antenna that hides the positioning antenna in the lugs made of polymer fibre material. This reduces the interference of positioning signal caused by metal material. The innovative design improves the performance of the GPS antenna by 135% compared with the traditional design, which solves the pain points of balancing positioning accuracy and compact design, and further realises marathon track-level precise positioning without trajectory drift.

HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner focuses on the runners' circle and gains insight into the in-depth running data. While ensuring the watch body is light and wear-resistant, it also gives the watch an artistic design. Drawing inspiration from the supercar's air intake grille, HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner delivers a stylish design that represents speed and passion. Moreover, the hollowed-out watch lug increases the contact area with the air when running, so that it is sweat resistant and breathable, which results in a more comfortable wearing experience.



HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner adopts lightweight materials such as the high-strength polymer fibre body, which is light and comfortable. The weight of the entire watch body is as light as 38.5g, which means runners can barely notice it as they run. The antibacterial silicone watchstrap that comes with the smartwatch has good water-resistance, so runners do not need to worry about sweat and dirt contacting the strap during training. The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner comes with an exclusive data watch face that shows data including training load, RAI, recovery time and weather, and users can customise according to their needs.

Up to 2-weeks Long Battery Life

HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner inherits the powerful battery life of Huawei's wearable family, delivering 14-day battery life in smart mode under typical usage scenarios and offers 8-day of long battery life in heavy usage scenario.

All-day Health Management

The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner provides continuous, real-time, and precise SpO₂ (Blood Oxygen Saturation), sleep and stress monitoring features for a comprehensive health management.

The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner sports the HUAWEI TruSleep™ 2.0 sleep monitoring technology which can perform sleep stage monitoring, real-time heart rate monitoring, sleep breathing monitoring, and provide you with assessment of sleep quality without disturbing your sleep. The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner is also a stress management assistant. This sports watch monitors your stress 24/7 and it will even notify you if your stress levels are high and even help you out with breathing guidance to help relieve some of the stress off you.

The new Healthy Living Shamrock has added many small features to better-fit users' daily health needs. Through personalised settings, users can receive regular reminders like Health challenges, daily water intake, daily mindfulness, early sleep reminder, exercise volume, and stay positive are all small things related to your health.

Convenient Life Assistant Features

The HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner supports Bluetooth calls, which enables users to make and receive calls via Bluetooth connection right from their wrist. Some of us like to listen to music when running, to help pump and get us into the rhythmic vibe, the HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner comes with a large storage space which can store up to 500 songs, so that more of your favourite songs can be saved and listened to during workouts. In addition, you can receive, read and reply to SMS messages right from your wrist thanks to the convenient message notifications aboard the HUAWEI WATCH GT Runner.