



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



Health Ministry appreciates COVID-19 Containment Models of Mumbai and Pune



Need to replicate these models at national level: Health Ministry



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The decentralized approach Mumbai has adopted in COVID-19 containment needs to be adopted at the national level.

“Control rooms were created for engaging with citizens but they were not at Municipal Corporation level but were at ward level, for each of the 24 wards. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation which receives lab results passes it on to respective ward acting as a hub during the process and helping in reduction of case load in each ward. Each Ward room has been equipped with 30 telephone lines, managed by 10 telephone operator, 10 doctors as well as 10 ambulances. There were also 10 dashboards highlighting information about availability of beds. This ensured that citizens did not face any difficulty in getting admission to hospitals.” This was pointed out by the Joint Secretary, Health Ministry, Shri. Lav Agarwal, at the COVID-19 media briefing, held in the national capital today.

Effective Citizen Communication & Decentralization of Processes- Mumbai Case Analysis

1 Eliminate Panic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central War Room was abolished to create a decentralized citizen communication approach • Test results shared with administration to communicate the results to the citizens and guide
2 Decentralized Approach – Ward-level War Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Rooms set up in all 24 wards • BMC acted as the hub for receiving close to 10,000 test results everyday from 55 labs and sorting them based on wards. These results were then shared with respective war rooms. This led to a reduction of caseload on each war room • Each war room was equipped with 30 telephone lines (10 telephone operators, 10 doctors/medical support staff and 10 ambulances) and 10 dashboards highlighting information regarding availability of beds
3 Augment Healthcare Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Staff – Doctors and medical staff were invited to work in war rooms and were offered a stipend & hotel accommodation • Ambulances – 800 SUVs were refurbished and turned into makeshift ambulances. A software platform was created with Uber's help to track and manage these ambulances • Hospitals – A centralized dashboard of 172 hospitals and COVID facilities was created to keep track of available resources. A system for procuring hospital beds was established. Each ward team was responsible for examining the patient and procuring a hospital bed through dashboards wherever necessary

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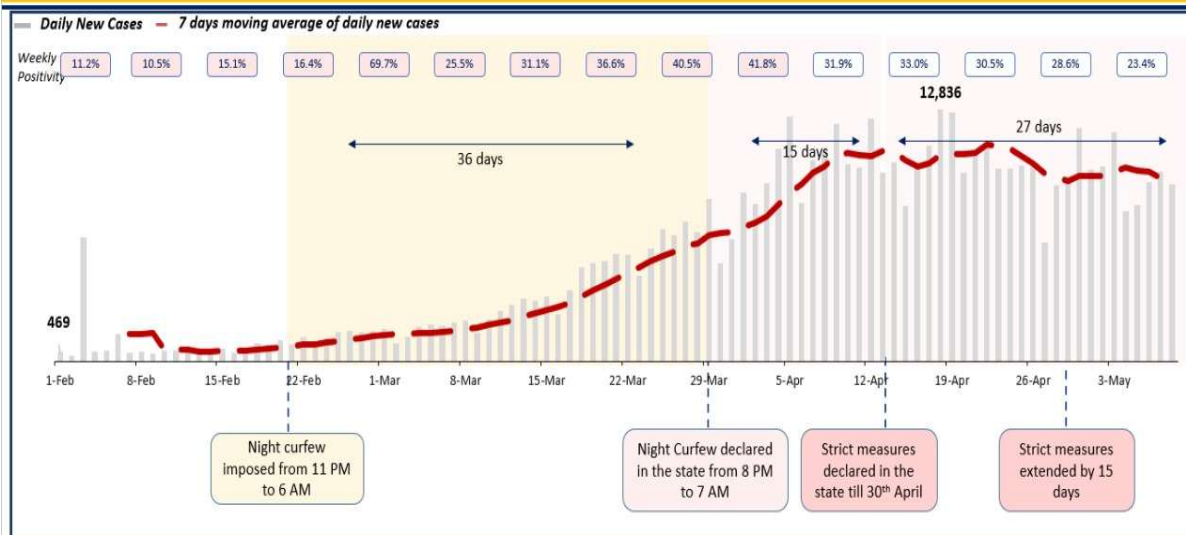
“In addition to these, 800 SUVs were refurbished to convert them into makeshift ambulances. A software platform was created to track and manage these ambulances. All these systems work together to ensure that patients do not face problems in finding bed.” The Joint Secretary said, appreciating the systematic efforts of the Municipal Corporation, in fighting COVID-19 in one of the biggest cities in the country.

The way in which Pune contained the upsurge of COVID-19 cases drew praise from the Ministry, as a fine example that shows how containment measures can help restrict the spread of the disease.

When Pune witnessed 69.7% case positivity rate in the first week of March 2021, it started measures like night curfew, imposed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. This resulted in two things:

1. Reduction in growth trajectory of COVID cases
2. Reduction in COVID positivity rate, as positivity rate reduced from 41.8% to 23.4 %

Stringent Containment is the key for Case management – Pune case analysis



- **Night curfew alone with no restriction on gatherings** has shown less significance in Pune in terms of controlling the growth trajectory of daily new cases
- **Stricter measures, such as restrictions on mass gatherings, no intermingling of people, closing non-essential activities for period of 15 days (epidemiologically significant)** was observed to reduce the rate of growth & cases started plateauing

“We have observed that strict measures like restrictions on mass gatherings and on intermingling of people along with closing of non-essential activities for a period of 15 days reduce the rate of growth of cases and cases start plateauing”, said the Joint Secretary.

DJM/MC/DL

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