



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE

Tamaka, Kolar

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Online Newspaper Clipping Service

Dtd-Wednesday, 12th, August- 2020

Page No.04

# Allow classes for medical courses, state requests PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to allow classes for pre-final and final-year medical and para-medical students so that they can be used for Covid-related activities.

Deputy chief minister CN Ashwath Narayan and medical education minister K Sudhakar made this request during a meeting about the pandemic in 10 states on Tuesday. "We asked for doubling of degree and post-graduate medical seats from 10,000 and 2,000 respectively, and bring in an amendment to laws or issue guidelines making one-year government service compulsory after course completion," Sudhakar said.

Citing the shortage in liquid oxygen, the government



**ALL IN A ROW:** A healthcare worker lines up testing kits at a swab collection unit in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Authorities are now collecting two samples — one for rapid antigen test and another to be sent for the RT-PCR test

sought the Centre's cooperation in setting up manufacturing plants.

Sudhakar said Modi was informed about measures taken by the state to control the pandemic, including increasing testing labs from two in March to 100 by August and increasing number of tests from 20,000 per day to 50,000.

The ministers told the prime minister the state would have about 20,000 oxygenated beds by September

Sudhakar said Karnataka will take all steps to implement Modi's suggestions to bring Covid spread under control. The PM has asked the state to identify primary and secondary contacts within 72 hours after an infection is reported. He also asked them to bring down the death rate below 1 per cent.

The death rate in the country is 1.9%. In Karnataka it stands at 1.8 %, and in Bengaluru it is 1.7%.

## K'taka wants number of med seats doubled

**BANSY KALAPPA** @Bengaluru

WITH the rising number of Covid cases, Karnataka has put forth a request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for doubling the number of undergraduate and post-graduate medical seats in the state from 12,000 to 24,000 and to help set up liquid oxygen plants at major hospitals.

During the video conference with the PM, State Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar, who was filling in for Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa who is under home quarantine, said, "If we get one liquid oxygen plant for each major hospital, it will greatly help in better ICU management and bringing down the death rate. The increase in the number of trained medicos will act as a buffer in emergencies."

The death rate in Bengaluru stands at 1.7 per cent while it is 1.8 per cent in the state, against the national average of 1.99 per cent, he pointed out.

**P4**



# Hold exams for final-year medicos, state tells PM Modi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DEPUTY Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan and Dr Sudhakar and later told the media that the PM specified that whenever there is a fresh Covid case, the primary and secondary contacts should be mandatorily traced and identified within three days, which can help bring down mortality rates.

Dr Sudhakar also added that in addition to doubling medical seats, they are also seeking that a medical student compulsorily do a one-year stint in rural areas.

Conducting the exams for the final-year medical students will make more trained medical professionals available, he added.

Karnataka's request to double the number of medical seats found support from neighbouring Telangana, where Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao too emphasised that having more trained medical graduates will help.

Sudhakar also told the PM that the number of testing labs will be increased to



100 by the end of August from a mere two in the beginning of March, and the number of tests will be increased to 75,000 per day from the present 50,000 tests.

The number of ambulances have increased from 800 to 2,000. Booth-level teams have fanned out to spread awareness, identify those with SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Infections) and ILI (Influenza-Like Illness) symptoms, test them and trace their contacts, he added.