

KARNATAKA

CONTACT TRACING AND SURVEILLANCE -

Karnataka traced both high-risk and low-risk contacts and placed them under strict quarantine. More than 10,000 field staff were trained to assume specific responsibilities for contact tracing according to the Standard Operating Procedures developed by the state. The State developed a digital tracker for tracing COVID-19 infected persons through a team of in-house technicians at zero cost to the government. Data was collected in a centralized manner and acted on locally by the state by transmitting it to the relevant people for action. The digital tracker enabled District-level reports to be shared with the state team. All districts were supervised weekly, and Karnataka surveyed over 1.5 crore households through physical visits or phone calls to identify vulnerable people including senior citizens, people with comorbidities and pregnant women. Various state and local government agencies were involved in the survey and the follow-up process during which vulnerable households were contacted through the Apthamitra telemedicine helpline and household visits.

MONITORING TRAVELLERS AND INDIVIDUALS UNDER QUARANTINE -

People travelling to Karnataka from another state were required to register on the *Seva Setu* application to ensure monitoring at every border checkpoint. For domestic/international flights and individuals entering by rail, the state put together a list of travelers and their contact details in advance and shared it with quarantine watch teams. People in home quarantine were required to share 14 selfies with the state government between 7 am and 9 pm daily through the Quarantine Watch Application. Defaulters were liable to be shifted to an institutional Quarantine Centre.

APTHAMITRA TELECONSULTATION HELPLINE -

A toll-free number was launched along with an application for identifying people with COVID-like symptoms. A campaign was undertaken during which outbound calls and an Interactive Voice Response System were used to connect with at-risk households and individuals with symptoms were provided advice by doctors through telemedicine. The Karnataka Health Watch application was linked with the GIS portal for mapping state-wide information.