

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 38

October 19, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister reviewed the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country and preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration ([Link](#))
- Health Minister urged citizens to honor the Prime Minister’s call for Jan Andolan (People’s Movement) and to follow COVID appropriate behaviors ([Link](#))
- MoHFW rushed high level central teams to Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal to support COVID-19 response action in these states ([Link](#))
- Ministry of Culture issued detailed SOPs for cultural functions to facilitate organization of cultural events during the COVID-19 pandemic ([Link](#))
- NITI Aayog member stressed the importance of following COVID Appropriate Behaviors during upcoming festival season, winter, while opening up of economy activities ([Link](#))
- Minister of Health chaired 21st meeting of Group of Ministers on COVID-19 to review country’s preparedness and response ([Link](#))
- Finance Minister announced measures of INR 73,000 crore to stimulate consumer spending before end of this Financial Year in fight against COVID-19 ([Link](#))

### WHO Situation Update

#### India

**7 597 063 Confirmed Cases**  
**115 197 Total Deaths**

#### South East Asia Region

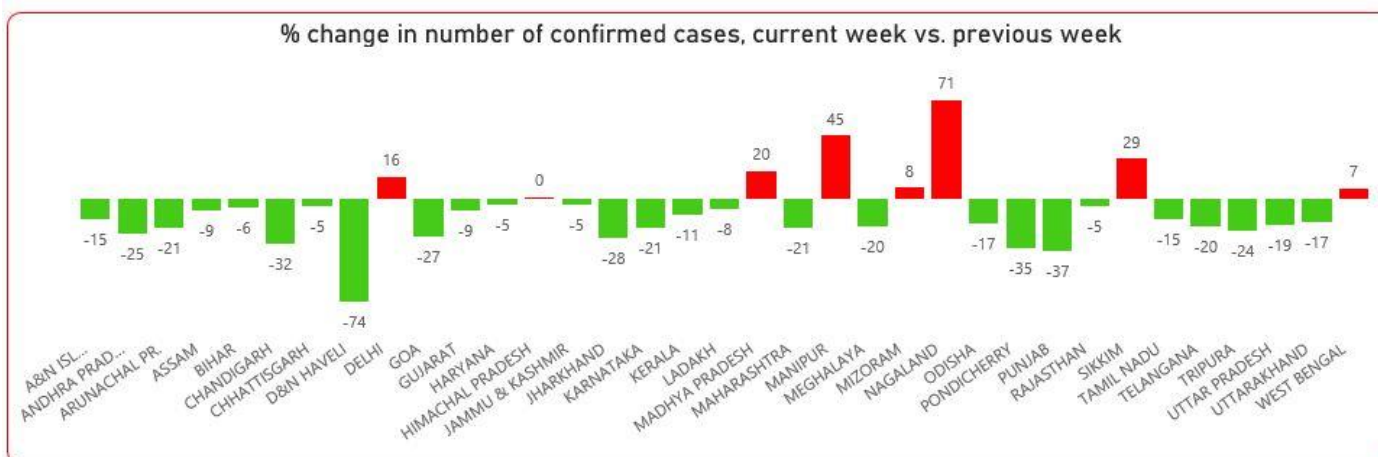
**8 546 666 Confirmed Cases**  
**135 275 Total Deaths**

#### World

**40 118 333 Confirmed Cases**  
**1 114 749 Deaths**

## INDIA SITUATION

As of 19 October 2020, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI has confirmed **7,597,063** COVID-19 cases and **115,197** deaths. Maharashtra state reported highest cases (>1.5 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (779,146) and Karnataka (758,574). Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh contribute about 60% of total cases in India.



Source: Calculated by WHO Country Office based on MoHFW data available on <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>

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## WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- Solidarity Therapeutics Trial produces conclusive evidence on the effectiveness of repurposed drugs for COVID-19 in record time, details [here](#).
- Results show Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir and Interferon regimens appeared to have little or no effect on hospitalized COVID-19, as indicated by overall mortality, initiation of ventilation and duration of hospital stay, details [here](#).

## WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures including epidemiological assessment, surveillance, testing, case management, containment and research activities for COVID-19 at the national, state and district level.

- **Coordination:** WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW through JMG (Joint Monitoring Group) at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level in **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry**.
- **Surveillance, Contact Tracing, Containment:** Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in **Chandigarh UT and Punjab**. WCO continues to provide supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing and identify containment zones
  - WCO is a technical partner for sero-survey in **Bihar**. Data for the sero-survey conducted in Patna was analyzed and presented to state officials
- **Risk Communication and Community Engagement:** WHO-UNDP collaborative webinar series “Mann Darshan” held its third webisode titled “COVID-19 Warriors: Strengthening the Frontline” in partnership with UNICEF.
- **Infection Prevention and Control and Hospital Preparedness:** WCO continues supporting IPC training of doctors and health workers in hospitals and PHC level in **Maharashtra and Telangana**
  - WCO is supporting COVID-19 hospital assessments in Karnataka at the district level
- **Research and Development:** WCO is supporting MoHFW in drafting the Operation Guidelines for COVID 19 vaccines under clinical and pre-clinical development in India
  - WCO is supporting 11 WHO unity protocol studies in collaboration with medical institutes across India
- **Essential Health Service:** Together with MoHFW and NIMHANS, WHO launched the first **National Orientation Workshop for Adolescent Health Counselors under the RKSK program**, includes COVID appropriate behaviour, mental health and integrated SRHR counselling.
  - Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh**
  - WCO facilitated State Routine Immunization review meeting chaired by Director Family Welfare, **Delhi** and is supporting microplanning for intensifying routine immunization activities
- **Information and Planning:** WCO will support seroprevalence study in all districts of **Kashmir**
  - WCO field teams in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, UP and Uttarakhand continue to share epidemiological analysis and feedback with districts and state officials.
- **Laboratory testing:** India tested 9,50,83,976 cumulative samples by 12 October and 8,59,786 samples were tested on 19 October, reported by [ICMR](#). WCO continues to support ICMR for supplies and kits as needed.

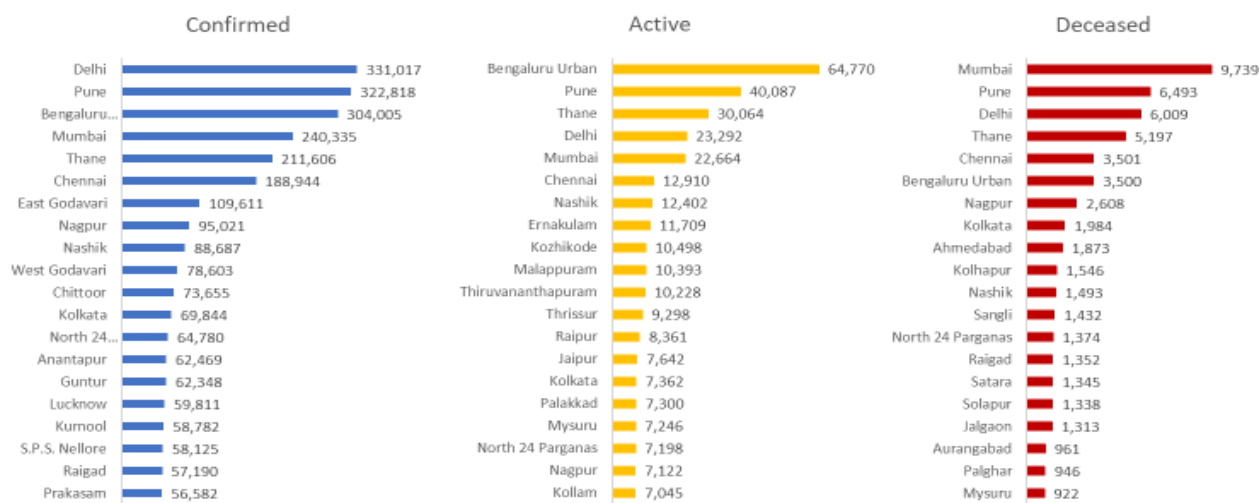
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## SUB-NATIONAL BURDEN OF COVID-19 ACROSS INDIA

### Top 20 districts with COVID burden



\*Delhi included for comparison Data Source: MOH & State's bulletins, as of 18/10/2020

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. MHA Guidelines for international arrivals (in supersession of guidelines issued on the subject dated 24th May 2020) (to be operational from 00.01 Hrs, 8th August 2020) ([Link](#))
2. ICMR updated 'Guidance on Rapid Antigen Test Kits for COVID-19' ([Link](#))
3. MoHFW Guidelines for management of co-infection of COVID-19 with other seasonal epidemic prone diseases ([Link](#))
4. MoHFW 'Encouraging youth to advocate against stigma and discrimination during COVID-19' in English & Hindi ([Link](#))
5. Environmental and Social Management Framework for India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project ([Link](#))

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline [here](#).  
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