

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 60

March 22, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister exhorts Chief Ministers of multiple states to increase the number of vaccination centers and to scale up RT-PCR tests ([Link](#))
- Union Health Secretary calls on States to optimally use COVID-19 vaccine and to reduce vaccine wastage drastically ([Link](#))
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh continue to record a steep rise in cases, and account for over 80% of daily new COVID-19 cases ([Link](#))
- Center closely monitoring and actively engaging with States/UTs regarding surge of COVID-19 cases ([Link](#))
- Union Health Secretary urged state of Uttarakhand to employ stringent measures to control the spread of COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela ([Link](#))
- India records a milestone in COVID-19 vaccination with administration of over 4 crore vaccine doses ([Link](#))
- Centre writes to States/UTs to increase the interval between two doses of COVISHIELD to 4-8 weeks from initial 4-6 weeks ([Link](#))
- India crosses a key milestone in universal primary healthcare as it reaches its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness centers ahead of time ([Link](#))

WHO Situation Update

India

11,599,130 Confirmed Cases

159,755 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region

14,245,791 Confirmed Cases

215,325 Total Deaths

World

122,524,424 Confirmed Cases

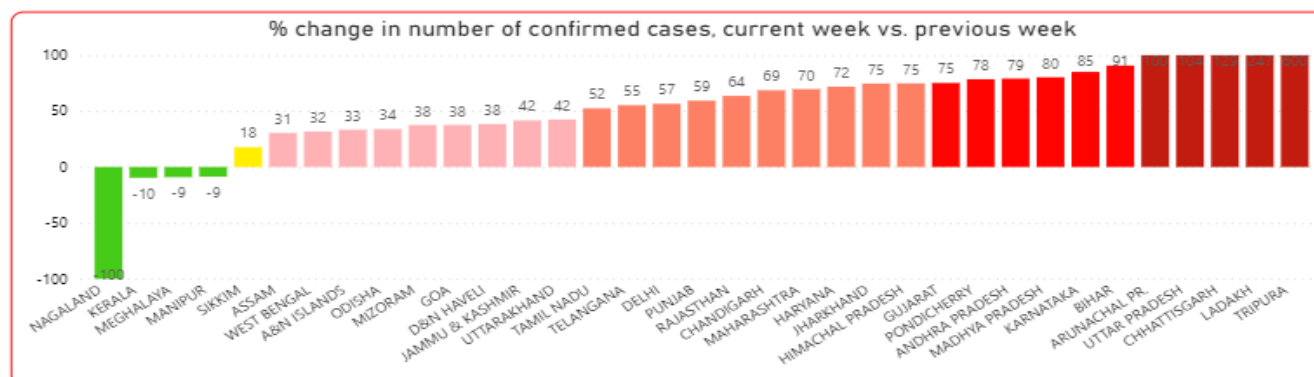
2,703,620 Deaths

INDIA SITUATION

- As on 21 March, India has reported 159,755 COVID-19 deaths with case fatality ratio (CFR) of 1.38%. Maharashtra has reported highest number of COVID-19 deaths (53,300) followed by Tamil Nadu (12,590) and Karnataka (12,432), details [here](#).
- In the past week, India has reported 1,148 deaths, of which the highest were in Maharashtra (489) followed by Punjab (228) and Kerala (101). Punjab has reported highest CFR (3.0%) followed by Maharashtra (2.2%), Sikkim (2.2%) and West Bengal (1.8%). details [here](#).
- More than 85% of affected districts reported one or more COVID-19 case in last seven days

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 31 states have shown an increase in cases. The states/UTs with decrease in cases during last week are Nagaland, Kerala, Meghalaya & Manipur.



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- In **Haryana**, State police has launched a two-week campaign to promote COVID appropriate behaviors; under this campaign those found without masks will be provided one for free
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, weekend lockdown has been imposed in three cities namely, Bhopal, Indore, and Jabalpur
- In **Punjab**, schools and anganwadi centers have been closed due to the surge in number of cases

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- COVID-19 highlights urgent need to reboot global effort to end tuberculosis; thus, building up health systems so everyone can get the services they need to fight against TB, details [here](#)
- WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has concluded that the vaccine (including Covishield) continues to have a positive benefit-risk profile, with tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths, details [here](#)
- New research from WHO and partners shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is severely affecting the quality of care given to small and sick newborns, resulting in unnecessary suffering and deaths, details [here](#)

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

Coordination

- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district levels
- Attended high level COVID-19 review meetings in **Assam, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**
- Participated in COVID-19 response and vaccination review meeting chaired by Health Secretary in **Jammu and Kashmir**

COVID-19 vaccination

- High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- WCO has deployed two officials in Mandi and Kangra regions in **Himachal Pradesh** to support COVID-19 vaccination drive, and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance for routine immunization and VPD
- Advocating for an increase in session sites in **Nagaland**
- WCO continues to support assessment of private hospitals in **Kerala** to enrol them as COVID-19 vaccination centres

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance

- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in **Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, to identify ILI/SARI symptoms, a total of 31,544,836 houses have been covered and 162,017 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams

Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in **Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**

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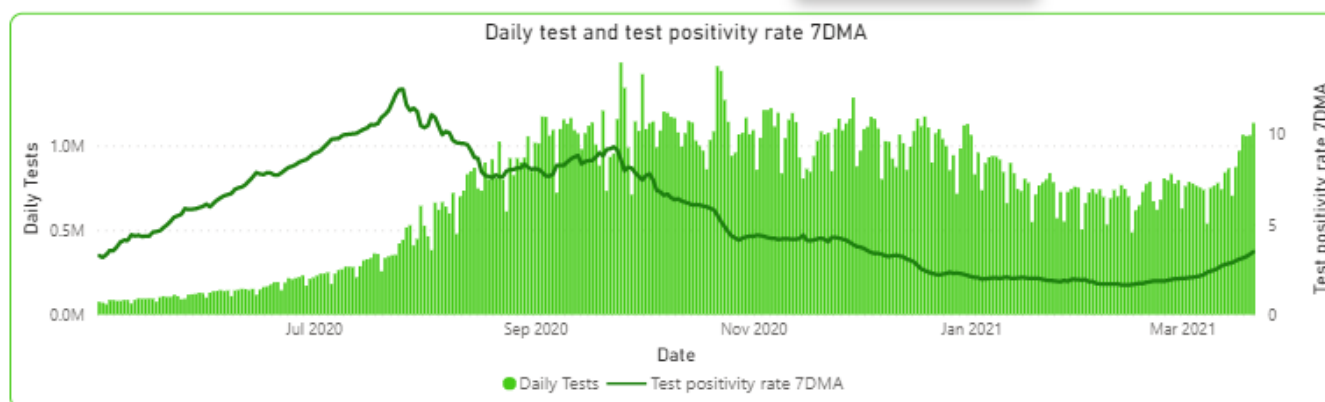
- Supporting **Punjab and Tamil Nadu** in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
- Supporting **Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra** in planning and implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0
- Supporting **Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Laskhwadeep** in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)

As of 21st March 2021, India has tested more than 233 M samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. Most of the large states are ramping RTPCR tests. India's current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 3.48%.

Testing - National Level

23,35,65,119

Cumulative Tests



GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine [\[LINK\]](#)
- Background document on the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine: Background document to the WHO Interim recommendations for use of Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine [\[LINK\]](#)
- A guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic [\[LINK\]](#)

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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