

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 61

March 29, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ministry of Home Affairs issues revised guidelines for effective control of COVID-19; States/ UTs to strictly enforce Test-Track-Treat protocol ([Link](#))
- Director, National Centre for Disease Control states that 771 variants have been found in the country through genome sequencing so far, and includes strains from UK, South Africa, and Brazil ([Link](#))
- Union Minister of Health asserts communication strategy for COVID-19 vaccine is prepared to address vaccine hesitancy among population ([Link](#))
- Centre rushes high level multi-disciplinary teams to Chhattisgarh & Chandigarh to assist with COVID-19 control & containment measures ([Link](#))
- Union Health Secretary chairs high level meeting with 12 States and UTs reporting surge in cases ([Link](#))
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu report a rise in cases, and account for 81% of daily new cases ([Link](#))
- As on 25 March, India stands second in the world in terms of the number of vaccine doses administered ([Link](#))
- India crosses a landmark milestone of over 6 crore vaccine doses administered ([Link](#))

WHO Situation Update

India

12,039,644 Confirmed Cases

161,843 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region

14,763,395 Confirmed Cases

218,604 Total Deaths

(As on 30 March 2021)

World

126,890,643 Confirmed Cases

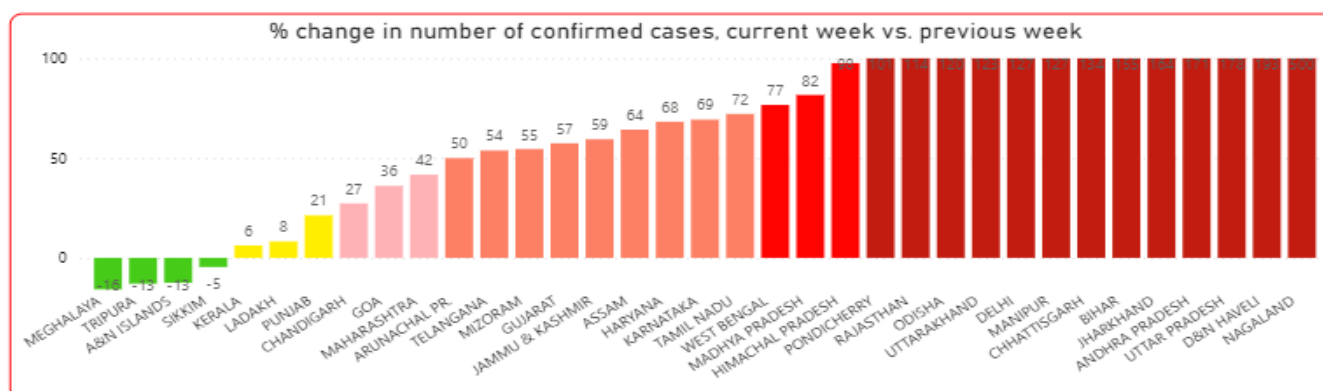
2,778,619 Deaths

INDIA SITUATION

- As of 29 March 2021, India reported a total of 12,039,644 confirmed cases and 68,020 confirmed cases within the past 24 hours. There is continued surge of cases. Cases per million is 8,594 and a total of 161,843 deaths have been reported, details [here](#).
- Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 54% of total cases.
- About 90% of affected districts reported one or more than one COVID-19 case in last seven days
- In the past week, India has reported 1,876 deaths, of which the highest were in Maharashtra (782) followed by Punjab (366) and Chhattisgarh (126). Punjab has reported highest CFR (2.9%).

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 31 states have shown an increase in cases.



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- In **Chandigarh UT**, a ban was placed on all public gatherings for Holi, and no clubs, hotels or restaurants were allowed to host any ceremonial gathering on the occasion
- In **Himachal Pradesh**, a “no mask – no service” policy has been mandated, in line with which only those with face covers/ masks will be allowed to enter public places like hospitals, temples, schools, offices, etc
- In **Punjab**, all educational institutes, other than medical and nursing colleges will remain closed till March 31

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a joint statement on prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination for seafarers and aircrew, details [here](#)
- Global COVAX Facility has notified that deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) to lower-income economies will face delays during March and April as the Government of India battles a new wave of COVID-19 infections, details [here](#)
- WHO Medical Product Alert refers to falsified COVID-19 Vaccine identified as “BNT162b2” detected in Mexico in February 2021 and recently confirmed as falsified to the WHO, details [here](#)
- Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, 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 level in **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry**
- Participated in review meetings regarding COVID-19 surge, response, and vaccination chaired by Chief Ministers, Health Ministers and/or Health Secretaries in **Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Punjab**
- Participated in a meeting to prepare launching of IHIP chaired by Health Secretary, **Uttarakhand**
- Continues to attend weekly review meeting of COVID Intensive Vaccination Committee chaired by Lieutenant Governor in **Puducherry**
- Participated in the expert committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary in **Tamil Nadu** and presented COVID-19 situation data and vaccination monitoring indicators

COVID-19 vaccination

- High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- 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 **Uttar Pradesh**
 - provided supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis

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- Supporting **Punjab and Andhra Pradesh** with response to recent surge in new COVID-19 cases across multiple states

Essential Services

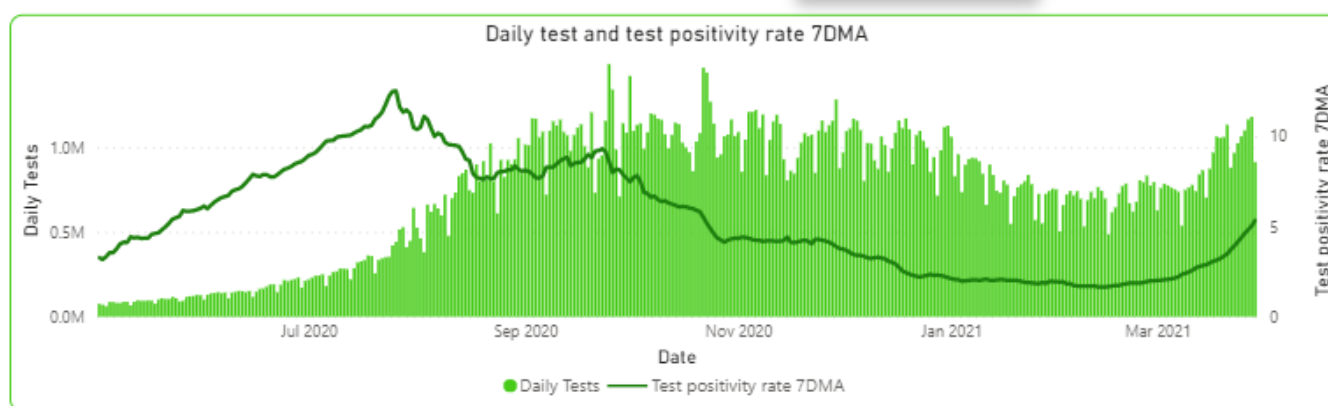
- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in **Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry**
- Supporting **Puducherry and Tamil Nadu** with sensitization efforts for surveillance of AFP/ MR/ DPT
- Supporting **Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Telangana**, in planning and implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0
- Supporting **Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand** in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)
- Supporting **Haryana** for National Immunization Day for Polio
- Supporting assessment of Guntur Medical College-Microbiology Department as part of laboratory supported DPT surveillance strengthening in **Andhra Pradesh**

As of 29th March 2021, India has tested more than 241 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 5.33% and rising.

Testing - National Level

24,18,64,161

Cumulative Tests



GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- Case for private sector support: The ACT-Accelerator [[LINK](#)]
- Operational considerations to expedite genomic sequencing of GISRS surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 [[LINK](#)]
- 55th report of the WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations [[LINK](#)]
- COVID-19 School Infection Prevention and Control and Preparedness Assessment Tool* [[LINK](#)]

(*Recent publication from National Centre for Disease Control)

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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