

Church of South India

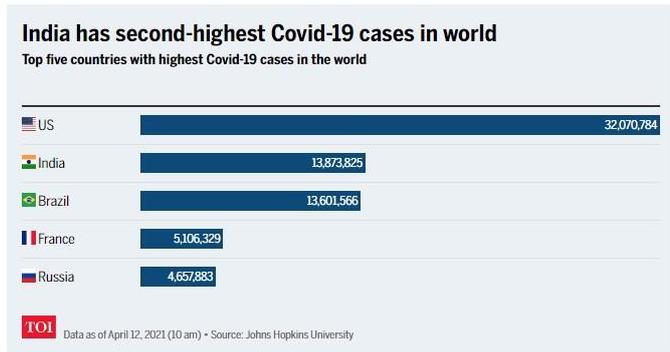
Chennai – 600 014.

A Prayer Request

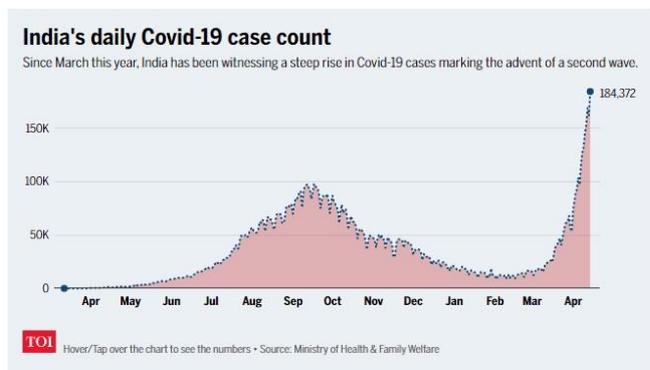
COVID 19- Second Wave: An Alarming Situation in India- Severe and Intensive Condition in Countrywide

We are really worrying in writing about the alarming situation of COVID19 second wave, which is severely hitting on the lives and livelihoods of the people of India. India has been reporting a record rise in daily cases. The virus seems to have become more transmissible in the second wave. Sometimes, it doesn't show any symptoms also. A lot of young people aged below 40 are getting sick. The situation is alarming. The entire country is potentially at risk.

India's tally of recorded coronavirus cases exceeds 12 million, the second-highest in the world behind the US. Many experts believe India is facing the threat of a devastating and deadlier second wave of the virus. India's doubling rate has been rapidly growing day by day.



The political campaign during the five key-state elections - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Pondicherry and Assam, religious gathering, festivals, cricket games drawing tens of thousands of mostly unmasked people have fueled the second wave of pandemic outbreak. If



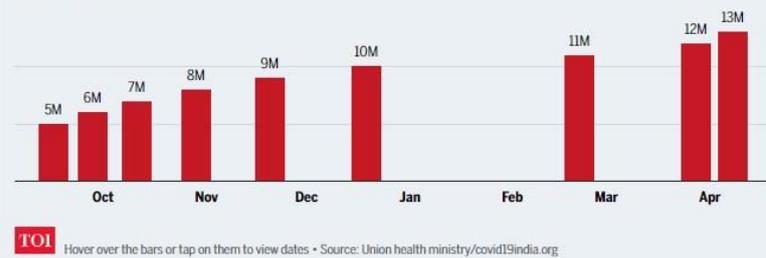
at all, there was COVID protocols declared by the respective governments, it was not strictly adhered by the people. Therefore, thousands of people are being prey to the virus. India's second wave of the coronavirus disease has been aggravated by lack of adherence to Covid-appropriate safety protocols and the circulation of highly infectious strains of SARS-CoV-2, All India Institute of Medical Sciences' (AIIMS') director Dr Randeep Guleria said on Monday (12th April 2021).

Experts believe this COVID 19 will be a long drag. Recently, several states including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana are seeing exceeding growth in COVID cases. In some, like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab, cases have already surged to close to or above their previous peaks. Others such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal seem to be at an earlier stage in their surges. However, if cases continue to rise at current speed and surpass previous peaks, then the country as a whole will see a national peak considerably higher than the first one.

According to the Medical experts, the hope is that vaccinations will play a part in controlling the wave. But the current pace of vaccination - more than 50 million doses administered in a little over two months in a country with a population of over 1.3 billion - is "going to have little effect on slowing spread of the virus in a month or two. Unavailability of vaccines in time also really challenging.

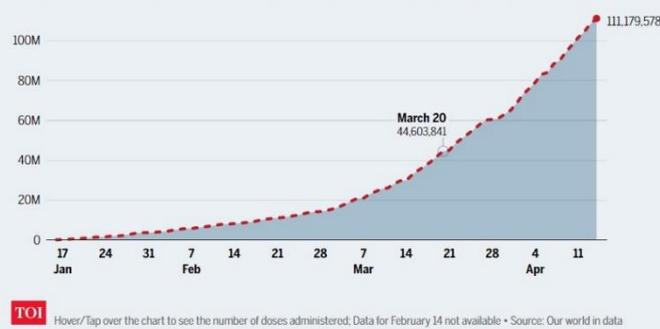
How fast Covid cases have risen in India

India's total caseload rose from 12 million to 13 million in just 10 days. The gap below denotes the time taken for the cases to rise by a million.



Experts believe India should step up genomic surveillance to track down variants and ramp up vaccination in areas of high transmission and in states where elections are being held to

Total No. of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in India



prevent the virus from spreading. Lockdowns may be needed in areas of very high transmission if the health system is overwhelmed. And governments have to act fast and ahead of time, as hospitalizations and deaths from Covid are lagged. India has to roll out the vaccination drive more aggressively in the most affected areas. Unfortunately, Health Care System and health care capacity of India has been strained between vaccinations and covid care.

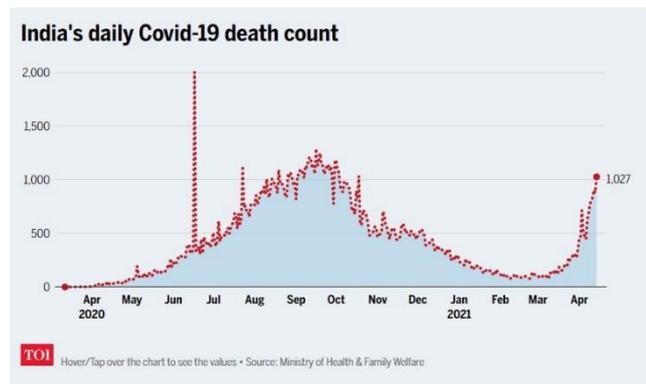


The coronavirus crisis, spoiling economies and burdening medical infrastructure, worsened at the end of February in India and the country has since been reporting record Covid-19 cases every day. India on 12th April 2021 shattered its previous daily spikes in Covid-19 cases recorded since the pandemic hit the country. On 12th April 2021, India saw the biggest single-day jump of 1,68,912 fresh Covid-19 infections, pushing the cumulative tally to 1,35,27,717, according to Union health ministry data.

India's Covid-19 crisis is unfolding in primarily 10 states, which account for 83.02% of the cases reported in the last 24 hours, according to the Union ministry of health and family welfare. These states—Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan—have imposed several curbs and restrictions to break the chain of transmission of the cases.



Second wave of COVID-19 may peak by April 15-20, even up to the months of May-July 2021. If it is happening, people will be in most dangerous situations and their lives will be at risk in South India as well as in other parts of India. It will adversely affect the individual, family, and social life of the people. Many will be lost their lives because of the lack of timely interventions of the concerned health care organizations of India. Death rates, and infected rates will be increased which will drastically leads to the starvation, poverty, unemployment, failure of education system, and mental and physical instabilities.



Moreover, severe restrictions with Covid protocols also delays the implementation of CSI Synod Departmental programs in timely manner as proposed.

A sudden intervention is needed to cease the rapid spread. As a responsible and accountable body, the Church cannot be passive and turned blind eyes to the vital issues. So far, Bishops, Pastors, Missionaries, Evangelists including their families and also other people belongs to the various Dioceses of Church of South India were struggled and suffered lot out of the outbreak of Corona pandemic. In the areas of villages and rural areas of the Church, people are still greatly suffering.

The Church must be serving as a centre of courage and hope to the people without any discrimination. We do strongly believe; it is the prophetic role of the Church to address the vital issues which severely affecting the people's lives and livelihoods. The trained people through various department activities of Church of South India will be acting as volunteers and exponents of health care awareness. The mission hospitals as well as educational institutions, and also health care professionals as well as educational professionals will be boosted to be served as the champions of awareness programs and rehabilitation engagements. Remarkably, available Church conference centers, hostels etc. were already given for the rehabilitation works.

In this situation, we kindly request you to uphold the Nation as well as the Church and its healing and rehabilitation engagements towards the Covid affected people. Since, the Church must ensure the availability of Covid vaccines, basic food, interim financial support, and other necessary missional accompaniment with the people, especially the most vulnerable in order to enhance their capacities and empower the Congregations and the neighboring people to combat the Covid situation, we earnestly solicit your active prayers and timely accompaniment with us to combat the adverse situation.

May our Gracious God bless the world with speedy recovery.

With Faith and Hope,

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General Secretary

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India.