

Why India's second COVID surge is so much worse than the first



India's relatively mild first wave of COVID-19 had not abated significantly by the late 2020 lockdown, as officials were wary of relaxing what proved to be a very premature victory over the virus, which had not been fully contained. The current surge has been much more deadly. Some economists and media outlets have blamed the surge on new viral variants, which early studies suggest may be more transmissible than the original strain. But many experts familiar with the situation on the ground argue that large gatherings and crowded, in-closed, congested urban spaces—as contrast with the draconian lockdown imposed during the first wave—are driving much of the spread.

In both Pune, Mumbai, Varanasi, Delhi and Kolkata, where the Modi and Mamata Banerjee, chief ministers of the state of West Bengal, held crowded political campaigns during the first wave, India's second COVID surge is now taking the past April. Later that month Modi told nine leaders that a lockdown should be considered only as a "last option" as members meet across various states, eventually topping 400,000 daily new cases nationwide.

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Pakistan commits \$1.1 bln for COVID vaccine to cover eligible population



Pakistan said on Wednesday it will commit to spend \$1.1 billion on procuring COVID-19 vaccine to cover its eligible population. Pakistan's health minister, Anwar Iqbal, said the government has committed to spend \$1.1 billion on procuring COVID-19 vaccine to cover its eligible population. Pakistan's health minister, Anwar Iqbal, said the government has committed to spend \$1.1 billion on procuring COVID-19 vaccine to cover its eligible population.

The vaccine will be procured by military-run National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the minister said. "Thank God, we have secured the vaccine," he said. "Our target is to vaccinate up to 70 million people by the end of this year," he said. The total adult population eligible for the vaccine is 110 million.

Constitutional issues emerged as the government sought to procure the vaccine. Pakistan's health minister, Anwar Iqbal, said the government has committed to spend \$1.1 billion on procuring COVID-19 vaccine to cover its eligible population. Pakistan's health minister, Anwar Iqbal, said the government has committed to spend \$1.1 billion on procuring COVID-19 vaccine to cover its eligible population.

Nepal resumes vaccination campaign with doses given by China

Nepal resumed its stalled coronavirus vaccination campaign on Tuesday with 1 million doses donated by China. The government made an announcement that it will resume the campaign. The government made an announcement that it will resume the campaign. The government made an announcement that it will resume the campaign.

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Uzbekistan: In a change of tack, president preaches supply-side economics

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has urged local authorities to encourage people to keep prices for foodstuffs low, thereby departing from previous policy of allowing prices to rise freely. The president has urged local authorities to encourage people to keep prices for foodstuffs low, thereby departing from previous policy of allowing prices to rise freely.

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WHO study points to interventions for improving cardiovascular health in Tajikistan

A new WHO Europe study reveals that improved blood pressure control at the primary health-care level in Tajikistan can be achieved in 12 months using WHO standardised interventions, which were found to be effective in preventing the country's cardiovascular disease burden. The study was conducted in Tajikistan, a country with a high burden of cardiovascular disease.

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