

40% OF INDIA'S TOTAL COVID DEATHS DURING 2ND WAVE

Fatalities growing at double-digit rate, though there has been some let-up in the past few days



SACHIN P MAMPATTA & RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
Mumbai/New Delhi, 13 May

The second wave of Covid-19 has seen a significant rise in the number of recorded deaths, with the total toll since the pandemic hit India in 2020 crossing 250,000 this week. Around 40 per cent of these deaths have occurred since the beginning of March this year.

The daily death numbers show that India has more people dying of Covid-19 than in entire continents, according to tracker Our World in Data (see chart 1). Asia has over 5,600 daily Covid-19 deaths of which more than 4,000 are from India.

The national mortality rate, according to health ministry data, stands at 1.09 per cent. The government has said that the mortality in the hospitalised patients has remained the same at around 9.6 per cent in both the

first and the second wave.

The rise in the number of those affected has meant that the weekly death toll is over 28,000 and growing at a double-digit rate, though there has been some let-up in the past few days (see chart 2).

On Wednesday (May 12), 74 per cent

of new deaths were reported in 10 states. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties with 816 deaths followed by Karnataka, which reported 516 deaths. Uttar Pradesh is next with 326 deaths. Karnataka continues to show a high growth in the number of

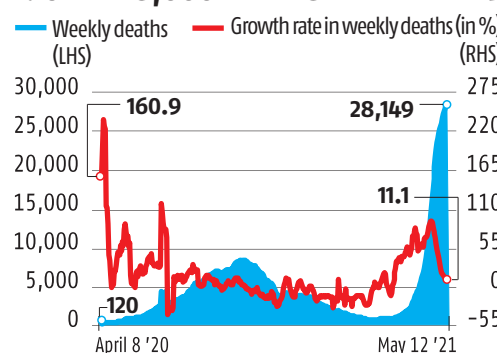
weekly deaths, according to an analysis of data compiled by covid19india.org (see chart 3). Various reports have flagged under-reporting of deaths in many states. A study by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, health research centre at the University of Washington, estimated that India would see one million deaths from Covid-19 by August 1.

1. MORE PEOPLE DYING IN INDIA THAN IN ENTIRE CONTINENTS

Place	Daily Covid-19 deaths (7-day rolling average)
India	4,021
South America	3,487
Europe	2,319
North America	1,034
Africa	304
Australia	0

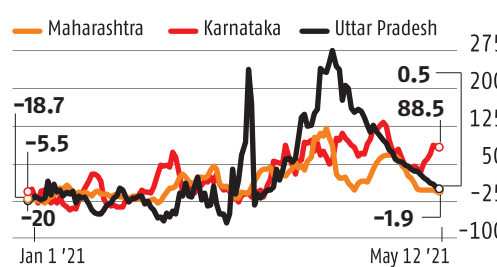
Note: Data as of May 12, 2021
Source: Our World In Data

2. OVER 28,000 DEATHS EVERY WEEK



Note: Data as of May 12, 2021
Source: Our World In Data

3. KARNATAKA WEEKLY DEATHS GROWING FASTER THAN OTHERS



Note: Shows percentage growth rate in weekly deaths for states with most number of deceased patients every day
Source: Covid19india.org, Business Standard calculations

The national mortality rate, according to health ministry data, stands at 1.09 per cent

The ones country's Tokyo hopes are riding on

DHRUV MUNJAL
New Delhi, 13 May

This past Sunday, organisers held a test event at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium in order to assess readiness ahead of the real thing that starts on July 23. The arena was devoid of fans, with only anxious officials looking on. Even as the event passed off without incident, you couldn't help but question the vanity and ambition behind Japan's plans to push ahead with the Games despite the prevailing state of emergency in almost all of its major cities.

Perhaps the least prepared for the Games this time is not the host city but the athletes themselves. Lockdowns and travel curbs over the past 12 months have deeply affected preparation, with potential participants getting little or no taste of actual competition. Things have been especially tough for athletes from India, where the spread of the coronavirus in recent months has been more severe than anywhere else, thereby disrupting training at a crucial time. Still, there are hopes that India may better its tally from 2016, with Olympic analysts Graceno predicting that the country will accumulate a staggering haul of 17 medals. Here is a sport-wise breakdown of what to expect.

BADMINTON

Over the last few Olympics, badminton has proven to be one of India's most successful events. Saina Nehwal won bronze in London nine years ago, while P V Sindhu put together one of the finest individual campaigns from an Indian in recent memory to clinch silver in Rio de Janeiro.

Indian badminton has done spectacularly well to become a force on the world stage, but chances of a medal in Tokyo look slim. Nehwal will miss out on a qualification berth altogether, with the last two qualifying events — in Singapore and Malaysia — effectively cancelled. In the men's section, Kidambi Srikanth is another who won't be making the trip to Tokyo (see box). The cut-off date for qualification is June 15.

Many expect Sindhu to be India's best medal bet, but the 25-year-old's form has been indifferent this year. A runner-up finish at the Swiss Open and a semi-final showing at the All England Championship may sound impressive, but the manner of defeat in both those losses will suggest otherwise. Sindhu's chances will hinge on how she copes with the high intensity and pressure of Olympic competition.

The men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, ranked 10 in the world, is another to look forward to, but a podium finish will most probably be beyond the young duo.



(Top) Javelin ace Neeraj Chopra; wrestler Bajrang Punia

Missing the bus

With the cancellation of the Singapore Open — the last qualifying event before the Olympics — shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth will not feature in Tokyo

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who narrowly missed out on bronze in the vault five years ago, is also likely to miss out. The pandemic has forced the International Gymnastics Federation to cancel multiple World Cups, hurting Karmakar's chances

Sprinters Dutee Chand and Hima Das, both part of India's 4x100m relay team, couldn't attend a qualifying event in Poland earlier this month, and are almost certain to stay home

Wrestler Sakshi Malik, a bronze medalist in Rio, is another absentee. Sonam Malik will take her place in the 62 kg category

WRESTLING

Historically, wrestling has been a bright spot for Indian athletes. Eight wrestlers have qualified for Tokyo, equaling India's largest-ever contingent at the Rio Games. The lone medal — bronze — in 2016 came from Sakshi Malik in the 58 kg category. While Malik has failed to make the cut this time, there is enough promise to suggest that India can add to its wrestling tally. Bajrang Punia, the top-ranked wrestler in his category in the world, will fancy his chances in the 65 kg. Punia could only settle for silver at the Asian Wrestling Championships last month after having to pull out of the final due to a slight elbow injury. Thrice a medalist at the world championships, Punia performs well on the big stage and will undoubtedly be among the favourites for a medal.

Similarly, on the women's side, Vinesh Phogat (53 kg) looks set to erase painful

memories of Rio, where her medal hopes were ended by a serious knee injury in the quarterfinal. Phogat, the Asian Games gold medalist, has spent the last few months fine-tuning her technique under Belgian coach Wollter Akos.

HOCKEY

That the men's national team may never again hit the heights of its glorious past is fairly well-documented, but the past few years have, undeniably, been full of progress. Head coach Graham Reid has built a side based on speed and technique, one that has fully embraced the high-voltage style of modern hockey.

India beat Olympic champions Argentina earlier this year, and looks in fine shape. The only worry: In recent weeks, India has had to cancel key Pro League games against England, Spain and Germany. That would have provided invaluable match practice. Even so, Tokyo just might see Indian hockey ending its medal drought.

ATHLETICS

Earlier this week, Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra spoke about being frustrated at the lack of competition ahead of the Olympic Games. Such comments from arguably India's brightest medal hope do not augur well for the country's track and field aspirations in Tokyo. You can understand Chopra's disappointment: He hasn't participated in an international event in two years, first due to an elbow injury and later the pandemic. Given the level of competition in Tokyo, Chopra, 23, will have to do better than his personal best of 88.07 metres to have a shot at the podium.

The other major draw will be long jumper Murali Sreesankar. The 22-year-old from Kerala burst on to the scene when he broke the national record in Bhubaneswar three years ago. He has since grown into a formidable talent, jumping as long as 8.26 metres. That distance may not even get him to the final in Tokyo, but he's definitely one for the future.

SHOOTING

Ever since Abhinav Bindra's gold medal at the Beijing Games in 2008, shooting is often hyped up as that one sport that can help India climb up the medal table. If Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have their way, that may be the case in Tokyo.

Bhaker, 19, is an outstanding talent, having already won 10 medals at various World Cups. Chaudhary, 18, who will compete in the 10 metre air pistol, is possibly India's best chance of an individual medal across different sports.

Covid-19 crisis: Indian diaspora reaches out

GEETANJALI KRISHNA
New Delhi, 13 May

Last week, Sharat Mathur was able to go for a walk in a Chicago park without a mask for the first time since the pandemic began. Instead of a sense of freedom, his return to relative normalcy was tinted with anguish. "I have relatives sick with Covid back home," he says. "The news is full of videos of Indians dying without oxygen, without access to medical help."

His spouse, Gayatri D Mathur, founded Soondra Foundation some years ago, which provides healthcare access through direct cash grants to the working poor in India during medical emergencies. "What we're seeing in India right now is much worse than an emergency," she says. "We just want to help."

The couple is not alone. At a time when governments across the world are coming to India's aid as it struggles with Covid-19's brutal second wave, contributions of all sorts are pouring in from the Indian diaspora as well. While some, like Indian doctors in the US, are offering their services, others are amplifying SOS calls, organising donation drives and generating awareness. Here's a sampler.

Doctors in Diaspora by TYCIA Foundation has brought together over 150 Indian-origin medical professionals who are offering support and counselling to caregivers of Covid patients. Suviata, a UK non-profit that uses the "nudge theory" to promote vaccinations in Bihar and Maharashtra, is sending out SMS messages to about 300,000 families on Covid home care, specifically proning. (Nudge theory proposes positive reinforcement and indirect suggestions as ways to influence behaviour and decision-making of people.)

"Our local team is also supporting a voluntary team to update information on hospital infrastructure, including hospital beds and oxygen cylinders," says co-founder Varsha Venugopal.

Meanwhile Mathur's Soondra Foundation is looking at innovative solutions to social distancing, pre-



Presence across the globe

India has the largest diaspora in the world, with around 18 million of its citizens living in other countries, according to World Economic Forum

About 4.8 million, either born in India or of Indian origin, live in the US. They are the most successful immigrants in the country

3.1 million Indians live in the United Arab Emirates (JAE)

About 1.4 million live in the UK, making them the single largest visible ethnic minority population in the country

ventive care and quarantining. "In Mumbai, even while we await permissions, one of our partners is looking for spaces within the slums where Covid positive patients can be safely isolated," Mathur says. "For this, we're hoping to tie up with room aggregators like Oyo and Treebo, hire resident doctors and provide basic oxygen facilities." They are also talking with the Uttar Pradesh government to distribute readymade kits of Covid medicines through the state's community and primary health centres.

Like the Mathurs, many Indians abroad are working to create awareness about the nature of the crisis and the relief needed. In New York, Ambika Samarthyia-Howard, communications lead at non-profit Global Integrity, initiated a ticketed online panel discussion on India's Covid crisis on May 7. Even though the tickets were priced at \$10, she

managed to raise over \$2,500 to send to two NGOs working on the ground in India. The panel discussion fleshed out the idea that perhaps such collective actions can actually help mitigate the effect of governance failure.

Several individuals and organisations are raising funds. Here are some examples: British Asian Trust's campaign, Oxygen for India, has raised almost £2 million. According to their fundraising page on the online platform JustGiving, these funds will be used by their Indian partner Swasth to procure over 20,000 oxygen concentrators by May 15.

London-based author Sonia Faleiro (*The Good Girls*) is also raising funds through the campaign #ArtistsforIndia for the NGO Mission Oxygen. Every direct donor will receive a signed copy of books by participating authors, which include Salman Rushdie, Ali Smith, Jodi Picoult and Fatima Bhutto. UK-based Khalsa Aid has worked overtime to donate everything from oxygen concentrators to logs for funeral pyres. The organisation sent 400 oxygen concentrators on two flights in the first week of May and are gearing up to send more. In Chicago, Mathur's Soondra Foundation raised over \$22,000 in merely a week through their ongoing fundraising campaign.

Significantly, most of these organisations are looking at longer term solutions as well. Soondra Foundation is trying to see how it can strengthen the resilience of India's working poor in the coming years. Many like Khalsa Aid are funding the creation of new Covid treatment centres. All of them worry about the poor access to healthcare across much of rural India.

Observers believe that the extent of despair witnessed in India seems to have reminded Indians across the world about their affiliation to their motherland. "I look at the situation in India and I know that our contribution is not even a drop in the ocean," Mathur says. "But at least we feel like we're doing something."

orientbell tiles

TO THE FUTURE OF
BUYING TILES

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

Rs. in lakh

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Year ended		
		31/Mar/2021	31/Dec/2020	31/Mar/2020	31/Mar/2021	31/Mar/2021	31/Mar/2020	
1	Total Income from Operations	18,208	14,836	12,906	50,434	49,754	50,434	49,754
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (Before Tax and Exceptional Items)	1,301	940	27	807	263	807	263
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (Before Tax and after Exceptional Items)	1,301	940	27	1,078	263	1,143	292
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (After Tax and Exceptional Items)	800	710	541	702	683	768	712
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the Period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	858	727	559	809	748	875	778
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs.10/- each)	1,435	1,434	1,428	1,435	1,428	1,435	1,428
7	Other Equity (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-	23,303	22,408	23,491	22,533
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (For continuing and discontinued operations)							
	1. Basic (amount in Rs.)	5.59	4.96	3.79	4.90	4.78	5.36	4.99
	2. Diluted (amount in Rs.)	5.54	4.92	3.75	4.86	4.73	5.32	4.94

Note:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarterly standalone and consolidated financial results are available on the stock exchange websites. (URL-www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and also on Company's website at <https://www.orientbell.com>.
- The above standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and thereafter approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on May 13, 2021. The Statutory auditor has expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these standalone and consolidated financial statements.
- There is no change(s) in accounting policies which have impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).
- Exceptional items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind-AS Rules.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Orient Bell Limited
Madhur Daga
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 13th May 2021

Orient Bell Limited

CIN: L14101UP1977PLC021546

Registered Office : 8, Industrial Area, Sikandrabad - 203205, Dist. Bulandshahr, U. P.
Corporate Office : Iris House, 16 Business Center, Nangal Raya, New Delhi-110 046

+91-11-47119100 | investor@orientbell.com | www.orientbell.com