



On October 2, Shri Mangal Pandey, the Health Minister of Bihar, met with International Medical Corps' partner Doctors For You to inaugurate the oxygen plant distributed to Vistex Charitable Hospital in Patna, Bihar.

On Monday, October 25, India recorded just over 14,000 new cases of COVID-19. The number of new daily infections has been below 30,000 for 31 days. To date, the country has recorded more than 34 million confirmed cases—second only to the United States—and more than 455,000 deaths have been attributed to the disease. The majority of infections have been recorded in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

In Maharashtra—a state that is home to more than 114 million people—there has been a sustained decline in COVID-19 infections. The state, which includes the capital of Mumbai, has continued to ease restrictions and has decided to extend hours of operation for restaurant and shops. However, experts have warned that a spike in cases could occur due to upcoming festivals and the seasonal migration.¹ The state has recorded more than 6.5 million confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

In Kerala—a state home to more than 34 million people—more than 485,000 confirmed infections have been reported. Though the southern state seemed vulnerable at first, its slew of simple strategies yielded stellar results and it was soon hailed as the benchmark for handling COVID-19. The state set a precedent through proactive interministerial coordination and contact tracing of possible infected persons through a network of healthcare workers, and by instituting a ban on public gatherings weeks before the federal government followed suit. However, the state has continuously accounted for half, or more than half, of India's caseload since the end of July 2020.

In response to the declining caseloads, India will begin issuing tourist visas for the first time since March 2020. However, experts and government officials continue to warn against complacency. This easing of restrictions on foreign travel also coincides with the onset of India's peak travel season.

More than 70% of the population has received one dose of the vaccine as of October 18. However, daily vaccinations have dropped to an average of 5 million doses this month and even less in the past week—a sharp decline from the daily peak of 25 million last month.²

FAST FACTS

Our Footprint

- International Medical Corps is working with three local partners in India and Nepal to provide critical supplies and equipment to healthcare facilities in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, the Kathmandu Valley and other COVID-19 hotspots across the countries.

Our Response

- Our team in India has delivered 1,400 oxygen-supply and equipment items, along with 22,000 items of PPE, to support nearly 50 healthcare facilities across 17 states.
- Moving forward, our team in India will focus on strengthening vaccination efforts by procuring and delivering cold-chain supplies and transportation equipment.
- Our team in Nepal has delivered ventilators, PPE, oxygen delivery systems and pulse oximeters to two healthcare facilities in Kathmandu Valley, to support preparedness efforts for subsequent spikes in caseloads.

¹ <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-spike-can-t-be-ruled-out-in-maharashtra-say-experts-advise-caution-101633572660612.html>

² <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-indias-covid-19-vaccine-effort-slows-as-dose-gap-trumps-output-jump-says-health-ministry-data-2579059>

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has partnered with Doctors For You and the Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to enhance critical-care capacity, strengthen infectious disease preparedness efforts at healthcare facilities and boost vaccination efforts, particularly in rural areas. In Spring 2021, at the height of the surge, our team distributed critically needed oxygen supplies and equipment—including oxygen plants, cylinders and concentrators—to hospitals and COVID-19 treatment facilities in 11 states. These items provided immediate support more than 40 facilities caring for severely ill patients.

As the number of infections and hospitalizations declined, International Medical Corps and our local partners continued to procure and distribute additional oxygen equipment and supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical consumables (including syringes, needles, sutures and tubing) and essential medications to support patients with underlying medical conditions, such as diabetes, that lead to higher risk for serious complications from COVID-19. As hotspots emerged around the country—including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu—International Medical Corps and our partners focused on distributed essential equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities still battling spiking caseloads. In Maharashtra, our team provided N95 masks and oxygen concentrators to two healthcare facilities; in Kerala, our team partnered with a community health center and local district health authorities; and in Karnataka, our team delivered an oxygen plant and oxygen cylinders to one major COVID-19 treatment facility.

To date, the team has distributed more than 1,400 items of oxygen supplies, equipment and materials, supporting nearly 50 healthcare facilities and COVID-19 treatment centers across 17 states. Moving forward, our team will continue to provide critically needed equipment and supplies to help healthcare facilities prepare for subsequent surges in COVID-positive patients.

In addition, our team is supporting our local partners by enhancing their immunization efforts, including local partner Doctors For You, which has deployed teams throughout the country in an effort to reach rural populations struggling to access the vaccine. As of October 25, the team had provided more than 5 million vaccine doses. Moving forward, International Medical Corps will work closely with Doctors For You to enhance its vaccination efforts by procuring and delivering essential supplies and equipment, including cold-chain storage, vaccine carriers and mobile vaccination units.

Along with our efforts in India, International Medical Corps is also working with the Public Health Concern Trust (PHECT) in Nepal to strengthen critical-care capacity at healthcare facilities in Kathmandu Valley, where some 40% of new infections have been recorded.³ As the official holidays for Nepal's festival of Dashain ended this week, people are expected to return to the area, increasing the likelihood of a spike in COVID-19 infections. In an effort to help facilities prepare for an influx of patients, our team delivered four ventilators, 500 oxygen-delivery systems, 60 pulse oximeters and 1,450 N95 masks to healthcare facilities in Kathmandu Valley. Moving forward, the team has also procured patient care monitors, which it expects to deliver in the coming weeks.



International Medical Corps and our partners have provided supplies and equipment to nearly 50 healthcare facilities across India and to two healthcare facilities in Nepal.



International Medical Corps partnered with PHECT in Nepal to deliver equipment and supplies to two healthcare facilities in Kathmandu Valley, including Kathmandu Model Hospital, seen here.

³ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/%2377_Weekly%20WHO%20Nepal%20Situation%20Updates.pdf