

# Is PM Modi Responsible For This Covid Havoc?



@ Sanket 23rd May 2021 Current Affairs

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*The second wave of the Coronavirus has grown into havoc. India is now the global Covid hotspot, setting records for the world's highest number of daily cases. Is Modi responsible for this havoc?*

This wave in India has been widely attributed to the **B.1.1.7** variant—first identified in the UK—which had ramped up cases in Punjab. Another possible variant is an Indian **B.1.617** variant, with two significant mutations that originated in the worst affected state Maharashtra.

This sudden and steep surge in the number of coronavirus cases with the highest-ever new infections and a record daily death toll has limped the health system.

The middle class is the worst-hit – and now the virus is spreading to the villages, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Center and state governments have strongly stated that the perceived ill-preparedness was mainly because of **zero warning** about the magnitude of the second wave. And now that the condition has peaked, no blame game can actually justify the mismanaged havoc that the second wave has been.

Without a doubt, India did better than most of the world from March to December 2020. Starting from the end of 2020, there were enough signals about the second, third and fourth waves of the virus that were seemed devastating in Europe. Why was the same not predicted?

## WHY BLAME THE PM?

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Almost everyone in this country had seen Pictures of PM Modi addressing huge crowds who were mostly without masks or social distancing, gathered for his recent election rallies in West Bengal state as the country struggled to access life-saving drugs, hospital beds, oxygen and vaccines.



PM Modi addressing a rally in Kharagpur during WB elections.

In seven years of PM Modi in power, public perception and election results have never alarmed the Party this much.

The prime minister's approval rating fell to **65 percent** on May 4, down from **74 percent** at the end of March, according to Morning Consult, the US data company.

Fitch Solutions, an American credit rating company said "the perception that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has considerably mismanaged the COVID-19 crisis will weigh on his and the BJP's popularity somewhat."

Union Minister Santosh Gangwar's [letter to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath](#) indicating oxygen shortage, "black-marketing" of medical equipment and delays in admitting Covid patients in his constituency Bareilly went viral.

Indeed, Health is a state subject but it is the Centre that had been leading the fight against Covid since last year.

## NOTHING BUT CHAOS

During the Bihar elections, the Prime Minister made a [commitment to free vaccines](#) for all people in the state in one of his rallies. A few days later Union Minister Pratap Sarangi clarified that all people of the country will be given the free vaccine.



FM Nirmala Sitharaman with BJP's manifesto for Bihar polls

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Recently free vaccine had been promised in West Bengal by BJP. There are no two opinions on the need for vaccines to be free. The central government should have decided this as a policy instead of making it a **weapon** for gaining political power.

As deaths have risen, the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has always been heard making statements about comparing India's **fatality ratio** with those of the richer western countries. This is a good thing to note that our fatality rate is considerably high. But this cannot be made an excuse to justify poor health infrastructure.

There has been a manifold increase in the price of essential commodities like mustard oil. The price of a cooking gas cylinder at present is **Rs 900**. The price of petrol is almost **Rs 100/liter** when the international price is much less.

Today, the whole issue of COVID-19 is highly politicized and any decisions that are taken by the central or state governments are laced with political overtones.

While citizens were unable to give a decent cremation to their dear ones and were disposing of the bodies in the Ganga river, a good number of people indulged in religious slogans and superstition.

BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh culture minister **Usha Thakur** was in news recently for suggesting certain Hindu rituals could help prevent the third wave of Covid-19 and some people were seen smearing themselves with cow dung and urine in Ahmedabad in the belief that it could boost immunity against Covid-19.



Hundreds of bodies of suspected Covid-19 victims have been found floating mostly in river Ganga over the past few days in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Bihar government has claimed that the bodies were carried **downstream from Uttar Pradesh**. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to both states and the Supreme Court has been requested to order a probe into the matter.

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UP CM Yogi Adityanath

India's economy, which was showing signs of recovery after falling into recession last year, is now struggling again. Urban unemployment jumped to **14.71%** for the latest week from **10.72%** on April 18 this year, according to [data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy](#).

## Conclusion:

India's GDP is approximately **3.05** trillion dollars. The amount for vaccinating all citizens above eighteen years of age is less than **0.32%** of GDP. India's direct tax collection is estimated at **12.06 Lakh crore** for FY 2020-21. PM cares fund that was set up to fight the virus received donations of over **Rs 8,000 crores** from the public in a few weeks.

Money is not really a problem but understanding the severity of the situation, the long-term impact of the pandemic, and the short-sightedness of the leadership are the concerns here.

Prime Minister Modi 's diehard fan following is legendary. This cruel Pandemic is testing his popularity as no other crisis has.

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Shivam says:

May 23, 2021 at 9:34 pm

Bro I loved this  
It was so interesting and facts based

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