Photographs: As COVID crisis surges in India, tragedy spreads

[India now] accounts for almost half of new [COVID] cases worldwide. Experts say a combination of factors gave rise to the explosion in cases: new variants of the virus, including one first detected in India, that are thought to be more transmissible; a weak government response; and large public gatherings. Images from across the country show the tremendous toll.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.
SIGN UP

The average deaths per day are nearing 2,500, and the number continues to climb, pushing cremation facilities and cemeteries past their limits. Overall, the Indian government has reported around 195,000 deaths from COVID-19, but analysts say the total is likely much greater.

Ghaziabad: Manoj Kumar sits beside his mother, Vidhya Devi, as she receives oxygen inside her car at a Sikh temple. The temple began offering free oxygen to hundreds of patients desperate for relief as

they waited for hospital beds. Credit: Danish Siddiqui/Reuters

Ahmedabad: Outside a mortuary, a woman mourns with her son after her husband died from COVID-19. Journalists and health experts warn that the number of dead is being severely undercounted as officials try to prevent panic. Credit: Amit Dave/Reuters

New Delhi: Some crematoriums are continuously running their furnaces. Facilities have begun performing mass cremations, such as this one in the capital city. Credit: Danish Siddiqui/Reuters

Mumbai: Notices announcing that Covishield, the India-made version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, is out of stock are taped outside a vaccination center. The central government announced it would provide hundreds of millions of dollars to ramp up manufacturing amid a severe vaccine shortage. Credit: Indranil Mukherjee/AFP/Getty Images

Read the original post