COVID-19 TRACKER: INDIA

20 June 2021
This tracker\(^1\) has been developed by researchers at Cambridge Judge Business School and National Institute of Economic and Social Research, working with Health Systems Transformation Platform in India, as part of a pandemic monitoring series devoted to India and its states and union territories. It provides short term forecasts of the trajectory of the pandemic, identifying states and union territories that are at risk of increases in infection incidence. The forecasts are based on a structural time series model that uses historical data in estimation but adapts to the trend emerging in the most recent period. The model is described in Harvey and Kattuman (2021) "Time series models based on growth curves with applications to forecasting coronavirus". Harvard Data Science Review, Special issue 1 - COVID -19.

The Reproduction number (\(R_t\)) for India stood at 0.83 as of 19 June 2021. Newly reported COVID-19 cases are likely to decline to about 28,000 per day in two weeks, by 3 July 2021.

For India as a whole the trend value of the daily growth rate of cases was -4.8% as of 19 June 2021. This implies a halving time of 14 days for new cases under the assumption that this growth rate remains constant. However, a slight upward drift in this growth rate is evident.

The growth rates of new cases are negative in most states and union territories, but have reversed direction from their downward trends in a number of states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

Mizoram and Meghalaya have reproduction numbers that exceed one, and are likely to see increases in new cases in the coming weeks. Assam and Tripura are likely see their daily numbers hold at current levels. Cases will continue to decline in other states and union territories.

Mean absolute percentage error of the forecasts of daily cases in India given in the 13 June tracker, for the week beginning that day, is 3%. The accuracy of forecasts rely on the quality of the reported data. Changes in government pandemic policies and in transmission relevant social behaviour may cause realised numbers to depart from forecasts. Data have been volatile for Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh, making their forecasts less accurate.

\(^1\) CJBS COVID-19 Tracker for India can be accessed at: [www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/covid-india](http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/covid-india)

The companion spreadsheet contains all the estimates and forecasts.

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Forecasts of daily new cases for the period 20 June 2021 to 3 July 2021, based on data till 19 June 2021. New COVID-19 cases is likely to decline to about 28,000 per day by 3 July 2021.

The filtered trend in the growth rate of daily new cases. Final date: 19 June 2021.
Bar chart shows point estimates of $R$ and the ±1 standard deviation confidence intervals.
Daily growth rate (%) of cases
Trend value on 12 June 2021
Daily Cases forecast: States and Union territories

**Andhra Pradesh**

- **Data**
- **Forecast New cases**
- **Forecast Trend**

![Graph showing daily cases forecast for Andhra Pradesh](image)

**Andhra Pradesh**

- **Growth rate of daily cases**

![Graph showing growth rate of daily cases for Andhra Pradesh](image)
Assam

- Data
- Forecast New cases
- Forecast Trend

New Cases

- Jun 01
- Jun 15
- Jul 01

Growth rate of daily cases

- Jun 01
- Jun 15
- Jul 01
West Bengal

- Data
- Forecast New cases
- Forecast Trend

New Cases

Jun 01
Jun 15
Jul 01

West Bengal

Growth rate of daily cases

Jun 01
Jun 15
Jul 01
**Notes**

**Data:** COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths data are sourced from COVID19-India API: https://api.covid19india.org/


Forecast accuracy: When estimated with data up to June 12, the mean absolute percentage error of the forecasts of cases for India over the period, June 13–9, is 3%. Forecast accuracy will in general be lower for the smaller states / union territories. It is important to pay attention to the confidence intervals around the forecasts. The coverage of the confidence intervals presented is 68%, implying there is 16% probability of the upper bound being exceeded.

**New cases: growth rate.** The filtered trends presented for daily growth rates of cases are estimated using the Kalman filter, applied to the observed series. The method filters out day of the week effects and random noise to reveal the underlying signal. Unlike methods such as the moving average, this method adapts the trend to changes in real time and characterises underlying patterns of surges or attenuations that are hidden in the volatile series. The method is described in the papers listed above.

**R:** The R-estimates are based on the nowcast of the growth rate; the estimation approach is described in Harvey, A. and P. Kattuman (2020b). A farewell to R: Time series models for tracking and forecasting epidemics. *Center for Economic Policy Research* (CEPR) working paper, 51. https://cepr.org/content/covid-economics. The confidence interval is based on one standard deviation, with coverage of 68%.

The accuracy of forecasts rely on the quality of the published data. Further, changes in government pandemic policies and in transmission relevant social behaviour may lead realised numbers to deviate from forecasts.

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