

COVID 19: Causes for 2nd Wave

11 April 2021

Project: Jeevan Raksha is a initiative of Proxima which focuses on Advocacy, Analytics, and Awareness in the area of healthcare

Mission: Actively contribute towards **Right to Health** as constitutional right of Indian citizen

Project: Jeevan Raksha has been in the forefront of providing sharper analytical insights on emerging pattern of COVID 19 in India to the Central / State Government administrations, media, and general public. The contribution is appreciated by many state Governments.

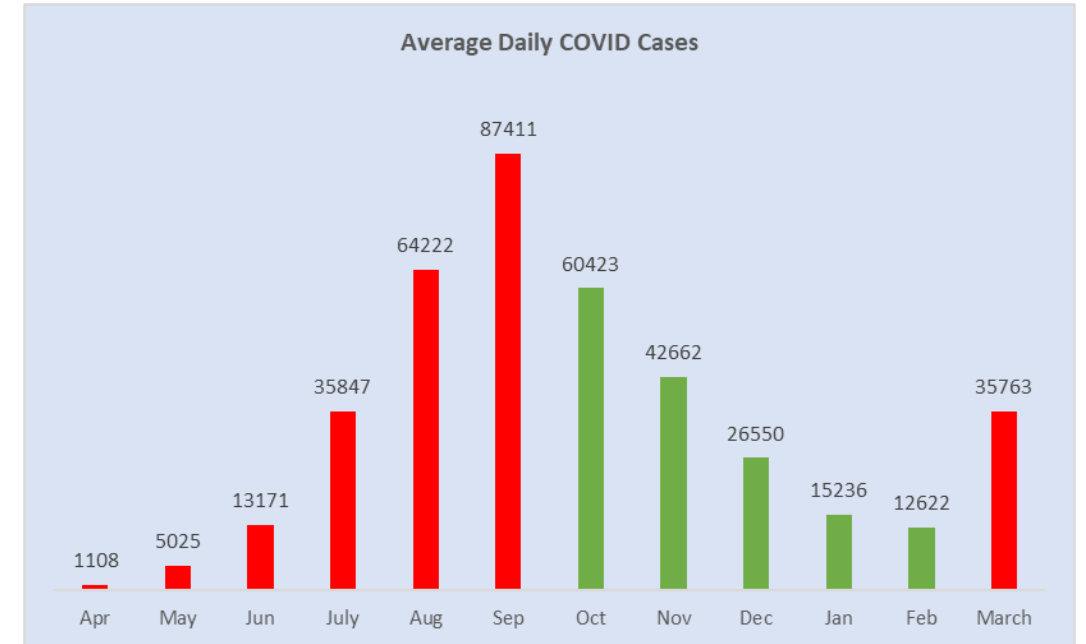
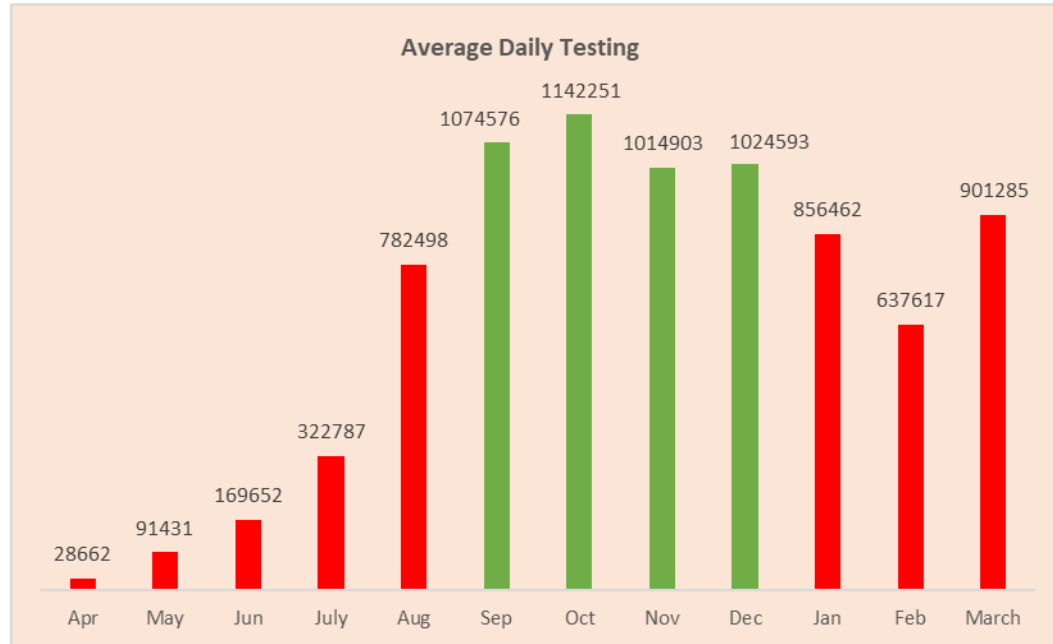
Project: Jeevan Raksha acknowledges the technical support and guidance of Public Health Foundation of India (**PHFI**)



satyam-eva jayate, Truth alone triumphs, was adopted as the national motto of India on 26 January 1950

In COVID management, **Truthiness** in the disclosed data (data integrity) of Testing, Positivity, Recovery, and Fatality; or **truthfulness** of a individual about his/her (including family) health condition, is vital for India's efforts to save lives of the people.

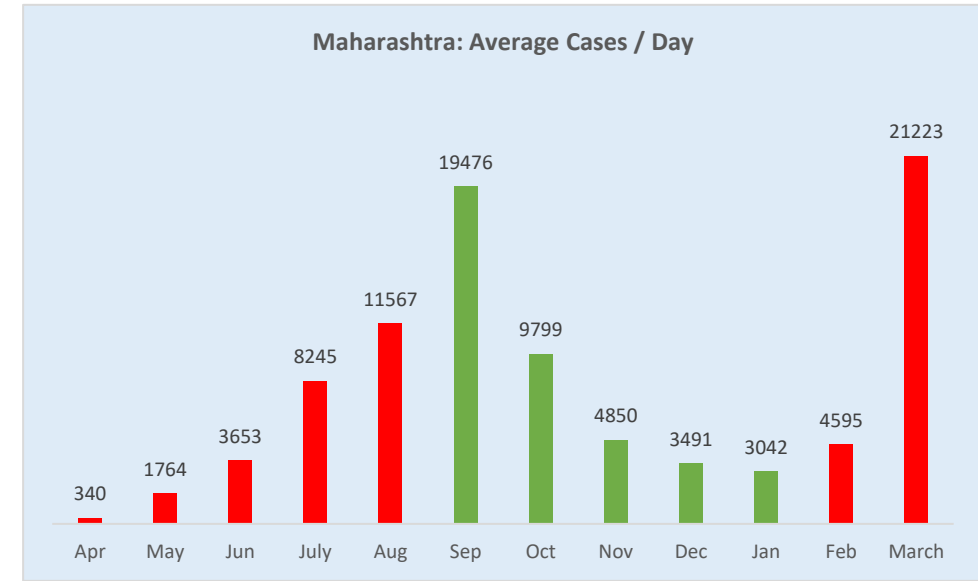
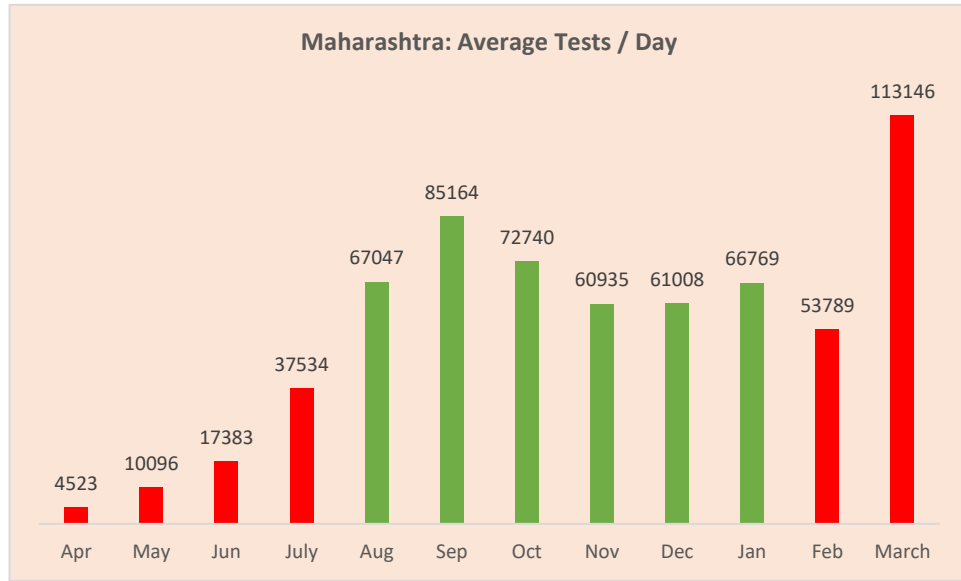
In 2021, India let down its guard: Average Tests / Day drops by 40% in Feb compared to Oct-Dec Period



- **Positivity and Testing Relationship:** In Pandemic, positivity is directly related to testing. When the testing is inadequate, positive cases will increase in higher proportion to the testing. India witnessed this scenario during Apr – Sept 2020.
- **Reaching Threshold testing point and Checkmating the virus:** During Sep – December, India's average tests / day was above 1 Mn. During this period, the average number of COVID cases/ day declined from 87,000 to 26,000. This validates that when the speed of testing is faster than the spread of virus in the given period, in the subsequent period we would witness sharp decline in active cases.
- **Cost of abrupt informal dismantling containment management:** In Jan and February, tests / Day dropped below 1 Mn. In January it dropped to 8.56 Lakhs, February 6.37 lakhs. Further, socio-economic activities was almost near to the Pre-Covid period. Due to sharp decline in average tests / day, informal dismantling of containment management especially tracing of 2nd and 3rd level, gave opportunity to virus to spread faster and wider. This resulted in tripling of average daily COVID cases

Suggestion: In order to checkmate the spread of virus, India should tests atleast 1.8 Mn / day, (Min 80% RT-PCR)

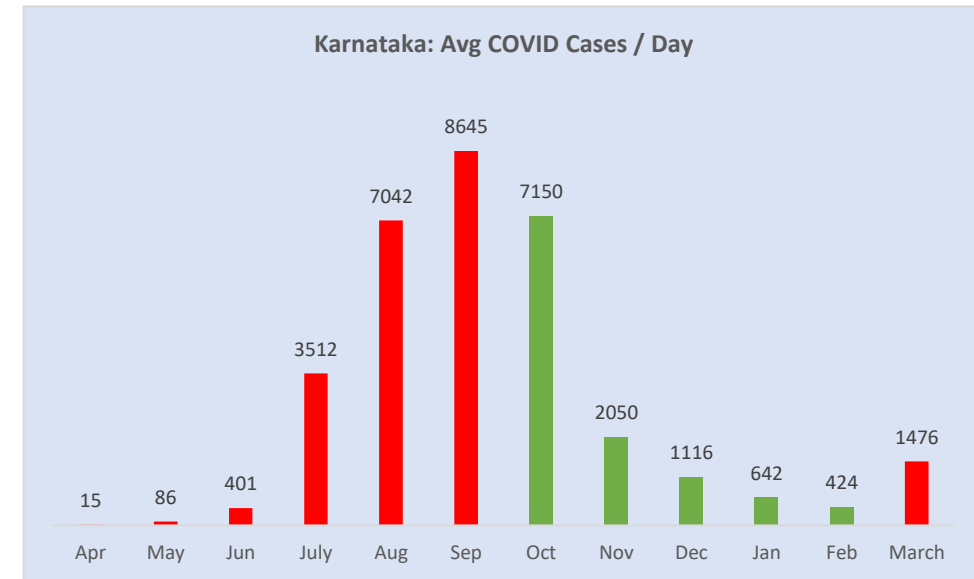
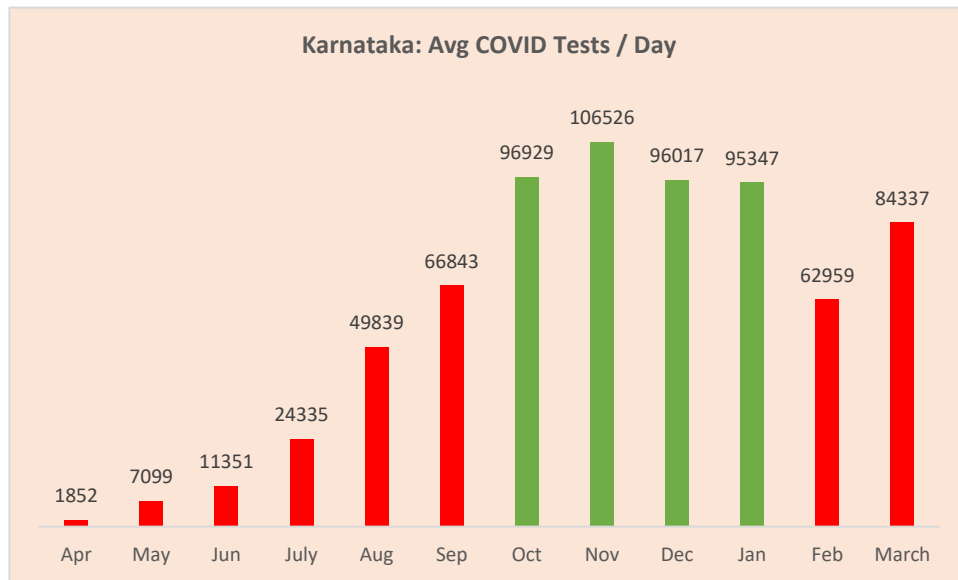
Maharashtra: In Feb'21 Average Tests / Day drop by 40% when compared with Sept'20



- **Lowest Test / Mn amongst severally affected states:** Maharashtra irrespective of being the most affected state in India, continues to test the least number of people / Mn population compared with other mega states. Further, Test Positive Rate (TPR) in the range of 15 – 20% throughout the pandemic period indicates that testing has been limited largely to symptomantic. This is the prime reason for average number of cases / day not dropping below 3000.
- **Sharp decline in Testing / Day:** In February, the average number of tests / day dropped to 53,000. This led to the surge in average number of cases in February and March.
- **Cost of Slow and Low Testing:** In March the average tests /day was doubled to 1.13 lacs from 0.53 Lakhs / Day. On the other hand, Average Cases / day quadrupled from 4595 to 21233, the cost of low and slow testing.
- **Mumbai lacks RT-PCR Testing Infrastructure:** Mumbai has RT-PCR Test capacity of 25,000 / Day. This forces the administration to carryout the test by using Antigen Tests which has false negativity of nearly 40-50%.

Suggestion: Maharashtra need to increase tests / Mn population from 1.8 Lacs to atleast 4 Lacs (atleast 80% of the tests must be in RT-PCR)

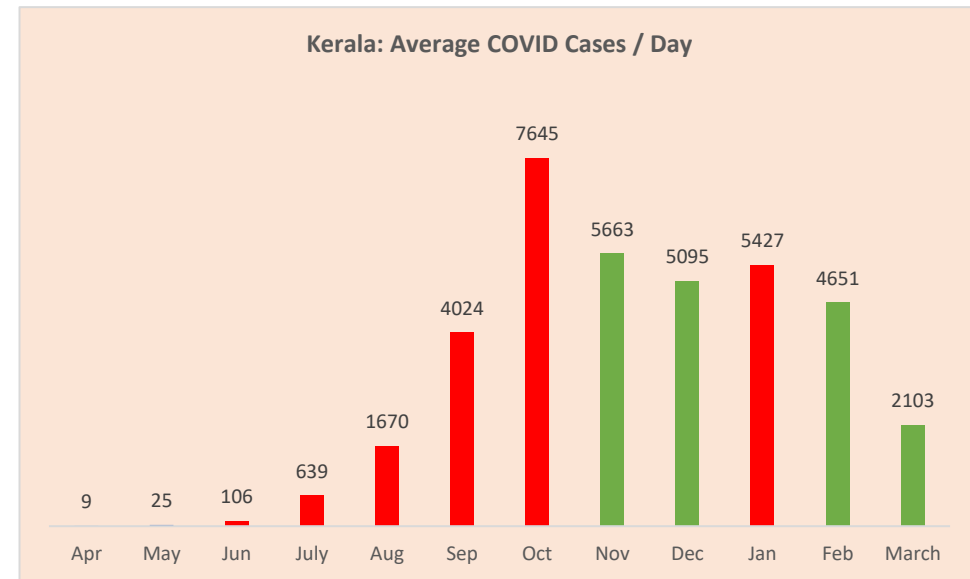
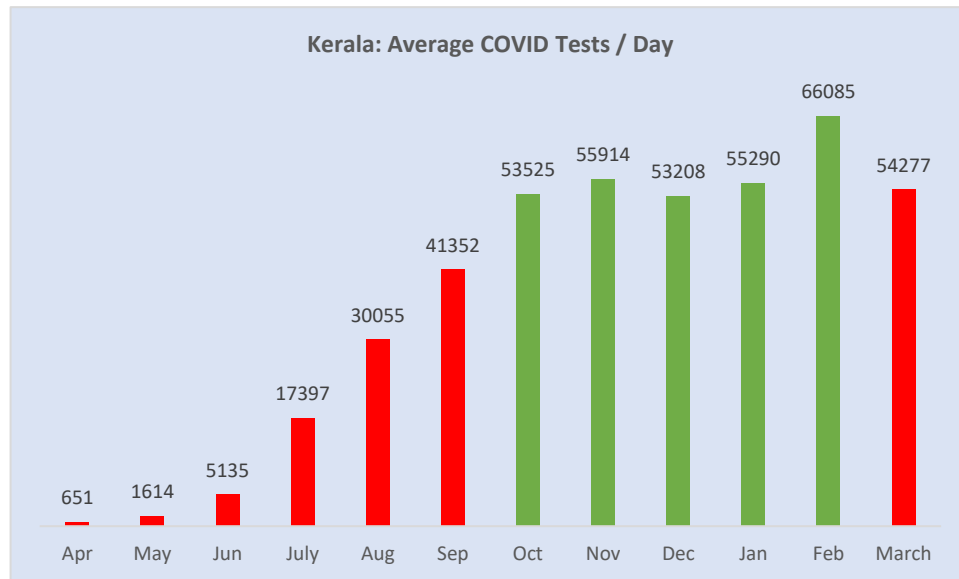
Karnataka: 40% drop in Average Tests / Day in February compared to Nov'21



- **Decline in Average Tests / Day:** During Oct – January, Karnataka average tests / Day was in the range of 95 – 100K. In February it dropped to 62K / Day.
- **Bengaluru Centric Testing Strategy:** 18% of Karnataka population lives in Bengaluru. 40-45% of the total tests are conducted in Bengaluru. Due to this, Karnataka witnessed sharp surge in rest of Karnataka during August, September, and October.
- **Shift in Testing objective:** Like other states in India, in 2020, the testing objective was to contain the spread of virus followed by effective quarantine management. In 2021, testing is carried out for transactional and movement purposes and quarantine management practices was diluted.

Suggestion: All Districts need to tests atleast 3.4 Lakhs / Mn Population equivalent to State's average testing

Kerala: Resurge in April due to reduction in Testing in March by 1/5th



- **Increase in Testing and RT-PCR ratio:** The administration recognised the issue of low and slow and ramped up the testing and also the share of RT-PCR.
- **Consistent Testing, rich dividend:** Kerala consistently tested around 55,000 / Day during Oct – January and in February it increased by 20% to 66,000. This resulted in halving of daily cases in March to 2103 from 4651 in February.
- **Assembly Election and reduction in Testing, heavy price:** The ongoing Assembly election and lack of attention of the administration led to 20% drop in testing / day in March when compared with February. This has resulted in average daily Cases to increase to 3873 in April from 2103 in March.

Suggestion: Minimum average Testing / Day should be 1,00,000 until Daily Average Cases comes down to below 100 for 30 days continuously

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Thank you