

AN ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN 5.0 UNLOCK 1.0, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the most critical global health disaster of the century and the greatest challenge that the human civilization faced since the 2nd World War. According to the report of the World Health Organization (WHO as of June 7th 2020), the current outbreak of COVID-19, has affected over 6 799 713 people and killed more than 397 388 people in more than 216 countries throughout the world. It has rapidly spread around the world, posing enormous health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the whole human population. The corona virus outbreak is ruthlessly disrupting the global economy. Almost all the nations are struggling to slow down the transmission of the disease by testing & treating patients, quarantining suspected persons through contact tracing, restricting large gatherings, maintaining complete or partial lock down etc. This paper describes the consequences of Lockdown 5.0 Unlock 1.0 on society and environment, and the possible ways in which the

disease can be controlled has also been discussed therein.

Keywords: Pandemic, disaster, civilization, environmental, social challenges

INTRODUCTION

As of 9th June 2020 novel corona virus has killed more than 409,095 people out of at least seven million infected since the outbreak emerged in China last December. After East Asia, Europe became the epicenter of the disease, but has now been overtaken by the Americas. Although the situation in Europe is improving, globally it is worsening.

More than 100,000 cases have been reported on in the past 15 days. Yesterday, more than 136,000 cases were reported the most in a single day so far.

Unfortunately at this peak situation India has unlocked the lockdown throughout the country. By which the 68 days of lockdown will go in vain. As on 24th March 2020 only 536 people were affected by COVID and 10 deaths were registered.

OBJECTIVE

In this we will try to demarcate the present problem with the help of number of cases registered in India, number of testing's and will it really impact economy of the country.

METHODOLOGY

For the present paper we have mostly used secondary data from various reports such as WHO, mygov.in/covid-19, newspapers, etc.

We tried to analyse the present situation with the help of seven day moving average.

DISCUSSION

COVID-19 Background in India

On 30 January, India reported its first case of COVID-19 in Kerala, which rose to three cases by 3 February; all were students returning from Wuhan. Apart from these, no significant rise in transmissions was observed in February. On 4 March 22 new cases were reported, including 14 infected members of an Italian tourist group.

In March, the transmissions grew after several people with travel history to affected countries, and their contacts, tested positive. On 12 March, a 76-year-old man, with a travel history to Saudi Arabia, became the first COVID-19 fatality of India.

On 31 March, a Tablighi Jamaat religious congregation event in Delhi, which had taken

place earlier in March, emerged as a new virus super spreader event, after numerous cases across the country were traced back to it. On 18 April, the Health ministry announced that 4,291 cases were directly linked to the event.

On 2 May, in Punjab, around 4000 stranded pilgrims returned from Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra. Many of them tested positive, including 27 bus drivers and conductors who had been part of the transport arrangement. Till 13 May, 1,225 pilgrims had been tested positive.

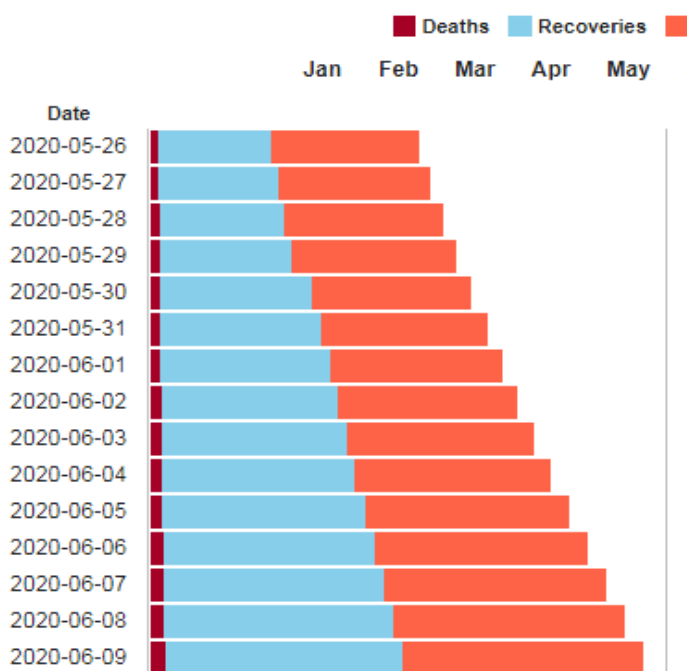
But as a researcher I want to bring into light one matter which everyone is ignoring that is between January 30 to march second week about 15 lakh people returned to India and no testing was done to them only thermal scanning was done to them. From thermal scanning COVID-19 cannot be recognized it was already said by WHO.

According to cases

With each passing day, the number of COVID-19 cases in the country continues to rise with India recording the highest single-day spike of nearly 10,000 cases in a span of 24 hours. India's coronavirus count is 2.56 lakh including 1.25 lakh active cases. Maharashtra remains the worst affected state with 85,975 cases. There are 43,601 active cases in the state, while 39,314 people have been cured or discharged. The death toll due to the virus is 3,060.

Ten states with the highest number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) account for 84% of the country's tally and 95% of the fatalities. These states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Bihar.

Figure 1 COVID-19 cases in India



Source: MoHFW

However, a higher number of Covid-19 tests per million population by a state may not necessarily mean more confirmed cases detected or high fatality rates. For example, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Maharashtra have carried out the maximum Covid-19 tests per million population. But Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan are among the top

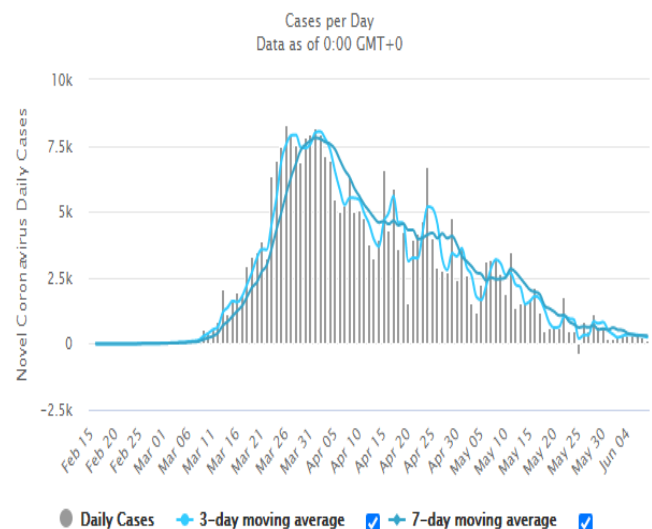
five states in terms of maximum confirmed cases per million. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have recorded the highest number of deaths and account for 83% of the 6,600 fatalities across the country.

Table 1. Testing Per Million

Country	Total testing	Per/million
USA	2 crore	61,264
Brazil	9.9 lakh	4,706
Russia	1.2 crore	84,896
Spain	40 lakh	86,920
UK	52 lakh	76,837
India	45 lakh	3,281
Italy	41 lakh	68,046

Source: WHO

Figure 2 Cases in Spain

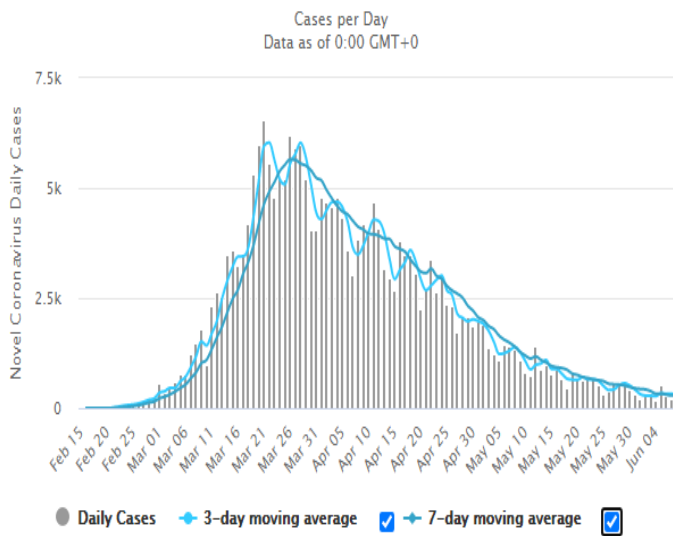


Source: worldometer

From the table it is seen that we have only tested 45 lakh people and from that cases we have

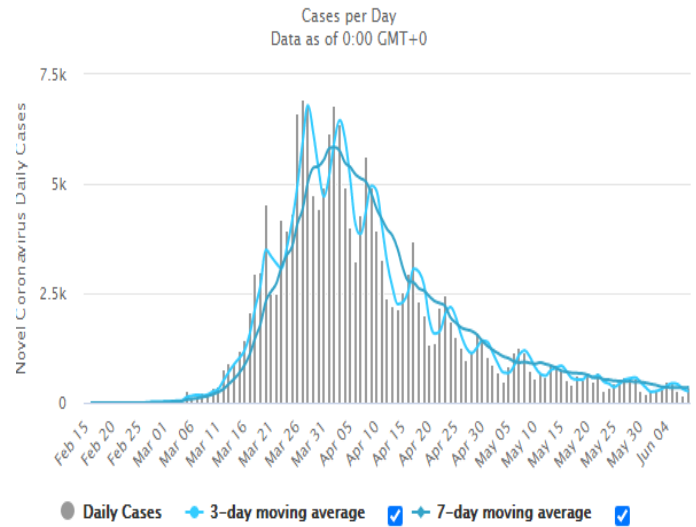
justified to unlock lockdown in our country. In figure 2 we can see that when the number of cases in Spain reached to the minimum levels the then also the governments of Spain extend the ‘state of alarm’ for a sixth and final time until 21 June. The ‘state of alarm’ is in place whilst the country also continues with the plan of lifting lockdown restrictions.

Figure 3 Cases in Italy



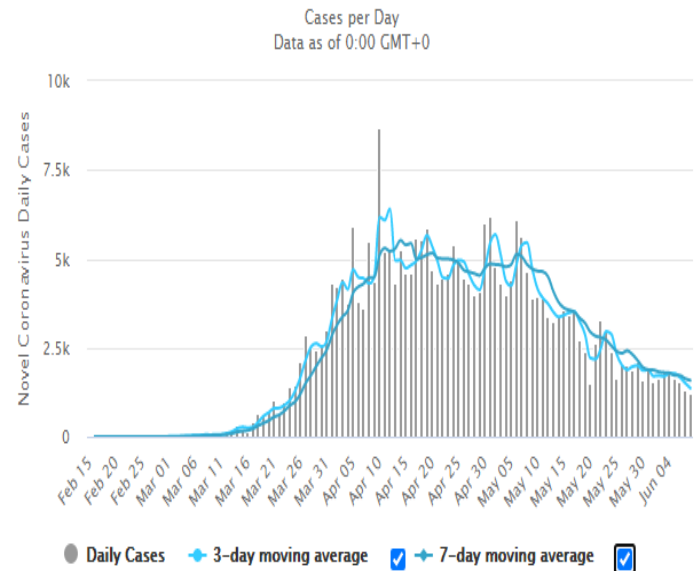
Source: worldometer

Figure 4 Cases in Germany



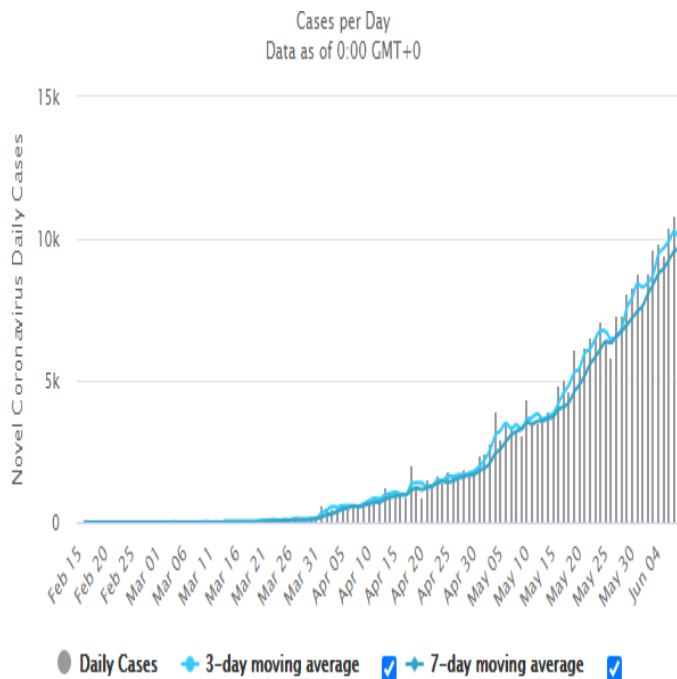
Source: worldometer

Figure 5 Cases in UK



Source: worldometer

Figure 6 Cases in India



Source:

worldometer

From the above figures it is seen that most of the European countries has attained peak stage and the number of cases are declining rapidly. But then also the government of their countries has not lifted the restrictions fully. Till now they are very cautions in unlocking lockdown.

We need to remember the demography of the above countries that is Spain 4.69 crores, Italy 6.04 crores, Germany 8.3 crores, UK 6.66 crores. The main problem with India is 135 crores of population and 34% of population live in urban areas where the density is more than 5000 per Sq km.

Consequences of Unlock in India

- There will be high Chaos of human resource as 49% of the informal sector in India will burst out of home to earn money.
- As the shops and restaurants are opening no one knows who is affected by novel Corona, if in a shop a person is affected it will be noticed after few days till that time thousands of people will be affected.
- In many urban areas in India, it's impossible to maintain physical distancing.
- As some states are thinking about opening, every institution, organisation, industry and sector needs to think about what are the measures that need to be put in place before you can allow a functioning and it may never be back to normal."
- The biggest impact will be because of Religious places or places of worship opened for public. If we want to worship we can do that from our home itself. In this difficult time why can be avoid the places of huge gatherings.
- Rural challenge: in most of the areas testing has been ignored and not able to reach the public.

SUGGESTIONS

- The places of huge gatherings can be avoided for now. like restaurants, shopping malls,etc
- Three day functioning of all the shops in odd- even manner.
- Increasing the number of testing
- If perfect lockdown throughout the country is implemented for only 14 days this novel corona can be eroded easily.(no movement to the public for any activity- government should all necessary items door to door- if possible food packets to all-no special treatment)
- For reviving the economy the government should directly buy all the agricultural products from the farmers and sell to the public so that the entire brokerage amount will be received by the government without taxes.
- There is no proper clarity in Rents to households and shops, it should be waived off for the lockdown phase as there was not income generation.
- Coming to the academics this can also be revived by odd-even process as faculties can come daily but students can come

thrice a week. The focus should be on next semester and the present semester students should be promoted irrespective of their previous marks. This will provide more time for the next semester.

CONCLUSION

The Indian government argues that lockdown has successfully reduced the spread of the novel corona virus epidemic, while some critics argue that it has largely failed.

Poor lockdown planning led to panic and overcrowding, probably accelerating transmission for a while. And within some localities, for instance in Mumbai, hindering freedom of movement might actually have accelerated disease by stopping outflows of people which could have reduced population density.

The main criticism is that lockdown was a blunt instrument, poorly planned and cruelly implemented. This led to a lot of unnecessary misery which continues today. It also perhaps took attention away from other more sustainable strategies for disease control such as ramped up testing and tracing.

The most dramatic lockdown mistake was to bar migrant workers from returning home at a point when disease levels were low and any resulting spread could have been quite easily

contained. The migrant crisis teaches us first and foremost that both epidemiological and humanitarian consequences of any major move should always be considered carefully in advance.

As restrictions are eased and more people travel home or return to work, robust mechanisms are needed to monitor and contain the new outbreaks which might follow. These mechanisms for disease surveillance must, of course, rely on transparency, communication and building trust.

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hindustantimes

Ndtv corona virus