

LETTER TO EDITOR

The genesis of the second wave and the probable way forward for IndiaRajeev Aravindakshan¹, Siddharth Srivastava²¹Additional Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh; ²Health Informatics - Design and Development, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Noida, Uttar Pradesh**Corresponding Author**

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E Mail ID: rajeevtka@gmail.com**Citation**Aravindakshan R, Srivastava S. Genesis of the second wave and the probable way forward for India. Indian J Comm Health. 2021;33(2):411-412. <https://doi.org/10.47203/IJCH.2021.v33i02.036>**Source of Funding:** Nil **Conflict of Interest:** None declared**Article Cycle****Received:** 22/06/2021; **Revision:** 24/06/2021; **Accepted:** 25/06/2021; **Published:** 30/06/2021This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Sir,

An unprecedented pandemic affecting 210 countries emerged in the watershed year of 2020 and involved India as well (1). We mined the number of daily cases of three equal periods of importance during the evolution of the pandemic in India, namely 1) initial lockdown (March-April 2020), 2) early days of unlocking (June-July 2020), and 3) second wave (March April 2021). Notice the March 2020 series in [Figure 1] and country-wise cases in [Figure 2], and we can observe that India was able to sustain itself against the first wave of the SARS Coronavirus-2 in a much better way compared to other developed countries. Social lockdown and other preventive strategies paid off even in the face of criticisms regarding lack of preparedness and economic slowdown due to strict enforcement of harsh measures. Soon, there were demands of decentralized control measures with more testing and local containment measures than the centrally dictated regimen. Lockdown was suggested for only local clusters with high positivity rather than a general clampdown (2). The June-July series in [Figure 1] represents the increasing numbers of cases resulting from suspicions, fear-mongering, and resultant relaxation in social restrictions as part of the phase-wise unlocking across the country. The various phases of unlocking, starting from June 8, 2020, saw more and more migrant workers gravitating to their home states (3). The general euphoria emanating from the "mystery of India's plummeting COVID-19 cases" led to the delegation of pandemic control measures to individual states (4). They, in turn, went about recovering

the economy and other social institutions, including elections to legislatures, so much so that the country was pushed into a second wave, as shown in the March 2021 series in [Figure 1]. Even the roll-out of vaccines could not mitigate the loss of thousands of lives with this decentralized approach to pandemic control. The tragic turn of events would indicate that a unified federal approach was more effective in these catastrophic times, especially when the state revenues were not enough to cope with the resources needed. Vaccine roll-out also might work better if coordinated in a top-down manner than through the fragmented and competitive mode among states.

References

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Figures

FIGURE 1 THE COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF CASES OF COVID-19 IN INDIA DURING MARCH-APRIL 2021 WITH PREVIOUS TIMELINES (JUNE-JULY 2020 AND MARCH-APRIL 2020)

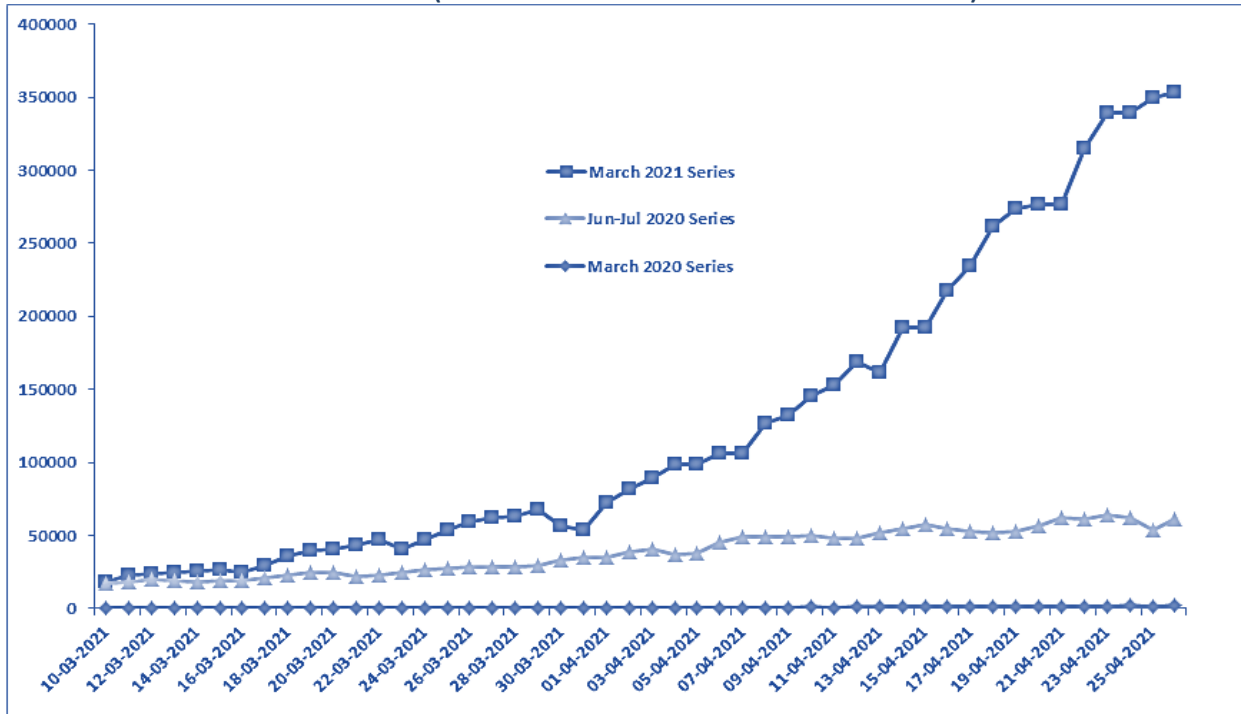


FIGURE 2 TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES (COUNTRY-WISE) TILL MARCH 31, 2020

