



[The United States and Others Deploy Medical Equipment to India to Help Tackle Their Severe Recent COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

As India deals with a severe COVID-19 outbreak, the United States and its partners have ramped up efforts to supply New Delhi with desperately needed medical equipment. Major Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and others have seen hospitals overrun in recent days, with medical facilities often lacking the required equipment to treat the sick. Beds, oxygen, and drugs such as Remdesivir are all desperately required, as infections and deaths continue to mount. India has reported over 18 million cases of COVID-19, with the recent second wave of the virus proving to be deadlier than the initial outbreak in the country. Many of the recent cases have been linked to “super-spreader” events such as political rallies held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and religious gatherings. The Indian government’s messaging on the virus has also fallen short of international standards, as Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party prematurely proclaimed victory over the virus, and relaxed vital safety precautions such as mask-wearing and social distancing. Now, with infections and deaths reaching an all-time high in the country, President Biden, in tandem with authorities from Germany and the United Kingdom, has pledged to urgently send needed equipment to India.

India’s second wave has been characterized by mass outbreaks of the virus in major cities, where the population lives in close proximity with one another. Delhi and Mumbai, two of India’s major hub cities, have seen hospitals overrun with infected individuals, which has led to serious shortages of beds, oxygen, and antibiotics. A black market has also developed for desperately needed equipment, with relatives of infected people seeking out the required medical materials from third party sources. Several countries have also added India to their “red-list” which bars anybody who was recently in India from entering. A major reason for this is the development of an Indian variant of COVID-19 which could cause mass outbreaks in other regions of the world.

To combat the outbreak, the Indian government has mobilized the military, with Health Minister Harsh Vardhan proclaiming that “heaven and earth” were being moved to overcome the virus. Military grade medical infrastructure was being made available to civilians where it was available, and retired medical military personnel were being deployed at various COVID-19 specific health facilities. India is also ramping up its vaccination effort, with all adults now eligible to receive the injection. Despite this, India is still confirming hundreds of thousands of new infections on a daily basis, with the death toll steadily increasing.

Earlier this week, the United States and its partners announced they would be working with the Indian authorities to deliver much-needed medical equipment to the country. Oxygen, hospital beds, and antibiotics are among the materials expected to be shipped to India in the coming days. India remains opposed to importing vaccines, preferring instead to back domestic manufacturers. On a call with President Biden, Prime Minister Modi reportedly discussed supply chains for raw materials needed for the vaccine in order to boost vaccine availability in the country. Modi has urged all Indians to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and to remain vigilant by following safety precautions. However, his words ring hollow to many, due to his government’s abject failure to enforce safety protocols.