

The second wave of Covid-19 in Europe

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In news

Europe is reporting a far higher number of cases than during its previous peaks

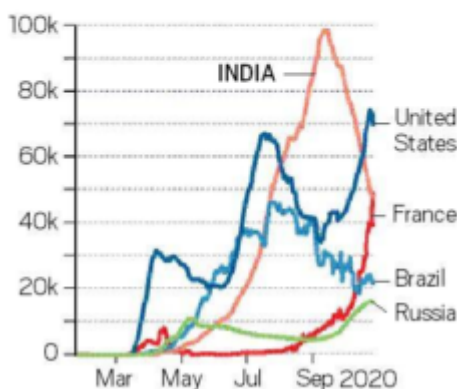
A brief note on the issue

In the months of March, April and May, Europe as a whole reported between 35,000 and 38,000 Covid-19 cases every day, at its peak, but these numbers declined after that USA and India emerged as the epicentres of the epidemic

In the recent month, however, there has been a dramatic rise in cases in Europe. The second wave of infections in Europe is far worse than the first. On Thursday, Europe reported more than 2.5 lakh cases in a single day

INDIA & OTHER 4 COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST CASELOADS

Daily confirmed new cases
(7-day moving average)



Causes for rise in the number of cases/second wave of Covid-19

Experts point out two possible broad factors, they are;

1. A general lowering of guard after the numbers began to dip in the summer, and the drop in temperature that would be pushing most activities indoors.
2. The cold, dry weather could also be helping the virus survive longer and remain potent, though the evidence on that is not conclusive.

Change in weather and closed spaces:

- According to experts, As the temperatures go down, more and more people remain indoors. Transmission of the virus becomes much more effective in these settings.
- So, while the virus was always present, the effectiveness of transmission is likely to have increased when people interact mostly in closed spaces.
- There are studies that have shown that the probability of infection increases during interactions in closed spaces

New strain-20A.EU1:

- According to a recently published study, travel within Europe, particularly Spain, could be spreading the virus.
- It reports that a new variant of the virus, first detected amongst people in Spain in July, has now spread through many countries in the region.
- Named 20A.EU1, this variant is particularly prevalent in the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France and Norway.
- It accounts for the majority of the recent infections in Europe and was dispersed across Europe by travellers to and from Spain

2nd wave of Covid-19 in India

- In India, the number of daily new cases touched a peak in the middle of September and has been declining ever since.

- On September 16, India detected 97,894 new cases, the highest for any country in a day. Currently, between 45,000 and 50,000 new cases are being detected. But states like Delhi and Kerala are already witnessing a fresh wave of infections
- Whether India will also go through a Europe-like resurgence during the winters cannot be predicted