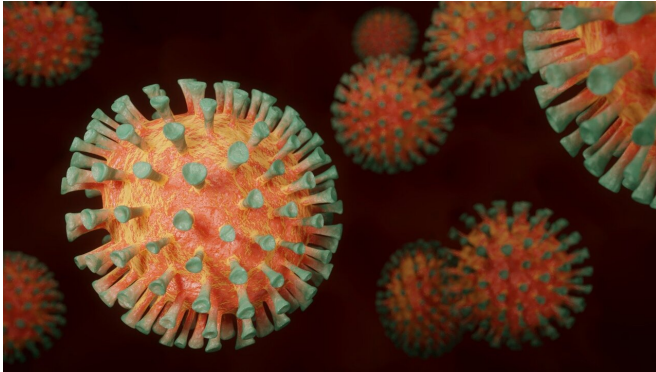


# India records over 400,000 COVID cases in 24 hours: official data

1 May 2021

other countries.



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India recorded on Saturday over 400,000 new COVID cases in 24 hours for the first time, the first country to do so in the pandemic, official data showed.

According to the [health ministry](#), 401,993 new infections were registered taking the total caseload to 19.1 million. There were 3,523 deaths, bringing the toll to 211,853.

Many experts suspect that because of insufficient testing and inaccurate recording of cause of death, the real numbers are much higher.

Indian authorities lowered their guard in the early part of the year after infections fell below 10,000 per day, lifting restrictions on most activity.

Mass religious gatherings such as the Kumbh Mela, attracting millions of Hindu pilgrims, and political rallies were allowed to continue even when cases numbers began rising sharply in late March.

In April alone, India recorded around seven million new infections. On a per-capita basis however India's caseload remains low compared to many

APA citation: India records over 400,000 COVID cases in 24 hours: official data (2021, May 1) retrieved 30 May 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-05-india-covid-cases-hours.html>

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