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## THE BIG PICTURE

# Delhi prepares to hit 500 000 covid-19 cases

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Hospital beds are made up at a popular New Delhi wedding venue, which last week was requisitioned for use for coronavirus patients.

R K Banquet hall will provide 160 extra beds for the city's Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital in Kirti Nagar in West Delhi.

Government officials fear that the Delhi metropolitan area, home to 25 million people, could record more than half a million covid-19 cases by the end of the month. Hotels, spiritual centres, and even railway coaches have been modified to treat people with mild to moderate cases and to relieve pressure on hospitals.

India has been subject to one of the strictest lockdown regimes in the world. Schools, metro trains, cinemas, gyms, and swimming pools are still closed, and international flights remain grounded.

Despite these restrictions the country recorded 697 000 cases and almost 20 000 deaths last week, making it the third worst affected country behind the US and Brazil.