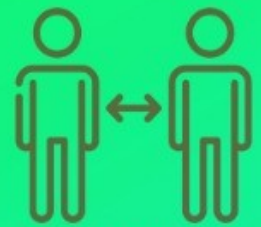




**COUGH
ETIQUETTES**



**HAND
HYGIENE**



**SOCIAL
DISTANCING**



STAY HOME



**IF SICK,
CALL DOCTOR**



**HEALTHY
DIET**



**AVOID GATHERINGS
& TRAVELLING**



**YOGA &
MEDITATION**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH &
FAMILY WELFARE**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES COVID-19



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Dr Harsh Vardhan

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व पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री, भारत सरकार

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
Government of India

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास
Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues

Globally, COVID-19 has spread to more than 200 countries and has impacted several lives across the globe. India has also not remained unaffected. While our Government is taking stringent actions to contain the spread of COVID-19, including imposition of a nation-wide lockdown, it is also critical for each one of us to follow the protocols and take necessary measures and precautions to break the chain of transmission of the disease.

As part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the Government of India has issued several guidelines and advisories for assistance of the States, citizens and other stakeholders. A number of guidelines focusing on prevention, treatment, quarantine, isolation, testing strategy and inclusion of private laboratories, social distancing and lockdown have been issued by various Ministries and Departments.

To assist my esteemed senior colleagues in the Government, I have got compiled a compendium of such guidelines and advisories in a user-friendly format. This can be used on mobile phones, laptops and desktops.

To access the abridged contents of a subject from the index, the user may select ('click') the title of the said subject in the index. In case the user wants to access the actual text of guidelines/advisories/orders on the subject, a link to the source document has been provided at the bottom of abridged contents about the subject. On selecting ('clicking') on the 'source' hyperlink, the user will be able to retrieve the complete text of the document from the website.

A copy of the Compendium is attached herewith for your information and reference.

With warm regards,


(Dr. Harsh Vardhan)

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Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks: Novel Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

In alignment with strategic approach, this document provides action that needs to be taken for containing a large outbreak. The actions for mitigation phase will be dealt separately under a mitigation plan. The objective of this plan is to stop the chain of transmission thus reducing the morbidity and mortal

The document broadly include geographic quarantine & its action plan; Surveillance; Laboratory support; Hospital care; Clinical management; Psychosocial support; Pharmaceutical interventions; Non-Pharmaceutical interventions; Material Logistics; Risk communication; Information Management; Capacity building; Financing of containment operations; Scaling down of operations in larger outbreak of COVID-19.

[Source 01: Ministry of Health and family welfare](#)

Social Stigma Associated with COVID-19

Public health emergencies during outbreak of communicable diseases may cause fear and anxiety leading to prejudices against people and communities, social isolation and stigma. Such behavior may culminate into increased hostility, chaos and unnecessary social disruptions.

Cases have been reported of people affected with COVID-19 as well as healthcare workers, sanitary workers and police, who are in the frontline for management of the outbreak, facing discrimination on account of heightened fear and misinformation about infection.

There is an urgent need to counter such prejudices and to rise as a community that is empowered with health literacy and responds appropriately in the face of this adversity. Accordingly, all responsible citizens are advised to understand and follow the guidelines.

[Source 02: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 8th April 2020](#)

Guidelines for Dialysis with reference to COVID 19 Infection

Chronic kidney disease stage-5 (CKD-5) patients on dialysis [maintenance hemodialysis (MHD) or continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD)] are also vulnerable group because of their existing comorbidities, repeated unavoidable exposure to hospital environment and immunosuppressed state due to CKD-5. These patients are therefore not only more prone to acquire infection but also develop severe diseases as compared to general population.

Patients on regular dialysis should adhere to prescribed schedule and should not miss their Dialysis sessions to avoid any emergency dialysis.

The document provides General Guidelines for dialysis unit, dialysis patients and disinfection and disposal practices in dialysis unit. Guidelines are for hemo-dialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

[Source 03: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 7th April 2020](#)

Guidance document on appropriate management of suspect/ confirmed cases of COVID 19

A series of measures have been taken by both the Central and State Governments to break the chain of transmission. One among these is to isolate all suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, as the number of cases increases, it would be important to appropriately prepare the health systems and use the existing resources judiciously. Available data in India suggests that nearly 70% of cases affected with COVID-19 either exhibit mild or very mild symptoms. Such cases may not require admission to COVID-19 blocks/ dedicated COVID-19 hospitals. It is important to put in place mechanisms for triaging and decisions making for identification of the appropriate COVID dedicated facility for providing care to COVID-19 patients.

The purpose of this document is to put in place such SOPs to ensure optimal utilization of available resources and thereby providing appropriate care to all the COVID-19 patients. This will ensure that available hospital beds capacity is used only for moderate to severe cases of COVID-19. The SOPs specified hereafter also

Specify the different types of facilities to be set up for various categories of Covid-19 cases.

[Source 04: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Directorate General of Health Services EMR Division on 7th April 2020](#)

COVID - 19 testing laboratories approved and supported by ICMR as on 07/04/2020

Total Government laboratories approved and supported by ICMR (provided diagnostic kits or reagents) are 139 in number (and 3 collection sites). The list is enclosed.

[Source 05: Indian Council of Medical Research Department of Health Research Date: 07/04/2020](#)

Railways meet half initial target in a quick time

In order to supplement the national efforts in combating COVID 19, Indian Railways has put all its might and resources behind national efforts. In a short span of time, it has achieved almost half the initial task of 5,000 coaches by being able to convert 2,500 coaches. With the conversion of around 2,500 coaches, 40,000 isolation beds are now ready for contingency

[Source 06: Ministry of Railways, PIB ID: 1611539 on 6th April 2020](#)

DST supported healthcare startup developing rapid test for detection of COVID-19

The Department of Science & Technology has funded 'Module Innovations', a Pune based healthcare startup working on point of care diagnostics to build up on its platform technology for rapid diagnosis of diseases to develop a product for detecting COVID 19 with a 10 to 15 minute test.

Using the proven concept from its flagship product USense, Module is now developing nCoVSENSEs (TM) which is a rapid test device for detection of antibodies that have been generated against the COVID 19 in the human body.

[Source 07: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIB ID: 1611604 on 6th April 2020](#)

Check urgently the virus of misinformation on COVID-19: Vice President

Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has described the spread of misinformation, especially on social media, as a "virus" that needs to be checked.

Superstitions and hearsay cannot be allowed to weaken our assault on Novel coronavirus. He stressed on the need for understanding among all religious groups that social distancing norms cannot be taken lightly. Finally, Safety of the front-line warriors, especially medical professionals, is absolutely essential.

[Source 08: Vice President's Secretariat PIB ID: 1611547 on 6th April 2020](#)

Guidelines for Quarantine facilities

This document provides guidelines for setting up of quarantine facilities during the current COVID-19 outbreak. The scope of this document is to cover the procedures required for

- Physical infrastructure/Functional Services requirement at quarantine facilities
- Procedure for medical monitoring of contacts, reporting formats
- Protocol for referrals of suspects/ Symptomatic and isolation of symptomatic if required temporarily
- Infection control practices by medical personnel, supporting staffs and catering staffs etc.

[Source 09: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NCDC on 5th April 2020](#)

Advisory on use of Homemade Protective Cover for Face & Mouth

We are aware that social distancing and personal hygiene are keys to prevent COVID 19 infections. Certain countries have claimed benefits of homemade face cover for the general public. Such homemade face cover is a good method for maintaining personal hygiene. Such usage certainly will help in maintaining overall hygienic health conditions.

Therefore, it is suggested that such people who are not suffering from medical conditions or having breathing difficulties may use the handmade reusable face cover, particularly when they step out of their house. This will help in protecting the community at large.

This face cover is not recommended for either health workers or those working with or in contact with COVID 19 patients or are patients themselves as these categories of people are required to wear specified protective gear.

[Source 10: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID: 1610960 on 4th April 2020](#)

Advisory to start rapid antibody-based blood test for COVID-19

Government of India has issued advisory to start rapid antibody based blood test for COVID-19 for areas reporting clusters (containment zone) and in large migration gatherings/evacuees centers.

All symptomatic Cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) in above areas to be tested at facility using rapid antibody tests. Any surge in cases to be brought to the notice of Surveillance Officer/CMO for additional investigation. All symptomatic ILI persons should be advised home quarantine for 14 days.

[Source 11: Indian Council of Medical Research, on 4th April 2020](#)

MHA writes to States/UTs to ensure smooth Disbursal of Money to beneficiaries of PM-GKY during 21-day Lockdown to fight COVID-19

Secretary, Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all States/UTs requesting them to take all necessary measures to ensure smooth disbursal of money to the beneficiaries of PM-GKY, while observing norms of social distancing. The concerned Departments of State Government/UT Administration, District authorities and field agencies may be informed about the guidelines for strict compliance.

[Source 12: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610329 on 2nd April 2020](#)

MHA writes to States/UTs to take measures to fight Fake News in order to prevent Panic among People and spread of COVID-19 in India

Secretary, Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA), has written to all States/UTs to take effective measures to fight Fake News. It has been communicated that the Government of India is creating a web-portal for

people to verify facts and verified news promptly. States/UTs have been requested to create a similar mechanism at their level for issues relating to them.

[Source 13: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610146 on 2nd April 2020](#)

Parcel Trains providing big boost to transportation of essential commodities

Indian Railways has planned 10 routes for Time Tabled Parcel Trains and tentative 18 new routes are planned for Special Parcel Trains to keep supply chains running

So far, Indian Railways has loaded 30 Special Parcel Trains to various destinations all over the country Indian Railways has also been running Parcel trains for Milk and Food Products as per demand of customers Railways all geared up to meet the demands of State Governments for Parcel Trains for short distance movement within the State Staff Manning these operations braving all challenges in COVID 19 lock down times to ensure citizens don't feel shortage of essential goods.

[Source 14: Ministry of Railways, PIB ID 1610205 on 2nd April 2020](#)

PM interacts with CMs to bolster efforts to tackle COVID-19

Prime Minister outlined that the common goal for the country is to ensure minimum loss of life. In the next few weeks, testing, tracing, isolation and quarantine should remain the areas of focus. He highlighted the necessity of maintaining supply of essential medical products, availability of raw material for manufacture of medicines and medical equipment. He said it is necessary to ensure availability of separate, dedicated hospital facilities for COVID-19 patients. To increase the availability of doctors, he asked the States to tap into the resource pool of AYUSH doctors, organize online training and utilize para-medical staff, NCC and NSS volunteers.

Prime Minister further said it is pertinent to maintain peace and law & order across the country. He added that COVID-19 has attacked our faith and belief and is threatening our way of life. He appealed to the leaders to reach out to community leaders and social welfare organizations at state, district, town and block levels to build up a united front based on community-approach in the battle against the pandemic.

[Source 15: Prime Minister's Office, PIB ID 1610246 on 2nd April 2020](#)

Dr. Harsh Vardhan visits Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals

The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today visited Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals to personally take stock of preparedness to overcome COVID-19.

After having inspected the working of these centers, the Health Minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of screening process. Keeping in view the emerging requirement of isolation beds, Dr Harsh Vardhan stated that the Trauma Center at Dr RML Hospital will function as dedicated COVID-19 isolation ward.

Saluting the committed and focused hard work of the doctors, and other healthcare professionals in the country, he stated that the country is proud of our dedicated health professionals.

[Source 16: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1610703 on 2nd April 2020](#)

Railways ramps up in in-house production of masks and sanitizers

In continuation of the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Indian Railways is making all out efforts to supplement the health care initiatives of Government of India. In this direction Indian Railways is producing Masks and Sanitizer in-house in its all Zonal Railways, Production Units and PSUs.

Till 1st April 2020 Indian Railways has produced total 287704 nos. of masks and 25806 liters of sanitizer in its Zonal Railways, Production Units and PSUs.

[Source 17: Ministry of Railways, PIB Release ID 200961 on 2nd April 2020](#)

Updates on COVID-19

Various actions have been initiated by Government of India along with the States/UTs for the prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in the country. These are being regularly monitored at the highest level.

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind discussed the status of preparedness, the role of civil society/voluntary organisation/private sector and the role of the Red Cross with focus on vulnerable sections to contain the spread of the COVID-19 in a video conference.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the nation today morning, appreciated that the country has shown unprecedented discipline and collective spirit during these uncertain times of crisis. He reiterated the importance of Social Distancing and urged every citizen to help implement the lockdown.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare appealed to the patients and their families, not to create hurdles in the work of doctors and other health workers.

[Source 18: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1610749 on 3rd April 2020](#)

Domestic cargo flights strengthen India's fight against Covid-19

Ministry of Civil Aviation is undertaking continuous efforts at policy level and ground level to add substantially in the country's fight against Covid-19. The cargo delivered to various parts of the country includes COVID-19 related reagents, enzymes, medical equipment, testing kits & PPE, masks, gloves & other accessories of HLL & cargo requisitioned by State/UT Governments and postal packets.

[Source 19: Ministry of Civil Aviation, PIB ID 1610990 on 4th April 2020](#)

DRDO develops sanitization enclosures and face shields

In the ongoing efforts against COVID-19 pandemic, Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) has designed full body disinfection chamber called as Personnel Sanitizations Enclosure (PSE) which is a walk-through enclosure designed for personnel decontamination. It has also developed face protection mask for health care professionals handling COVID-19 patients. Its lightweight construction makes it convenient for comfortable wear for long duration.

[Source 20: Ministry of Defence, PIB ID 1611116 on 4th April 2020](#)

Dr. Harsh Vardhan visits LNJP Hospital

The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today visited Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan Hospital to take stock of preparedness to overcome COVID-19. After a detailed review and inspection of the various wards and premises of the Hospital, the Health Minister expressed satisfaction & commended working of the departments and appreciated the dedication and hard work of the frontline health workers deployed there. He also suggested to install a system of Tele-Medicine / Tele consultation for those patients who were availing of services in the hospital.

On the issue of stigma against doctors and the frontline health personnel, he stated that the Home Ministry has taken cognizance of such incidents and advised the authorities to take stringent action under National Security Act.

[Source 21: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1611039 on 4th April 2020](#)

DRDO develops bio suit with seam sealing glue to keep health professionals fighting COVID-19 safe

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a bio suit to keep the medical, paramedical and other personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe from the deadly virus. Scientists at various DRDO laboratories have applied their technical know-how and expertise in textile, coating and nanotechnology to develop the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) having specific type of fabric with coating.

[Source 22: Ministry of Defence, PIB ID: 1610429 on 2nd April 2020](#)

DST-SERB announces first set of approved projects to combat CoVID-19 & related respiratory infections

In view of increasing the load of CoVID-19 infections in India, the Department of Science and Technology-- Science and Engineering Board (DST-SERB) announced several special research projects calls to urgently ramp up national R & D efforts against the epidemic. The first set of 5 projects has been selected by DST-SERB, which will be supported for further development into implementable technologies.

[Source 23: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIB ID: 1610399 on 2nd April 2020](#)

FCI ensures uninterrupted food grain supplies across the country during the lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak

Even in this challenging operational environment, FCI is able to meet the increasing demand of food grains by gearing up the pace of supply of wheat and rice throughout the country mostly by Rail. 58 rail rakes loaded on 02nd April takes the figure to total of 410 rakes moved carrying about 11.48 LMT food grains since lockdown began on 24th March.

[Source 24: Ministry of Science & Technology, Release ID: 200944 on 2nd April 2020](#)

Indian Railways maintains its freight corridors fully functional

Indian Railways continues in its endeavor to ensure availability of essential commodities through its freight services during the nationwide lock down due to COVID-19. In order to ensure the timely delivery of essential commodities for citizens and goods vital for energy & infrastructure sector, Indian Railways has

maintained its freight corridors fully functional in spite of the COVID 19 lockdown and has been successful in meeting the needs of both the households sector and industry. During last 3 days Railways delivered 7195 wagons of Food grains, 64567 wagons of coal, 3314 wagons of steel and 3838 wagons of petroleum. Total 143458 wagons of freight were loaded in the last three days.

[Source 25: Ministry of Railways, PIB ID 1610226: on 2nd April 2020](#)

MHA blacklists 960 foreigners

Under the directions of Union Home Minister, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has blacklisted 960 foreigners, present in India on tourist visas, for their involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

[Source 26: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610456 on 2nd April 2020](#)

MHA issues an Addendum to lays down SOPs for transit of foreigners stranded in India

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an addendum to the guidelines, and subsequent addendums, to all ministries/ Department regarding the nationwide lockdown to fight Corona Virus. The addendum lays down SOPs for transit of foreigners stranded in India and release of quarantined persons after being tested COVID-19 negative.

[Source 27: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610509 on 2nd April 2020](#)

MHA writes to States to widely publicize the Penal Provisions regarding Violations of Lockdown Measures to fight COVID-19

Union Home Secretary has written to all States to widely publicize among the authorities and public, the penal provisions under the DM Act and IPC regarding violations of lockdown measures, to fight COVID-19. It has been stressed that strict action must be taken by authorities on violators of lockdown measures.

[Source 28: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610308 on 2nd April 2020](#)

MHA requests States/UTs to implement Lockdown Measures in Letter and Spirit to fight COVID-19

Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) had issued consolidated guidelines on lockdown measures to be taken by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States/UTs Governments/Administrations, so as to break the chain of transmission of the COVID-19 in the country.

It was observed that some States/UTs are allowing exceptions beyond what has been permitted under lockdown measures, as contained in Consolidated Guidelines issued by MHA under DM Act 2005.

In pursuance of this observation, Union Home Secretary, has written to all State Chief Secretaries and UT Administrators requesting them to strictly implement lockdown measures in letter and spirit, by exercising their powers under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to fight COVID-19.

[Source 29: Ministry of Home Affairs PIB ID: 1610032 on 1st April 2020](#)

Advisory for Human Resource Management of COVID

This document provides guidance to the state on the human resource that can be mobilized for COVID-19 management along with possible role assignments and their training requirements.

Source 30: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Training Resources for COVID- 19 Management

Revised guidelines on clinical management of COVID – 19 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfareas on 31st March 20

Revised Guidelines for clinicians taking care of hospitalized patients of COVID – 19 on Clinical Management have been issued as a reference document for interim guidance on management of patients, particularly for severe acute respiratory illness and critically ill. This document is intended for clinicians taking care of hospitalized adult and pediatric patients of COVID – 19.

It is not meant to replace clinical judgment or specialist consultation but rather to strengthen clinical management of these patients and provide to up-to-date guidance. Best practices for COVID - 19 including IPC and optimized supportive care for severely ill patients as considered essential. This document aims to provide clinicians with updated interim guidance on timely, effective, and safe supportive management of patients with COVID - 19, particularly those with severe acute respiratory illness and critically ill.

AIIMS, New Delhi is running a 24x7 helpline to provide support to the treating physicians on clinical management. The helpline number is 9971876591.

Source 31, Revised Guidelines on Clinical Management of COVID – 19, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Utilization of 44,000 youths trained under Health Care Sector by Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDG-GKY)

The Ministry of Rural Development has written to Chief Secretary of all States/ UTs to utilize the services of youth (Apprx. 44000), who have been trained in Health Care Sector under DDG-GKY to augment the front-line health workers to deal with challenges of COVID-19 epidemic.

Source 32: DO NO.J-17060/223/2016-DDUGKY(e350864), Ministry of Rural Development documents dated: 30.03.2020

DARPG's National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19 Grievances launched

The National Monitoring Dashboard was developed and implemented at <https://darpg.gov.in> where COVID 19 related grievances received in CPGRAMS with all Ministries/ Departments and States/ Union Territories are monitored on priority basis by a technical team of DARPG. The National Monitoring Dashboard was developed by DARPG in pursuance of the recommendations of the Empowered Group of Officers 10 constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 on Public Grievances and Suggestions to ensure timely implementation of COVID 19 Response Activities.

Source 33: Ministry of Personnel, Public & Pension, PIBID: 1609860 on 1st April 2020

Indian Railways continues to provide food to needy people

Indian Railways continues to provide bulk cooked food with paper plates for lunch and food packets for dinner to needy people through base kitchens of IRCTC with the help of RPF, GRP, commercial departments of Zones, State Governments and NGOs.

Indian Railways continues to provide food to needy people during lock down due to COVID-19. It has distributed about 1.4 Lakh cooked meals from 28th March. IRCTC kitchens have prepared more than 1 lakh of these cooked meals. In addition to playing a leading role in food distribution, RPF provides about 38600 meals from its own resources.

[Source 34:Ministry of Railways, PIBID: 1609963on 1st April 2020](#)

What do we know and what do we need to know about Novel Corona virus?

Many things about Novel Corona virus are spreading rapidly through social media, what's app and the Internet. Some of these could be true, but many of the information are baseless. At a time when the coronavirus epidemic is spreading across the world, it is important to know about some facts related to this deadly virus. This includes information about the COVID-19.

[Source 35:Ministry of Science & Technology, PIBID: ID: 1609842 on 1st April 2020](#)

PIB sets up COVID19 Fact Check Unit

Press Information Bureau (PIB) has set up a portal - COVID 19 Fact Check Unit which will receive messages by email and send its response in quick time. PIB will also release a daily Bulletin at 8 pm every day to inform regarding Government's decisions and developments and progress on COVID 19.

[Source 36:Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, ID: 1610111 on 1st April 2020](#)

Don't disseminate unverified news capable of causing panic: SC to Media

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Media, including print, electronic and social media, to maintain a strong sense of responsibility and ensure that unverified news capable of causing panic is not disseminated.

[Source 37: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, PIB ID:1609887 on 1st April 2020](#)

TIFR initiative to spread awareness on Covid-19

To dispel the myths and provide a basic scientific understanding of the public health measure behind the pandemic Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) come out with a package of engaging and illuminating communication materials.

[Source 38:Ministry of Science &Technology, PIB ID:1609797 on 1st April 2020](#)

FCI ramps up food grain supplies across the country during the lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak

Food Corporation of India (FCI) is ensuring uninterrupted supply of wheat and rice throughout the country during the lockdown period. FCI is fully prepared to meet not only the food grain requirement under National Food Security Act but is also prepared for any additional demand. on 31.03.2020, FCI has 56.75 Million MT (MMT) of Food Grains (30.7 MMT Rice and 26.06 MMT Wheat). Total 352 rakes have moved carrying about 9.86 LMT food grains since the lockdown began on 24th March.

Source 39: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution PIB ID:1610089 on 1st April 2020

Advisory for quarantine of migrant workers by Ministry of Home Affairs on 31st March 20

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued advisory for migrant workers. They will remain at their regular place of work/local residence within the city. They will not be evacuated either by their employer/landlord.

Action to this effect and to address other related issues will be taken by local administration as per advisories being issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.

As some of the migrant workers have already moved in groups and either reached their destination or are on their way, the health actions would be based on the locations where migrant workers are currently located.

Source 40, the detailed guidelines can be seen at MOHFW site dated 31.3.20

India calls for further enhancing affordable access to medicines and facilitating easier movement of health professionals across national borders

India has called for working towards creating a global framework for further enhancing affordable access to medicines for fighting pandemics and facilitating easier movement of health professionals across national borders by upholding multilateral commitments to meet current challenges.

The Trade and Investment Ministers of the G20 and guest countries have decided to keep their markets open and ensure smooth and continued operation of the logistics networks.

India will support the availability and accessibility of essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals at affordable prices, on an equitable basis, where they are most needed, and as quickly as possible, including by encouraging additional production through incentives and targeted investment, according to national circumstances.

Source 41, Press Release ID: 1609470, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 12: 40 PM by PIB Delhi

Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

Ref to the document “Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) India COVID-19” placed just before this document,

Republic of India will implement the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project, with the involvement of the following Ministries/Agencies/Units: Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare (MoHFW), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.

[Source 42: MOHFW: India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project \(P173836\)](#)

No Shortage of Medicines to combat Covid-19 outbreak by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

A Central control room [011-23389840] has been set up in the Department, which is working from 8 AM to 6 PM. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has set up another control room [Helpline No. 1800111255], which functions round the clock. The Control rooms deals with issues related to queries/complaints and messages dealing with COVID-19 outbreak as well as coordination of transport and other logistic services related to drugs and medical devices.

[Source 43, Press Release ID: I609588 of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 5:10PM by PIB Delhi](#)

Release of CSR funds to fight COVID-19 by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

In view of the urgent need to fight COVID-19 pandemic, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri D. V Sadananda Gowda has urged all the profit making PSUs under his ministry to donate part of their CSR funds to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation.

[Source 44, Press Release ID: I609467 of The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 11:41AM by PIB Delhi](#)

62 Lifeline Udan flights operated during the five-day period from 26th to 30th March 2020, transporting over 15.4 tons of essential item for COVID-19.

62 Lifeline Udan flights have been operated during the five-day period from 26th to 30th March 2020, transporting over 15.4 tons of essential medical supplies like reagents, enzymes, medical equipment, testing kits, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), masks, gloves and other accessories.

Cargo hubs have been established at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kolkata. 45 out of the 62 flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air; other carriers are Indian Air Force (IAF) and Pawan Hans.

[Source 45, Press release ID: I609659, The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 7:14PM by PIB Delhi](#)

Empowered Group of Officers for CPGRAMS portal for COVID-19.

The Empowered Group of Officers 10 constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 on Public Grievances and Suggestions to ensure timely implementation of COVID 19 Response Activities met on March

31, 2020 and took the following decisions to identify problem areas and delineate policy, formulate plans and strategize operations and take necessary steps for time bound implementation of decisions.

In pursuance of this objective the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances shall set up a technical team comprising of 5 officials for preparation of daily reports on COVID 19, comprising of a summary and list of suggestions and grievances received/ disposal status on the CPGRAMS portal.

Source 46, Press Release ID: I609552, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions,

Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 3:57PM by PIB Delhi

Updates on COVID-19 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

The prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in the country are being monitored at the highest level and various actions have been initiated in collaboration with the States. Hon'ble Prime Minister is regularly monitoring and reviewing the situation with top officials of the concerned Ministries/Departments and States/UTs Update as on 31st March 2020 18:29 IST have been released by MoHFW.

Source 47, Press Release ID: I609627, MOHFW,

Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 6:29PM by PIB Delhi

Indian Railways ready to modify 20000 coaches which can accommodate upto 3.2 lac possible beds for isolation needs for COVID-19.

As part of COVID-19 preparedness, it has been decided by Indian Railways that it would be prepared to modify 20000 coaches into quarantine/ isolation coaches to augment the quarantine facilities being created in the country. In this connection consultations were held with Armed Forces Medical Services, Medical Department of various Zonal Railways, and Ayushman Bharat, Ministry of Health, Government of India. Five Zonal Railways have already prepared prototypes for the quarantine/ isolation coaches.

These modified 20000 coaches can accommodate up to 3.2 lac possible beds for isolation needs. Work on modification of 5000 coaches, which are to be converted initially into quarantine/ isolation coaches has already started. These 5000 coaches would be having capacity to accommodate up to 80000 beds. One coach is expected to have 16 beds for isolation.

Five Zonal Railways have already prepared prototypes for the quarantine/ isolation coaches.

Source 48, Press Release ID: I609528, Ministry of Railways,

Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 2:59PM by PIB Delhi

Inclusive guidelines for protection and safety of Divyangjan during Emergency Health Situations due to COVID-19 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Implementation of Comprehensive Disability Inclusive Guidelines for Protection and Safety of Divyangjan during Emergency health situations due to Covid 19 –Issue of passes to care givers, NGO/PwDs.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has written to the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities of all States/UTs for the implementation of the guidelines issued by the DEPwD on 26th March, 2020, for protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) (Divyangjan) during the emergency health situations due to Pandemic COVID 19 . They have been directed to Issue passes to Care Givers, NGOs/PwDs and streamline issue so that there is no delay in providing necessary support to Divyangjan.

They are also requested to sensitize local law enforcement authorities in this regard (Police/SDM etc.). DEPwD has asked them to ensure that PwD COVID-19 patients are not turned away from hospitals and health care institutions.

**Source 49, Press Release ID: I609587, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,
Posted On: 31st March 2020 5:08PM by PIB Delhi**

Ministry of Tourism launches ‘Stranded in India’ portal to help foreign tourists stuck in various parts of India

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has launched a portal “***strandedinindia.com***” to act as a support network for foreign tourists stuck in various parts of the country.

The portal strandedinindia.com consists of the following information that the foreign tourists can reach out to for help:

- Comprehensive information around COVID-19 helpline numbers
- Information around Ministry of External Affairs
- Information around state-based/regional tourism support infrastructure
- Support section to extend help to the ones in need

**Source 50, Release ID: I609489, Ministry of Tourism,
Posted On: 31st March 2020 1:09PM by PIB Delhi**

Cargo flights to carry medical supplies to eastern and southern parts of the country and private airlines to carry out critical supply operations

The Cargo flights were operated to carry medical supplies to Southern, eastern and north eastern regions on 30th March 2020 as Lifeline 1- Air India flight on its route Mumbai-New Delhi-Bengaluru-Mumbai; and Lifelines 2- IAF flight from Hindon- Dimapur- Imphal-Guwahati.

Cargo flights are operated to carry medical supplies like ventilator, masks, Bi pap's , ICMR kits, consignment of Ministry of Textiles etc. to Southern, eastern and north eastern regions of the country.

A dedicated Medical Air Cargo related website has been launched and is functional. In addition to Air India and Alliance Air flights, Private airlines such as Indigo, Spice jet and Blue Dart are also operating flights.

Source 51: Ministry of Civil Aviation, Press Release ID: I609459 on 31.3.2020

Ayurveda's immunity boosting measures for self-care during COVID-19

Ministry of AYUSH recommends the self-care guidelines, supported by Ayurveda literature and scientific publications for preventive health measures and boosting immunity with special reference to respiratory health.

The important immunity boosting measures to be undertaken during dry cough/sore throat are drinking warm water, regular yoga practice, consuming herbal food, nasal application, steam inhalation etc.

Some simple Ayurveda Procedures are also recommended to be followed to the extent possible as per individual's convenience.

Source 52: Ayush Press Release ID: I609524 on 31st MAR 2020 2:31 PM by PIB Delhi

AYUSH Ministry urges diligence in claims and initiates work for scientific and evidence-based solutions to fight COVID-19

Ministry of Ayush has set up an online channel on its website for receiving suggestions based on scientific explanations and proposals on therapies and procedures prepared based on standard scientific guidelines that could restrain the spread of the Covid -19 pandemic, or to manage the disease.

The Ministry has accordingly invited inputs from AYUSH practitioners and AYUSH institutions (institutions may include colleges/ universities, hospitals, research institutes, AYUSH manufacturers, AYUSH associations etc.). The inputs can be submitted on the Ministry's website at the following link: <http://ayush.gov.in/covid-19> (If the link doesn't work when you click on it, you may copy the same and paste in the address bar of your web browser

Source 53: AYUSH Press Release ID: I609523 dated 31st March 2020 2:29 PM by PIB Delhi

Essential technical features for Ventilator by DRDO for COVID-19

Technical Committee of DRDO shall identify the essential technical features for ventilators for COVID-19, which shall be put on the website of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and HLL Lifecare Ltd. The same have been received from Director General Life Sciences, DRDO

Some of the salient specification is, the machine should be turbine/compressor based and should have Invasive, non-invasive and CPAP features. The machine should have continuous working capacity for 4-5 days.

Source 54: DRDO guideline dated 31.3.2020

Handling public grievances in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for COVID-19

Sh. Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary has been nominated as **Nodal Officer** for handling public grievances pertaining to COVID -19.

Contact details are as follows:

Phone Number: 011-23063585

Email ID: kumars14@nic.in

Source 55: Office Memorandum, file no.C.13015/03/2020-PG, MoHFW , W& PG Section, dated 31st March 2020

Utilization of 44,000 youths trained under Health Care Sector by Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDG-GKY)

The Ministry of Rural Development has written to Chief Secretary of all States/ UTs to utilize the services of youth (Apprx. 44000), who have been trained in Health Care Sector under DDG-GKY to augment the front-line health workers to deal with challenges of COVID-19 epidemic.

Availability of PPE kits, N95 masks and Ventilators

In order to meet the requirement of PPE, masks and ventilators, factories producing these items are working round the clock and ordinance factories are trying to produce personal protection equipment for medical personnel. Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been working together in this endeavour and orders for 21 lakh PPE coveralls have been placed on them.

As of now, 3.34 lakh PPEs are available in various hospitals across the country and about 60,000 PPE kits have already been procured and supplied by Government of India.

N95 masks are being manufactured by two domestic producers. They can supply 50,000 masks per day at the moment but are ramping up capacities to make 1 lakh masks per day within the next week.

**Source 57: Press Information Bureau Release ID: 1609263 MoHFW 30th March 2020 3:45PM
by PIB Delhi**

Training resources for COVID-19 management

Appropriate capacity building of all level of healthcare workers for covid 19 has been arranged and detailed information, facilitator's guides and other related material is available in this document.

Field surveillance staff like ASHA, ANM, Aanganwadi workers, NCC cadets and other volunteers and field supervisory staff like PHC staff have also been included for training. Besides this training is also available for laboratory staff, persons involved in Clinical Management in COVID treatment facilities including Intensive care facility.

Source 58: Training Resources for COVID-19 Management, MoHFW

Minding our minds during the COVID-19

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued an advisory for maintaining proper mental health under current lockdown situation which may generate sense of social isolation, fear and anxiety. It consists of few advices for handling rumor, social isolation and emotional problems. Few tips to identify possibility of mental health problem have also been provided.

Help and support from their families and other care givers is vital for persons with mental illness. Health helplines can provide support but, in addition to regular intake diet, prescribed medication and regular physical activity & daily routine, keeping engaged and positive is essential to maintain good mental status in the difficult times which may allow winning the battle more easily.

Source 59: MoHFW advisory

Indian Railways getting ready to provide medical support to National efforts in fighting COVID 19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19, Indian Railways is making an all-out effort to supplement the health care efforts of Government of India.

Indian Railways getting ready to provide medical support to National efforts in fighting COVID 19 in a big way. Railway Coaches are being modified, as Isolation coaches, to be made available in the event of

contingency. Initially 5000 coaches have been planned. More than 6500 hospital beds of Railways to be made available as prescribed medical specifications.

Source 60: Ministry of Railways, PIB Release ID: I609312 dated 30th March 2020

Government ensures cargo flight operations for medical supplies to various parts of the country

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is coordinating with state Governments for supply of medical equipment and related essential items needed for protection against and testing of COVID-19. Based on requirements received from various states on urgent basis, the senior officials of the Ministry coordinate with supply agencies for providing required material which can be further transported to the desired destinations. Air India and Alliance Air flights are being operated to carry out the necessary supply operations across the country.

The information sharing, answering of queries and the work at ground is going on round the clock for delivering the supplies to the destinations in a timely manner so the efforts to fight the COVID-19 are multiplied and supplemented.

Source 61: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Govt. of India Press Release ID-I609195 Posted On: 30th March 2020 10:43AM by PIB Delhi

ICMR advisory for procurement of reagents for labs doing Real Time (RT)-PCR of throat and nasal swab for diagnosis of COVID-19

In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of reagents for COVID-19 testing, ICMR requested each state to identify a nodal officer to coordinate with the State Resident Commissioner stationed at Delhi for procurement /supply of reagents/primers/probes and other related supplies to respective ICMR recognized labs for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in their states.

All Private Labs and select Government labs not supported by ICMR will procure all reagents of their own.

Source 62: Indian Council Of Medical Research Department of Health Research dated 30.03.2020

Guidelines on disinfection of common public places including offices

The corona virus even though survives on environmental surfaces, gets easily inactivated by chemical disinfectants. Environmental cleaning /decontamination of common places like indoor areas, outdoor areas and public toilets are essential in areas reporting COVID-19.

The Indoor areas including office spaces should be sanitized every evening after office hours or early in the morning before the rooms are occupied with proper use of protective equipment by the worker.

Outdoor areas have less risk than indoor areas due to air currents and exposure to sunlight. These include bus stops, railway platforms, parks, roads, etc. Cleaning and disinfection efforts should be targeted to frequently touched/contaminated surfaces.

Sanitary workers must use separate set of cleaning equipment for toilets (mops, nylon scrubber) and separate set for sink and commode). They should always wear disposable protective gloves while cleaning a toilet.

The Guidelines also highlights Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use by Sanitary workers, preparation of 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

[Source 63: MoHFW guideline dated 29.03.2020](#)

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for transporting a suspect/ confirmed case of COVID-19

This SOP is applicable to current phase of COVID-19 pandemic in India (local transmission and limited community transmission), wherein as per plan of action, all suspect cases are admitted to isolation facilities. These procedures are meant to guide and be used for training ambulance drivers and technicians in transporting COVID-19 patients. The cleaning and decontamination protocols given here in the guidance note need to be strictly followed.

All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls and work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution

The 102 ambulances should not be used for corona patients and should only be used for transporting pregnant women and sick infants.

[Source 64: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare \(DGHS-EMR\) dated 29.03.2020](#)

Health advisory for elderly population of India during COVID-19

Elderly people are at a higher risk of COVID-19 infection due to their decreased immunity and body reserves, as well as multiple associated comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Also, course of disease tends to be more severe in case of elderly resulting in higher mortality.

Elderly persons are advised to stay at home, take proper nutrition, take prescribed medicines regularly, follow proper hygiene and monitor health. In case of any new problem consult doctor or call helpline.

[Source 65: For more details see MoHFW advisory dated 29th March, 2020](#)

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package- insurance cover for health care workers update to include private health care workers

In continuation of the previous announcement on 26 March 2020, Package of Insurance for Health workers fighting COVID-19 the following conditions has been clarified:

It will provide an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh for ninety (90) days to a total of around 22.12 lakh public healthcare providers. Community health workers are included in the scheme, who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and who may be at risk of being impacted by this. It will also include accidental loss of life on account of contracting COVID-19;

Private hospital staff/ retired/volunteer/ local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by States/ Central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of Central/States/UTs, AIIMS & INIs/ hospitals of Central Ministries can also be drafted for COVID-19 related responsibilities and will be covered subject to numbers indicated by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The insurance provided under this scheme would be over and above any other insurance cover being availed of by the beneficiary.

ICMR guidelines for use of commercial kits for nasal/throat swab-based diagnosis of COVID-19

Currently, RT-PCR kits for diagnosis of COVID-19 have been procured by ICMR-NIV from USA. but now ICMR has allowed procurement and commercial use of kits approved by US FDA EUA/CE IVD, directly after due approval from DCGI and intimation to ICMR. In addition, ICMR has established a fast-track mechanism for validation of non-US FDA EUA/CE IVD approved kits at ICMR NIV. ICMR NIV has completed evaluation of 17 non- US FDA EUA/CE IVD kits.

Source 67: ICMR Guidelines for use of commercial kits for nasal/throat swab-based diagnosis of COVID-19 in India, 28th March, 2020

Continuity of minimum support services to persons with disabilities (PwDs) during the lockdown period

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure minimum support services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the lockdown period.

It is urged in the letter that the law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs have been instructed to take immediate steps to issue passes to the caregivers/maids of Persons with Disabilities on priority basis. The local police have to give priority to demands of Persons with Disabilities.

Source 68: Press release ID I608757 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Posted On: 28th March 2020 12:33PM by PIB Delhi

GeM initiatives for procurement of goods and services by Government departments in the fight against COVID-19

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has taken a number of initiatives in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic for quick, efficient, transparent and cost-effective purchases in this hour of need.

A new dedicated page <https://gem.gov.in/covid19>, for purchasing medical and allied supplies has been created. The World Bank has increased procurement threshold at GeM for COVID 19 Response Project, from \$ 1 Lakh to \$ 1 Million.

A list of categories for medical supplies and categories for auxiliary supplies is also annexed.

Source 69: For more details see Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Press release ID: I608752, 28th March 2020

Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

As part of the Fast Track COVID-19 Response Program I, the proposed India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project is a four-year project with US\$1 billion from the World Bank's COVID 19 Fast-Track Facility. The priority areas identified under the project is to build on the GOI's response to date and are informed by international best practice and WHO's Guidance Note on COVID-19 emergency response; (ii) The GOI's Draft COVID-19 Containment Plan; WHO COVID-19 Country Preparedness & Response Note (February 2019); World Bank Fast Track COVID-19 Facility Board Paper; Best Practices from China (Policy Notes on Lessons Learned from SARS and Other Outbreaks); and summary of Core Lessons from Bank Health Emergency Operations.

Source 70: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project (PI73836) 27th March 2020

SOP for reallocation of residents/ PG students and nursing students as part of hospital management of COVID-19

In order to handle manpower shortage, if need arises, an SOP has been prepared to rope in residents doctors, dental surgeons and even nurses to increase availability of health care providers at various health facilities designated for COVID -19, as per their expertise and after appropriate training .

Source 71: MoHFW F.No. V-16020/73/2020-INI-I dated 27.03.2020

CGHS reimbursement of OPD medicines: special sanction in view of COVID-19

In view of the guidelines for social distancing issued in relation to Covid 19, CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for chronic diseases may purchase medicines based on the prescription held, till 30th April 2020, irrespective of non-availability certificate from CGHS and submit the medical reimbursement claim. The idea behind the measures is that beneficiary need not visit the wellness Center.

Source 72: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 27th March 2020

Setting up task force by Department of Science and Technology (DST) for mapping of technologies by Start Ups on COVID-19

DST has set up a COVID 19 Task force consisting of representatives from DST, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Startup India and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for mapping of technologies from R&D labs, academic institutions, startups, and MSMEs to fund nearly market-ready solutions in the area of diagnostics, testing, health care delivery solutions, and equipment supplies. Some of these solutions include masks and other protective gear, sanitizers, affordable kits for screening, ventilators and oxygenators, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of outbreak through AI and IOT based solutions.

Source 73: PIB Delhi press release, ID-1608329 Ministry of Science and Technology Posted on 26th March 2020 4:21PM

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana - insurance cover for health care workers and relief package for poor people.

Finance Minister announces Rs 1.70 Lac Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help fight the battle against Corona Virus and Insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 in Government Hospitals and Health Care Centers

- Insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker fighting COVID-19 to be Provided under Insurance Scheme
- 80 crore poor people will get 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month for the next three months
- 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders to get Rs 500 per month for next three months
- Increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore Families
- Ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled

- Government to front-load Rs 2,000 paid to farmers in first week of April under existing PM Kisan Yojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers
- Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers

Source 74: Press Information Bureau Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India dated 26th March 2020

Gazette Notification sale of Hydroxychloroquine

Central Government is satisfied that drug 'Hydroxychloroquine' is essential to meet the requirements of emergency arising due to pandemic COVID-19. Therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, the Central Government has directed that sale by retail of any preparation containing the drug Hydroxychloroquine shall be in accordance with the conditions for sale of drugs specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Source 75: For more information see Gazette Notification below: CG-DL-E-26032020-218927, G.S.R .219(E) 26th March 2020

Doorstep Delivery of Drugs in the public interest

The Central Government has made provision for delivery of drugs to consumers directly at doorsteps, from person registered under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, within the same revenue district, on production of valid prescription. The drugs are supplied on production of prescription physically or through email and a bill is generated through e-mail.

Source 76: Gazette notification G.S.R .220(E)F.No.18-04/2020-DC dated 26th March 20

Emergency Control Office in the Ministry of Textile for monitoring and facilitating supply of materials for COVID-19

The Ministry of Textiles has set up an Emergency Control Room under the supervision of Special Secretary, Shri. P. K. Kataria to monitor production and supply of medical textiles (N-95 mask, Body Coveralls and melt blown fabric) which are required in connection with Covid-19.

Along with senior level officers, field officers are also appointed in emergency control room to take stock of the situation at ground level.

The contact details of all the officers have been shared for addressing the problem related to supply of medical textiles.

Source 77: F.No. 8/4/2020-R&D(Pt), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, 25th March 2020

Advisory on activities to be undertaken under the FNHW component of DAY NRLM in response to COVID-19 outbreak

In order to ensure proper awareness generation about COVID-19 outbreak and to enable the SHG members to be better prepared to manage themselves in the current scenario, as well as to support in amelioration of the difficulties being faced by the disadvantaged sections of the society, SRLMs are advised to consider activities through community institutions under DAY-NRLM and issue directions accordingly. All the activities undertaken by SRLMs must follow Advisories issued by MoHFW including advices regarding social distancing, mass gathering or any other Advisory issued by the state with regard to COVID-19 outbreak. All the Staff and members shall follow preventive measures as specified by the MoHFW on COVID -19.

Role of frontline workers in prevention & control of COVID-19

As you know a new respiratory disease called COVID-19 is spreading across the world. India has also reported cases from states and the government is trying to contain the spread of the disease.

All frontline workers play a major role in preventing spread and control of corona virus disease. The role includes Spread key messages in the community about measures to prevent the infection and take actions for early detection and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases.

[Source 79: NHM, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare](#)

Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/Quarantine of Covid-19

In order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, State and Central Governments have initiated various steps, which include setting up of quarantine centers/camps, Isolation wards, sample collection centers and laboratories.

Following specific guidelines for management of waste generated during diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19 suspected / confirmed patients are required to be followed by all the stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, ULBs and common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities, in addition to existing practices under BMW Management Rules, 2016.

[Source 80: Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 24th March 2020](#)

Addendum to Guidelines dated 24.03.2020, on revised exemption to lockdown by Ministry of Home Affairs

This order allow exemption to pay and account offices , financial advisers and field officers, Reserve bank of India and its regulated financial markets, petroleum products and supply chain, forest staff, people handling cargo operations at airports and railway stations, coal mining activities, officers and staff resident commissioners based in Delhi and customs clearance at ports , airports and land borders, workers required to operate and maintain zoo, nurseries, wildlife, firefighting in forests, watering plantations to work during lockdown.

Patrolling and their necessary transport movement, social welfare department staff for operations of home for children, disabled, senior citizens, destitute women, widows, observation homes and pensions service are also exempted.

[Source 81: No. 40-3/2020-DM-I \(A\), MHA, Govt. of India, dated 25.03.2020: Original Order no.40-3/2020-D dated 24.03.20](#)

MoHFW- Guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines describes components of PPE are goggles, face-shield, mask (Triple layer medical mask and N-95 Respirator mask), gloves, coverall/gowns (with or without aprons), head cover and shoe cover along with their specifications.

The PPEs are to be used based on the risk profile of the worker at different settings like immigration counters, customs and airport security, isolation facility of APHO, hospital setting, in-patient services and emergency department.

Doctors, nurses & other health staff working in ICU, attending to severely ill patients and in laboratories are exposed to high risk and should protect themselves with full complement of PPE. Doctors/ nurses during interview & clinical examination in holding area/ Isolation facility of APHO/ PHO are exposed to moderate risk and will require N-95 mask. Whereas persons working at Immigration Counters, customs and airport security are exposed to lower risk and a triple layer mask may be sufficient to protect them.

It also emphasizes that PPEs are not alternative to basic preventive public health measures such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquettes; maintaining a distance of at least 1 meter and following the laid down protocol for disposing off PPEs which must be followed at all times.

[Source 82: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services \[Emergency Medical Relief\]](#)

Fast Track Approval for Indian COVID-19 testing kits for commercial use

ICMR has established a fast-track mechanism for validation of non-US FDA EUA/ a CE IVD test kit and has recommended two RT-PCR (Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) test kits for use in ICMR approved government and private Laboratories. These kits can be used directly after due approval from DCGI and intimation to ICMR.

[Source 83: ICMR Press Release 23rd March 2020](#)

ICMR - Guidelines for COVID-19 testing in private labs

The laboratory should be NABL accredited for real-time PCR assay for RNA virus.

Test should be conducted only when prescribed by qualified physicians as per the ICMR guidelines for COVID-19 testing

Sample preferably be collected from home to avoid contact with people.

Only real time PCR based assays recommended should be used.

Reporting protocol to be followed as laid down in guidelines.

The Cost of testing should not exceed Rs. 4500/-. However, ICMR encourage free or subsidized testing in this hour of Public Health Emergency.

[Source 84: F.No.Z .28015/23/2020/EMR 21.03.2020 issued by MoHFW](#)

ICMR - Revised Strategy of COVID- 19 testing in India

Currently testing is undertaken for following people:

- i. All asymptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel in the last fourteen days:
 - They should stay in home quarantine for 14 days.
 - They should be tested only if they become symptomatic (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing)
 - All family members living with a confirmed case should be home quarantined
- ii. All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases.
- iii. All symptomatic health care workers.
- iv. All hospitalized patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough and/or shortness of breath).

- v. Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact.

Source 85: Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research, Version 3, dated 20/03/2020

CGHS guidelines in view of Corona virus (COVID-19) infections –issue of medicines

To ensure safety of high-risk group for Covid 19, medicines for chronic diseases can be issued/ indented in CGHS wellness centers for a period of three months through authorized representative. The high-risk groups are:

- Elderly beneficiaries aged 60 years and above
- Beneficiaries undergoing Immuno-suppressant treatment like organ transplant, chemotherapy, etc.
- Un-controlled diabetes/decompensated cardiac status
- Any other illness compelling stay at home.

Source 86: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 20th March 2020

Extending the last date of filing of unified annual return under 8 Labour Laws for year 2019 up to 30th April 2010 regarding COVID-19

The Filing of Unified online Annual Returns for the year 2019, under 8 Acts and 10 Central Rules were to be filed from 1st January to 1st February 2020. For the year 2019 a total of 30,420 Annual Returns so far have been received on Shram Suvidho Portal.

In, view of the spread of Novel Corona Virus, the lost date of filing of Annual Returns for the year 2019 is extended up to 30th Apr 2020. You ore therefore requested not to take any legal action for non-filing of Annual Returns for the year 2019 against the establishments and further requested to disseminate this information to all the establishments under your territorial jurisdiction for compliance and necessary action.

Source 87: F.No.14 (112)/2013/Coord-IT Cell, Government of India Ministry of Labor & Employment dated 20.03.2020

Relaxations of submission of notices, returns and other forms under Mines act 1952 due to COVID-19

Submission of notices, returns and other forms, Under the Mines act 1952, which were due for March & April 2020 has been extended for a period of 1 month from respective due dates

Source 88: No. DGMS/GENERAL/355 dated 20.3.2020 of Ministry of Labor and Employment

Ensuring availability of mask, gloves and sanitizers by Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers

To ensure uninterrupted supply of Mask, Gloves and Sanitizers and to facilitate the procurement, a list of manufacturers has been prepared by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and is shared with all State Governments with request to coordinate to maintain a seamless availability of these items..

Source 89: DO letter dated 20th March 2020, F. No. 37001/2020/ Div. III/ NPPA, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India

CGHS guidelines for Covid 19

In view of shortage of staff, all leaves for the staff, permissions/ requests to visit abroad are cancelled.

People with Chronic Diseases are being issued medicines for a period of '3' months. Beneficiaries are encouraged for online appointment system to reduce the waiting time.

For awareness of people visiting wellness centers, the Medical Officers are advised to educate and advice the beneficiaries as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and display awareness material.

Special attention is needed for cleanliness of the wellness center.

Source 90: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 18th March 2020

Relaxations of ESI contribution under ESI Act due to COVID-19

The provision of regulation 31 shall be read as 45 days instead of 15 days for the contribution payable for the month of February and March, 2020 only.

ESI contributions for month of February 2020 and March 2020 can be filled and paid up to 15th April 2020 and 15th May 2020 instead of 15th March 2020 and 15th April 2020 respectively.

Source 91: No. P-11/14/Misc./1/2019-Rev. dated 16.03.2020 of ESIC

MoHFW-Guidelines on Dead Body Management

Guidelines are provided for Standard Precautions to be followed by health care workers while handling dead bodies of COVID are to follow standard infection prevention control practices. The personnel handling the body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves). For transportation the body is secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated. Environmental cleaning and disinfection of surfaces is to be done with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution. Autopsy should be avoided, and embalming of body should not be allowed.

At the crematorium/ Burial Ground, the Crematorium/ burial Ground staff should be sensitized that COVID 19 does not pose additional risk.

Source 92: for more details, see MoHFW (EMR Division) guideline 15th March 2020