



## Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package

The Government of India announced significant investments to the tune of Rs.15,000 crores for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package' on 9 April 2020. The funds sanctioned will be utilized for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response (amount of Rs.7774 crores) and rest for medium-term support (1-4 years) to be provided under mission mode approach.



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The key objectives of the package include mounting emergency response to slow and limit COVID-19 in India through the development of diagnostics and COVID-19 dedicated treatment facilities, centralized procurement of essential medical equipment and drugs required for treatment of infected patients, strengthen and build resilient National and State health systems etc.

### iGot

The government of India launched a training module for management of COVID-19 named 'Integrated Govt. Online training' (iGOT) portal on Ministry of HRD's DIKSHA platform for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the pandemic efficiently. Courses on iGOT have been launched for Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), State Government Officers, Civil Defence Officers and other volunteers.

'Digital Infrastructure Knowledge Sharing' (DIKSHA) platform is well equipped to cater to unlimited demands of learning, anytime, anywhere. Multiple states in the country besides NCERT & CBSE will be using DIKSHA for online teacher training, conducting quizzes, and doing learning activities to promote creative & critical thinking, as well as for ensuring continuity in curriculum linked education for students in these times.

### National lockdown extended

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the extension of a nationwide lockdown till 3 May 2020, to arrest the spread of Covid-19 as the number of novel coronavirus cases were increasing day by day. Lockdown 2.0 came into force from 14 April till 3 May 2020. However, the PM said there could be some relaxations in places where there is no hotspot after 20 April. The relaxations include allowing Agriculture activities, Pharma Manufacturing industries in village areas, call centres for govt activities etc. PM also made a seven-point appeal in his address and sought people's support.

### Pool Testing of COVID-19

He also said India received huge benefits from the 21-day lockdown in checking the pandemic and added that the country has dealt with the situation better with limited resources. Pool Testing of COVID-19 Uttar Pradesh government decided to start pool testing of the coronavirus samples. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) gave permission for pool testing to the state in order to help maximise the testing of samples on a daily basis. During pool testing, if 10 samples are mixed and tested for Covid-19 and if they test negative, then it will be an indicator that all samples are negative. But if the test is not negative, then individual testing will be done. This will increase the testing capacity as well as accelerate the process.

# Kisan Rath.. Farm to Mandi

## Edison Award

Tata Power was conferred with the Edison Award under social innovation category and social energy solutions sub-category for its 'Club Enerji #Switchoff2SwitchOn' campaign. The Edison Awards, named after Thomas Alva Edison recognizes and honours the world's best innovations and innovators.

Tata Power's Club Enerji, a 12-year old sustainability initiative targeting school children, emerged as a successful model year ahead of it becoming a global movement.

This sustainability initiative has brought in

533 participating schools across India that has saved 29.8 million units of power since it started in 2007.

Tata Power has a presence across the entire power value chain generation of renewable as well as conventional power including hydro and thermal energy, transmission and distribution, trading and coal and freight logistics.



## Bharat Padhe Online

On 10 April 2020, the Union Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched a week long 'Bharat Padhe Online' campaign for Crowd sourcing of Ideas for Improving Online Education ecosystem of India at New Delhi.

The campaign is gaining popularity among social media users and the HRD Ministry has received more than 3700 suggestions for 'Bharat Padhe Online' campaign in just 3 days on Twitter and e-mail. People are appreciating this initiative and also thanking the Ministry for promoting the online education system. The campaign aims to invite all the best brains in India to share suggestions/solutions directly with HRD Ministry to overcome constraints of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms.

## Food Transportation Mobile App

On 17 April 2020, the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Kisan Rath Mobile App to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables during lockdown.

Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will greatly facilitate farmers, Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) and Cooperatives in the country to have the choice to find a suitable transport facility to transfer their agriculture produce from farm gate to markets.

Transportation will become easier with this app as it will help farmers and traders for transporting produce from farm gate to mandi and mandi to mandi all over the country.

The App will also facilitate traders in transportation of perishable commodities by Refrigerated vehicles. This Mobile App will be made available in eight languages in Android version initially and is ready for pan-India use.

## Dekho Apna Desh

The Tourism Ministry on 16 April 2020 organised its second webinar under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.

It provides people to get a chance to know about Calcutta - A Confluences of Culture. The Webinar on Kolkata also gave an interesting insight into the contribution of various communities in the development of Kolkata.

The Ministry is organizing the series with a view to encourage Indians to explore their own country and to enrich the knowledge of stakeholders in the tourism industry, students and general public on various aspect of tourism sector.

## COVSACK

To intensify fight against Covid 19, Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) Hyderabad developed 'COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk' (COVSACK) The COVSACK is a kiosk through which healthcare workers can take coronavirus samples from suspected infected patients.

The patient walks into the kiosk and a nasal/oral swab is taken by healthcare professional from outside through the built-in gloves. The kiosk is automatically disinfected without the need for human involvement, making the process free of infection spread.

The shielding screen of the kiosk cabin protects the healthcare worker from the aerosols/droplet transmission while taking the sample.

## ZERO-COV

NIT-K (National Institute of Technology - Karnataka) researchers developed a technique named 'ZERO-COV' to disinfect personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, surgical masks, vegetables, packaged food items, currency notes and other day-to-day items.

By placing these items in the disinfection chamber for 15 minutes, one can ensure destruction or inactivation of bacteria and viruses by 99.9 per cent. Quoting Isloor, it said the technology used is UV-C (ultra violet C type) radiation. It can destroy the nucleic acids of any germs present on the surfaces.

UV technology is well proven and accepted by the scientific community and the World Health Organization recommended it for surface disinfection.

## General Awareness

### SGB Scheme 2020-21

The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB).

The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in six tranches from April 2020 to September 2020. The Bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognized stock exchanges.

The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value. Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold and the Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.

The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

The maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 Kg for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time. The issue price of the Gold Bonds will be Rs.50 per gram less for those who subscribe online and pay through digital mode.

## Model Questions

- Who is the present Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?  
1) Dr. Harsha vardhan  
2) Dr. Sowmya Swaminathan  
3) Dr. Balram Bhargava  
4) Dr. Prabhakar Reddy  
5) Dr. Ashok Seth
- Pramod Sawant is the chief minister of which state declared to treat COVID-19 positive patients with Allopathy and Ayurveda to boost their immunity?  
1) Goa 2) Pondicherry 3) Maharashtra  
4) Madhya Pradesh 5) Uttarakhand
- Gita Gopinath is the chief economist of..  
1) World Bank  
2) International Monetary Fund  
3) Asian Development Bank

- 4) AIIB 5) NDB
- First Railway station in India to install a 'Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel' is..  
1) Ahmadabad 2) Hyderabad 3) Pune  
4) Kolkata 5) Chennai
- National Safe Motherhood Day observed on..  
1) 5 April 2) 14 April 3) 17 April  
4) 11 April 5) 1 April
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured..... support to India in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.  
1) \$ 2.2 billion 2) \$ 1.2 billion  
3) \$ 3.2 billion 4) \$ 4.2 billion  
5) \$ 6.2 billion
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut its projection of India's economic growth to ..... per cent for the current financial year 2020-2021  
1) 1.4 % 2) 2.4 % 3) 1.5 %

- 4) 0.9 % 5) 1.9 %
- Which Nation approved the sale of Harpoon Block II missiles and MK 54 light-weight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India?  
1) Israel 2) UK 3) USA  
4) Russia 5) France
- International Day of Human space flight observed on..  
1) 9 April 2) 7 April 3) 2 April  
4) 12 April 5) 20 April
- Who is the present chairman of National Commission for Women?  
1) Smriti Irani 2) Harsimrat Kaur Badal  
3) Rekha Sharma 4) Sumithra Mahajan  
5) Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri

### KEY

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