

COVID-19

Views from OSRAs, India

Dr Suvro Banerjee, India - East Region of India and West Bengal

Dr Milind Manohar Desai, India - Western India – Maharashtra, Mumbai, Goa, Gujarat

Dr Jugal Kishor Sharma, India-North and Central Regions

Dr Pazhani Ranganathan, India - Tamil Nadu

Dr Vinod Ravindran, India- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala

Overview

- * COVID-19 pandemic has affected India too.
- * As of 8th April 2020 there are 4643 active cases, 149 deaths and 401 patients have been reported as cured/discharged. (source, <https://www.mohfw.gov.in>, updated daily)
- * Over 60% of deaths have been in the age > 60 years
- * All states and union territories of India have been affected.
- * Nation wide 3 weeks lockdown was started on March 25th 2020, further extension under review.

Management of the COVID-19 pandemic by health service in India

- * Health services in India in all sectors are responding to this pandemic under the direction and supervision of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of the Government of India
- * The strategy includes: Testing, Isolation, Treatment
- * Health services are following the MoHFW guidelines for testing, quarantine, and treatment of individuals with suspected/confirmed COVID infection. These guidelines are being revised periodically.

Management of people with COVID-19 in the community and secondary care

- * Contact tracing is vigorously being carried out.
- * Large number of quarantine facilities have been set up across India
- * Numerous fever clinics have been opened for screening.
- * The capacity to test for COVID-19 is being increased on war footing with The government has established a fast-track mechanism to boost domestic manufacturing of testing kits, allowing validation by National Institute of Virology, Pune.
- * All suspected cases are being reported to district and state surveillance officers.
- * In all states several hospitals have been designated as COVID-19 treatment centers where dedicated facilities for its treatment have been created.
- * Patients are being treated as per the MoHFW guidelines

Some measures being taken to ensure the wellbeing of doctors during this period

- Information:** MoHFW and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is constantly providing information on the best practices related to management of COVID-19 to doctors.
- * **Protection:** Indian government is ensuring the availability of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for all frontline medical staff.
- * **Chemoprophylaxis:** Asymptomatic doctors involved in care of COVID-19 suspected or confirmed cases are being given prophylaxis as advised by the ICMR.
- * **Support:** Government of India has proposed Rs 50, 000,000 (US\$ 66,000) special health insurance for doctors handling COVID-19 pandemic in India.

Innovative measure in India for fight against COVID-19

1: Co-ordination between health services and the public

- * **Aarogya Setu** is a mobile application developed by the Government of India to connect essential health services with the people of India in the combined fight against COVID-19.
- * This App is aimed at augmenting the initiatives of the Government of India, in proactively reaching out to and informing the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19.

Innovative measure in India for fight against COVID-19

2: Fighting fake news

- * Government of India is constantly helping the public fight the fake news related to COVID-19 thru several measures (special inserts in print and electronic media, expert engagement to dispel myths among public and daily authentic updates etc.)
- * <https://www.covid-gyan.in> : This website serves as a hub to bring together a collection of resources in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. These resources are generated by public supported research institutions in India and associated programs. The content presented here relies on the best available scientific understanding of the disease and its transmission.

Innovative measure in India for fight against COVID-19

3: Make in India!

- * As a part of COVID-19 preparedness Indian Railways is converting coaches of trains into makeshift isolation wards (target 50,000 beds, in phases of 5000).
- * Government is encouraging indigenous production of kits, PPE and ventilators by companies who are not ordinarily manufacturer of these items.
- * **COVID 19 Solution Challenge** (<https://innovate.mygov.in/covid19>): A competition by the Indian Government in order to involve the community in the fight against the Virus. Open to individuals and startups, it seeks innovative solutions to help fight #Coronavirus.