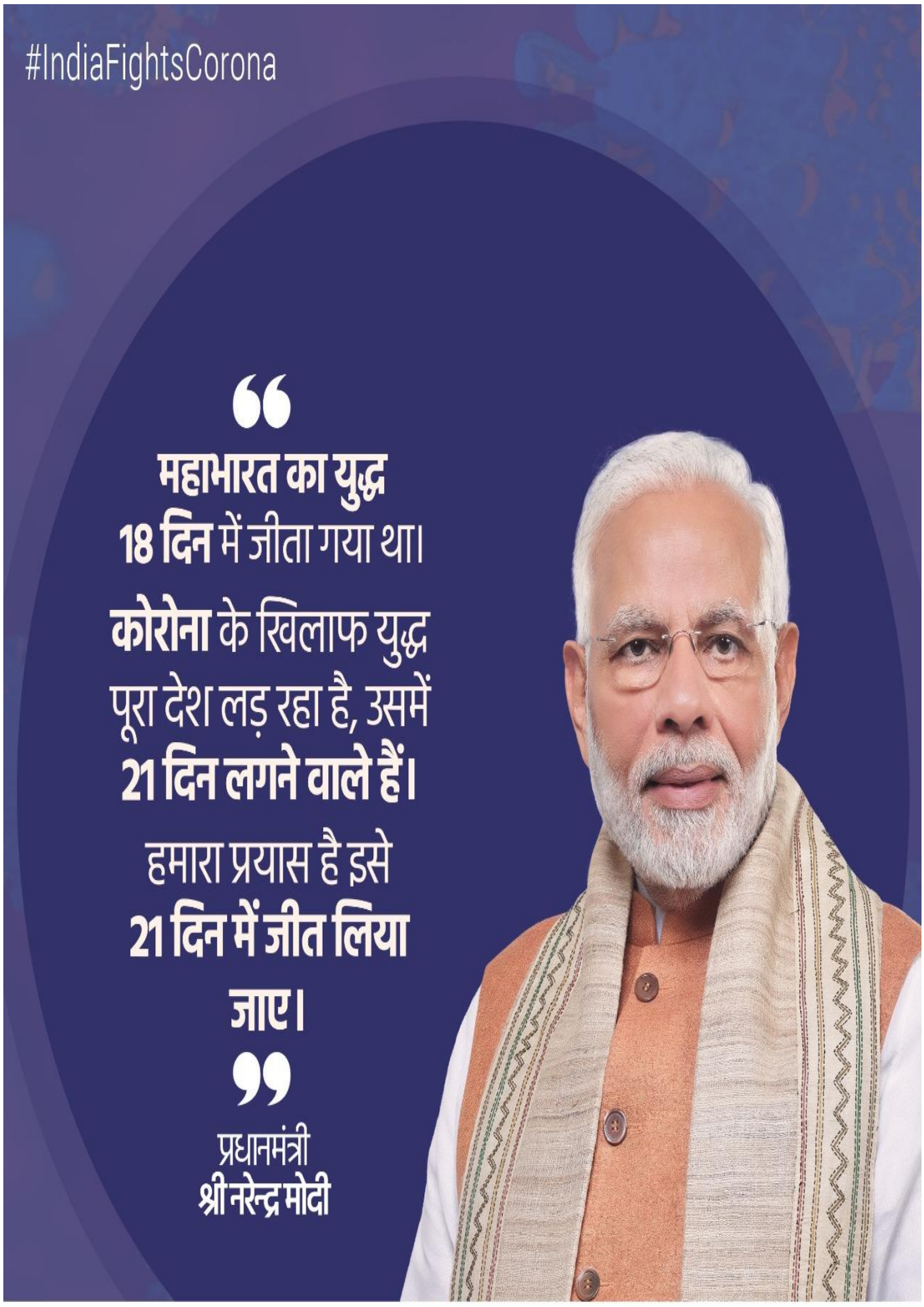
COVID-19 Daily Update



Current Scenario

Takeaway from G20 video summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a new approach to globalisation and multilateralism in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic during his address at the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit.

- PM Modi stressed on the need to look at globalisation and multilateralism not just through the prism of economic and financial issues, but also through humanitarian aspects, in order to address future pandemics effectively. He added that 90% of the COVID-19 cases and 88% of deaths were in G20 countries even as they share 80% of world GDP and 60% of world population. He called on the G20 to come out with a concrete action plan to fight the global pandemic.

- G20 countries committed to inject over USD 5 trillion into the global economy to counter the social and economic impact of COVID-19. Leaders also agreed to contribute to the WHO led COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on a voluntary basis.

- India was lauded by other G20 leaders on the effort it has made to deal with this unprecedented crisis under the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

- "The WHO initially did not have the mandate to deal with a pandemic of this sort, which is why empowering of WHO is necessary, be it in terms of its capacity of early warning or development of effective vaccines, or capacity-building," PM said.

- G20 leaders also committed to provide immediate resources to the WHO's Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund, the Norway-based vaccine de Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI), and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, on a voluntary basis.

- "The member countries planned strategy to fight the virus which has spread across the globe. The focus was on how all could come together to collectively for humanity rather than individually. The focus was also on how all countries could work together to make diagnostic kits and medicines as well as do R&D together."

- Apart from the G20 countries, the conference was also joined by Singapore, Spain, Jordan, and Switzerland. Other participants included the United Nations, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Finance Stability Board, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Corona Virus Updates (Worldwide)

- US overtakes China with over 82,000 coronavirus cases

- US working with health professionals of SAARC members to fight COVID-19: Senior US Diplomat Alice Wells

- Pakistan has decided to seek USD 3.7 bn in loans to offset virus impact from three multilateral creditors which includes IMF, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

India Fights Corona (Updates)

- Maharashtra: Yavatmal police stopped two trucks carrying people, at a border check post on the Maharashtra-Telangana border. They were going to their home state Rajasthan from Telangana amid #Corona virus Lockdown.

- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath: I held talks with Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi and assured him that all people going to Bihar will be taken care of and will be sent safely to their destinations.

- We have given an order to a PSU to provide 10,000 ventilators. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has also been requested to purchase 30,000 additional ventilators in 1-2 months: Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry

- States and UTs have been requested to make arrangements for food, water & sanitation for the migrant labourers. Hotels and rented accommodation should stay open and functional, while taking all the COVID19 precautions: Punya Salila Srivastava, Joint Secretary, MHA

- Around 1.4 lakh companies have asked their employees to work from home on our appeal: Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health & Family Welfare

- Human body cells release interferon chemical to kill viruses. But it can't be released by cells in the case of COVID19 cases, leading to weak immune system. We got hold of some preprint suggesting that interferon is effective in COVID19: Oncologist Dr. Vishal Rao in Bengaluru

- When we withdraw blood for regular check-ups, we get buffy coat which can be used to take out cells & form interferon. These two chemicals & some other cytokines, in a specific concoction, could be potentially very useful in treating COVID19 patients: Oncologist Vishal Rao

- We have built a concoction of cytokines which can be injected to reactivate immune system in COVID19 patients. We're in a very initial stage & hope to be ready with its first set by this weekend. We have applied to the govt for an expedited review. Since this is not vaccine so it can't prevent infection of COVID19. This is focused on #COVID19 positive patients: Oncologist Vishal Rao in Bengaluru: Oncologist Vishal Rao

- Odisha: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has listed 28 stores/outlets that will make essential commodities available at the doorstep of people from 7 am to 11 pm.

- The first COVID19 positive case in Amritsar, Punjab who was placed in isolation at Guru Nanak Dev hospital has tested negative now & will be discharged soon. The person had travel history to Italy: Shivdular Singh Dhillon, Amritsar Deputy Commissioner

- A COVID19 positive person has died in Bhilwara, Rajasthan. He had comorbid conditions including diseases relating to kidney and blood pressure: Rajan Nanda, Principal, Mahatma Gandhi Hospital

- A special train had reached Kanpur Railway station carrying about 200 persons from Maharashtra's Nashik, to their home state Uttar Pradesh.

All passengers were screened at the station & underwent 14-day quarantine stamping with indelible ink on their hands.

- In view of #COVID19, Muslims are recommended to offer Zuhur at home instead of praying Jumah at mosques. Don't come out for congregational prayers & stay at homes. It is mandatory upon all to avoid causing harm to their fellow citizens: All India Muslim Personal Law Board

- Second positive case of COVID19 in Andamans. He had traveled with the first positive case. Both in hospital and protocols being followed: Chetan Sanghi, Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Free dry ration will be distributed among poor in district, starting with municipalities today. All chemist shops to open from today. Supply of milk to be allowed only between 8-11 am&4 Groceries shall open on Mar 27 only, between 10 am-4 pm: DC Reasi (Jammu & Kashmir)

- 3 COVID19 patients from Pune's Pimpri-Chinchwad (Maharashtra) have tested negative in their repeat samples. They will be discharged today following due process. Total number of #Coronavirus positive cases in Pune district is now 32, out of which 5 have been already cured and discharged.: Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Commissioner Shravan Hardikar

- India proposed a shared electronic platform for all SAARC nations to share and exchange information, knowledge, expertise and best practices for jointly combating the coronavirus epidemic. It was informed that considerable work has already gone into the creation of the platform.

- India proposed that till such time the electronic platform is fully operational, a network of experts representing the Health Services of all SAARC countries may set up on email/WhatsApp to enable exchange of all relevant information between the SAARC countries on real-time basis.

- The Central govt hereby directs 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: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- One more #Coronavirus positive case reported in Telangana. Total number of positive cases in the state reaches 45 till 8:00 AM on 27th March. The person is a 45-year-old male, having a travel history to Delhi. Patient is stable and under isolation: Telangana Health department

- Kerala: Anupam Mishra, Kollam Sub-Collector who was asked to stay at home after he returned from abroad on March 19 has moved to Kanpur. The district collector has submitted a report to the state government stating that the sub collecter has violated quarantine restrictions.

- 2 more Coronavirus positive cases found in Bihar - one from Siwan with travel history to Dubai, another from Nalanda with no travel history to any foreign country. Total positive cases in state rises to 9: Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRI) official

- Andhra Pradesh: Case registered against two Non-Residential Indians for skipping home quarantine in Mylavaram of Krishna District. Police says,"Both of them returned from US on March 14 & were placed under home quarantine. Today they were found missing from their homes"

- Maharashtra: Despite regulation by Govt masks and sanitisers are out of stock in the market. A pharmacist in Nagpur says,"sanitisers are in the market & are being sold at whatever price govt has decided but distributors are not ready to give masks under Rs 13-14."

- Total number of #Coronavirus positive cases in the country rises to 724 (including 66 cured/discharged persons and 17 deaths): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Corona virus Lockdown : 24 hour control room established for UP residents at the Uttar Pradesh Bhawan in Delhi. People can contact the UP Bhawan Control Room at 011-26110151 to 26110155, and 9313434088

- Indian Army has code-named its anti COVID19 operations as Operation Namaste. Army has, so far, established eight quarantine facilities across the country.

- In the last 12 hours no #coronavirus positive case has been reported in Gujarat: Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

Steps taken by RBI to give support and stability to Indian economy

- Repo rate reduced by 75 basis points to 4.4%. Reverse repo-rate reduced by 90 basis points to 4%.

- RBI has decided to reduce the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of all banks by 100 basis points to 3% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities with effect from the fortnight beginning March 28 for a period of 1 year.

- All commercial banks including regional rural banks, cooperative banks, NBFCs (including housing finance companies) &lending institutions are being permitted to allow a moratorium of 3 months on payment of installments in respect of all term loans outstanding as on March 1.

- To ensure normal functioning of markets, nurture impulses of growth & preserve financial stability. Incidentally, RBI quarantined 150 members of their staff & service providers together with IT facilitators as a part of Business Continuity Plan.

Highlights from Various Articles on Corona Virus

- "Given the scale of the challenge and the danger to human lives – the WHO has described it as the "defining global health crisis of our time" -- the efforts of the Indian government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been applauded widely."

- Henk Bekedam, the WHO Representative to India, was quoted as saying that the "commitment of the Indian government from the top level has been enormous, and very impressive".

- At the very first level -- unlike China, which long remained in denial mode -- the Indian government was quick enough to activate its health management system and issue necessary travel advisories. Many state governments followed suit, leading to the early detection and isolation of infected patients.

- Moreover, the state machinery -- led by the Ministry of Health and other related agencies -- were prompt enough to issue 'valid precautionary guidelines' to keep the public well-informed and prepared.

- The Indian government has also been applauded globally for safely flying back many of its citizens -- especially workers and students stuck abroad in the mainland China and other coronavirus-affected countries, speaking volumes about the government's concern and efforts for its citizens.

- As well, by actively cooperating with SAARC countries, and contributing to its emergency fund, PM Modi was able to expand the limits of India's neighbourhood first policy.

- Managing a new virus outbreak is never an easy task for any state, but the way the Indian emergency response system has been activated holds lessons for the other countries in the future.

Source: https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/coronavirus-india-government-response-1657502-2020-03-19

- घरों में हाथ-पैर धोकर ही प्रवेश की अनुमति थी, लेकिन पाश्चात्य जीवनशैली के प्रभाव में हमने अपनी दिनचर्या में शामिल इन तौर-तरीकों को दकियानूसी एवं अंधविश्वास कहा और नकारते गए। जबकि इन ध्वानियों के निकलने से जीवाणु, विषाणु एवं कीटाणु या तो मर जाते थे या फिर बेअसर हो जाते थे। कोरोना की दस्तक और हजारों लोगों के प्राण लील लेने से यह साफ हो गया है कि आखिर में हम ऐसी महामारियों से छुटकारा पारंपरिक ज्ञान और वातावरण की अधिकतम शुद्धता से ही पा सकते हैं।

- जब हम छोटे थे और गांव में रहते थे, तब बाहर से आने पर घर में हाथ-पैर धोए बिना प्रवेश वर्जित था। लोगों से दूर रहने की सलाह भी माता-पिता देते थे। अब जब कोरोना वायरस ने महामारी का रूप ले लिया, तब हमसे इन्हीं उपायों को अपनाने के लिए कहा जा रहा है। कोरोना प्रभावित देशों ने परस्पर दूरी बनाए रखने के लिए लॉकडाउन कर लिया है।

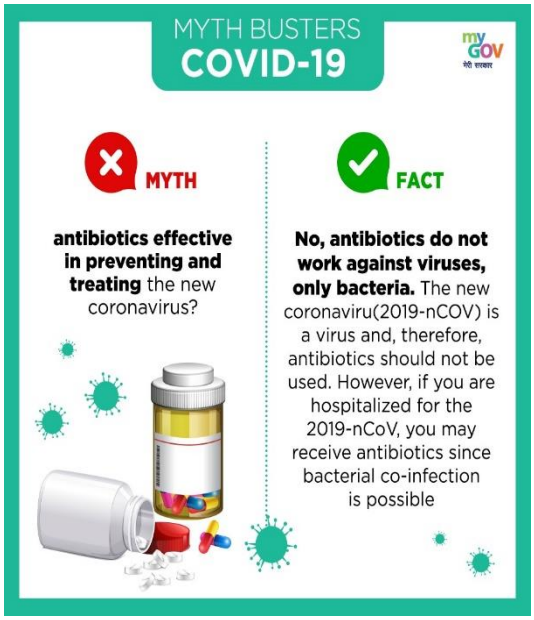
- प्रधानमंत्री ने ताली एवं थाली बजाकर उन लोगों के प्रति कृतज्ञता प्रगट करने को कहा था, जो दिन-रात कोरोना से मुक्ति की लड़ाई में जुटे हुए हैं। इनमें चिकित्सक और नर्स समेत सभी स्वास्थ्यकर्मी शामिल हैं। पुलिस और मीडिया के लोग भी दिनरात सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। इस संकट की घड़ी में हमें पता चल रहा है कि वास्तव में हमारे आदर्श कौन होने चाहिए।

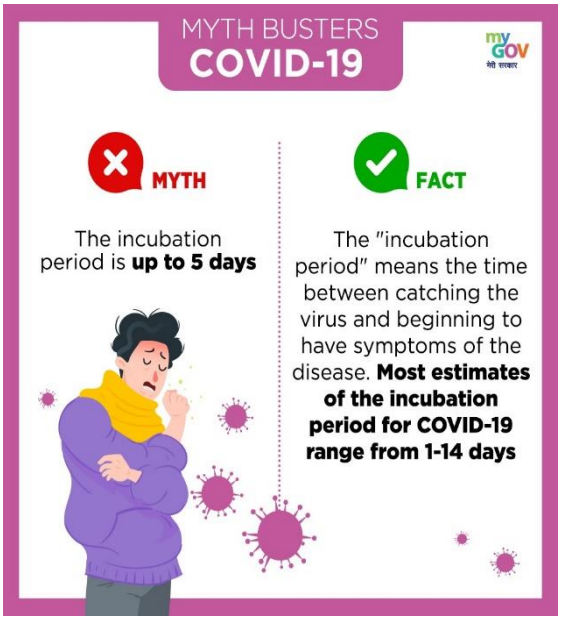
- भारत में इस समय सबसे बड़ा संकट ऐसे लोगों की पहचान करना है, जो बीते दो माह के भीतर संक्रमण से प्रभावित देशों से लौटे हैं। राजस्थान सहित अन्य राज्यों में पर्यटकों के माध्यम से भी यह बीमारी फैली है।

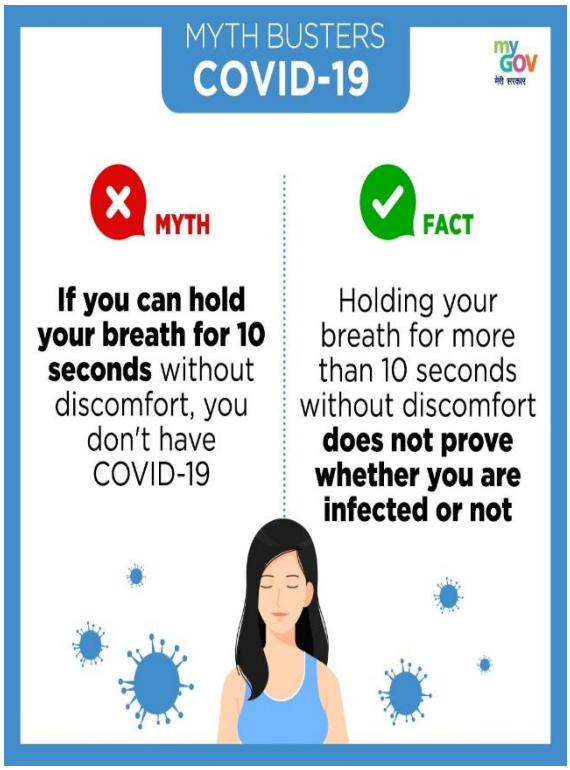
  Source: https://www.jagran.com/editorial/apnibaat-coronavirus-lockdown-now-success-will-be-able-to-prevent-coronavirus-only-through-lockdown-jagran-special-20137241.html

RSS Swayamsevaks distributing essentials to the needy people during 'Lockdown'

Myth Busters on COVID-19







All you need is a good, safe & secure home

#StayHomeStaySafe