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**Covid-19: Yogi Government  
Proactively Combats Covid**

## Right decision at right time

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call for solidarity in the fight against Covid-19 has found one its best expressions in Uttar Pradesh where the Yogi Adityanath government has been immensely successful in implementing the policy decisions taken by the central government. Uttar Pradesh has faced a plethora of challenges since the early days of the Corona crisis. Whether it was the issue of controlling the corona pandemic or the return of migrant workers, the Yogi government has left no stone unturned in helping people in distress. Not only has it taken effective steps to combat the ever-increasing challenges but has also started taking concrete measures for a better and brighter future.

# Initiating Urgent Steps

- In January 2020, after receiving information about the outbreak of Covid-19 in many countries, and proactively following directives of the Union Government, the Yogi government initiated necessary steps such as the creation of isolation wards, purchasing safety kits, creating awareness about the need for practising social distancing, etc.
- As soon as the initial cases started being reported from March 15 onwards, the government started taking all the necessary precautions regarding traffic management, handling crowds in the markets, etc. On March 22, lock-down was implemented in 16 districts where the risk of the pandemic ran high.
- Keeping a close vigil at the initial stages, the government of Uttar Pradesh implemented 'The Epidemic Act 1897.' As per the provisions of this act, various District Magistrates were given the powers to contain the spread of rumours, keeping any person suffering from Covid-19 symptoms in isolation for 14 days, sealing those localities in which Corona positive patients had been detected etc.
- Integrated control rooms were established in every district and their contact numbers were made available to the general public.
- Thermal analyzers were installed at all check posts along the India-Nepal border. Screening arrangements were made at all the airports in the state. Instructions were given to establish control rooms in all districts to deal with the pandemic.



# Team-11: Professional approach to the battle against Covid-19

- Soon after the lockdown came into force, the Yogi government, after interaction with the common public constituted a ‘Team-11’ on March 27 under the supervision of competent officials to chalk out an effective action plan in dealing with the problems created due to the pandemic. This team was entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the following situations –
  1. Starting construction work, online education, making arrangements for the sowing season so as to make sure that farmers are not affected, harvesting, sale, agricultural investment and animal husbandry.
  2. Revenue receipts, employment opportunities, industrial units and ensuring the safety and security of workers, emergency services in medical colleges and hospitals are actually effective and responsive, pensions and scholarship distribution.
  3. Medical system, establishment of shelter-homes, community kitchen, providing financial assistance to daily wage laborers, availability of ration, fruits, vegetables etc. and ensuring doorstep delivery.
  4. Ensuring hygiene, sanitation and provision of drinking water in rural and urban areas, ensuring availability of drinking water in Bundelkhand and Vindhya region and protecting the interests of the differently abled.
  5. Supply of essential commodities (home delivery), delivery of declared assistance for laborers, helpless and weaker sections, controlling traffic, providing authentic information/facts to media, control room arrangements, ensuring the availability of medical facilities by medical education units.
  6. Fodder for cattle, sawdust, etc; necessary manufacturing units like pulse mill, flour mill, coordination among road construction units; cleanliness, sanitation etc.

# Financial assistance to workers



- In a quick move by the Yogi Adityanath government, on March 24, 2020, an amount of Rs. 1 thousand each was transferred to the accounts of 5.97 lakh workers through DBT.
- On March 30, 2020, the Yogi government transferred Rs. 611 crore payable to 27.15 lakh MNREGA workers through online processes in their accounts.
- In April 2020, the UP government decided to provide 1-month free ration to about 1.65 crore Antyodaya Yojana construction workers and daily laborers registered in MNREGA and Labour Department.
- By the first week of May, a total amount of Rs. 314.71 crore was disbursed to 31.47 lakh destitute people comprising of 17.07 lakh identified laborers in the construction sector, 8.25 lakhs in urban areas and 6.15 lakh destitute workers in rural areas at the rate of Rs. 1000 per head.

# Welfare of the Poor: Effective Implementation of Modi Government's schemes

In the war against Covid-19, the Narendra Modi Government has taken many effective decisions displaying a pragmatic and effective policy foresight. Various dimensions regarding welfare of the poor and humanitarian approach towards addressing challenges are clearly discernible in the Modi government's decisions. The Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh has achieved unprecedented success in implementing the public welfare schemes of Modi Government. It has proved that in such difficult times, having a 'double engine' government based on coordination and synergy between the Union and the state is indeed beneficial for the common public. It establishes Prime Minister Modi's vision of cooperative federalism and the spirit of "Team India."

- Through the New India Assurance, all the doctors / health workers posted in various hospitals across the state were given an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh by the government.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana, more than 2 crore farmers were paid INR 4747 crores between 01 April 2020 and May. A total of 167 lakh LPG gas cylinders were had also been distributed free to 1.44 crore families by the first week of May.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the first instalment of Rs 500 has been sent to bank accounts of 3.26 crore women beneficiaries. Under this scheme, the Uttar Pradesh government shall receive Rs. 4890 crore from the central government in three months.
- Out of the 3.05 lakh laborers working in various units of the organized sector having less than 100 workers, the Yogi Government has transferred an amount of Rs. 11.05 crores to the PF accounts of 73,327 labourers.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 6.86 lakh metric

tonnes of free food grains were distributed to 3.32 crore ration card holders by the end of April.

- Under the NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission), a sum of Rs. 394.77 crore has been sent to the Rural Development Department by the Central Government for the purpose of self-help groups.

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## Standing by the Weak: Senior citizens, destitute women and Physically differently abled

- On April 3, 2020, a total amount of Rs 871.46 crore was sent online as two months advance pension to 86.72 lakh beneficiaries of old age, destitute women, PwD and leprosy pensions .An amount of more than 260 crores has been sent as a second instalment to widow pensioners.



- 8.25 lakh helpless people in rural areas and municipal bodies, who were unable to feed themselves and their families were provided assistance at the rate of 1,000 per month on the recommendation of the Collector.
- It was decided to deposit Rs. 1,000 in the bank accounts of about 15 lakh laborers, rickshaw pullers, e-rickshaw drivers, laborers, hawkers, etc.

# Protecting the Interest of the Farmers



- Harvesting of Rabi crops was completed with ease. Adequate availability of crop seeds, fertilizer etc. was ensured as per the demands and requirement of the farmers. As for the availability of agricultural implements and tractors, etc., their sales centres and service centres were opened.
- Starting from April 15 till May 30, 126.42 lakh quintal of wheat was purchased from 4.52 lakh farmers at 5,953 government procurement centres and a total of 63.6 lakh quintal of wheat was purchased from the markets. The government purchased 8571 Metric tonne of gram and 264 Metric tonne mustard.
- Out of total 2057 cold storages in the state, 1911 cold storages are currently operational. Till May 30, 98 metric tonnes of potato was stored against a total capacity of 156 lakh mt.
- During the lockdown in the state, all 119 sugar mills were in operation and the distilleries played an important role in sanitizer production.

# Increased Food Distribution

- Continuous distribution of food grains in urban and rural areas was done during the lockdown. In this, MNREGA job card beneficiaries, registered construction workers of labour department, daily laborers were also included.
- In the month of April 2020, 7.47 lakh metric tonnes of food grains were distributed to a total of 3.24 crore card holders (13.45 crore units) under the National Food Security Act. Under this Act, free ration was distributed to 38 crore workers / workers.
- Till May 30, 2020, 7.5 lakh metric tonnes of food grains were distributed to 3.38 crore ration card holders on a total of 14.38 crore units, out of which 95 lakh cards were distributed free of cost to the holders.
- Ration card holders in Uttar Pradesh were also provided with the facility of National Ration Portability from May 1, 2020 so that they can avail ration even when in other states.
- For delivery of fruits and vegetables, a massive plan was worked out which saw 14,550 mobile / vans / e-rickshaws / tractors and 30,455 carts / haathu cart (manual driven) being used for the purpose of distribution from a total of 45,005 vehicles. A total of 20.9 million litres of milk was also procured during this period substantially mitigating the difficulties faced by milkmen.



# An Effective Community Kitchen Model



- Uttar Pradesh became the first state to monitor all community kitchens via geo-tagging through video wall.
- In the month of May, 3,327 community kitchens were being operated in various districts of the state through which more than 12 lakh people were being fed daily.
- By the end of May, 2020 in 400 hot-spot areas of the state, 26.56 lakh people had been served food by religious and voluntary institutions and 21.85 lakhs by community kitchens, making it a total of 48.42 lakh people being served food on a daily basis.
- 2.53 crore people were provided food items through voluntary organizations and 1.95 crore through district administration and other government institutions, making it a total of 4.53 crore citizens being provided with food items.

# Developing a Robust System of Testing and Treatment

- In order to prevent infection, the state government, in the first place, ensured a separate arrangements for Covid and non-Covid hospitals in the state.
- In February 2020, which happened to be the initial month of Corona infection, there was not a single laboratory for testing Covid-19 in the state. However by the beginning of May, 2020, 26 laboratories became operational in the state, including 22 government laboratories.
- By the first week of May, more than 1 lakh isolation beds, about 26,419 quarantine beds had been kept ready in the state. This was made possible only due to the concrete strategy and implementation by the state government. Ventilators were made available in all the districts of the state. There are currently 1466 ventilator beds available in the state.
- 403 Level-1 Covid Hospitals, 75 Level-2 Covid Hospitals and 25 Level-3 Hospitals have been established by the State Government. Provision of more than 1 lakh beds has been made in all three types of hospitals.
- Testing capacity has been increased with more than 3.6 crore people being surveyed till date. Over 2 crore people have already downloaded the Arogya Setu App.



# Caring for Returning Migrant Workers

- In the last week of March 2020, the Uttar Pradesh government arranged thousands of buses to ferry lakhs of stranded workers / labourers from Delhi-UP Border overnight. Systematically working to a well laid plan it ferried these stranded workers/ labourers to their respective destinations safely.
- Over 12,000 students stranded in Kota, Rajasthan and more than 15,000 students in Prayagraj were also transported to their homes via free bus service after medical examination.
- After the medical examination of the migrant workers by government agencies, upon their arrival in their native districts, those who did not show any symptoms of corona, were sent to their houses and were given food grains as well as a maintenance allowance for 1 month. As for those who had developed symptoms, arrangements were made to send them to various hospitals after a thorough examination.
- A total of 18,156 shelter homes have been established across various districts in the state with a total capacity of 14.5 lakh. More than 1 lakh people are living in these till date
- Special trains were run by the Government of India to bring back the migrant workers of UP from other states. By May 2020, a total of over 23 lakh people were brought back to Uttar Pradesh in 1567 trains. Apart from this, 3.5 lakh workers / students / other persons were brought back to the state in more than 14 thousand buses from different states



# Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi: Yogi Government's concern for all



- State level control rooms and district level control rooms were established to analyse problems/issues related to industries.
- Grievances related to payment of salaries were solved through the Chief Minister's Helpline (1076). Salaries worth 1682 crores were paid to the workers by 84,174 industrial units of the state.
- Under EPF of organized sector, 33,560 claims of 24 lakh personnel were accepted and an amount of 73.77 crore was sent.
- By producing a record 90 lakh litres of sanitizer till the last week of May 2020, not only were the internal requirements of the state met but also 78 lakh litres were supplied to other states and employment generation was also done.
- In addition to 3,17,121 units in the small and medium category, 77,830 industrial units in the micro category were activated, which secured employment to 28 lakh people.
- 85 units for manufacturing PPE kits and masks have been activated in the state. Manufacturing in 412 units related to medical equipment and drug manufacturing etc. was also speeded up.



- Work in the brick kilns in the state were resumed. This met the demands of the construction sector as well as secured employment for more than 5 lakh people working in the kilns.
- Along with DBT of Rs. 1000 per month provided from the ‘Labour Cess Fund’ to 16.91 lakh registered labourers associated with construction work, construction work with security protocol including the construction of the expressways, were also started.
- Under the MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee) scheme, Rs 611 crore was distributed by the state government to 27.15 lakh card holders from its own resources. UP became the leading state in providing employment through MNREGA.
- On 12 May 2020, an amount of Rs. 225.39 crore was paid to 35,818 employed servants working in the state under MNREGA.
- Under the MNREGA Scheme, more than 39 lakh persons were given employment in the state till May and 13,369 self-help groups under the National Rural Livelihood Mission have involved in the manufacturing of sanitizers, PPEs and masks to deal with Covid-19, thereby earning their livelihood.

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