HIGHLIGHTS

• In light of the COVID-19 situation on consultation with States PM announced the extension of the national lockdown in India till 3rd May, details here.
• Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare held a video conference with health functionaries and senior officials as well as field officers of WHO SEARO and Country Office on the containment measures for COVID-19 in India, details available here.
• WHO officers working at national, state and district level providing technical coordination for the development of Micro-Plans for clusters and outbreak containment with States/UT officials and also helping them in devising a strategy for continued surveillance of districts, details available here.
• WHO’s is also supporting Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) to further strengthen the ongoing surveillance and response based on transmission scenarios & testing of cases, details available here.
• A high-level Task Force has been formed to work on the frontiers of science related to drug testing and vaccines. Through the Task Force, the Government will further facilitate, keep track and monitor the progress of national and international efforts in vaccine development, details available here.

INDIA SITUATION

• As of 19 April 2020 (5:00 PM), according to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), a total of 16 116 COVID-19 cases including (77 foreign nationals) in 32 states/union territories. These include 2301 who have been cured/discharged, 1 migrated and 519 deaths. Available here.
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- WHO and Global Citizen featured inspiring and heartwarming stories from the frontlines of the COVID-19 response through livestreamed appearances curated in collaboration with Lady Gaga, Sir Elton John, Billie Eilish and others on major social media networks, streaming services, and major television networks worldwide, details available here.
- WHO SEARO joined a meeting with WHO India and MoHFW under the leadership of the Union Minister with health functionaries and senior officials as well as field officers of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the containment measures for COVID-19 in India particularly institutionalizing field support, details available here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including surveillance and contact tracing, laboratory diagnosis, risk communications and community engagement, hospital preparedness, infection prevention and control (IPC) and implementation of containment strategies.

- Co-ordination and Partnership: WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW through Joint Monitoring Group meetings and discussions of the Empowered Groups.
- Hospital preparedness: WHO field teams are supporting MoHFW state/district officials to review hospital preparedness by visiting dedicated COVID-19 hospitals as an emergency preparedness measure, details available here.
- Laboratory testing: WHO is providing kits and reagents to COVID-19 testing laboratories through ICMR to partly meet their huge testing requirement.
- Research: ICMR is working on the “Phase II, Open Label, Randomized Controlled Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Limit COVID19 Associated Complications”, details here.
- DG ICMR / Secretary DHR are planning to conduct a “COVID-19 sero-prevalence survey in 82 districts in 25 states” with WHO assistance in conducting the survey.
- Community engagement: WHO is supporting MOHFW and partners to undertake a survey to assess the situation of COVID-19 awareness in urban slums through a participatory survey.
- Essential Service Continuation: MoHFW supported by WHO released the guidance note on Enabling Delivery of Essential Health Services during the COVID 19 Outbreak, details available here.

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- For all authentic & updated information on COVID-19 related technical issues, guidelines & advisories please regularly visit: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/.
- Technical queries related to COVID-19 can be emailed at technicalquery.covid19@gov.in and other queries on ncov2019@gov.in.

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