

# KAMAL SANDESH

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**'OUR ONLY MOTTO SHOULD BE  
TO REACH THE NEEDY AND PROVIDE  
RELIEF TO THEM AT ANY COSTS'**



**'WE HAVE TO OVERCOME THE HUGE COVID CHALLENGE  
COLLECTIVELY WITH DETERMINATION, COURAGE AND PREPARATION'**



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing a virtual meeting of party National Office Bearers & State Presidents in New Delhi.



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda chaired a meeting of BJP MPs of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Daman Diu on Covid pandemic via video conference in New Delhi.



Union Minister Shri Amit Shah reviewing the Covid situation in Gujarat and visits a 950-bed facility coming up for patients at the GMDC ground in Ahmedabad. Gujarat CM Shri Vijay Rupani and others are also present during the visit.



Union Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paying floral tributes before addressing BJP Karyakartas on Bharat Ratna Baba Sahab Bheem Rao Ambedkar ji's Jayanti, New Delhi.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

### @narendramodi

1 lakh portable oxygen concentrators will be procured, 500 more PSA oxygen plants sanctioned from PM-CARES. This will improve access to oxygen, especially in district HQs and Tier-2 cities.



### @JPNadda

I thank Hon PM @narendramodi Ji for allocating funds to install 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants in public health facilities across the country through PM CARES. Important decision which will ensure uninterrupted supply of oxygen at district headquarters.



### @rajnathsingh

The @DRDO\_India is going to set up 500 Medical Oxygen Plants within 3 months under the PM CARES Fund. The Medical Oxygen Plant technology developed by DRDO for On-Board Oxygen Generation for LCA, Tejas will now help in fighting the current crisis of Oxygen for the COVID-19 patients.



### @AmitShah

I congratulate PM Shri @narendramodi ji on the decision to give 5 kg of food grains for two months spending 26,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. This will benefit about 80 crore people of the country. The Modi government stands with the countrymen at every step in this disaster.



### @ThawarchandGehlot

#DEPwD took up the matter with @MoHFW\_INDIA to issue appropriate instructions to Central and State healthcare authorities to give priority to #Divyangjan in #COVID19 testing, treatment and vaccination.



### @blsanthosh

Proud of all scientists, researchers, bio technologists at @BharatBiotech for developing a vaccine which proved effective at future variants also. Thank You all including Govt led by PM @narendramodi which hand held many such initiatives during the crisis.



**GET VACCINATED  
VACCINES ARE EFFECTIVE**

Post vaccination breakthrough infection stands between 0.03-0.04%

**Vaccination Drive**

Total Vaccinated	First dose	Positive after first dose	Second dose	Positive after second dose
COVAXIN 1.1 crore	93,56,436	4,208 (0.04%)	17,37,178	695 (0.04%)
Covishield 11.6 crore	10,03,02,745	17,145 (0.02%)	1,57,32,754	5,014 (0.03%)

Data till 20th April 2021

Know more at : [bit.ly/2RTOECr](https://bit.ly/2RTOECr) [www.bjp4india.com](https://www.bjp4india.com) [www.bjp.org](https://www.bjp.org)

**KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR**  
wishes a very happy  
**AKSHAYA TRITIYA (14 MAY)**  
to all of its readers

# UNITED INDIA WILL DEFEAT COVID-19 PANDEMIC AGAIN

**T**he nation is hit again by corona wave with a greater magnitude this time. The sudden outburst of the pandemic and its quick spread has created grave situations in many part of the country. As the pandemic is resulting in the loss of many valuable lives, the doctors, nurses, medical staffs, lab technicians, ambulance drives, sanitation workers, police and security persons along with a large number of Corona warriors are gallantly fighting the Covid-19 storm with determination and fortitude. While the nation was able to successfully tide over the challenges of first wave of the pandemic, the intensity of the second wave seems too high and all efforts are being made to control it as soon as possible. In such hour of crisis, the people have come forward to help each other showing a rare kind of solidarity and a determination to win over the pandemic at all cost.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on 20 April 2021 reassured the nation that the government will leave no stone unturned to change the situation at the earliest. In a series of meetings, the Prime Minister not only reviewed the situation continuously but brought different parts of system in tandem, streamlining their coordination while speeding up the work to provide immediate relief to the people. In a meeting held with the chief ministers of 11 most affected states, the Prime Minister assured full support to them and called for working together to fight the pandemic and fulfil the requirements of

oxygen and medicines. Addressing a meeting of the governors he urged them to play crucial role in coordinating efforts between centre, state government and the society while harnessing the power of all community organizations, political parties, NGOs and social institutions. He has also reviewed the preparedness of the public health response to Covid-19, interacted with the leading doctors of the country, leaders of the pharma sector and also the vaccine manufacturers.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has made a call to the BJP karyakartas to reach the needy and to provide relief to them at any cost. It is to be noted that during the first wave of pandemic BJP karyakartas served crores of people throughout the national lockdown by their tireless work chanting the mantra of 'Seva hi Sangathan'. While interacting with MPs of various states through video conference, the BJP National President has asked them to start the campaign,

'Apna Booth, Corona Mukta' and serve the people in this hour of crisis. As per the direction of the BJP National President, the BJP MPs are in close touch with their party karyakartas and booth level functionaries and carrying out relief works. The BJP karyakartas are also conducting vaccination awareness campaigns explaining the people about the vaccination programme and encouraging them to get vaccinated.

In the face of sudden crisis, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is continuously monitoring the situation so that oxygen, medicines and other medical facilities are made available to the affected people. The immediate need is to increase medical facilities, ensure targeted treatment of patients, boosting medical infrastructure and supplies and clinical management. While oxygen supply has been boosted through oxygen express and by deploying aircrafts for the purpose, all the public-private sector companies producing oxygen have also been roped in to mitigate the crisis. The medicine supply has also been augmented by mobilising the pharma sector across the country. The efforts for containment, vaccination and community engagement is also being followed with 'Tika Utsav' and vaccination drive for everyone above 18 years of age from 1st May 2021. The Prime Minister has also approve setting up of 551 oxygen plants across the country in addition to one lacportable oxygen concentrators from PM Cares Fund. There is no doubt that India is united and will definitely overcome the Covid-19 challenges very soon and defeat the pandemic once again. ■

**THE IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO INCREASE MEDICAL FACILITIES, ENSURE TARGETED TREATMENT OF PATIENTS, BOOSTING MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPLIES AND CLINICAL MANAGEMENT.**



## **'GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH SPEED AND SENSITIVITY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE'**

**P** RIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSED THE NATION ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION ON 20 APRIL, 2021 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES FOR THE LIVES LOST TO THE PANDEMIC IN THE RECENT TIMES. HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DOCTORS, MEDICAL STAFF, PARAMEDICAL STAFF, SANITATION WORKERS, AMBULANCE DRIVERS, SECURITY FORCES AND POLICE FORCE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORONA. PM SHRI MODI SAID, "I AM WITH YOU IN THIS TIME OF GRIEF AS A FAMILY MEMBER. THE CHALLENGE IS HUGE; WE HAVE TO OVERCOME IT COLLECTIVELY WITH DETERMINATION, COURAGE AND PREPARATION". THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH SPEED AND SENSITIVITY TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND OF OXYGEN AND CHALLENGE POSED BY CORONA PANDEMIC. FOLLOWING IS THE ENGLISH RENDERING OF PM'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION.

### **MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN, NAMASKAR!**

The country is fighting a big battle again today against Corona. The situation was under control till a few weeks ago, but the second wave of Corona has hit like a storm. I am aware of the pain that you have suffered and continue to suffer. On behalf of all the countrymen, I extend my condolences to those who have lost their dear ones in the past. As a member of the family, I am involved in your grief. The challenge is huge, but together we have to overcome it with our resolve, courage and preparation.

### **FRIENDS,**

Before elaborating, I will appreciate all the doctors, medical staff, paramedical staff, Safai Karamchari (sanitation staff), our ambulance drivers, security forces and policemen. You saved people by putting your life at stake even in the first wave of corona. Once again, you are working day and night to save the lives of others

leaving behind your families, welfare and worries.

### **FRIENDS,**

It is written in our scriptures **त्याज्यम् न धैर्यम् विद्युरेऽपि काले** i.e., we should not lose patience even in the most difficult times. To deal with any situation, we should take the right decision, make efforts in the right direction, only then can we win. With this mantra, the country is working day and night. The decisions and the steps taken in the last few days will improve the situation rapidly. During this Corona crisis, the demand for oxygen has increased considerably in many parts of the country this time. Expeditious efforts are on in this regard with complete sensitivity. Everybody, including the Central Government, the State Governments and the private sector, is trying their best to provide oxygen to every needy person. Measures are also being taken at several levels to increase oxygen production and supply. Every effort is being made to have new oxygen plants in the

states, deliver one lakh new oxygen cylinders, medical use of oxygen being used in industrial units, oxygen rail, etc.

**FRIENDS,**

As corona cases increased this time, the country's pharma sector has further increased the production of medicines. Today, the production of medicines is manifold in the country as compared to January-February. It is being boosted further. Yesterday also, I had a very long discussion with the important and top experts of the pharma industry in the country. Pharmaceutical companies are helping in every way to increase production. We are fortunate that our country has such a strong pharma sector which makes better and fast medicines. At the same time, the number of beds in hospitals is also being increased. Special and big COVID hospitals are being set up in some cities in view of high demand.

**FRIENDS,**

Last year, when only a few Corona patients were reported in the country, work was started in India for effective vaccines against coronavirus. Our scientists have developed vaccines for the countrymen in a very short time. Today, India has the cheapest vaccines in the world. We have vaccines that suit India's cold chain system. In this effort, our private sector has excelled in innovation and enterprise. Besides the approval of vaccines and fast tracking regulatory processes, all scientific and regulatory help have also been extended. It is a team effort that India could launch the world's largest vaccination campaign with two 'Made in India' vaccines. From the very first phase of vaccination, it was emphasized that the vaccines reach as many areas and to the needy in the shortest possible time. India is the fastest in the world in providing vaccine doses to its first 10 crore people, 11 crore and now 12 crore people. We are encouraged that a large section of our healthcare workers, frontline Corona warriors and senior citizens have been vaccinated in this battle against Corona.

**FRIENDS,**

Another important decision has been taken yesterday regarding vaccination. From May 1 onwards, every person above 18 years of age can be vaccinated. Now, half of the vaccines produced in India will be available directly to the states and hospitals. Meanwhile, the Central Government's vaccination programme for the poor, the elderly and persons above the age of 45 years will continue at the same pace as before. Free vaccines will be available in government hospitals which can be availed by my poor brothers and sisters, middle class and lower middle class people.

**FRIENDS,**

While we are making efforts to save lives, there is also an attempt at the same time that the economic activities and livelihoods are least affected. This should be our attempt. Open vaccination for people above the age of 18 years will ensure faster vaccines for our workforce in cities. With the efforts of the states and the Central Government, the workers will also be vaccinated quickly. I urge the state administration to instill confidence in the workers and urge them to stay where they are. The confidence given by the states will help them a lot that they will be vaccinated in the next few days in the city where they are in and their work will not be affected.

**PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES  
ARE HELPING IN EVERY WAY  
TO INCREASE PRODUCTION.  
WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT OUR  
COUNTRY HAS SUCH A STRONG  
PHARMA SECTOR WHICH MAKES  
BETTER AND FAST MEDICINES.**

**FRIENDS,**

The circumstances that were there last time were quite different from the present one. Then we did not have corona specific medical infrastructure to fight this global pandemic. You recall what was the situation in the country? There were not enough labs for Corona tests, no production of PPEs. We didn't even have much information about the treatment of the disease. But we improved these things in a very short time. Today, our doctors have acquired very good expertise in the treatment of Corona; they are saving as many lives as they can. Today, we have a large number of PPE kits, a huge network of labs and we are continuously increasing the facility of testing.

## **FRIENDS,**

The country has fought against Corona very strongly and patiently so far. The credit goes to all the countrymen. It is because of your discipline and patience in the fight against Corona that the country has reached here today. I am sure that we will be able to defeat this storm of Corona also with the strength of people's participation. Today we can see how so many people and social institutions are busy day and night in helping those in need. Whether it is providing medicines, or making arrangements for food or lodging, people are working with full attentiveness. I salute the spirit of service of all of them and appeal to the countrymen to come forward as much as possible in this hour of crisis and help the needy. We will be able to win this battle with this pledge of service by society. I request young colleagues to create small committees in their societies, localities and apartments and help others in following the COVID discipline. If we do this, then governments will not need to create containment zones, impose curfew or lockdown. There is no question of lockdown. During the cleanliness drive, my child friends had helped a lot to spread awareness in the country. The children who were studying in the fifth, seventh and 10th standards had explained to the people in the house and persuaded them. They had also given a message of cleanliness to the elders. Today, I would like to say one thing specifically to my child friends again to create an atmosphere in the house so that people don't leave the house unnecessarily without work or any reason. Your perseverance can lead to good results. I also request the media to speed up their efforts to make people alert and aware in this time of crisis. At the same time, they should also ensure that there is no atmosphere of fear and people don't fall for rumours and misconceptions.

## **FRIENDS,**

In today's situation, we have to save the country from lockdowns. I would also request the states to use lockdown as the last option. We have to try our best to avoid lockdown and focus on the micro-containment zones. We will also improve the health of our economy and take care of the health of our countrymen.

Today is the last day of Navratri. Tomorrow is Ram Navami and the message of Maryada Purushottam

Shri Ram to all of us is that we should follow discipline. Please follow all the protocols to avoid Corona. Never forget the mantra of medicines as well as strict adherence to protocols. This mantra is necessary even after vaccination. Today is also the seventh day of the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan teaches us patience, self-control and discipline. Discipline is needed to win the battle against Corona. I request you to move out (of your house) only when it is necessary and follow COVID discipline. I assure you that with your courage, patience and discipline, the country will leave no stone unturned to change the conditions that are there today. May all of you be healthy, may your family be healthy. With this wish, I conclude. Thank you very much!

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- PM Shri Narendra Modi Expresses condolences for the lives lost to the pandemic.
- Praises doctors, medical staff, paramedical staff, sanitation workers, ambulance drivers, security forces and police force for their contribution.
- Government is working with speed and sensitivity to meet the increasing demand of oxygen.
- After 1st May, every person above 18 years can be vaccinated. Half of the vaccine produced in India will go directly to the states and hospitals.
- By opening vaccination for population above 18 years, vaccine will be available quickly for the workforce in the cities.
- Along with saving lives, effort is to save the economic activities and ensure minimum adverse impact on the livelihood of the people.
- State governments should boost the confidence of the labourers and convince them to stay wherever they are.
- In today's circumstances, we have to save the country from lockdown.
- State governments should treat lockdown only as a measure of the last resort. We have to concentrate on micro containment zones and have to try our best to avoid lockdown. ■



# PM MODI INTERACTS WITH VACCINE MANUFACTURERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with vaccine manufacturers from across the country via video conferencing on April 20, 2021. He applauded the vaccine manufacturers for their achievements and professionalism. PM Shri Modi said that biggest strengths of our vaccine industry are its 'Samarthya, Sansadhan and Seva Bhaav', and these are what makes them a vaccine leader in the world.

Believing in the ability of our vaccine manufacturers, the PM said, the government has now allowed the vaccination programme for every adult starting 1st May. He urged the vaccine manufacturers to continuously scale up the production capacity to vaccinate our people in the shortest possible time. He also appreciated the efforts and studies being conducted by our scientists in development of new vaccines.

Shri Modi credited them for developing and manufacturing vaccines in record time. Noting the fact that vaccines manufactured here are the cheapest, the PM said India the world's largest vaccine programme is underway in India.

Shri Modi remarked that throughout this process of developing and manufacturing vaccines, the country has constantly worked with the spirit of public-private partnership under the 'Mission Covid Suraksha', and created an end-to-end vaccine



development ecosystem. The Government ensured that all the vaccine manufacturers not only get all possible help and logistic support, but also the process of vaccine approval is speedy and scientific, said the Prime Minister. He also assured all possible support and smooth approval process for the vaccine candidates which are currently under trial phase.

The Prime Minister said the health infrastructure of our private sector has played a big role in the country's fight against Covid-19 and in the coming days, the private sector will play an even more active role in the vaccination

drive. This will require better coordination between hospitals and industry.

The vaccine manufacturers thanked the Prime Minister for the Government's decision of allowing vaccination for everyone above the age of 18 and various steps taken to give more incentives and flexibility. They also appreciated the Prime Minister's leadership for the support they have received from the Government of India throughout the process of vaccine development and production. They also discussed their plans to ramp up production, upcoming vaccine candidates and research on the new variants. ■



## PM INTERACTS WITH THE GOVERNORS ON COVID-19 SITUATION AND VACCINATION DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 14, 2021 interacted with Governors of States regarding the Covid-19 situation and ongoing vaccination drive in the country, through video conferencing.

Prime Minister said that in the battle against Covid, along with the vaccines, our values and sense of duty are our biggest strengths. Praising the citizens who participated in this battle last year considering it their duty, he said that the same feeling of Janbhagidari needs to be encouraged now as well. He said that the role of the Governors, through appropriate utilization of their social capacity, thus

becomes all the more critical to achieving this. Governors are an important link to ensure better coordination between State Governments and society, he said, adding that the combined power of all community organizations, political parties, NGOs and social institutions needs to be harnessed.

Shri Modi suggested that the Governors can actively engage to ensure that social institutions collaborate seamlessly with the State Governments towards micro containment. He said that their social network can help ensure an increase in the capacity of ambulances, ventilators and oxygen in hospitals. Along with

spreading the message about vaccination and treatment, the Governors can also spread awareness about AYUSH related remedies.

Prime Minister noted that our youth, our workforce, is an important part of our economy. Hence, it is important to ensure that our youth follows all Covid related protocols and precautions. He said that the Governors' role is also critical in ensuring the greater engagement of our students in University campuses towards this Janbhagidari. We also need to focus on better utilization of facilities at University and College campuses, he added. He said



RTPCR tests also. He added that most of the products related to testing are also available on the GeM portal. Prime Minister emphasized the significance of increasing tracking, tracing and testing, and said that RTPCR testing needs to be increased from 60% to 70%. He said that it is pertinent to ensure that more and more people get tested.

Shri Modi underlined that the government is committed to ensuring adequate availability of vaccines. He highlighted that India has become the fastest nation to reach the landmark of 10 crore vaccinations. Noting the positive impact of Tika Utsav in the last four days, he said that in this period, the vaccination

community's contribution in giving a vaccine to India and the whole world. He also talked about the contribution of healthcare workers, sanitation workers, and other frontline workers who have played a vital role during the pandemic.

The Vice President called upon the Governors to bring up a coordinated front by leading all-party meetings in their respective states and engaging with civil society organisations to spread awareness about covid-appropriate behaviour. The Vice president said that a 'Team India spirit' cutting across policy lines should be adopted, and in this regard, Governors as the 'Guardians of the State' could guide the State Governments.

Union Home Minister Shri Shah stressed the importance of saving each and every life. Union Health Secretary gave a presentation on Covid cases and vaccination drive. He gave an overview of how India has followed a proactive and pre-emptive approach in this endeavour.

The Governors shared details of how their respective states are tackling the spread of the virus and coordinating activities towards ensuring a smooth implementation of the vaccination drive, while also mentioning the deficiencies of healthcare facilities in the States.

They gave suggestions for further improvement in the efforts and shared plans of how Janbhagidari can be increased through the active social engagement of various groups. ■

that just like last year, NCC and NSS also have a key role to play this year as well. Prime Minister said that the Governors are an important pillar of Janbhagidari in this battle and their coordination with State Governments and guidance to institutions of the State will further strengthen the nation's resolve.

Discussing the rise in the number of Covid cases, the Prime Minister said that in this stage of the fight against the virus, the country stands to gain from last year's experience and improved healthcare capacity. He discussed the increase RTPCR testing capacity and noted that the country has become Aatmanirbhar with respect to kits and other material related to testing. All this has led to a reduction in the cost of

### **THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THIS STAGE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST THE VIRUS, THE COUNTRY STANDS TO GAIN FROM LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE AND IMPROVED HEALTHCARE CAPACITY.**

drive was expanded and new vaccination centres also came up.

The Vice President of India, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan also attended the interaction.

The Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu appreciated the Prime Minister for leading the fight against Covid and his proactive steps to develop the infrastructure required to tackle the pandemic. He also highlighted the scientific



## PM MODI CHAIRS MEETING ON COVID-19 SITUATION WITH CHIEF MINISTERS OF HIGH BURDEN STATES

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired high-level meeting on Covid-19 situation with Chief Ministers of 11 states and Union Territories which have reported maximum number of cases in recently on April 23, 2021.

Noting that the virus is affecting several states as well as Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities at once, Shri Modi called for working together to fight the pandemic with collective power. He said the biggest basis of India's success during the first wave of the pandemic was our united efforts and united strategy and reiterated that we will have to address this challenge in the same way.

PM Shri Modi assured Centre's full support to all the states and in this fight. He added that the Ministry of Health is also in touch with the states and is monitoring the situation closely and issuing necessary advices to the states from time to time.

On oxygen supply, the PM took note of the points raised by the states. He said there is a continuous effort to increase oxygen supply. All the concerned departments and ministries of the government are also working together. Industrial oxygen has also been diverted to meet immediate requirements.

The PM urged all states to work together and coordinate with one-another to fulfil requirements relating to medicines and oxygen. He urged the states to check hoarding and black marketing of

oxygen and medicines. The PM said that every state should ensure that no oxygen tanker, whether it is meant for any state, is stopped or gets stranded. The Prime Minister urged the states to set up a high-level co-ordination committee to carry oxygen to different hospitals of the state. This Coordination Committee should ensure that as soon as there is allotment of oxygen from the centre, it can deliver oxygen as per requirement in different hospitals of the state immediately. PM informed the Chief Ministers that yesterday he chaired a meeting on oxygen supply and will be attending one today to discuss all the options for increasing the oxygen supply.

Shri Modi stated that the central government is working on all possible options to reduce the travel time and turnaround time of oxygen tankers. For this, Railways has started Oxygen Express. Empty Oxygen tankers are also being transported by the Air-Force to reduce one way travel time.

The Prime Minister said that along with upgrading of resources, we have to focus on testing. He emphasized that widespread testing should be conducted so that people get the facility easily.

He remarked that our vaccination programme should not slow down in this situation. Shri Modi mentioned that India is running the world's largest vaccination programme and so far, more than 13 crore vaccine doses have been provided free of

cost to the states by the Government of India. The campaign launched by the Central Government to provide free vaccine to all citizens above 45 years as well as Health-Care workers & Front-Line workers, will also continue in the same manner. From May 1, PM Modi added, the vaccine is going to be available to all citizens above 18 years of age. We will also need to work in mission mode to get more and more people vaccinated.

He said along with all measures for treatment of the patients, hospital safety is also very important. Expressing grief on recent incidents of oxygen leakage and fire at hospitals, the PM said the administrative staff of the hospital needs to be made more aware about the safety protocols.

Shri Modi also urged the administration to continuously make people aware so that they do

not indulge in panic buying. He said that with united efforts, we will be able to stop this second wave of the pandemic across the country.

Earlier, a presentation was given by Dr VK Paul, which highlighted the preparations being done to counter the new surge of infections. Dr Paul also presented the roadmap for increasing the medical facilities and targeted treatment of patients. He briefed everyone about Boosting of Medical infrastructure, teams and supplies; Clinical Management; Containment; Vaccination & Community engagement.

During the interaction, Chief Ministers of states briefed the PM about the steps being taken by respective State Governments in the current wave. They also noted that the directions given by the PM and the road map presented by NITI would help them plan their responses in a better way. ■

## 'TIKA UTSAV' IS BEGINNING OF SECOND MAJOR WAR AGAINST CORONA: PM

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called the 'Tika Utsav', vaccination festival, the beginning of second big war against Corona and has emphasized special focus on social hygiene along with personal hygiene. The Utsav started on April 11, 2021 on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and will continue till the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar on April 14th.

In a message on the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed four points with regard to the drive.

- First, Each One-Vaccinate, meaning those who can't go themselves for vaccination, such as illiterate and old people, should be assisted.
- Second, Each One- Treat One. This involves helping people in getting Corona treatment, who do not have resources or knowledge to get it.
- Third, Each One- Save One, meaning I should wear mask and save myself and others. This should be stressed.
- Finally, society and people should lead in creating 'micro containment zones'. Family members and community members should create 'micro containment zone', in case of even a single positive case. 'Micro containment zones' are a key component of fight against

Corona in a densely populated country like India, said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need for testing and awareness. He asked that every eligible person should get vaccinated. This should be the primary effort of both the society and the administration, he said.

Shri Modi insisted that we have to move towards zero vaccine wastage. Optimum utilization of vaccination capacity is a way of increasing our capacity, said the Prime Minister

He said our success will be determined by awareness about 'micro containment zones', by not moving out of our homes unnecessarily, vaccination of all eligible persons and how we follow covid appropriate behaviour like wearing masks and other protocols.

The Prime Minister asked to make targets at personal, social and administration level for these four days of 'Tika Utsav' and diligently make effort to achieve them. He expressed the hope that with people's participation. Awareness and responsible behaviour we will succeed in containing Corona once again.

PM Shri Modi ended by reminding – Dawai bhi, kadai bhi. ■

# PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS PREPAREDNESS OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on April 17, 2021 to review the status of preparedness to handle the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Various aspects relating to medicines, oxygen, ventilators and vaccination were discussed.

Shri Modi said that together India had defeated Covid last year & India can do it again, with the same principles but faster speed and coordination.

The PM stressed that there is no substitute to testing, tracking and treatment. Early testing and proper tracking remains key to reduce mortality. He also said that local administrations need to be proactive and sensitive to people's concerns.

The Prime Minister directed that close coordination with States must be ensured in handling the pandemic. He said that all necessary measures must be taken to ramp up the availability of hospital beds for Covid patients. The Prime Minister also directed that additional supply of beds through temporary hospitals and isolation centres should be ensured.

PM Shri Modi spoke about the need to utilize the full potential of India's pharmaceutical industry to meet the rising demand of various medicines. He reviewed the status of supply of Remdesivir and other medicines. The Prime Minister was briefed on actions taken to address the issue of availability of Remdesivir. Through the efforts of the Government, capacity and production augmentation for manufacturing of Remdesivir has been ramped up to provide around 74.10 lakh vials/month in May while the normal production output in January-February being just 27-29 lakh vials/month. Supplies have also increased from 67,900 vials on 11th April going up to over 2,06,000 vials on 15th April 2021 which are being particularly focused on states with high caseload and high demand. He took note of the ramped up production capacity, and directed that issues relating to real-time supply chain management to States must be resolved urgently in coordination with the States. The Prime Minister directed that use of Remdesivir and other medicines must be in accordance with



approved medical guidelines, and that their misuse and black marketing must be strictly curbed.

On the issue of supply of medical oxygen, the Prime Minister directed that the installation of approved medical oxygen plants should be sped up. 162 PSA Oxygen plants are being installed in 32 States/UTs from PM CARES. The officers informed that 1 lakh cylinders are being procured & they will be supplied to states soon. The officers briefed the PM that they are in constant supply with 12 high burden states in assessing the current and future requirement of medical oxygen. A supply mapping plan for 12 high burden states till 30th April has also been undertaken. The Prime Minister also said that supply of oxygen required for production of medicines and equipment necessary to handle the pandemic should also be ensured.

Shri Modi also reviewed the status of availability & supply of ventilators. The Prime Minister noted that a real time monitoring system has been created, and directed that concerned State governments should be sensitized to use the system proactively.

On the issue of vaccination, the Prime Minister directed all officials to make efforts to utilize the entire national capacity, in public as well as private sector, to ramp up vaccine production.

The PM was joined by Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to PM, Union Home Secretary, Union Health Secretary, Pharma Secretary. Dr V K Paul, Niti Aayog was also present. ■

# PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 WITH THE NATION'S LEADING DOCTORS

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with doctors across the country via video conferencing on the COVID-19 issue and vaccination progress on 19 April, 2021. Prime Minister Shri Modi appreciated the doctors, medical and para-medical staff for their invaluable service towards the country during the coronavirus pandemic.

Shri Modi said, last year, during the same time, it was due to our doctors' hard work and the nation's strategy that we were able to control the coronavirus wave. Now that the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus, all the doctors, our frontline workers are confronting the pandemic with full force, and are saving the lives of millions of people.

Shri Modi said that recently the central government has taken many important decisions related to the supply of essential medicines, injections and sufficient availability of oxygen. State Governments have been given necessary guidelines about these.

The PM said that vaccination is the biggest weapon in the fight against coronavirus. He urged the doctors to encourage more and more patients to get vaccinated.

The Prime Minister urged the doctors to educate people against several rumours on Covid treatment & prevention. In these difficult times, PM Modi said, it is very important that people do not become a victim of panic. For this, PM Modi said, along with proper treatment, emphasis must also be on counselling of patients admitted in hospitals. PM Modi



also encouraged doctors to use tele-medicine for treatment of other diseases, in case there is no emergency.

The Prime Minister noted that this time the pandemic is spreading rapidly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well. PM Modi called for accelerating efforts to upgrade resources in such places. He

urged doctors to connect with their colleagues working in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and give them online consultations to ensure that all protocols are followed correctly.

The doctors shared their experiences in dealing with the Covid pandemic. They congratulated PM Modi on his leadership in dealing with the pandemic. They also spoke about how they augmenting

healthcare infrastructure. They reiterated the importance of people wearing a mask & maintaining social distancing. They also stressed about maintaining health infrastructure for non-Covid patients. They also spoke about how they are sensitising patients against improper use of medicines.

The meeting was also attended by Union Health Minister Shri Harsh Vardhan, MoS (Health) Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union Minister Chemical and Fertilizer Shri D.V.

Sadananda Gowda, MoS (C&F) Mansukh Mandaviya, Principal Secretary to PM, Dr V K Paul Member (H) NITI Aayog, Cabinet Secretary, Union Health Secretary, Union Pharmaceutical Secretary, Dr Balram Bharagava, DG ICMR, amongst other officers from Ministries / Departments of Central Government. ■



## PM INTERACTS WITH LEADERS OF PHARMA INDUSTRY

**A**n a video conferencing meeting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with leaders of pharmaceutical industry on April 19, 2021. The Prime Minister appreciated the crucial role of the pharma sector in the fight against the pandemic. PM Shri Modi appreciated the way the pharma industry is working even in such trying conditions.

Shri Modi remarked that it is because of the efforts of the pharma industry that today India is identified as 'pharmacy of world'. He said essential medicines were made available to more than 150 countries around the world during the pandemic. The Prime Minister stated that despite all the challenges, the Indian pharma industry has also registered a growth of 18 percent in exports last year, which shows its potential.

Noting the second wave of the virus and rising number of cases, PM Shri Modi commended the pharma industry for their efforts to increase production of several necessary drugs. He appreciated them for reducing the price of injections like Remdesivir. To keep the supply of medicines and essential medical equipment going smoothly, the PM urged the pharma industry to ensure seamless supply chains. PM Modi also extended government's support for facilities like Logistics and Transportation.

He urged the industry to conduct more and more

researches on threats which can occur in the future along with Covid. This, he said, would help us take the lead in combating the virus.

Seeking cooperation from the pharma industry, PM Shri Modi assured that government is undertaking reforms for new drugs and regulatory processes.

The leaders of the Pharma industry appreciated the proactive help & support received from the Government. They highlighted the efforts made over the last one year in ensuring availability of drugs keeping manufacturing and logistics operational. Operations at the pharma hubs for manufacturing, transportation, logistics and ancillary services are being maintained at optimum levels. The participants also share inputs on the measures being undertaken to meet the overall medicine demand in the country despite the unprecedented increase in demand for some drugs the COVID Treatment Protocol.

The meeting was also attended by Union Health Minister Shri Harsh Vardhan, MoS (Health) Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union Minister Chemical and Fertilizer Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, MoS (C&F) Mansukh Mandaviya, Principal Secretary to PM, Dr V K Paul Member (H) NITI Aayog, Cabinet Secretary, Union Health Secretary, Union Pharmaceutical Secretary, Dr Balram Bharagava, DG ICMR, amongst other officers from Ministries / Departments of Central Government. ■



# MANKIND WILL NOT DEFEAT COVID PANDEMIC UNLESS ALL OF US UNITEDLY FIGHT AGAINST IT: PM MODI

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a video address at the Inaugural Session of the Raisina Dialogue in virtual format, along with Chief Guests H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and H.E. Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark. The 6th Edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation from 13-16 April, 2021. The theme for the 2021 Edition is "ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control".

Prime Minister Shri Modi delivering his keynote address on April 13, 2021 observed that the current edition of the Raisina Dialogue was taking place at a watershed moment in human history in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic which has been ravaging the world for more than a year. The Prime Minister called upon the global community to introspect on some pertinent questions in the present context.

The Prime Minister emphasized that global systems should adapt themselves, in order to address the underlying causes and not just the symptoms. The Prime Minister called for keeping humanity at the centre of our thoughts and action, and creating systems that address the problems of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

The Prime Minister also elaborated upon India's pandemic response efforts, both domestically as well as in form of assistance to other countries. He called for joint efforts to meet the varied challenges posed by the pandemic and reiterated that India would share its strengths for global good.

He said during this pandemic, in our own way, we in India have tried to walk the talk. We have tried to protect our own 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic. At the same time, we have also tried to support pandemic response efforts of others. We understand fully, that mankind will not defeat the Covid pandemic unless all of us, everywhere, regardless of the colour



**GLOBAL SYSTEMS SHOULD ADAPT THEMSELVES, IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES AND NOT JUST THE SYMPTOMS.**

of our passports, come out unitedly to fight against it. That is why, this year, despite many constraints, we have supplied vaccines to over 80 countries, Shri Modi said.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us an opportunity to reshape the world order, to reorient our thinking.
- We must remember that we hold this planet merely as trustees for our future generations.
- We have tried to protect our own 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic and at the same time, we have also tried to support pandemic response efforts of others.
- We understand fully, that mankind will not defeat the pandemic unless all of us, everywhere, regardless of the color of our passports, come out to fight against it. ■

# PM CHAIRS A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON MEASURES TO INCREASE SUPPLY OF OXYGEN & OXYGEN RELATED EQUIPMENT

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review steps taken to boost oxygen availability in the country. The PM emphasized that there was an immediate need to augment the supply of medical grade oxygen as well as equipment required for patient care both at home and in hospitals. PM stressed that all ministries and departments need to work in synergy to increase availability of oxygen and medical supplies.

Shri Modi was briefed that basic customs duty was exempted on Remdesivir and its API recently. It was suggested that import of equipments related to providing oxygen to patients needs to be expedited. In order to augment their production and availability and to meet the rising demand, it was decided to grant full exemption from Basic Customs Duty and health cess on import of the following items related to Oxygen and Oxygen related equipment for a period of three months with immediate effect:

## MEDICAL GRADE OXYGEN

- Oxygen concentrator along with flow meter, regulator, connectors and tubing
- Vacuum Pressure Swing Absorption (VPSA) and Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen plants, Cryogenic Oxygen Air Separation Units (ASUs) producing liquid/ gaseous oxygen
- Oxygen Cannister
- Oxygen Filling Systems
- Oxygen Storage tanks, Oxygen cylinders including cryogenic cylinders and tanks
- Oxygen Generators
- ISO Containers for Shipping Oxygen
- Cryogenic Road transport tanks for Oxygen
- Parts of the above to be used for the manufacture of equipment for production, transportation, distribution or storage of Oxygen
- Any other device from which Oxygen can be generated
- Ventilators (capable of functioning as high-flow devices) with nasal canula; Compressors including all accessories and tubing; humidifiers and Viral filters



- High flow nasal canula device with all attachments
- Helmets for use with non-invasive ventilation
- Non-invasive ventilation oronasal masks for ICU ventilators
- Non-invasive ventilation nasal masks for ICU ventilators

Apart from the above, it was also decided that Basic Customs Duty on import of Covid vaccines be also exempted with immediate effect for a period of 3 months.

This will boost availability of these items as well as make them cheaper. The PM directed the Revenue Department to ensure seamless and quick custom clearance of such equipment. Accordingly, the Department of Revenue has nominated Shri Gaurav Masaldan, Joint Secretary, Customs, as the nodal officer for issues related to customs clearance for the above-mentioned items.

The Government of India has taken a lot of measures in the last few days to improve supply of oxygen and medical supplies. IAF planes are bringing in cryogenic oxygen tanks from Singapore. IAF is also transporting oxygen tanks in the country to reduce travel times. Similarly, in a major decision yesterday, free food grains will be given 80 crore Indians for the month of May & June 2021.

Finance Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister, Health Minister, Principal Secretary to the PM, Member NITI Aayog, Dr Guleria and Secretaries of the department of Revenue, Health and DPIIT & other officials participated in the meeting. ■

## PM MODI INTERACTS WITH LEADING OXYGEN MANUFACTURERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**P**rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting with leading oxygen manufacturers across the country via video conferencing on April 23, 2021. Shri Modi said this time is not only to deal with the challenges, but also to provide solutions in a very short time. He stressed on the need to maintain good co-ordination between the government and the oxygen producers.

PM appreciated the oxygen producers for increasing their production in the last few weeks. He acknowledged the several steps taken to increase the production of liquid oxygen. He also thanked the industry for diverting industrial oxygen to meet medical requirements in the country.

To improve the situation further, PM Shri Modi spoke about utilizing the full potential of the industry to meet the demand of oxygen in the coming days. He noted that there is a need to increase the availability of oxygen cylinders as well as upgrade the logistics facilities for transportation of oxygen. He urged the industry to utilize tankers meant to transport other gases for oxygen supply.

The Prime Minister said keeping in mind the

requirements of states pertaining to oxygen, government is working on effective use of Railways and Air Force so that the tankers reach the production centre as soon as possible.

The PM remarked that the government, the states, the industry and the transporters, and all the hospitals need to come together and work in unison. The better the synergy and coordination, the easier it will be able to deal with this challenge.

Appreciating the oxygen producers, the PM extended government's full support to them and hoped the country would be successful in combating the crisis soon.

Shri Mukesh Ambani, CMD of RIL, Smt. Soma Mandal, Chairperson of SAIL, Shri Sajjan Jindal of JSW, Shri Narendran of Tata Steel, Shri Naveen Jindal of JSPL, Shri Dilip Oommen of AMNS, Shri M Bannerjee of LINDE, Shri Sidharth Jain of Inox, Shri Noriyo Shibuya, MD of Air Water Jamshedpur, Shri Rajesh Kumar Saraf of National Oxygen Ltd and Shri Saket Tikku, President of All India Industrial Gases Manufacturer's Association were present during the meeting. ■

## PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS PREPARATIONS BY ARMED FORCES TO ASSIST IN COVID MANAGEMENT

The Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on April 26, 2021 called on the Prime Minister. They reviewed the preparations and operations being undertaken by the Armed Forces to deal with the pandemic.

The CDS briefed the PM that all medical personnel from armed forces who have retired or taken pre-mature retirement in the last 2 years are being recalled to work in Covid facilities within proximity of their present place of residence. Other medical officers who retired earlier have also been requested to make their services available for consultation through medical emergency help lines.

The PM was also informed that all medical officers on staff appointments at Command HQ, Corps HQ, Division HQ & similar HQ of Navy and Air-Force will be employed at hospitals.

The CDS informed the PM that nursing

personnel are being employed in large numbers to complement the doctors at the hospitals. PM was also briefed that oxygen cylinders available with armed forces in various establishments will be released for hospitals.

The CDS also said that they are creating medical facilities in large numbers and where possible military medical infrastructure will be made available to civilians.

PM Shri Modi also reviewed the operations being undertaken by IAF to transport oxygen and other essentials in India and abroad.

PM also discussed with the CDS that Kendriya and Rajya Sainik Welfare Boards and Officers posted in various headquarters in veterans cells may be instructed to coordinate the services of veterans to extend the reach to maximum extent possible including in remote areas.

# 'OUR ONLY MOTTO SHOULD BE TO REACH THE NEEDY AND PROVIDE RELIEF TO THEM AT ANY COSTS'

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda held a review meeting via video conference on 23 April, 2021 with the Member of Parliaments from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Goa on the present Covid-19 Pandemic situation in the country.

Shri Nadda also reviewed the relief and rehabilitation operations being conducted by the party Karyakartas during this Pandemic time in their respective states.

The BJP National President gave various instructions to the MPs and appreciated their efforts in putting on ground the party's 'Seva He Sanghathan Abhiyan 2.0'.

Shri Nadda said that the role and responsibility of the Member of Parliaments increases more

with respect to the country braving the second surge of the pandemic. We need to keep in mind that help should be made available to the needy at all costs in the shortest possible time. For this we need to work together with the local administration, the NGOs in the sector and the hospitals in the region.

The party National President

**SHRI NADDA REITERATED THAT THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTRE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI IS COMMITTED TO WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE.**

said that several BJP MPs are doing a stellar service to the people in their own areas. Many



MPs have started a help desk and a helpline number for their constituencies. Many are helping people find beds in hospitals, while others distribute immunity kits, make and sanitizers on a large scale. Many BJP MPs helped in making available Remdesivir injections and oxygen to the needy patients. I want to congratulate all these MPS for their stellar service to the society.

While giving instructions to the MPS for implementing various relief works, Shri Nadda stressed on the MPs to remain in constant touch with district



Jugalsinh Thakor



BJP president and Mandal president. They in turn should be encouraged to remain in contest communication with the booth level members and party cadres to continue to provide relief in mission mode.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda emphasized that the MPs should hold virtual meetings with party cadres and volunteers as well as form small teams of volunteers to work fast and swiftly in providing relief to areas majorly impacted.

Shri Nadda reiterated that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed

to work for the betterment of the people. The Prime Minister is himself overseeing the relief work and is holding constant meetings with officials, Pharmaceuticals manufacturers, doctors, health workers, and others. He has also ensured that the efforts to make available oxygen should not weaken at all costs. We need to make the people aware of the relief operations mounted by the central government for them.

Shri Nadda said that everyone from the age of 18 years and above will be eligible for getting the Covid vaccine for which registrations are about to begin. All the Bharatiya Janata Party

MPs should run awareness campaigns in their constituencies to explain to people about the importance of vaccination and how to get it. He stressed on supporting institutions involved in making available medical oxygen and essential medicines.

The party President said that MPs should regularly visit hospitals in their constituencies and make themselves aware of the critical requirements so that actions can be taken in advance to deal with an emerging situation. He urged the MPs that in light of the Covid situation becoming very serious in the country, it is their utmost duty and responsibility to take care of their constituencies and ensure that relief reaches everyone at all costs in the shortest possible time.

Shri Nadda emphasized that the party needs to step up its relief work and not get affected by the negative campaign by the political parties and some vested interests. The society is looking at us. We have to present an image to the people that can be emulated by others and encourages them to contribute to nation building. Our only and only motto should be to reach the needy and provide relief to them at any costs.

Shri Nadda exhorted all the party MPs to work on the mission mode to make BJP's programme 'Apna Booth Corona Mukta' successful. If we are able to contain the contagion in our respective booths then the country will be able to stop this second wave of Covid-19. ■



## START 'APNA BOOTH, CORONA MUKT' CAMPAIGN IN YOUR CONSTITUENCIES: JP NADDA

**B**JP National President Shri JP Nadda in a meeting with party MPs on 22 April, 2021 reviewed the welfare work being undertaken by its state units in Gujarat and Rajasthan to fight against Covid-19.

During the virtual review meeting Shri JP Nadda exhorted MPs to spearhead the drive to distribute masks and sanitizers besides promoting Covid-appropriate behavior among people.

Shri Nadda asked the MPs to start 'Apna Booth, Corona MukT' campaign in their respective constituencies.

He asked them to dedicate themselves to serving people and to deal with this crisis

while following the local Covid guidelines.

Asking them to run a campaign for blood and plasma donation in coordination with the local administration, the BJP

**SHRI NADDA ALSO TOLD THEM TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE ONGOING VACCINATION PROGRAMME SO THAT MORE AND MORE ELIGIBLE PEOPLE GET THE VACCINE.**

President told them to help in oxygen supply to the best of their abilities.

The BJP President asked the MPs to keep in touch with party workers to deal with the problems

of different places created due to rise of Corona cases.

Shri Nadda also told them to raise awareness among the people about the ongoing vaccination programme so that more and more eligible people get the vaccine.

BJP National General Secretaries Shri Bhupender Yadav and Shri Arun Singh and BJP Presidents of both Gujarat and Rajasthan besides others also attended the meeting.

Noteworthy, With the Covid-19 cases surging for a second time, the BJP has launched the nationwide campaign to help the common people in need and to curb the effects of the pandemic at the local level itself. ■

# 1 LAKH PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS TO BE PROCURED FROM PM CARES FUND

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has sanctioned the procurement of 1 Lakh Portable Oxygen Concentrators from the PM Cares Fund. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 28, 2021 to discuss the measures needed to improve Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Supply for COVID management.



PM Shri instructed that these Oxygen Concentrators should be procured at the earliest & provided in states with high case burden.

In addition to the earlier sanctioned 713 PSA plants under PM Cares Fund, 500 new Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants have been sanctioned under PM CARES Fund.

The PSA plants will augment the supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen at hospitals in district headquarters and Tier 2 cities. These 500 PSA plants will be established with transfer of the indigenous technology developed by DRDO and CSIR to the domestic manufacturers.

Establishing PSA plants and procurement of portable oxygen concentrators will greatly augment the supply of oxygen near the demand clusters, thereby addressing the current logistical challenges in transporting oxygen from plants to hospitals.

## 551 PSA OXYGEN GENERATION PLANTS TO BE SET UP ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Earlier, the Prime Minister has directed to boost availability of oxygen to hospitals and the PM CARES Fund has given in-principle approval for allocation of funds for installation of 551 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country. PM has directed that these plants should be made functional as soon as possible. He said that these plants will serve as a major boost to oxygen availability at the district level.

These dedicated plants will be established in identified Government hospitals in district headquarters in various States/UTs. The procurement will be done through Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The PM CARES Fund had earlier this year allocated Rs.201.58 crores for installation of additional 162 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Medical Oxygen Generation Plants inside public health facilities in the country

The basic aim behind establishing PSA Oxygen Generation Plants at Government hospitals in the district headquarters is to further strengthen the public health system and ensure that each of these hospitals has a captive oxygen generation facility. ■

## CUSTOMS DUTY ON REMDESIVIR WAIVED OFF

Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers Shri D. V. Sadanand Gowda informed via Twitter that considering the immediate requirement on the recommendation of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, the Department of Revenue has waived customs duty on Remdesivir and its API/KSM. This step will further augment domestic availability of Remdesivir injection, he added. ■

## **DESPITE THE PANDEMIC EXPORT OF AGRI AND ALLIED COMMODITIES DURING APR, 2020 - FEB, 2021 SHOWS AN INCREASE OF 18.49%**

**I**ndia has consistently maintained trade surplus in the agricultural products over the years. India's agricultural and allied exports during 2019-20 were Rs. 2.52 lakh Crores and imports were Rs. 1.47 lakh Crores. Even, during the difficult time of Pandemic, India took care not to disturb the world food supply chain and continued to export. The export of Agri and allied commodities during Apr,2020 - Feb,2021 were Rs. 2.74 lakhCrore as compared to Rs. 2.31 Crore in the same period last year indicating an increase of 18.49%.

The commodities which posted significant positive growth in exports were wheat,Other Cereals,Rice (other than Basmati), Soya meal, Spices, Sugar, Raw Cotton, Fresh Vegetable, Processed Vegetables, and Alcoholic Beverages etc. Wheat and other cereals posted huge growth over last year, i.e., increasing from Rs. 425 Crore to Rs. 3283 Crore and Rs. 1318 Crore to Rs. 4542 Crore, respectively. On specific demand from countries, NAFED has exported 50,000 MT wheat to Afghanistan and 40,000 MT wheat to Lebanon under G2G arrangement. India has witnessed tremendous growth of 727 % for Wheat export.

Country has witnessed significant growth of 132% in export of (Non-Basmati) Rice. Export of Non-Basmati Rice has gone up from Rs 13,030 crores in 2019-20 to Rs 30,277 crores in 2020-21.This increase in exports

is on account of multiple factors, mainly being India capturing new markets namely, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Chile, and Puerto Rico. Exports were also made to Togo, Senegal, Malaysia, Madagascar, Iraq, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania Rep and Madagascar.

India also enhanced export of Soya meals by 132%. Soya meal has gone up from Rs 3087 crores in 2019-20 to Rs 7224 crores in 2020-21. Other commodities of Agri& Allied basket witnessing significant increase in export during April, 2020 to February, 2021 as compared to corresponding period during 2019-20, have been Spices (Rs 26257 crore vs Rs 23562 crore; growth 11.44%), Sugar(Rs 17072 crore vsRs 12226 crore; growth 39.64%), Raw Cotton(Rs 11373 crore vsRs 6771 crore; growth 67.96%), Fresh Vegetable (Rs4780 crore vs Rs 4067 crore; growth 17.54%) and Processed Vegetables (Rs 2846 crore vs Rs 1994 crore; growth 42.69%)etc.

The imports of Agri and allied commodities during April, 2020 – Feb, 2021 were Rs. 141034.25 Crore as compared to Rs. 137014.39 Crore in the same period last year witnessing a slight increase of 2.93%. Despite COVID-19, balance of trade in agriculture has favorably increased during April, 2020 – Feb, 2021 to Rs. 132,579.69 Crore as against Rs. 93,907.76 Crore during the same period in 2019-20. ■

## **DRDO DEVELOPS SPO2 BASED SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN DELIVERY SYSTEM: A BOON IN CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**D**efence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed SpO2 (Blood Oxygen Saturation) supplemental Oxygen Delivery System for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas. Developed by Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru of DRDO, the system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 levels and prevents the person from sinking in to a state of Hypoxia, which is fatal in most cases, if sets in. This automatic system can also prove to be a boon during the current Covid-19 situation.

Hypoxia is a state in which the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues is inadequate to fulfill all the energy requirements of the body. This is exactly the situation that gets replicated in a Covid patient due to the virus infection and has been a leading factor in the current crisis.

The electronic hardware of the system is designed for functioning at extreme altitudes featuring low barometric pressures, low temperatures and humidity. The software safety checks incorporated into the system are critical in ensuring the functional reliability of the system in field conditions. ■



## MAJOR PORTS WAIVE-OFF ALL CHARGES FOR SHIPS CARRYING OXYGEN AND OXYGEN RELATED EQUIPMENT CARGO

**I**n view of the excessive requirement of Oxygen and related equipment in the country, the Government of India has directed all Major Ports, including the Kamarajar Port Limited, to waive-off all charges levied by Major Port Trusts (including vessel related charges, storage charges etc.) and accord highest priority in the berthing sequence to the vessels carrying consignments of ;

- Medical Grade Oxygen,
- Oxygen Tanks,
- Oxygen Bottles,
- Portable Oxygen Generators,
- Oxygen Concentrators,
- Steel Pipes for manufacturing

Oxygen Cylinders and associated equipment for the next THREE months, or until further orders.

Port Chairpersons have been asked to personally supervise logistic operations to ensure unhindered movement of such consignments for berthing of such vessel on top priority in the port, unloading of oxygen related cargo, coordination with Customs and other authorities for speedy clearance/documentation and expeditious evacuation of oxygen related cargo from port.

In case the vessel is carrying other cargo/containers in addition to above said oxygen related

cargo, waiver of charges on pro-rata basis, considering the overall cargo or containers handled at port, should be provided for oxygen related cargo to such vessels.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will monitor the details of such vessels, cargo and time taken in the port from the time vessel entered in the port limits to exit of cargo from port gate.

Government of India is deeply engaged in handling the crisis related to the second wave of COVID-19 in the country and taking all steps to counter the situation through appropriate and innovative measures. ■

## RAILWAY DEPLOYS 2670 COVID CARE BEDS AT 9 RAILWAY STATIONS

**T**he Ministry of Railways is swiftly meeting the State Governments' demand for the facility of Covid Care coaches during the current raging second spell of the Covid pandemic with its fleet of 4000 coaches (retrofitted as isolation units) with a capacity of 64000 beds. As per currently available data, these facilities are seeing a steady intake registering a cumulative admission of 81 Covid patients and their subsequent discharge of 22 patients. None of the facilities have registered any casualties.

The updated position of the utility of these coaches positioned at the nine major stations in the States of Delhi, UP, MP and Maharashtra are as follows:

- In Delhi, the Railway has catered to the full demand of State Governments' demand for 75 Covid Care coaches with a capacity of 1200 beds. 50 coaches are positioned at Shakurbasti and 25 coaches at AnandVihar stations. Presently, 5 patients were admitted at Shakurbasti and one

patient discharged. In the first Covid wave last year (2020), 857 patients were admitted and discharged at Shakurbasti facility.

- In Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), the Railway has deployed 20 Isolation Coaches with a capacity of 292 beds. 3 patients were admitted and are presently utilising the facility.
- In Nandrubar (Maharashtra), 24 Isolation Coaches with a capacity of 292 beds have been deployed. This facility has registered 73 admissions till date. Of the 55 patients' admissions in the current Covid spell, 7 patients have been discharged. 4 new admissions were recorded during the day (26.4.2021). The Unit has 326 beds still available for Covid patients.
- In UP, though coaches have not yet been requisitioned by State Govt, 10 coaches each are placed at Faizabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Bareilly&Nazibabad totalling to a capacity of 800 beds (50 coaches). ■

## **232.49 LMT OF WHEAT HAS BEEN PROCURED BENEFITTING 22,20,665 FARMERS WITH MSP VALUE OF RS. 43,916.20 CRORE**

**P**rocurment of Wheat has recently commenced in Rabi Marketing Season RMS2021-22 in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir at MSP, as was done in previous seasons, and till now (upto 26.04.2021) a quantity of 232.49 LMT of Wheat has been procured benefitting 22,20,665 farmers with MSP value of Rs. 43916.20 Crore.

Paddy procurement in the ongoing season Kharif 2020-21 is continuing smoothly in the procuring States with purchase of over 710.53 LMTs of paddy (includes Kharif Crop 702.24 LMT and Rabi Crop 8.29 LMT) upto 26.04.2021 against the last year corresponding purchase of 646.36 LMT. About 106.35 Lakh farmers have already been benefitted from the ongoing KMS procurement Operations with MSP value of Rs. 1,34,148.29 Crore.

Further, based on the proposal from the States, approval was accorded for procurement of 107.08 LMT of Pulse and Oilseeds of Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21 &

Rabi Marketing Season 2021 for the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh under Price Support Scheme (PSS). The sanction for procurement of 1.23 LMT of Copra (the perennial crop) for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala was also given. For other States/UTs, approval will also be accorded on receipt of proposals for procurement of Pulses, Oilseeds and Copra under PSS so that procurement of FAQ grade of these crops can be made at notified MSP for the year 2020-21 directly from the registered farmers, if the market rate goes below MSP during the notified harvesting period in the respective States/UTs by the Central Nodal Agencies through State nominated procuring agencies.



Upto 26.04.2021, the Government through its Nodal Agencies has procured 5,97,914.15 MT of Moong, Urad, Tur, Gram, Masoor, Groundnut Pods, Mustard Seed and Soyabean having MSP value of Rs. 3,137.88 Crores benefitting 3,75,316 farmers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana and Rajasthan under Kharif 2020-21 & Rabi 2021.

### **MSP VALUE OF RS.52.40 CRORE HAS BEEN PROCURED BENEFITTING 3961 FARMERS IN KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU UPTO 26.04.2021.**

Similarly, 5089 MT of copra (the perennial crop) having MSP value of Rs.52.40 crore has been procured benefitting 3961 farmers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu upto 26.04.2021. The respective State/UTs Governments are making necessary arrangements for commencement of procurement from the date as decided by the respective States based on the arrivals of Pulses and Oilseeds.

Procurement operations of seed cotton (Kapas) under MSP are going on smoothly in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka. Till 26.04.2021 a quantity of 91,89,310 cotton bales valuing Rs.26,719.51 Crore has been procured benefitting 18,86,498 farmers. ■

## FORMER UNION MINISTER BACHI SINGH RAWAT PASSES AWAY

**F**ormer Union Minister and senior BJP leader Shri Bachi Singh Rawat died at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh due to COVID-19 related complications on April 18, 2021. He was 71. Shri Rawat was admitted to the hospital a day before after he complained of difficulty in breathing and infection in his lungs.

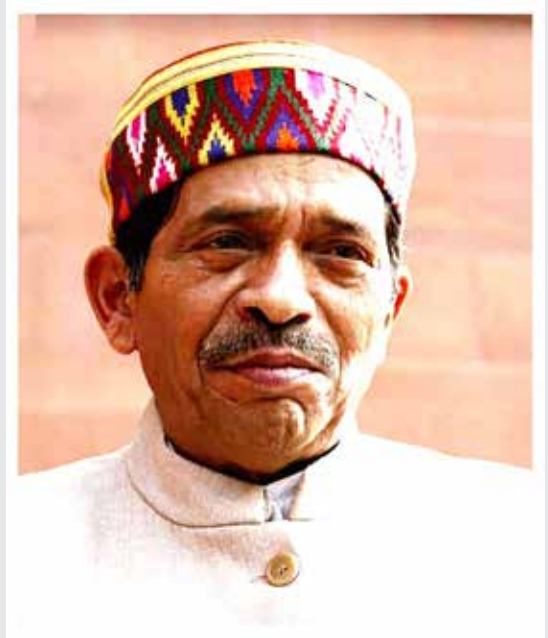
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat was a Union Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and was a four-time Member of Parliament from the Almora-Pithoragarh constituency and had defeated former Chief Minister and Congress leader Shri Harish Rawat thrice in consecutive elections.

In his condolence message **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** said, "The death of senior BJP leader and former Union Minister of State Bachi Singh

Rawat is deeply painful. His entire life was devoted to the welfare of the people and the nation. I express my deepest condolences to his family and well-wishers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti!"

Expressing grief **BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda** in a tweet said, "Sadden to know the demise of senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Shri Bachi Singh Rawat ji. His entire life was dedicated to the organization and service of the people. His death is an irreparable loss to the BJP family. I express my condolences to his family. Om Shanti!"

**Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Tirath Singh Rawat** expressed grief at the death of Shri Bachi Singh Rawat. He said, "May



his soul rest in peace and May God give strength to his family to bear this great loss".

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya, state BJP President Shri Madan Kaushik and other senior leaders also expressed grief at his death. ■

## KAMAL SANDESH MANAGER SHYAM SUNDER TIWARI PASSES AWAY

**K**AMAL SANDESH account and manager Shri Shyam Sunder Tiwari passed away during his treatment for Covid-19 related complications at the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi on 15 April, 2021. He was 41 and originally belonged to Siwan, Bihar. Shri Tiwari is survived by his elderly father, wife and 15 year old son Shashwat.

Shri Tiwari was a RSS Swayamsevak from his childhood days. He was a simple, gentle and religious person and

associated with various religious and social organizations like Patalpuri Sanatan Dharam Raksha Parishad, Kashi (Varanasi) and Ujjawal Bharat Abhiyaan, New Delhi. His last rites were performed at Punjabi Bagh Shamshan Ghat in Delhi.

His demise is an irreplaceable loss to his family and well-wishers. Kamal Sandesh Parivar expressed its heartfelt condolences to the grief-stricken family and prayed to God to grant his soul a place in heavenly abode. Om Shanti! ■





## AID POURS IN FROM THE WORLD TO COUNTER COVID-19 SECOND WAVE

**A**round 15 countries including the US, Russia, France and the United Kingdom are rushing critical emergency use equipment to enable India counter the COVID-19's deadly second wave. Apart from these countries, the World Health Organisation and the European Union have also announced urgent medical assistance to India to help it deal with the situation.

Noteworthy, during the first wave of Covid-19 in 2020, India sent assistance to 100 plus countries with hydroxychloroquine or HCQ, other drugs, medical staff, medical equipment and other lifesaving equipments to defeat the Corona pandemic in the world. Now at the time of India's need other countries also extending helping hand and the

international campaign to support India appeared to intensify with more countries joining the effort with emergency help to deal with the deadly virus. Thus during his interaction with PM Shri Narendra Modi the US President said, 'India was there for us, we'll be there for them'.

A compilation from the Ministry of External Affairs showed that countries are sending hundreds of oxygen concentrators, respirators and large quantities of liquid oxygen to help ease the difficult situation facing by India.

Out of the promised international assistance, a bulk is expected from the United States following President Mr. Joe Biden's telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 26. The US assistance is likely to

include emergency medical care units, oxygen-related supplies, vaccine-related items and therapeutics. President Biden's pledge of help was followed by Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin who stated that he had instructed the Department of Defence to utilise every resource at their disposal to support the American effort to help India's health sector.

An important part of support from the United States will include raw materials required for production of the vaccines here. In that regard, US will approve supply of filters that are necessary in the production of Covishield vaccines. U.S. is also expected to release at least 10 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine after the authorities give a green signal for export to India.

Assistance from the leading economies of the world is expected to reach in multiple phases with France this week sending eight large Oxygen Generating Plants and a large number of items like respirators and electric syringe pushers. The French government is on track to send 5 liquid oxygen containers next week. Germany will make an oxygen production plant available for 3 months along with 120 ventilators and protective equipment like KN95 masks.

Like other major partner countries, Australia too announced that it will send 500 ventilators, 1 million surgical masks, 500,000 P2 and N95 masks, and other protective items for the frontline health workers. Accordingly, 4 cryogenic oxygen containers were sourced from Singapore. Saudi Arabia has sent 80 MT of liquid oxygen which is currently en route via sea. Thailand and the United Arab Emirates have sent 4 and 6 cryogenic oxygen tanks and 800 oxygen concentrators were sent by Hong Kong. Ireland is on track to send 70 oxygen concentrators.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also getting phone calls from various heads of the countries for support. Canadian Foreign Minister Marc Garneau and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmed Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah also call Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and both the countries discussed ways to strengthen India's efforts to deal with the second wave of the COVID-19.

## **PM MODI TALKS TO PM YOSHIHIDE OF JAPAN ON COVID-19 SITUATION**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a phone call today with His Excellency Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan on April 26, 2021. The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 situation in the respective country and exchanged views on various regional and global challenges



for early operationalization of the Specified Skilled workers (SSW) agreement in order to synergize their strengths and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. They also highlighted the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project as a shining example of their cooperation and welcomed the steady progress in its execution.

The two leaders appreciated the support and facilitation



posed by the pandemic. They highlighted the importance of close India-Japan cooperation to overcome these challenges, such as by working together to create resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains, ensuring reliable supply of critical materials and technologies, and developing new partnerships in manufacturing and skill development.

In this context, the two leaders emphasized the need

provided to resident citizens in each other's country during the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed to continue such coordination.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also thanked Prime Minister Suga for providing assistance to India for combating the pandemic. He also expressed hope that he would be able to receive Prime Minister Suga in India at the earliest in the near future once the COVID-19 situation stabilizes.

## **PRIME MINISTER'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation on April 26, 2021 with the President of the United States of America Mr. Joseph R. Biden.

The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 situation in their respective countries, including India's ongoing efforts to contain the second wave of COVID-19 through expedited vaccination efforts, and ensuring supply of critical medicines, therapeutics and healthcare equipment.

President Biden conveyed solidarity with India and affirmed that the United States was determined to support India's efforts by quickly deploying resources such as therapeutics, ventilators and identifying sources of raw materials to be made available for the manufacture of Covishield vaccines.

"Today, I spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

pledged America's full support to provide emergency assistance and resources in the fight against Covid-19. India was there for us, and we will be there for them," the US President said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for the offer of assistance and support from the Government of the United States of America. He mentioned India's commitment to contain the COVID-19 pandemic globally through Vaccine Maitri, and its participation in COVAX and the Quad Vaccine Initiatives. The Prime Minister underscored the need to ensure smooth and open supply chains of raw materials and inputs required for manufacture of vaccines, medicines, and therapeutics related to COVID-19.

Both leaders underlined the potential of the India-US partnership in vaccine development and supply to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and directed their respective officials to maintain close coordination and cooperation in

their efforts in this domain.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also informed President Biden about India's initiative at the WTO for a relaxation in the norms of the Agreement on TRIPS to ensure quick and affordable access to vaccines and medicines for developing countries. The two leaders agreed to remain in regular touch.

## **PM'S TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on telephone on April 28, 2021 with President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin. The leaders discussed the evolving Covid-19 pandemic situation. President Putin expressed solidarity with the people and government of India and conveyed that Russia would extend all possible support in this regard. Prime Minister Modi thanked President Putin and noted that the prompt Russian support to India was a symbol of our enduring partnership.

The two leaders noted the ongoing cooperation between the two countries to fight the global pandemic. Approval for emergency use of Sputnik-V vaccine in India was appreciated by President Putin. The leaders noted that the Russian vaccine will be manufactured in India for use in India, Russia and third countries.

Both leaders attached importance to further deepening bilateral cooperation in various





sectors in the spirit of our special and privileged partnership. Prime Minister Modi conveyed appreciation for the support received from Russia for India's Gaganyaan Program and the completion of the Russian phase of training of the four Gaganyaan astronauts.

The leaders noted the scope for increasing cooperation in the area of renewable energy, including the Hydrogen economy.

The leaders decided to establish a new 2+2 dialogue at Minister level comprising Foreign and Defence Ministers from both countries.

The two leaders recalled the important decisions taken during their last Summit meeting in Vladivostok in September 2019. Prime Minister Modi conveyed that he looks forward to President Putin's visit to India later this year for the Bilateral Summit which would provide an occasion to continue their personal and trusted conversation. President Putin assured the Prime Minister of Russia's full support for the success of India's Presidency of BRICS during 2021. The two leaders agreed to remain

in close touch on bilateral and international issues.

## **'TOGETHER WE WILL WIN': FRANCE PM MACRON'S MESSAGE TO INDIA**



French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron on 27 April, 2021 said that he will provide all the assistance to India for its fight against surging coronavirus pandemic. In a Facebook post written in Hindi, Mr. Macron said that France and India have always been united. "No one is untouched by the epidemic we are going through. We know that India is going through a difficult period. France and India have

always been united: we are ready to provide our assistance" France on 27 April, 2021 announced that it is sending to India oxygen generators, liquid oxygen containers, ventilators and other medical supplies by air and sea to support the country in its fight against surging coronavirus cases. "The departments of our ministries are working hard. Our French companies are mobilizing and they are already in greater numbers," he added.

"Solidarity is at the heart of our nation. It is at the center of friendship between our countries. We will win together," he added.

The French foreign ministry said the medical supplies will include eight oxygen generators, each capable of uninterrupted supply of oxygen for a 250-bed hospital for nearly 10 years.

"Each unit can uninterruptedly supply a 250-bed hospital. Its oxygen output can fulfil the needs of 15 critically ill Covid-19 patients in an ICU (or 30 patients in the ICU of a conventional hospital) or 150 patients on oxygen therapy in a conventional hospital facility. These oxygen generators also include ramps for filling oxygen cylinders," it said.

The ministry said five containers of liquid medical oxygen are being sent as part of the first instalment, adding they are capable of supplying medical oxygen to up to 10,000 patients per day.

France is also sending to India 28 ventilators and their consumables, as well as 200 electric syringe pumps. ■



## TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, CONCRETE ACTION IS NEEDED: PM MODI

**P** RIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI PARTICIPATED AND ADDRESSED THE LEADERS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE 2021 WHICH WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ON APRIL 22-23, 2021. SHRI MODI PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMIT AT THE INVITATION OF US PRESIDENT JOSEPH P BIDEN. AROUND 40 WORLD LEADERS PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMIT AND THE THEME IS 'OUR COLLECTIVE SPIRIT TO 2030'. THE SUMMIT WAS HOSTED BY THE US. FOLLOWING IS THE ADDRESS OF PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI.

**Your Excellency President Biden,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
My fellow Citizens of this Planet,  
Namaskar!**

I would like to thank President Biden for taking this initiative. Humanity is battling a global pandemic right now. And, this event is a timely reminder that the grave threat of Climate Change has not disappeared.

In fact, Climate Change is a lived reality for millions around the world. Their lives and livelihoods are already facing its adverse consequences.

**Friends,**

For humanity to combat Climate Change, concrete action is needed. We need such action at a high speed, on a large scale, and with a global scope. We, in India, are doing our part. Our ambitious renewable energy target of 450 Giga watts by 2030 shows our commitment.

Despite our development challenges, we have taken many bold steps on clean energy, energy efficiency, afforestation and bio-diversity. That is why we are among the few countries whose NDCs are 2-degree-Celsius compatible.

We have also encouraged global initiatives like International Solar Alliance, LeadIT, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

**Friends,**

As a climate-responsible developing country, India welcomes partners to create templates of sustainable development in India. These can also help other developing countries, who need affordable access to green finance and clean technologies.

That is why, President Biden and I are launching the "India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership". Together, we will help mobilise investments, demonstrate clean technologies, and enable green collaborations.

**Friends,**

Today, as we discuss global climate action, I want to leave one thought with you. India's per capita carbon footprint is 60% lower than the global average. It is because our lifestyle is still rooted in sustainable traditional practices.

So today, I want to emphasize the importance of lifestyle change in climate action. Sustainable lifestyles and a guiding philosophy of "Back to Basics" must be an important pillar of our economic strategy for the post-Covid era.

**Friends,**

I recall the words of the great Indian monk Swami Vivekananda. He called on us to "Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached". Let us make this a Decade of Action against climate change. ■



# THE STORM OF CORONA HAS SHAKEN THE COUNTRY: PM MODI

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 25, addressed the country in the 76th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' program. Shri Modi said, After successfully combating the first wave of Corona, the country was full of confidence, but second wave has shaken the country. Shri Modi also urge that "In this crisis of Corona, the importance of the vaccine is being known to everyone, so I request you not to get into any rumors about the vaccine.

He further said, Today, I am expressing Mann Ki Baat at a time when Corona is testing our patience; it is testing the limits of all of us at enduring misery. Many of our near and dear ones have left us untimely. After successfully confronting the first wave of Corona, the country was full of enthusiasm, full of self-confidence, but this storm has shaken the country.

Friends, in the days gone by, to tide over this crisis, I had long deliberations with experts from myriad sectors. People from our Pharma industry, vaccine manufacturers, those connected with oxygen production, experts from the medical field have put forth their valuable suggestions to the government. This time, for emerging victorious in this battle, we have to accord priority to expert and scientific advice.

The Government of India is applying its entire might to give a fillip to the endeavours of State Governments. The State Governments too are trying their best to fulfill their responsibilities.

Friends, presently, the country's doctors and health workers are waging a colossal



**ALONG WITH DOCTORS AND NURSING STAFF, AT THE MOMENT FRONTLINE WORKERS LIKE LAB-TECHNICIANS AND AMBULANCE DRIVERS ARE ALSO WORKING IN A GODLIKE MANNER !**

battle against Corona. Over the past one year, they have undergone varied experiences.

Friends, I urge all of you... if you need any information, if you have any apprehension, get the information only from the correct source. You can consult

your family doctor or doctors in the neighbourhood on the phone. I am noticing that many of our doctors are taking upon themselves this responsibility, on their own. Many doctors are providing information to people through social media. They are counseling on phone and WhatsApp. Many hospitals have websites where information is available...there you can seek advice of doctors too. This is commendable.

My dear friends, along with Doctors and Nursing Staff, at the moment frontline Workers like Lab-Technicians and Ambulance Drivers are also working in a godlike manner ! When an Ambulance reaches a patient, the family feels as if an angel has visited them in form of an Ambulance Driver!

My dear countrymen, today, our personnel from the medical field, frontline workers are all endeavouring 24x7 in service work. Similarly, other people of the society also are not lagging behind at this time. The country is once again united and fighting against Corona. These days, I see that someone is delivering medicines to families living in quarantine, someone is sending vegetables, milk, fruits etc. Someone is offering free ambulance services to patients.

Even in such challenging times, in different corners of the country, voluntary organizations are coming forward and trying to do whatever they can to help others. This time, new awareness is also being seen in the villages. By strictly following the Covid rules, people are protecting their village from the corona, proper arrangements are also being made for those who are coming from outside. Many young people have also come forward in the cities, working together with the local residents, in order to prevent the rise of Corona cases in their area. Meaning, on the one hand, the country is working day and night for hospitals, ventilators and medicines and on the other

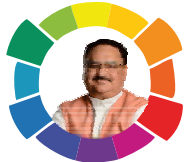
hand, the countrymen are also fighting the challenge of Corona with a lot of heart. This resolve gives us so much strength, so much confidence. Whatever efforts are being made are of great service to the society. They strengthen the power of society.

My dear countrymen, today we kept the entire conversation of 'Mann Ki Baat' focused on the corona pandemic, because, today, our biggest priority is to defeat this disease. Today is also Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti. On this occasion, I convey my good wishes to all the countrymen. The messages of Bhagwan Mahavir inspire us towards perseverance and self-restraint. The holy month of Ramzan is also

going on. There is also Buddha Purnima ahead. There is also the 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. A landmark day ahead is PochisheBoishak – Tagore Jayanti. All these inspire us to perform our duties. As a citizen, the more we perform our duties with efficiency in our lives, the faster we will move on the path of the future, free from crisis. With this wish, I once again urge all of you to get vaccinated and we also have to take full care. 'Dawaibhi, Kadaibhi' – Get vaccinated and maintain all precautions. Never forget this mantra. We will soon prevail together over this calamity. With this belief, I thank you all very much. Namaskar! ■



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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a meeting with the Chief Ministers on COVID situation in the country via video conferencing in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses on the occasion of the National Panchayati Raj Day 2021, through video conferencing in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the Vaccine manufacturers, through video conferencing in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the Healthcare Professionals through video conferencing in New Delhi.



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**MODI GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FREE FOOD GRAINS UNDER PM GARIB KALYAN ANN YOJANA FOR MAY AND JUNE 2021**

- 5 kg free food grains to be provided to the poor for the months of May & June 2021
- Around **80 crore** beneficiaries to get free food grains
- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the poor, Govt will provide free food grains to **80 crore** beneficiaries, on the same pattern as last year's PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, at a cost of **Rs 26,000 crore**
- PM Narendra Modi stressed that it is important that the poor of the country have nutritional support when the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus

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