

India Positive

India Fights Against Covid 19

Weekly Newsletter

(May 13, 2021 - May 19, 2021)



**Videsh Vibhag,
Bharatiya Janata Party**

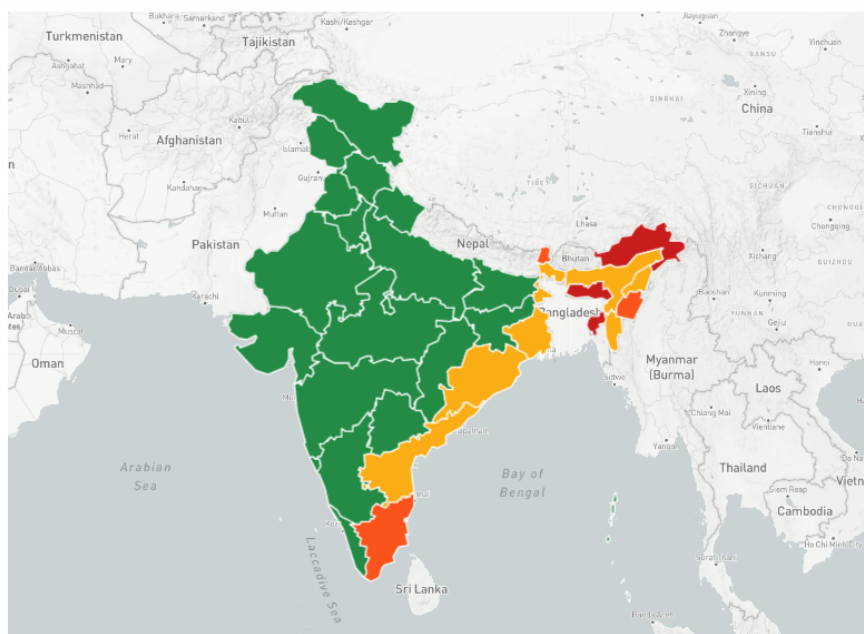
Covid 19 Reports Summary

May 2021

	New Cases	Deceased	Recovered	Active Cases
May 3-9	27,42,684	27,201	23,83,522	37,41,302
May 10-16	23,02,533	28,269	25,02,282	35,12,668
May 17-22	15,63,898	24,882	22,51,090	28,00,217

Nationwide Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination this week: **85,95,046**

•Stats as per MoHFW



Dealing with the oxygen production and supply crisis

- On oxygen supply, all the concerned departments and ministries of the government are working together. Industrial oxygen has also been diverted to meet immediate requirements. PM Modi urged the states to check hoarding and black marketing of oxygen and medicines. The Prime Minister urged the states to set up a high-level co-ordination committee to carry oxygen to different hospitals of the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held a meeting with leading oxygen manufacturers across the country via video conferencing. PM Modi stressed on the need to maintain good co-ordination between the government and the oxygen producers. There have been some recent developments regarding this, they are as follows:
- **CSIR-CMERI transfers the technology to companies' to ramp up the production of the Oxygen Enrichment Unit.** CSIR-CMERI has transferred the license for production, marketing and service to four industries and is confident that all four parties are able to manufacture the product by the 2nd week of May 2021. **IIT Bombay has also come up with a creative and ingenious solution to addressing the shortage of medical oxygen for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in the country.** The pilot project which has been tested successfully relies on a simple technological hack: conversion of PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) Nitrogen Unit to PSA Oxygen Unit.
- **Fertilizer companies supply 50 Metric Tons (MT) of medical oxygen per day for COVID patients:** It is expected that approximately 50 Metric Tons (MT) of medical oxygen per day can be made available for COVID patients by the fertilizer Plants. These steps will augment the medical grade oxygen supply to hospitals in the country in the coming days.
- Also to address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imported **20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocated them to States in the month of april, 2021.**
- **Steel plants, across the country, belonging to the Public as well as the Private sectors, have been regularly supplying the life-saving Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) to the country.** Along with the Petroleum sector, they have been contributing major share of the LMO requirement of the country which stands at about 10 thousand MT/day. Steel plants have ramped up LMO supplies from 538 MT per day as on 1st April 2021 to over 4 thousand MT per day. On 17th May, they supplied 4435 MT LMO, going up from 4314 MT on 16th May. This included 1485 MT from SAIL, 158MT from RINL, 1154MT from TATA, 238MT from AMNS, 1162MT from JSW, and rest from other steel plants.
- **The Government of India has reviewed the existing procedure of registration and approval of global manufacturers for importing oxygen cylinders and cryogenic tankers/ containers by Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO).** In view of the COVID pandemic, PESO shall not carry out physical inspection of global manufacturers' production facilities before grant of such registration and approval.

- **PM CARES Fund approves procurement of 1.5 lakh units of SpO2 based oxygen supply system developed by DRDO:** PM CARES Fund has accorded sanction for procurement of 1,50,000 units of 'Oxycare' system developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at a cost of Rs 322.5 crore. Oxycare is a SpO2 based Oxygen Supply System which regulates the oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed SpO2 levels. Under this sanction, 1,00,000 manual and 50,000 automatic Oxycare systems along with non-rebreather masks are being procured.
- **Railways transported Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and Oxygen Cylinders:** The Railways is transporting Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and Oxygen Cylinders across the key Corridors. After the Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra state governments had approached Ministry of Railways to explore whether Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) tankers could be moved by Railways. Railways immediately explored the technical feasibility of transportation of LMO. LMO has to be transported through Roll On Roll Off (RO RO) service with road tankers placed on flat wagons. Oxygen Expresses deliver nearly 12630 MT of Liquid Medical Oxygen in more than 775 tankers to the Nation. 10 loaded Oxygen Expresses on run with more than 784 MT of LMO in 45 tankers. Oxygen Expresses delivering more than 800 MT of LMO to the Nation each day now. Oxygen relief by Oxygen Expresses reaches out to 13 states namely Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Telangana, Punjab, Kerala, Delhi & Uttar Pradesh. So far 521 MT of Oxygen has been offloaded in Maharashtra, nearly 3189 MT in UP, 521 MT in MP, 1549 MT in Haryana, 772 MT in Telangana, 98 MT in Rajasthan, 641 MT in Karnataka, 320 MT in Uttarakhand, 584 MT in Tamil Nadu, 292 MT in Andhra Pradesh, 111 MT in Punjab, 118 MT in Kerala and more than 3915 MT in Delhi

Production and supply of Remdesivir and other healthcare facilities

- **Threefold increase in production of Remdesivir in the country:** The production of remdesivir is being increased at a rapid pace in the country since last month. In just a few days, India has achieved 3 times the production capacity of Remdesivir and will soon be able to meet the growing demand. This was announced by the Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Production capacity of Remdesivir increased to nearly 119 lakh vials per month from 38 lakh vials per month: Department of Pharmaceuticals intensified monitoring of availability, production and supply of drugs used for Covid-19 Treatment in early April, 2021 as number of cases of Covid-19 started increasing steeply. Remdesivir is a patented drug, manufactured in India under voluntary licenses granted by Gilead Life Sciences USA, the patent holder, to 7 Indian pharmaceutical companies (Cipla, Dr Reddy's Lab., Hetero, Jubilant Pharma, Mylan, Syngene and Zydus Cadila).
- Initially the Government of India has started importing the vital drug Remdesivir from other countries to ease out the shortage of Remdesivir in the country. The Consignment of **4,50,000 vials of Remdesivir** vials reached India by last month.
- **Allocation of Remdesivir made upto 23rd May 2021 to ensure its adequate availability across the country:** In a letter written to all States by Department of Pharmaceuticals and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it was mentioned that in continuation of the allocation plan of Remdesivir drug for the period 21st April to 16th May, 2021 communicated by D.O of even number issued on 7th May 2021, an updated allocation plan valid for period of 21st April to 23rd May, 2021 is prepared jointly by Department of Pharmaceuticals and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **anti-COVID drug developed by DRDO got approval:** DCGI approves anti-COVID drug developed by DRDO for emergency use: An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has been developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad. Clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence. Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in COVID patients. The drug will be of immense benefit to the people suffering from COVID-19.
- **Recently Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the requirement and supply position of Amphotericin-B which cures Mucormycosis.** The Government has chalked out a strategy with manufacturers to ramp up domestic production as well as to import the drug from all over the world. The Minister has observed that the supply of Amphotericin-B has been increased many folds. He has assured that the Government is committed to making all possible and necessary efforts to make it available to needy patients. A sudden increase in demand has been observed in some states for Amphotericin B which is being actively prescribed by the physicians to patients suffering from Mucormycosis, a post COVID complication. The Government of India is therefore engaging with the manufacturers to ramp up production of the drug. The supply position is expected to improve with extra imports of this drug and increase in its production domestically.
- **70,000 Isolation beds made available by Railways in more than 4400 Covid Care Coaches:** The Railways has made available a fleet of more than 4400 Isolation Coaches with around 70,000 beds to serve as Isolation Units. These Isolation Coaches can be easily moved and positioned at places of demand on the Indian Railways network. Quick memorandum agreement of shared responsibilities and rapid action plans are being worked out by Railways with the respective District Authorities.
- **AYUSH 64 found useful in the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 infection:** AYUSH 64, a poly herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush is useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID-19 infection as an adjunct to standard care. It is worthwhile to mention that initially the drug was developed for Malaria in the year 1980 and now is repurposed for COVID-19.
- **UNICEF India in the recent crisis:** UNICEF India has been integral to operational planning and on-the-ground implementation of vaccine campaigns and has been the key agency working with the government on cold-chain management and vaccine procurement. At the start of 2021, it co-organized vaccine campaign trial-runs with eight state governments. Meanwhile, to respond to the health crisis we have been able to deliver essential life saving supplies. This includes more than 13.75 million PPE items, 3,014 oxygen concentrators, 512 high-flow nasal cannulas, and 85 RT-PCR (COVID testing) machines, 1471 pediatric mannikins. We are supporting the procurement and installation of 25 PSA oxygen generation plants for hospitals, 300 RT-PCR machines, 100 RNA Extraction machines and 72 thermal scanners at various ports of entry countrywide.

Ventilators

- Government of India has been supporting the efforts of States and UTs for effective management of COVID patients in hospital care, under the 'Whole of Government' approach since last year. In order to augment the existing hospital infrastructure, the Union Government has been centrally procuring and providing States/UTs/Central Hospitals/ Institutes with essential medical devices including ventilators since April 2020.
- That is when the local manufacturers were encouraged to produce "Make in India" Ventilators to address the huge projected demand of the country and orders placed on them. Many of them were first time manufacturers of the ventilators. The ventilator models went through rigorous screening, technical demonstration and clinical validation process in the very limited time available for the same, through domain knowledge experts, and after their approval, these were put into supplies.
- There are a few States which have received the ventilators but are yet to get these installed in their hospitals. Union Health Secretary has written to seven such States on 11th April 2021 which still have more than 50 ventilators lying uninstalled with them for the last 4-5 months. They have been requested to get the installation expedited so that the ventilators can be put to optimal use.
- In addition to the instructions given in the user manual, detailed instructions and guidelines have also been issued to all the ventilator users regarding infrastructure requirements, proper usage and maintenance of the CV200 ventilators. However, these are not being followed by many hospitals / medical colleges in Punjab. They have been, instead, raising the issue of ventilators being non functional without any basis.
- In addition, the Union Health Ministry has written to the States and UTs on 9th May 2021 informing them once again of the Helpline numbers of the Ventilator manufactures, which are also available on the ventilators in the form of stickers.
- PM CARES Fund has accorded sanction for procurement of 1,50,000 units of 'Oxycare' system developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at a cost of Rs 322.5 crore. Oxycare is a SpO2 based Oxygen Supply System which regulates the oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed SpO2 levels. Under this sanction, 1,00,000 manual and 50,000 automatic Oxycare systems along with non-rebreather masks are being procured. The Oxycare system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 levels and prevents the person from sinking into a state of hypoxia which can be fatal. This system was developed by Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru of DRDO for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas. The system is indigenously developed for operation in field conditions and is robust. It can be effectively used to treat COVID-19 patients.

Additional free-of-cost foodgrains to be distributed to NFSA Beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in May and June 2021:

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the poor, the Government of India has decided to allocate free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) over and above NFSA food grains for next two months i.e. May and June 2021 on the same pattern as the earlier "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)".
- Under this special scheme (PMGKAY), around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost food grains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.
- Government of India will bear full expenditure of over Rs 26,000 Crore on account of cost of food grains, intrastate transportation etc. as part of Central assistance to States/UTs.

Additional free-of-cost food grains to be distributed to NFSA Beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in May and June 2021:

- In view of ongoing lock-down in some States/UTs, that may curtail the functioning hours of Fair Price Shop (FPSs), an advisory has been issued on 15th May, 2021 by Department of Food and Public Distribution to all States/UTs to keep the Fair Price Shops open preferably on all days of the month and distribute PMGKAY III and NFSA food grains to beneficiaries in a staggered manner throughout the day to allow for proper social distancing/ adherence to COVID-19 protocols at Fair Price Shops.
- To facilitate this, States/UTs have been requested to ensure that Fair Price Shops are exempted from the restricted hours of opening of regular market.

PM releases 8th instalment of financial benefit under PM-KISAN:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released 8th instalment of financial benefit of Rs 2,06,67,75,66,000 to 9,50,67,601 beneficiary farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said for the first time, the farmers of West Bengal would be getting the benefit of this scheme. He lauded the efforts of the farmers who have made record produce in food grains and horticulture amidst the difficulties during this pandemic.
- He said Government is also setting new records in procurement at MSP every year. Paddy procurement at MSP had set new records and now wheat procurement at MSP is also setting new records. He added that so far this year, about 10 percent more wheat has been procured at MSP, compared to last year. So far, about Rs. 58,000 crores for wheat procurement has reached the farmers' account directly.

All AIIMS increase their number of Oxygen supported beds as well as ICU-Ventilator beds:

- As directed by Government of India, all AIIMS (including AIIMS, New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Mangalagiri, Nagpur; JIPMER Puducherry; and PGIMER Chandigarh) have increased their number of Oxygen supported beds as well as ICU beds with ventilators.
- They had 1448 oxygen supported beds and 519 ICU-ventilator beds. This number has been increased to 2113 Oxygen supported beds and 676 ICU-Ventilator beds. This decision of Government of India will go a long way in addressing the urgent and critical need of hospital beds in States which have reported shortage of such beds, where AIIMS are present.

Panchayati Raj Ministry Issues Advisory for the Guidance of Panchayats to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, yesterday released an amount of Rs. 8,923.8 crore to 25 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies (RLBs). The grants are meant for all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions – village, block and district. The amount released on Saturday is the first instalment of the 'Untied Grants' for the year 2021-22. It may be utilised by the RLBs, among other things, for various prevention and mitigation measures needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it will augment resources to the three tiers of Panchayats for fighting the contagion. The state-wise amount of the grant released is enclosed.
- The spread of COVID-19 pandemic in different parts of the country has recently assumed serious proportions. The vulnerabilities of the rural communities need to be especially addressed. Comparatively low level of awareness amongst the rural population coupled with inadequate support systems in villages may create a constraining situation in dealing with the pandemic in an effective manner.
- Hence, the Panchayats/Rural Local Bodies need to be properly sensitized and facilitated towards meeting the challenge and provide leadership as they did last year and received appreciation at the highest level for various measures. Keeping the above factors in view, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on the recommendation of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), released an amount of Rs.8,923.8 crore to 25 states for providing Grant to rural local bodies.
- The amount released is the first instalment of the Basic (Untied) Grants and may be utilized among other things for various prevention and mitigation measures needed to combat the Covid pandemic. The Ministry has also issued advisory for the guidance of Panchayats as regards the action for combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of Covid-19 Vaccination from 1st May:

- In a meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi, an important decision of allowing vaccination to everyone above the age of 18 from 1st May has been taken. PM said that the Government has been working hard from over a year to ensure that maximum numbers of Indians are able to get the vaccine in the shortest possible time. This would augment vaccine production as well as availability, incentivising vaccine manufacturers to rapidly ramp up their production as well as attract new vaccine manufacturers, domestic and international. It would also make pricing, procurement, eligibility and administration of vaccines open and flexible, allowing all stakeholders the flexibility to customise to local needs and dynamics.

Government Supports Augmentation of Manufacturing Capacity for COVAXIN production under Mission COVID Suraksha:

- To augment the capacity of Indigenous production of Covaxin under the Mission, the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India recently provided financial support as Grant to vaccine manufacturing facilities for enhanced production capacities, which is expected to reach more than 10 crore doses per month by September, 2021.
- As a part of this augmentation plan, capacities of Bharat Biotech Limited, Hyderabad as well as other public sector manufactures are being upgraded with required infrastructure and technology. Financial support is being provided as grant from GoI to the tune of approx. Rs 65 Cr to Bharat Biotech's new Bangalore facility which is being repurposed to increase the capacity of vaccine production.

DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years:

- The National Regulator of the country, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), after careful examination, has accepted the recommendation of Subject Expert Committee (SEC) and accorded permission to conduct the Phase II/III clinical trial of Covaxin (COVID vaccine) in the age group 2 to 18 years, to its manufacturer Bharat Biotech Ltd on 12.05.2021.

Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform:

- The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- Expressing his enthusiasm at the brave, futuristic and pertinent amalgamation of healthcare and technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan stated that "This day shall be written in Golden Letters as a day that marks a milestone in the history of disease surveillance. We have started a new chapter in India's public health trajectory. India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system."
- He elaborated on the timely need for the software platform: "The new version of IHIP will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program. In addition to tracking 33 diseases now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases, it shall ensure near-real-time data in digital mode, having done away with the paper-mode of working".

Foreign Aid to India



United States of America

- Rapid Diagnostic Tests: 10 lakh
- Oxygen Concentrators: 545
- N95 Masks: 16 lakh
- Oxygen Cylinders: 457
- Regulators: 440
- Pulse Oximeters: 220
- Deployable Oxygen Concentration System: 1



United Kingdom

- Oxygen Concentrators: 2008
- Ventilators: 1220
- Cylinders of 46-lakh Capacity: 900
- Oxygen Generation Units: 3
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Russia

- Oxygen Concentrators: 20+
- Ventilators: 75+
- Bedside Monitors: 150+
- Medicines



Canada

- Ventilators: 850
- Vials of Remdesivir: 25,000



Australia

- Ventilators: 1,056
- Oxygen Concentrators: 60
- Ventilators Valves: 25000



Switzerland

- Oxygen Concentrators: 600
- Ventilators: 50



France

- Hospital-level Oxygen Generators: 8, each providing year-long oxygen for 250 beds,
- Liquid Oxygen: 2,000 patients for 5 days
- ventilators: 28 and equipment for ICUs, making up 28 tonnes



Israel

- Oxygen Generation Units: 3+
- Oxygen Concentrators: 1660+
- Respirators: 400

The world nations came together to help India overcome the second wave of Covid 19. Giving a classical example of **global cooperation they provided aid to India in the form Oxygen concentrators, medicines, masks etc.**

A total of 41 countries including **USA, UK, Russia, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, France and Israel & 35 more countries** came forward to help India in these tough times.

Refer to the annexure for details of other countries

*This data is till 19th May, 2021

8th installment under #PMKisan released to the farmers by PM Modi

14th May, 2021

Speech Highlights:

- India won't lose courage. We will fight and win.
- Today is the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya, the beginning of the new cycle of agriculture, and today about 19,000 crore rupees have been transferred directly to the bank accounts of farmers. It will benefit about 10 crore farmers.
- So far, about 1,35,000 crore rupees have reached about 11 crore farmers of the country under this scheme. That is, more than 1,25,000 crore rupees directly into the accounts of the farmers and without any middleman. Out of this, more than 60,000 crore rupees have been transferred to the farmers' accounts in the Corona period alone. It is the government's constant endeavour to extend help directly and quickly and with complete transparency to those who need it the most.
- While farmers have made record productions in agriculture and horticulture amid the challenges of Corona, the Government is also setting new procurement records on MSP every year. Record purchases of paddy earlier and now wheat are happening. So far, about 10 per cent more wheat has been procured at MSP this year as compared to the previous year. So far, about 58,000 crore rupees of wheat procurement has reached the farmers' accounts directly.
- I am satisfied that lakhs of farmers of Punjab and Haryana have become part of this direct transfer facility for the first time. So far, about 18,000 crore rupees have been credited to the bank accounts of farmers of Punjab and 9,000 crore rupees directly into the bank accounts of farmers of Haryana.
- The contribution of the villages and farmers has been immense in India's fight against Corona. It is the result of your efforts that India is running the world's largest free ration scheme during the Corona period. Free ration was given to the poor for eight months last year under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. Provisions have been made to ensure free ration to more than 80 crore colleagues in the months of May and June. The government is spending 26,000 crore rupees in this regard.
- After 100 years, such a deadly epidemic is testing the world at every step. There is an invisible enemy in front of us. And this enemy is imposter also and due to which we have lost many of our close ones. The pain that the countrymen have endured for some time now, the pain that many people have gone through, I feel the same pain. Being your 'Pradhan Sevak', I share your sentiment.
- All the bottlenecks during the second wave of Corona are being addressed. Efforts are being made on a war footing. You must have seen that all the departments of the Government, all the resources, the security forces of our country, our scientists, everyone is united in meeting the challenge of COVID. COVID hospitals are being set up rapidly in different parts of the country and oxygen plants are being set up with new technology.
- All our three forces -- Air Force, Navy and Army -- are engaged in this work with full force. Oxygen rails have been a big boost in this fight against Corona. These special trains are engaged in delivering oxygen to the remote parts of the country. Truck drivers carrying oxygen tankers are working non-stop.

- Be it doctors, nursing staff, sanitation workers, lab technicians, ambulance drivers, sample collectors – all are working 24 hours to save every individual. Efforts are on a war footing to augment the supply of essential medicines in the country. The government and the pharma sector of the country have augmented the production of essential medicines manifold in the last few days. Medicines are also being imported.

PM Modi interacted with Group of Doctors from across the country to discuss Covid situation

17th May, 2021

- Prime Minister thanked the entire medical fraternity & the paramedical staff for the exemplary fight displayed by them against the extraordinary circumstances of the second wave of Covid, adding that the entire country is indebted to them. He noted that be it testing, supply of medicines or set-up of new infrastructure in record time, all these are being done at a fast pace. Several challenges of oxygen production and supply are being overcome.
- The steps taken by the country to augment human resources, like including MBBS students in Covid treatment, and ASHAs and Anganwadi workers in rural areas, provided extra support to the health system.
- Prime Minister underlined that the strategy of starting vaccination programme with front line warriors has paid rich dividends in the second wave. About 90% of the health professionals in the country have already taken the first dose. Vaccines have ensured safety of most of the doctors.
- Prime Minister urged doctors to include oxygen audit in their daily efforts. Noting that a large number of patients are undergoing treatment in 'home isolation', he requested the doctors to ensure that the home based care of every patient is SOP driven.
- He said that telemedicine has played a big role for patients in home isolation, and this service needs to be expanded in rural areas as well. He lauded the doctors who are forming teams and providing telemedicine service in villages. He appealed to doctors across the states to form similar teams, train final year MBBS students and MBBS interns, and work towards ensuring that all tehsils and districts of the country have telemedicine service.
- Prime Minister also discussed the challenge of Mucormycosis and said that doctors may need to put in extra effort towards taking active steps and spreading awareness about it.
- He further underscored the importance of psychological care, along with the importance of physical care. He said that continuously fighting this long battle against the virus must be mentally challenging for the medical fraternity, but the power of faith of citizens stands with them in this fight.

PM Modi interacted with District Officials on the COVID-19 situation.

18th May, 2021

- Vaccination is a powerful means in the fight against COVID. Therefore, we have to work together to dismiss every illusion related to it. Continuous efforts are being made to increase the supply of corona vaccines on a very large scale.
- Work is being done rapidly to install oxygen plants in hospitals in every district of the country through PM CARES Fund
- All the officials have a very important role in the war against Corona like a field commander

- There are different challenges according to the districts in our country. In a way, every district has its own challenges. You understand the challenges of your district in a much better way. Therefore, when your district wins, it means the country wins, when your district defeats corona, the country defeats corona. Therefore, every district and every village should have this temperament that they will keep their villages free of corona. The people of the villages should take this resolution.
- Today, all of you are handling the leadership as an important field commander in this fight. What are our weapons against this virus? The weapons are – local containment zones, aggressive testing and ensuring correct information to the people.
- The ease of access to the information as to how many beds are available in hospitals and where they are available is of great convenience to the people. Similarly, whether it is curbing black marketing, strict action against such people, or mobilizing frontline workers by keeping their morale high, your efforts as a field commander energise the entire district.
- If you think that the policy formulated by the government needs any innovation at the district level and it will give strength to the policy, then you have a free hand. Do it. If these innovations are according to the local needs of your district, do it accordingly. If you feel that your innovation is beneficial for the state or for the entire country, share it with the government also. Share the feedback without any hesitation if you think there is need for any improvement in policies from your experiences in view of the rapidly changing circumstances. Because this battle is such that if we all think together and come together with new ideas collectively only then we can win over it.
- We also have to increase awareness in villages and link them with the facilities for treatment of COVID. In the midst of an increasing number of cases and limited resources, our greatest priority is to provide proper solutions to people's expectations. In the midst of all the challenges, we have to make efforts keeping in mind the person at the bottom of the society. We have to strengthen the systems so that help is extended to him to alleviate his suffering. When even a single person from the administration reaches this very large section, contacts him and listens to him, his faith grows in the system. His strength to fight the disease increases manifold. As we see, when the people from the administration take oxymetre and medicines to the family living in the home isolation, enquire about them, the family members feel encouraged that they are not left alone.
- Apart from COVID, you also have to take care of the 'Ease of Living' of every citizen of your district. We have to prevent infection and simultaneously ensure uninterrupted essential supplies of daily life. Therefore, while ensuring the complete adherence to the guidelines issued for local containment zones, we also have to ensure that the poor suffer the least. No citizen should suffer

Global Personalities Praising India

India's efforts in tacking the second wave have been appreciated by many international persons and organisations.

“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. Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, we are determined to help India in its time of need,”

Joe Biden, President, USA

At the beginning of the pandemic, when our hospital beds were stretched, India sent assistance. And today, we are determined to help India in its hour of need.

Kamala Harris, Vice President, USA

India does not need to listen to lectures from anyone about vaccine supplies. India has exported a lot for humanity to many countries. We know what situation India is in.

Emmanuel Macron, President, France

India is directly helping to address the issue of vaccine equity at a time when the world deals with the crippling corona virus pandemic and rich countries are cutting side deals with pharmaceutical companies to buy more vaccines than they actually need. India is a leader.

Anita Bhatia, Deputy Executive Director - UN Women

India really stands out in terms of its vaccine policy. If you look at where exactly is one manufacturing hub for vaccines in the world - that will be India.

Gita Gopinath, IMF Chief Economist

Thanked India for its gift and said New Delhi has always been Male’s first responder and Dependable Friend.

Mohammad Nasheed, Speaker of Majlis (Parliament), Maldives

“ Thanks, India & Prime Minister @narendramodi for supporting #VaccinEquity. Your commitment to #COVAX and sharing #COVID19 vaccine doses is helping 60+ countries start vaccinating their #healthworkers and other priority groups. I hope other countries will follow your example. ”

Tedros Adhanom, WHO, Chief

“ Amidst all the gloom and worries of a pandemic, if one can make a difference to the world to ease even a little pain, it seems like a deed that needs to be done. India did just that. The rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines by India in collaboration with leading global institutions has “rescued the world” from the deadly corona virus and the contributions by the country must not be underestimated. ”

Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at BCM in Houston

“ India has shown good gesture by providing the vaccine in grant. ”

Hridyesh Tripathi, Minister of Health and Population, Nepal

“ India has stood with Bangladesh in 1971 liberation War, and Today when the pandemic is rattling the world. India again came with Gift of Vaccines. ”

A K Abdul Momen, Bangladesh foreign Minister

“ India’s ‘Vaccine Maitri’ drive is reaping diplomatic benefits for the country with the 79-member African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) group and the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) praising India at the WTO for facilitating vaccine supplies to those in need. These countries also suggested that other vaccine-producing countries should also follow suit. St Lucia further informed that India had dispatched an additional 175,000 vaccines to five CARICOM member states. “This act of selflessness is testament to the solidarity of the government and people of India with CARICOM. We thank you. ”

CARICOM Representative at WTO Council

Whenever India has undergone challenging situations that have called for unity and solidarity, irrespective of political ideologies, the Indian National Congress has done the exact opposite of it. Be it tensions with China or surgical strikes against the terrorists, the INC has always tried to create an atmosphere of distrust amongst the public by spreading lies and altered narratives.

This time also, when the entire nation is standing together to overcome the challenge that the 2nd wave of COVID 19 has brought, the Indian National Congress was busy peddling lies and unnecessary panic.

A TOOL-KIT has surfaced on the internet, prepared by AICC, through which the INC has been trying to defame Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and India on the International platform. Below are some key points and action taken by the INC members and supporters in adherence to the tool-kit -

- 1. Tool:** Defame India by calling B1617 as "Indian Variant."
 - **Action:** Rahul Gandhi himself branded the new mutant as 'Indian variant' and other Congress leaders took his cue.
 - **Reality:** The WHO has nowhere used the term Indian Variant in its reports. The WHO specifically forbids any geographic identification of mutants and only identifies them by their scientific term.
- 2. Tool:** Collaborate with foreign media to magnify distress with dramatic images
 - **Action:** INC actively shared articles and reports and images published in International newspapers instead of condemning it and played politics over the dead.
- 3. Tool:** question the PM CARES fund and demotivate people from donating to it.
 - **Action:** Many of the INC supporters called out Australian Cricketer Pat Cummins for donating to PM CARES fund and called the fund opaque. The congress leaders even questioned the resource allocation through PM CARES.
 - **Reality:** PM CARES FUND has been used for providing ventilators, setting up oxygen plants for hospitals, providing Aid to migrant workers and procuring vaccines for Indian Citizens. Also, there have been reports of many of these ventilators lying unused in the Congress governed states like Punjab.
- 4. Tool:** Collaborate with nationally and internationally to brand the Kumbh as "super spreader", malign Hindus while depicting Eid as festival of happy gatherings.
 - **Action:** Congress party itself gave the line on its official website that suggested that 'encouraging Kumbh Mela' is a crime. Not a single tweet or comment was made by any INC leader/ Supporter condemning the large gatherings during Eid.
- 5. Tool:** Occupy beds in friendly hospitals and allot them only if INC twitter handle has been tagged.
 - **Action:** Artificial shortages of hospital beds, medical oxygen and critical medicines were reported from various metro cities. Suddenly the shortage vanished when oxygen audit was ordered by the Apex court.

6. Tool: Attack Central Vista by calling it "Modi's personal home."

- **Action:** As soon as the second wave took over India the INC started questioning the central vista project which is an already sanctioned project and has been providing jobs to several workers amidst the pandemic.

Shri JP Nadda's message to Sonia Gandhi

Earlier this month, the Bharatiya Janata Party's National President Shri J.P. Nadda wrote a letter to Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President, Indian National Congress.

In his letter, he condemned the opposition including some Congress Chief Ministers for intentionally creating commotion for petty political gains when the nation is dealing with a pandemic.

Here are the key takeaways from the letter:

- BJP chief said that the conduct of the INC party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, will be remembered for "duplicity and pettiness".
- He directly attacked the opposition for creating vaccine hesitancy and mismanaging funds and Covid-19 relief material allocated using the PM Cares Fund.
- The letter also highlighted the hypocrisy of former Congress President Rahul Gandhi for demanding a lockdown after successfully completing his rallies in the poll-bound states down South.
- He defended the vaccination policy and said it had already ensured considerable coverage in priority groups by providing at least 160 million vaccines to states in the first two phases.
- On the Congress's opposition to the Central Vista Project, he said the need for a new Parliament was raised during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance rule.
- He reiterated that under the government lead by PM Modi, the fight against the pandemic is driven by unwavering belief in science, support to innovation, trust in Covid warriors and cooperative federalism but the conduct of the Congress during these challenging times has been saddening.

Annexure

European Union • Over 100 million euros worth of medical equipment and medication to India

Germany • ventilators: 296
• Massive high capacity Oxygen Production Plant

Ireland • Oxygen Concentrators: 1248
• Ventilators: 730
• Oxygen Generators: 2 and other medical equipment

Mauritius • Oxygen Concentrators: 200

The Netherlands • Ventilators: 449
• Oxygen concentrators:100
• Vials of Remdesivir: 30000 & other medical supplies arrived

Spain • Respirators: 167
• Oxygen concentrators: 121
• Filters and Face Masks, amounting to 2 million euros
• Oxygen concentrators: 10
• Ventilators: 141

Denmark • Ventilators: 53

Romania • Oxygen Concentrators: 8 and
• Oxygen Cylinders: 75

Italy • Large Oxygen Production plant: 1
• Oxygen Concentrators: 30
• Ventilators: 2 and other medical equipment

Portugal • Vials of Remdesivir: 5500

Austria • Oxygen Cannulas: 1900
• Oxygen Cylinders: 396

Czech Republic • Oxygen Cylinders: 500

Luxembourg • Ventilators: Up to 58

Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vials of Remdesivir: 9000
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrators: 151
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrators: 100
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 million Euros allocated • Oxygen Cylinders: 324
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates 75,000 Euros towards financial support for India via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Cylinders: 10 • Vials of Remdesivir: 5500 • 20,000 litres of oxygen per week from Portugal • Ventilators: 120
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Cylinders: 256 of 47-litre capacity each • Cryogenic Oxygen Tanks: 8, Oxygen Cylinders: 3500 and other medical equipment donated
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrators: 150
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrators: 200
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Cylinders: 200 • Oxygen Concentrators: 25
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrator: 230 • Cylinders: 200 • Rapid Testing Kits: 10000 • Negative Pressure Carriers: 100
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates 75,000 Euros towards financial support for India via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilators: 105 • Masks/Respirators: 7.5 lakh and other medical equipments • Masks/Respirators: 56 lakh
UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilators: 157 • Breathing Machines: 480 • Cryogenic Tankers: 7 • Favipiravir tablets: 10 lakh
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen Concentrators: 60, • Ventilators: 1056 and other medical supplies

Qatar

- Remdesivir Vials: 4300
 - Ventilators, oxygen concentrators, personal protective equipment worth 300 tonnes
 - Oxygen Cylinders: 200
 - Oxygen Concentrators: 43
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Kuwait

- Fully Filled Oxygen Tankers: 7,
 - Oxygen Concentrators: 260,
 - Ventilators: 40+
 - Oxygen Cylinders: 1282
 - Remdesivir vials: 4300
 - Semi Trailers of LMO (25MT): 3 and other medical supplies
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Oman

- Ventilators: 36
 - Vital medicines & other medical equipment
 - Oxygen Concentrators: 30
 - Oxygen Cylinders: 100
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Bahrain

- 2 Cryogenic Oxygen Tankers filled with a total 40 MT of liquid Oxygen
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Egypt

- Oxygen Cylinders: 300
 - Oxygen Concentrators: 50
 - Ventilators: 20
 - Vials of Remdesivir: 8000 & other medical equipment
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