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INDIA FIGHTS COVID 19 PANDAMIC COUNTRY KEPT ON FULL LOCKDOWN PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES THE NATION 5 TIMES IN 40 DAYS

Pandemic Corona virus (COVID 19) surfaced in China and severely affected entire world. To connect directly with citizens in the time of severe crisis Sri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India spoke 5 times in 40 days.

In his first address on 19th March PM said that, the whole world is currently passing through a period of very serious crisis. Normally, when a natural crisis strikes, it is limited to a few countries or states. However, this time the calamity is such that it has put all of mankind in crisis. World Wars 1 and 2 did not impact as many countries, as have been affected by Corona today. Science has not been able to find a definite solution to save us from the Corona pandemic, neither has a vaccine been developed.

He asked all citizens to observe people's curfew on 22nd March from 7 AM until 9 PM. During this curfew, we should neither leave our homes, nor get onto the streets or roam about our localities. Only those associated with emergency and essential services permitted to leave their homes. It is critical that in this environment of a global pandemic, humanity emerges victorious, India emerges victorious, the PM said.

In his second address to the nation on 24th March PM said that, by a single day of Janata-Curfew observed on 22nd March, India proved that when the nation is facing a crisis, when humanity is facing a crisis, every Indian comes together to overcome it. He called upon all citizens to maintain physical distance from each other and stay within the confines of one's home. There is no other way to escape Corona virus. If we want to restrict the spread of Corona virus, we have to break its chain of infection, he said in his address. He said that it is his plea and prayer to all to continue to remain wherever they are right at the time of his address to the country. In view of the prevailing situation, PM announced lockdown in the country for 21 days. If we are not able to manage these 21 days, it may be 21 years setback for the country and individual families, advised PM Modi.

On 3rd March PM Modi made his third speech to the country men. 3rd March marks 9 days of the nationwide lockdown against the Corona pandemic, the discipline and spirit of service you have displayed during this period is unprecedented, and embodies the true meaning of both, said the PM. Further he said amidst the darkness spread

by the Corona pandemic, we must continuously progress towards light and hope. We must continuously strive to take those of us most affected, our poor brothers and sisters, from disappointment to hope.

Addressing the Nation in combating the spread of the corona virus for fourth time on 14th April, PM Modi extended the lockdown till 3rd May. PM said the extension of lockdown was decided keeping in mind suggestions from many states, experts and the people. He requested people to continue maintaining vigil and to adhere to social distancing during this lockdown.

Prime Minister also suggested that those areas which are of low risk may be permitted to open up for certain specific activities from 20th April 2020. Detailed guidelines were issued by Government on next day.

From an economic only point of view, it undoubtedly looks costly right now; but measured against the lives of Indian citizens, there is no comparison itself. The path that India has taken within our limited resources has become a topic of discussion in the entire world today, he said.

He further said that more than 1 Lakh beds are arranged for isolation and corona virus treatment and there are more than 600 hospitals are dedicated for Covid treatment.



PM CARES

Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund

Keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of 'Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund' (PM CARES Fund) has been set up. Donations would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

IR TSA AMONG FIRST TO CONTRIBUTE FOR PM CARES

IR TSA is always among the first to deliver its social obligations particularly during natural disasters on various occasion. On the call made by Prime Minister for voluntary contribution for PM CARES, immediately GS IR TSA deposited Rs. one lakh in PM CARES on behalf of CEC IR TSA. Many Zones and members of IR TSA as individuals also contributed lakhs of rupees to PM CARES and to respective states' CM Relief fund.

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial

WHEN THE WORLD IS UNDER UNPRECEDENTED LOCKDOWN, GOVT. EMPLOYEES FIGHT COVID WAR IN THE FIELD & FACE THE BRUNT OF FREEZING OF DA & DR

In a war, we knew who the enemy was and there were preparedness to combat enemy's aggression. But the COVID-19 pandemic is a secretive enemy, menacing people in 200 countries and made even the most advanced healthcare systems in the world ineffective. In the battle field of COVID-19, no country is the winner. In COVID-19 scenario, what we thought indispensable facilities can actually be done away with.

Countries across the world imposed lock down to escape from the spreading of deadly disease. PM Modi announced 21 days lockdown from 24th March, extended it twice upto 3rd May and then to 17th May. India is bracing well to the challenge of COVID-19 and doing well than many developed countries. There are strong initiatives and actions in augmenting capacity in testing, enhancing medical infrastructure, procurement and development of diagnostic kits, standardizing protocols for quarantine, containment and treatment, augmenting access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and availability of ventilators, etc.

When all the citizens are asked to be in complete lockdown, staff of the Government departments, need to work to implement all Government action plans to combat COVID-19 in the respective ministries/departments.

Every Railway men stands by the Government in implementing the complete lockdown and operation of freight & parcel services (which account for 70% of Railway earnings) of Indian Railways to maintain uninterrupted supply of essential goods across the country.

Apart from the regular activities, Indian Railways has taken up special tasks to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The spectrum of steps include, converting 5000 train coaches across the country to serve as quarantine/isolation facilities of 80,000 beds for COVID-19, introduced 109 time-table parcel trains to supply essential commodities including perishable horticulture produce, seeds, milk and dairy products, Railway Hospitals equipped to meet the needs for COVID-19, by earmarking of hospital beds to meet the contingencies, and recruitment of additional doctors & paramedics, Railway Health Services have been made available to all Central Government Employees across the country, in-house production of PPE type overall, ventilators, sanitizers, washable face mask, etc. on a mission mode, millions of free hot cooked meals cooked in base kitchens of Railways are distributed to needy persons, movement of stranded migrant workers, pilgrims, etc.

To combat the social & economic impact of fast spreading corona virus, Government is taking various measures to support industries, agriculture & farming, businesses and people from all walks of life.

Govt has taken unusual decision to freeze current and next two installments of DA and DR of employees and pensioners. Till July 2021, the DA will be at 17 percent. The government will not pay the already announced 4 per cent DA hike payable from 1st January 2020 and similar raise due from 1st July this year and 1st January 2021. This will affect about 48 lakh employees and 65 lakh pensioners. Every employee stands to lose about 1.5 months of pay in this period of a year and half.

Freezing the DA & DR of employees & Pensioners will be very harsh to them and will totally demoralize them, thus hampering quick restoration of normalcy of activity after threat of Corona virus recedes.

Cutting Government employees' salaries cannot be the main form of resource for fund mobilisation. It is a settled law that, in the event of deduction other than statutory, the employer cannot deduct out of wages/salary without the written consent of the employee. No opportunities have been given to the employees' federations/unions with regard to freezing of DA to improve the position of Governments' fund.

The freeze of inflation-linked DA for government employees and pensioners will have a cascading impact on their lives. While the government wants some economic activities to open up, freezing of DA is a step in opposite direction since, without consumption, economy cannot revive.

If the Government wants to meet such unforeseen eventualities, it has got all the powers to raise revenue legally by increasing various taxes and by other methods. Freezing of DA is against Rule of law.

Dearness Allowance is a compensatory payment to the employees for the erosion in the real value of their salary. 5th CPC in chapter-105, 6th CPC in chapter-4.1 recommended methodology for calculating the Dearness Allowance. In its recommendations vide para 8.17.37, 7th CPC continued the same principle. Accepted recommendations of Pay Commission cannot be taken away unilaterally by the Government.

Many Courts including Supreme Court of India authenticated payment of Dearness Allowance in their judgment on various occasions and said that DA scheme cannot be revised to the prejudice of the work-men.

Moreover, Government advised all private sectors to pay their employees during the lockdown period. Government, as model employer should set an example by not making any cut in the pay & allowances of its own employees

In the past whenever the Government's Central or State financial position was weak and the enhanced Dearness Allowance was released, the arrears of Dearness Allowance were ordered to be kept either in National Savings Certificate or credit the same to Provident Fund Account of the employees. Thus, Immediate cash payment was deferred for a few years.

Instead of freezing of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief. Option may be given to employees for crediting of the amount of Additional DA to their Provident Fund in case of pre-1-4-2004 employees and to the Pension Fund (Tier-2) in case of those covered under the NPS. Employees and pensioners may be encouraged to invest in Infrastructure Bonds etc. by increasing the ceiling limit thereof. This would provide the government with the requisite funds and the employees will not be at a loss in the long run.

Members of IRTSA who have sent contribution to CEC IRTSA account at Jodhpur for contribution by IRTSA to PMCARE are requested to send the details of their contribution to Er.O.N.Purohit, Central Treasurer – 9828024476 or onpurohit@yahoo.com Receipts for the money deposited in CEC IRTSA account will be issued by Central Treasurer/IRTSA

IRTSA SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO FM TO REVIEW THE DECISION ON FREEZING OF DA; SEEK OPTION TO CREDIT THE ADDITIONAL DA TO PF

Subject: Freezing of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners at the current rates till July 2021 - Appeal for review of decision; And Grant of option to credit the Additional DA to Provident Fund

**Ref: Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure
OM No.1/1/2020-E-II (B), dated 23-04-2020**

1) Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association (IRTSA) extends its fullest support and cooperation to the Government of India in its all-out effort to control COVID-19 pandemic. Railwaymen are working on the forefront risking their lives to keep freight & parcel services operational for ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities across the country. Indian Railways have taken up many special tasks to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

2) Railways' and other government employees and pensioners have contributed generously to PM CARES for the fight against COVID-19.

3) It is, however, very disheartening that the Government has decided, as per the order cited above, that the DA/DR is frozen and would not be revised up to July 2021; and that no arrears will be paid. This has adversely affected the morale of the employees.

4) DA is a part of Pay, compensating for the erosion in the real value of the salary. DA can only be deducted either as a punitive measure or with the consent of the employees.

5) Assuming 4% additional DA & DR for each of 3 spans of six months, the total loss of employees and pensioners would be over 1.5 months of Pay & Pension and possibly even more than that, if the inflation is higher than 4% in the next 2 spans.

6) Freezing of DA will also delay the revision of HRA rates since as per decision of the Government on 7th CPC, whenever DA crosses 25%, rates of HRA will be revised,

7) It will also cause additional heavy loss to the employees who retire between 1-1-2020 to 30-6-2021 in terms of Gratuity and Leave encashment as the DA is counted for the same.

8) We fully realize that a lot of funds are required to combat the social & economic impact of COVID. But freezing the DA & DR would be counter-productive, as freezing this huge amount would give a further blow to the market as well as to the employees and the pensioners since the amount paid as DA and DR will actually flow out to the market. This will help boost the sagging economy in post-COVID times.

9) Government had advised all private sectors to pay their employees for the lockdown period. Government, as a model employer should set an example by not making any cut in the pay & allowances of its own employees.

10) Lower and middle class employees and pensioners are hard pressed to meet their liabilities due to heavy inflation which is bound to increase in the post-COVID-19 scenario especially in respect of cost of Medicines and household requirements.

11) In the past, when funds were required for a National calamity like War, Floods or Cyclones etc., DA installments were deposited in the Provident Fund with the consent of the employees. It was never frozen as of now.

12) It is, therefore, requested that, keeping in consideration all the above aspects, the following proposals may please be considered sympathetically to avoid heart burning amongst employees and pensioners:

a) Order for freezing of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief may please be withdrawn.

b) Instead option may please be given to Employees for crediting of the amount of Additional DA to their Provident Fund in case of pre-1-4-2004 employees and to the Pension Fund (Tier 2) in case of those covered under the NPS.

c) Employees and pensioners may be encouraged to invest in Infrastructure Bonds etc. by increasing the ceiling limit thereof. This would provide the government with the requisite funds and the employees will not be at a loss in the long run.

Thanking you

**HARCHANDAN SINGH,
General Secretary.**

No DA Hike for central government employees due to economic pain from the corona virus pandemic spread

Subject: Freezing of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners at current rates till July 2021.

The undersigned is directed to say that in view of the crisis arising out of COVID-19, it has been decided that the additional installment of Dearness Allowance payable to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners, due from 1st January 2020 shall not be paid. The additional installments of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief due from 1st July 2020 and 1st January 2021 shall also not be paid. However, Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief at current rates will continue to be paid.

2. As and when the decision to release the future installment of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief due from 1st July 2021 is taken by the Government, the rates of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief as effective from 1st January 2020, 1st July 2020 and 1st January 2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rate effective from 1st July 2021. *No arrears for the period from 1st January 2020 till 30th June 2021 shall be paid.*

3. These orders shall be applicable to all Central Government employees and Central Government pensioners.

STATUS POSITION OF LEGAL CASE

OA 1568/2017 IRTSA Vs UOI in

CAT Chennai

**Pleading Higher Pay Level for JE & SSE
Bench could not function on the listed date
of 23.04.2020 due to COVID-19 lockdown**

**Readers, Zones & Sub-units - Please send Annual
Subscription for "Voice of Rail Engineers" to**

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A GESTURE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



DD of ₹ 1,50,000- in favour of "Chief Minister Public Relief Fund" has been handed over to Smt.R.Seethalakshmi, IAS, District Collector/ Chennai today (09/04/2020) by Er.M.Shanmugam, President accompanied by Er.K.Gobinath, Zonal Secretary, Er.Y.R.S.Benarjee, Zonal Treasurer and Er.G.Aranganathan, Divisional Secretary/Fur

LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN

Highlights of "A handbook to create safe spaces in the aftermath of COVID-19"

Published by Apollo Hospitals

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BEFORE RE-OPENING THE ORGANIZATION

Facility/infrastructure/Resource-related interventions

- 1) Open up every area of the building and ensure a proper disinfection is done.
- 2) Every desk space, corners, lifts, staircase handles, door knobs, chair handles, electrical switch points, wash rooms etc to be cleaned / disinfected.
- 3) Washrooms to have liquid soap and hand dryers / tissue papers.
- 4) Hand sanitizers placed at appropriate locations.
- 5) Cleaning up of air conditioning systems including lift fans.
- 6) Re-organise office spaces keeping in mind social distancing.
- 7) Evaluate all the waiting areas and ensure social distancing in practice - distance out seats/chairs/sofas and block them with neat labels.
- 8) Have enough education material around for staff to understand the key principles to be followed.
- 9) For efficient screening practices, thermal guns (to read the temperature) to be available and staff to be educated on checking the temperature.
- 10) Staff who is unwell should be given a mask & not allowed to enter.
- 11) Small medical facility to be created / organized, where if, anyone doesn't feel well-could approach.
- 12) Staffing of medical facility could include a nurse or connect to healthcare facility with video conferencing.
- 13) Re-evaluate the biometric systems and find alternatives, if possible.
- 14) Drinking water facilities to have disposable cups. They should not have glasses that people use and wash.
- 15) Staff should carry their own water bottles and tea/coffee mugs. They should clean it themselves. Else use disposable ones.
- 16) Dustbins should be closed / covered ones and not open ones especially in lunch areas, washrooms, etc.
- 17) Perfect cleanliness to be followed in kitchens, pantries etc.
- 18) Staff to wear personal protective equipment (especially mask & gloves).
- 19) A process is in place to track and report available quantities-PPE, disinfectants, etc.
- 20) Appropriate signage to be displayed at locations.
- 21) Place mats at the entrance that could be dipped in 1% sodium hypochlorite (and changed every 2 hours) to ensure the footwear is clean.
- 22) Make sure the area is not slippery though.
- 23) All double door should be kept open to prevent touching doors or knobs.

People related interventions

- 24) Formulate a "Staff health committee" to oversee the:
 - a) Health status of the staff
 - b) Preparations and regular monitoring of the safety aspects.
 - c) Continuous staff health and safety – going forward.
 - d) Responsibilities of key personnel and departments within the facility related to executing the plan to be described and implemented.
- 25) Circulate basics to your staff (all categories in required language) to follow when they come to work before itself (what will change "now", what they have to follow and ensure it is done including washing hands, coughing etiquettes, identification of symptoms, no spitting / cigarette butts discard, lift usage guidelines, lunch hours, way of greeting, disinfection & cleaning of laptops / mobile phones / laptop bags etc)
- 26) Avoid crowding in elevators / lifts - social distancing is critical – minimum 3 feet distance between people at any time in a lift; others to take stairs or wait for the next pick (in queues with appropriate distancing)
- 27) Change shift timings by an hour or two each to prevent overcrowding.
- 28) Avoid big meetings as much as possible do online meetings.
- 29) Staff travels (outside the city) to be avoided as much as possible for the next few months.
- 30) Policy on only "essential visitors" to be evaluated and concerned to be informed.
- 31) Increase public areas (example washroom, waiting areas, cafeterias, etc) cleaning cycles, if necessary.

ON THE FIRST DAY

- 32) Team leader to be at work well in time and there to monitor.
- 33) Ensure guidelines are followed in all the areas.
- 34) Heads of various functions or departments to do huddles (keeping social distancing in mind) and re-iterate the process changes with their respective teams.
- 35) Identify issues / concerns and plan for changes / improvements.
- 36) A committee to be formulated that would evaluate daily the status, observations, staff feedback and make relevant changes in the process / systems.
- 37) Housekeeping huddle (with distancing in mind) daily in every shift.

WEAR THE MASK IN RIGHT WAY

- 38) Make sure it covers your nose and mouth at all time.
- 39) Do not remove and let the mask hanging on your neck.
- 40) Do not remove your mask by touching the outside surface of the mask.

Every employee's responsibility: It is everybody's responsibility to clean their desks when they come to work in their assigned shift timings. Wipe the desk clean before usage.

RAILWAY BOARD ORDERS**No. 2020/E(LL)/PMNRF/1, Dated 30.03.2020****Sub.: Contribution to “Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund” (PM CARES Fund): COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Ref: Railway Board’s letter of even no. dated 27.03.2020 and ‘Press Information Bureau(PIB)’s release on PM CARES Fund dated 28.03.3030.

As you are aware that the pandemic of COVID-19 has engulfed the entire world and has posed serious challenges for the health and economic security of millions of people worldwide. In India too, the spread of coronavirus has been alarming and is posing severe health and economic ramifications for our country.

2. In this connection, Board has taken note of PIB’s release on the subject. As per the release, the Prime Minister’s office has been receiving spontaneous and innumerable requests for making generous donations to support the government in the wake of this emergency. Distress situations, whether natural or otherwise, demand expeditious and collective action for alleviating the suffering of those affected, mitigation/control of damage to infrastructure and capacities etc. Therefore, building capacities for quick emergency response and effective community resilience must be done in tandem with infrastructure and institutional capacity reconstruction/enhancement. Use of new technology and advance research findings also become an inseparable element of such concerted action.

3. Therefore, keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of ‘Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund’ (PM CARES Fund) has been set up. Hon’ble Prime Minister is the Chairman of this trust and its Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister. It may be noted that donations to this fund will be exempted from Income Tax under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for those taxpayers who wish to opt for benefit of deduction(s).

4. Our Hon’ble PM has made an appeal to all citizens to generously donate to this fund. Hence, in partial supersession of the Board’s referred letter dated 27.03.2020, it has been decided, with Board’s approval, that contributions received from Railway Servants shall be remitted to aforesaid ‘PM CARES Fund’ instead of ‘Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund’.

Office Order No. 22 of 2020**Sub: Preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19- regarding wearing of mask.**

In order to contain the spread of COVID-19, it has been decided that all Officers / Staff should invariably wear Safety Mask / cover their nose and mouth with cloth at all times while in Office and outside also for their own safety. It may be noted that masks is to be worn at all times including during meetings and while entering in any Officers Chamber / Branch too.

2. Further, in order to ensure clean and hygienic environment, spitting of tobacco, pan, gutka etc., inside Rail Bhawan premises (including Toilets) is strictly prohibited.

Railway Board letter No.2020/H-1/7/2/B, Dated 28.03.2020**Subject: Reimbursement of OPD medicines: Special sanction in view of COVID-19.**

The instructions issued vide Ministry of Health and Family welfare’s OM No.Z/15020/12/2020/DIR/CGHS dated 27.03.2020. The instructions issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, shall also apply to Railway beneficiaries till 30.04.2020.

No. ECoR/ Pers/ COVID-19 /Bills, Date: 07.04,2020**Sub: Regularization of absence period of officers / staff due to lockdown w.e.f. 25.03.2020.**

In view of complete lockdown of 21 days announced by Govt. of India, effective all over India w.e.f. 25.03.2020 on account of spread of pandemic COVID-19, a number of officers / staff of this Railway who proceeded on sanctioned leave/ HQ leave/ Duty may not have been able to return to their respective place of duty owing to interruption of train service and road communication etc.

1. Therefore. in terms of Para 7.9 of Master Circular No. 10 of Railway Board, following instructions are issued for guidance:

- Officers staff who could not assume duty after completion of sanctioned leave period, due to suspension of Train/Road Communication during the lockdown period, their over-stay is to be treated as Special Casual Leave. Similarly, in case of staff who were on HQ Leave permission as on 25.03.2020, their absence from HQ during lockdown period may be treated as Special Casual Leave.

- Staff who proceeded on duty prior to 25.3.2020 but could not return to their respective HQs, due to suspension of Train Road communication during the lockdown period, such forced halts period to be treated as on-duty.

2. Officer Staff who are above 50 years of age and having underlying conditions i.e. Diabetes, Respiratory problem, Renal Diseases and other life-threatening illness may be granted Commuted leave without insisting on RMC for a period up to 4th April vide Railway Board’s Lr.No. E(P&ADI- 2020 /CPC/LE-3 dated 23.03.2020.

3. Officer staff who have been advised for quarantine by the competent authority, their salary may be drawn for the period. However, regularization of the said period will be decided later in due course.

4. Keeping in view the present scenario, the following guidelines / instructions are to be followed by all Bill compiling officers / staff of this Railway :

- Salary / Stipend for April. 2020 may be drawn for off all existing regular Employees / Apprentices Trainees irrespective of their presence / absence on duty during the lockdown period, except those who are unauthorisedly absent from their duties since long (unauthorized absence prior to 25.03.2020). Over-payment found, if any, will be adjusted in the regular salary of May. 2020 or later.

- List of such employees who were on sanctioned leaves/ on duty/ home quarantined / under Quarantine should be prepared by respective Bill sections Unit in charges and should be sent through the Master Roll and also brought to the notice of respective controlling officers.

This order is provisional and subject to further order guidelines of Railway Board that may be issued in this regard. This has approval of PCPO.

Railway Board letter No. E(W)2020/SC-2/1, dated 04.04.2020

Sub.: (i) Arogya Setu App;

(ii) General measures to enhance body's natural defence system;

(iii) Light Candles or Diyas, torches or mobile flashlights at 9.00 PM on 5th April,2020 for 9 minutes.

Ref: Secretary MHRD's D.O. letter No. Secy.(HE)/MHRD/2020 dated 03.04.2020 and Press Information Bureau(PIB)'s release on PM's address to the nation dated 03.04.2020.

In this connection, Board has taken note of referred communications on the subject. It may please be noted that ArogyaSetu App has been developed to fight against COVID-19. This app will be helpful to Railway Servants, students, faculty/teachers and their family members. This app can be downloaded from Google playstore/iOS app store as per the details given in the annexed letter.

2. Moreover, Ministry of AYUSH has developed a protocol for immunity boosting measures for self-care for Railway Servants and their family members. The same is enclosed (i.e. enclosure to MHRD's referred letter dated 03.04.2020) for downloading/use by our Railway Servants, students, faculty members, teachers and their family members

3. Furthermore, as addressed by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd April, 2020, Railway Servants and their family members may light Candles or Diyas, torches or mobile flashlights for 9 minutes at 9 PM on the 5th of April(Sunday) to realize the power of light and to highlight the objective for which we all are fighting together. However, no one should assemble in colonies or road or anywhere outside their houses.

4. Board desires that wide publicity should be given to aforementioned measures/activities.

Railway Board letter No. 2020/H-1/7/2/A, dated 28.03.2020

Subject: Railway Health Facilities available to all Central Government Employees.

In view of the outbreak of Covid 19, Ministry of Railways have decided that the services of Railway Hospitals and Health Units across the country would be available for use by all Central Government employees, on showing their Identity Cards, at the Railway Hospital/Health Unit.

No.2020/AC-I/6/COVID, dated 01.04.2020

Sub: Accounting procedure for expenditure on COVID related activities on Railways.

Central Government has expressed intent to provide funds from General Exchequer, to support some of the COVID-19 related expenditure of Indian Railways, during 2020-21. The activities under consideration are

- Setting up Isolation Wards
- Conversion of Railway coaches into isolation wards and medical units
- O&M expenses on of these converted coaches
- Additional Medicines for COVID
- Sanitization and Cleaning
- Personal Protection Kits (PPE)
- Other Equipment viz ventilators etc

2 The modalities of the scheme, of providing the funds to Railway, are under finalisation. In the interim, the following accounts heads are hereby introduced in Classification of Revenue Expenditure vide ACS No.147 to Indian Railways Finance Code Vol II (copy enclosed), for separate

identification of the expenditure on COVID 19 activities: Abstract N-Demand 12-Suspense (Sub Major Head 10):

Minor Head - 100-Suspense

Sub head - 130-COVID expenditure

Detailed Head

131- Conversion of Railway coaches in to isolation wards and medical units

132- Conversion of Railway coaches in to isolation wards and medical units.

133- Setting up Isolation Wards

134-Personal Protection Kits (PPE),

135-Additional Medicines for COVID

136-Sanitization and Cleaning, 137-Imprests&138- Others

4. The Railways departments may book COVID-19 related expenditure in the above head of account, operating primary units as per relevant object of expenditure.

5. Procedure for clearance of suspense, for expenditure to be borne against funds from General Exchequer / Railways' Grants, shall be advised on finalisation of modalities of receipt of funds/ transfer of expenditure to Central Govt.

Minor Head - (Corresponding allocation head 12-800)

Sub head - (Corresponding allocation head 12-830)

Detailed Head - Corresponding allocation heads 12-831 to 838)

PURCHASE MEDICINES BASED ON THE PRESCRIPTION HELD TILL 31st MAY

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

OM No. Z 15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 29.4.2020.

Sub: Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines: Special Sanction in view of COVID-19 till May 2020 – Regarding.

In view of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), all out efforts are made by the Government to contain its impact by instituting measures at community as well as individual level.

2. In this regard the undersigned is directed to draw attention of the OM even number dated 27.03.2020 vide which an option has been provided to CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases, to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officer. CGHS Specialists /other Government Specialists /Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 30th April 2020, irrespective of non-availability certificate from CGHS or otherwise. However, several representations are received in the Ministry seeking extension of the period in view of the continued "Lock Down".

3. The matter has been reviewed by the Ministry, it is now decided that CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases shall be permitted to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officer. CGHS Specialists /other Government Specialists /Specialist of empanelled hospital) till May 31st May 2020 on the same conditions as per the earlier OM dated 27.03.2020. It is also clarified that CGHS Wellness Centres are functional and CGHS beneficiaries also have option to collect medicines through CGHS Wellness Centres as per normal practice, instead of purchasing from market.

4. Issued with the approval of Integrated Finance Division, MoHFW vide CD No 179 dated 29.04.2020.

Units! Strengthen IRTSA, complete membership drive & send Central Quota as on 31st March 2020

Through Bank Draft in favour of "IRTSA"

To: Central Treasurer IRTSA, Er O. N. Purohit, 106 A, Suraj Nagar, Jodhpur-342008 (M: 09828024476)

HEALTH SECRETARY'S GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

With reference to video conference chaired by cabinet secretary with Chief Secretaries & secretary of Health of states

Ref: D.O.No.Z.28015/19/2020-EMR dated 30-4-2020

The districts were earlier designated as hotspots / red-zones, orange zones and green zones primarily based on the cumulative cases reported and the doubling rate. Since recovery rates have gone up, the districts are now being designated across various zones duly broad-basing the criteria. This classification is multi-factorial and takes into consideration incidence of cases, doubling rate, extent of testing and surveillance feedback to classify the districts. A district will be considered under Green Zone, if there are no confirmed cases so far or there is no reported case since last 21 days in the district.

This is a dynamic list. The list will be revised on a weekly basis or earlier and communicated to states for further follow-up action in consonance with the directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The list of the districts as per above classification is attached herewith in Annexure.

It is further highlighted that based on field feedback and additional analysis at state level, states may designate additional red or orange zones as appropriate. However, states may not relax the zonal classification of districts classified as red/orange as communicated by the Ministry.

For the districts having one or more municipal corporations, the corporations and other areas of districts may be treated as separate units. If one or more of these units have reported no cases for last 21 days, they can be considered as one level lower in zonal classification, in case the district is in Red/Orange Zone. District authorities should, however, exercise due caution in such areas so that these areas remain free from COVID-19 cases.

It is critical to ensure that necessary action for containment so as to break the chain of transmission of virus is initiated in both red and orange zone districts reporting confirmed cases.

The containment zones in these districts have to be delineated based on:

- Mapping of cases & contacts.
- Geographical dispersion of cases and contacts
- Area with well demarcated perimeter
- Enforceability

Depending on above factors, for urban areas residential -

Colony/mohallas/municipal wards or police-station area/municipal zones/towns etc. as appropriate can be designated as containment zones. Similarly, for rural areas - villages/clusters of villages or group of police stations/gram panchayats/blocks etc. as appropriate can be designated as containment zones. The area should be appropriately defined by the district administration/local urban body with technical inputs from local level. In the spirit of effective containment, it is advisable to err on the side of caution. Further, a buffer zone around containment zone has to be demarcated.

Necessary action should then be initiated in these areas as part of the Containment Action Plans already communicated including

- Stringent Perimeter control
 - Establishing clear entry and exit points
 - No movement except for medical emergencies and essential goods & services

- No unchecked influx of population
- People transiting to be recorded & followed through IDSP
- Active search for cases through house to house surveillance by special teams formed for the purpose
- Testing of all cases as per sampling guidelines
- Contact tracing
- Clinical management of all confirmed cases

Similarly, in buffer zones, extensive surveillance for cases through monitoring of ILI/SARI cases in health facilities has to be taken up.

NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

Consolidated Revised Guidelines on the measures to be taken by Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State/ UT Government and State /UT authorities for containment of COVID-19 in the country.

(As per Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 1st May, 2020)

Annexure-I

National Directive for COVID-19 Management

PUBLIC PLACES

1. Wearing of face cover is compulsory in all public places, work places.
2. All persons in charge of public places, work places and transport shall ensure social distancing as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. No organization/manager of public place shall allow gathering of 5 or more persons.
4. Marriage related gatherings shall ensure social distancing and the maximum number of guests allowed shall not be more than 50.
5. Funeral/ last rites related gatherings shall ensure social distancing and the maximum numbers allowed shall not be more than 20.
6. Spitting in public spaces shall be punished with fine, as may be prescribed by State/UT local authority.
7. Consumption of liquor, paan, gutka, tobacco etc, in public places is not allowed.
8. Shops selling liquor, pan, gutka, tobacco etc, will ensure minimum six feet distance from each other and also ensure that not more than 5 persons are present at one time at the shop.

WORK PLACES

9. Wearing of face cover is compulsory in all work places and adequate stock of such face covers shall be made available.
10. All persons in charge of work places shall ensure social distancing as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and family Welfare, both within the work places and in company transport.
11. Social distancing at work places shall be ensured through adequate gaps between shifts, staggering the lunch breaks of staff, etc.
12. Provision for thermal screening, hand wash and sanitizer preferably with touch free mechanism will be made at all entry and exit points and common area. In addition, sufficient quantities of hand wash and sanitizer shall be made available in the work places.
13. Frequent sanitization of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contacts e.g. door handles etc, shall be ensured, including between shifts.... *continued on page-8*

HIGH COURT OF KERALA STAYS THE ORDER OF STATE DEFERRING SALARY OF EMPLOYEES EQUIVALENT TO 6 DAYS FOR FIVE MONTHS

1. For overcoming the financial difficulties, Govt of Kerala has issued an executive order on 23-04-2020 stating that all Govt employees who are in receipt of a gross salary of above Rs. 20,000/- shall be deferred salary equivalent to 6 days for the period April 2020 till August 2020.

2. Kerala Govt submitted that, Natural calamities in the form of floods and viral attacks in the form of Nipah – initially and now the Corona, have pushed the Govt of Kerala into a severe financial crisis.

Gist of arguments placed by Counsels for Petitioners

3. Order issued without reference to any provision of law as its source of authority.

4. Salary is liable to be paid within the first three working days of the succeeding month and that deductions can be carried out only under the seven heads mentioned in Article 89 and no other.

5. None of the provisions warrant deduction or even a deferment of payment of salary nor does it empower the Govt to withhold salary or any part of it.

6. Referred the orders/circulars issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and states like Tamil Nadu, Departments of the Central Government like Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communications etc, all of which requesting for donation or contribution in to a command.

7. Right to receive salary is a property coming within the purview of Article 300A of the Constitution of India and the same can be deprived only by authority of law.

8. No provision of law is available with the State Government, to deny/defer the salary of a Government employee for any purposes whatsoever.

9. State has no power to withhold pension, which is nothing but a deferred salary.

10. Salary is part of the right to life and in view of Article 21, the same cannot be deprived without procedure established by law.

11. The said order failed to even reckon the plight of the numerous health workers, police personnel and others who have been rendering exceptional work for the State and its citizens, unmindful of the consequences.

Gist of arguments placed by Advocate General

12. There is no provision of law which stipulates that salary must be paid within a particular period.

13. Financial Code is only a compilation of different Government orders and the same can be varied or modified by another Government order.

14. 'Deferment of salary' is a methodology available with the Government to allay the financial difficulties.

15. Referred to the orders issued by Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telengana Governments wherein also such deferment is resorted to.

16. Unless such measures are initiated, the state will go into deeper financial crisis.

17. Power to defer the payment of salary can be read into the Provisions in Epidemic Diseases Act & Disaster Management Act.

Reply by Counsels for Petitioners

18. As per Kerala Service Rule 2(26) and Rule 12(23)

every employee under the Govt has a right to get the pay.

19. Disaster Management Act 2005 does not confer any power upon the Govt to defer/deny salary at any time during a disaster.

20. Referred to order passed by the Ministry of Labour to the Chief Secretaries of all States that all employers must make payment of wages without any deduction.

References made by the Judge & Order

21. The situation warrants extra ordinary approach, efforts of Kerala Government is lauded world over.

22. This Court cannot ignore the legal framework in which our society revolves, "Man, howsoever high he may be, shall be governed by the Rule of law".

23. Payment of salary to an employee is certainly not a matter of bounty. It is a right vested in every individual to receive the salary. It is also a statutory right as it flows from the Service Rules. Right to receive salary every month is part of the service conditions emanating from Article 309.

24. Pension, which is only a deferred salary, cannot be withheld without authority of law.

25. Salary or any portion of it cannot be withheld/deferred/denied, by the State Government, without authority of law.

26. Cannot stand for the submission that the Govt has the power to delay the disbursement of salary by few months by an executive order.

27. Neither in the Epidemic Diseases Act nor in the Disaster Management Act 2005, give a legal justification for the executive order.

28. Financial difficulty is not a ground for the State Govt to defer the payment of salary by an executive order.

29. Stay the operation of executive order for a period of two months.

NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT ... continued from page-7

14. Persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below age of 10 years shall stay at home, except meeting essential requirements and for health purposes.

15. Use of Arogya Setu app shall be made mandatory for all employees both private and public. It shall be the responsibility of the head of the respective Organizations to ensure 100% coverage of this app among employees.

16. Large physical meetings to be avoided.

17. Hospitals/ clinics in the nearby areas, which are authorized to treat COVID-19 patients, should be identified and list should be available at work place all the times. Employees showing any symptom of COVID-19 should immediately sent to check up to such facilities. Quarantine areas should be earmarked for isolating employees showing symptoms till they are safely moved to the medical facilities.

18. Arrangements for transport facilities shall be ensured with social distancing, whatever personal/ public transport is not feasible.

19. Intensive communication and training on good hygiene practice shall be taken up

In response to Chief Minister of Punjab call for generous contribution, IRTSA RCF zone donated one and half lakh rupees to Punjab Chief Minister Relief Fund – COVID 19