

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 9

28 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in exercise of the powers under section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, issued [an order](#) for State/UTs prescribing lockdown for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country for a period of 21 days with effect from 25 March, 2020.
- India's response to COVID-19 has been pre-emptive, pro-active and graded with high-level political commitment and a '[whole government](#)' approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO Country office for India is working closely with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to strengthen surveillance, build capacity of health system and optimize '[window of opportunity](#)' created by mandatory physical distancing in India.
- All incoming international flights have been suspended and as of 25 March (through [an order](#)) extension of suspension has been made till 14 April 2020.
- Indian Railways issued [an order](#) that from 22 March to 14 April will be treated under "Force Majeure". Passenger movement has been restricted including inter-state travel, all efforts to ensure availability of essential commodities through its uninterrupted freight services in place.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

India

873 Confirmed
19 Deaths
27 States/UTs

South-East Asia

2536 Confirmed
79 Deaths

Globally

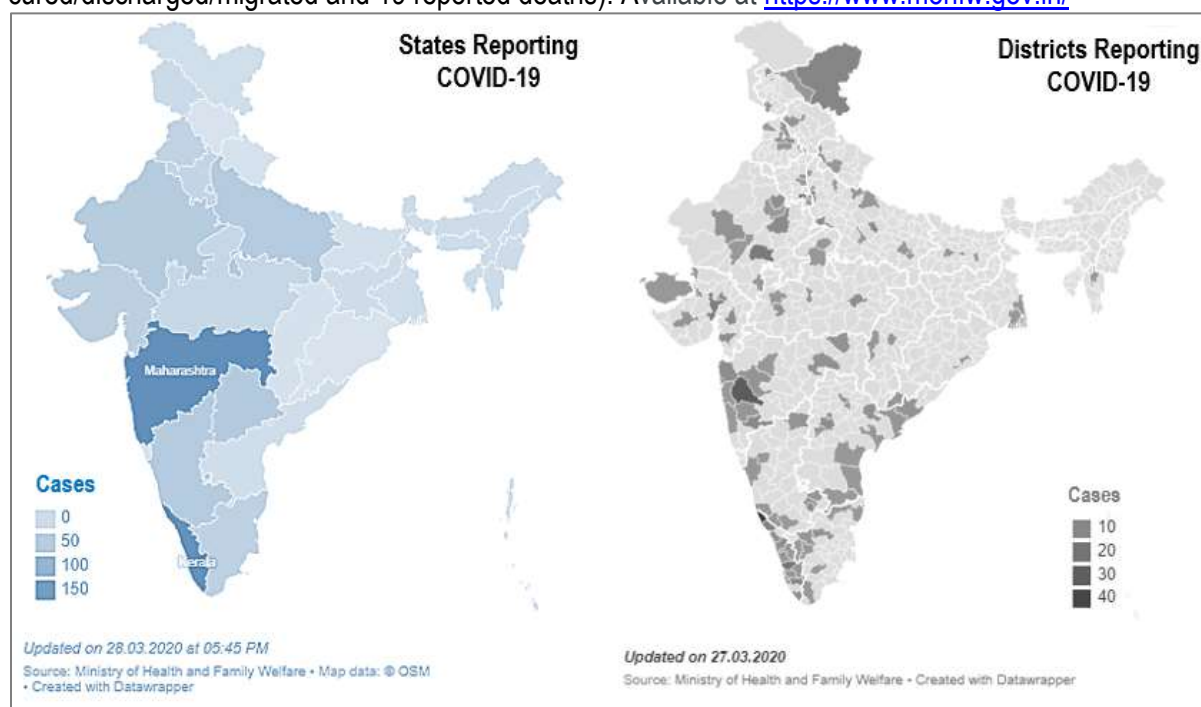
462 684 Confirmed
20 834 Deaths

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Globally - Very High

INDIA SITUATION

- As of 28 March, 05:45 PM according to the MoHFW, a total of 909 COVID-19 cases (862 Indians and 47 foreign nationals) have been reported in 27 states/union territories (80 who have been cured/discharged/migrated and 19 reported deaths). Available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>



Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 9

28 March 2020

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- United Nations launched a US\$2 billion COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan to support the world's most vulnerable countries. More information can be found [here](#).
- WHO Director-General mentioned many key issues and action steps to effectively combat COVID-19, as well as maintaining physical distance. More information can be found [here](#).

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

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

Co-ordination and Partnership

- WHO has brought key international partners together under a COVID-19 Joint Response Plan (JRP) of UN agencies and partners. The draft JRP was reviewed during the health partners meeting on 27 March.

Testing

- ICMR has issued [guidelines](#) for use of commercial kits for nasal/throat swab based diagnosis of COVID-19
- 104 out of 119 proposed labs in [public sector](#) are functional for SARS-CoV2 test. Additionally, a total of 15 [private labs](#) in 7 states are functional,. Geolocation of labs available [here](#).

Capacity Building in states/UTs and districts

- MoHFW with support of WHO conducted orientation on COVID-19 preparedness, response and containment for officials in all states and UTs. The same has been conducted in 723 out of 755 (96%) districts across India.
- A nationwide training of frontline health workers on COVID-19 was launched by MoHFW and partners through a virtually conducted training of trainers for 546 participants of 37 states and union territories on 27 March.

New guidelines Issued

- **MoHFW:** Role of Frontline Workers in Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in [English](#) and [Hindi](#)
- **WHO:** COVID-19: [Operational guidance](#) for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak and the [Handbook](#) for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) 24*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at (ncov2019@gmail.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

WHO Country Office for India

Telephone number: +91-11- 66564800

Email: wrintia@who.int