

LG appeals people to observe 21-day lockdown earnestly

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday appealed to the people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to observe the 21-day lockdown earnestly to break the transmission chain and contribute in the fight against the spread of deadly COVID-19.

In a recorded message, the Lt Governor observed that the UT Administration has taken various steps for containing the virus, like stopping Inter-State Bus service, setting up of isolation ward for the patients and their treatment, imposing

Section 144 of Cr-PC, besides taking various precautionary measures for the people coming from outside, for their screening and establishing quarantine centres.

"Prime Minister has sought cooperation of the people during the 21-day All India lockdown. The people of J&K must also follow the lockdown to overcome this deadly virus, which has the capability to spread exponentially", he added.

He appealed to the public to stay at home and be cautious. Essential services and supplies would be available and elaborate arrangements have been



made for that. Healthcare is the priority of the Administration at this crucial time and every possible step would be taken to ensure the safety and good health of the people of J&K, he maintained.

The Lt Governor said that the advance ration for two months-April and May

would be issued to all eligible consumers. Besides, one month's ration for Mid-Day Meals would also be given in advance to all parents of eligible children.

Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners have been asked to ensure the availability of essential commodities and funds have been allocated for the same, he added.

He further appealed to the people not to venture out unless it is absolutely necessary. People should observe 'Social Distancing', as it is the key to stop and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Lt Governor urged the people to share their travel history for their own safety and the safety of others. He expressed his gratitude to health workers, medical staff, officials of essential services, Police and CAPF personnel who are associated with Corona prevention efforts and are continuously working, without worrying about their own well-being to save precious lives.

The Lt Governor urged the people of J&K to adhere to the advisories issued by the Government and follow the lockdown by staying at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Lockdown

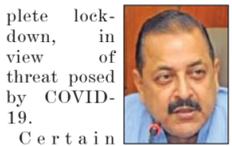


DoPT suggests working with 'absolutely necessary' staff: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The fresh guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) Government of India, suggest working with 'absolutely necessary' staff. It was disclosed here on Wednesday by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also In-Charge DoPT, after a fresh Office Memorandum (OM) was issued.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Union Cabinet and there were hectic consultations at high level. As per DoPT circular, guidelines have been issued pursuant to a decision to impose a complete lockdown, in view of threat posed by COVID-19.



Certain offices have already been given exemption from the lockdown, which include essential/emergency services. However, keeping in view the exigencies that have arisen in various departments not exempted under the guidelines, a fresh set of instructions has been issued. As per the instructions issued today, each Head of Department may draw up a list of staff that are 'absolutely necessary' to carry out essential additional services within the department. The list of

such employees may be communicated to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district.

While an authorisation letter will be issued by DCP, the staff members are also instructed to carry a copy of its print-out along with their official Identity Card, while coming to office. The remaining staff should be asked to work from home. However, as per DoPT instructions issued earlier, the officials who are working from home should be available on phone/mobile and electronic means of communication, at all times.

They should attend office, if called for, whenever required.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor (LG), Baseer Ahmad Khan and overall in-charge of Coronavirus Control Efforts (CCE) in Kashmir Division, on Wednesday directed all the Deputy Commissioners to work religiously for the safety of people so that coronavirus pandemic is stopped.

He further directed them to adopt coordinated and collective approach to address all issues in mission mode so that the chain of COVID-19 pandemic infection is broken.

The Advisor issued these directions while reviewing the preparedness and arrangements made by district administrations across Kashmir Valley.

He sought detailed feedback from district administrations regarding number of



Advisor Baseer Ahmad Khan chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

suspected persons in isolation, Administrative & Home Quarantine with facilities in district hospitals, screening counters on Highways, distribution of essential commodities, functioning of 24x7 control rooms, involvement of PRIs, lock down measures, deployments and other arrangements.

Advisor Baseer Khan directed to ensure complete lockdown for 21 days strictly and asked for imposing strict restrictions for general public except essential services.

He also directed to enforce strict screening of travelers including outside laborers in their respective districts and issue certificates with stamps for negative persons.

Reminding the precautions to be followed, Advisor Baseer Khan said front line employees should wear masks, gloves and maintain one-meter social distance while performing their essential services duty on ground.

For distribution of ration, LPG and other essential

commodities, he directed the DCs to conceptualize a mechanism that should regulate in such a manner that long queues will be eliminated and social distancing is strictly maintained.

The Advisor asked for disseminating the contact numbers to the consumers for home delivery system of groceries and other essential commodities. He asked the DCs to hold meetings with Beopar Mandal Committees and provide transport to them.

Advisor Khan directed the concerned to make contingency plan for areas of operation and earmark senior officers for essential services in their respective offices. He asked them to compile feedback on daily basis and send report to him for further course of action.

The Advisor emphasized that Control rooms should be made vibrant and distress calls should be promptly responded. He also directed the PDD to ensure round the clock electricity to essential service offices with back-up facilities of Generators. Proper sanitation and fumigation should be done twice a day on roads, buildings and other places, he further directed.

Khan stressed the DCs to maintain high level of vigil and follow the directions religiously so that the chain of Coronavirus infection is broken at all levels in Kashmir Division.

Senior officers of various Departments were present in the meeting where as Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

COVID-19: JK Police registers 218 FIRs against people who violated lockdown orders

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To ensure complete lockdown across Jammu and Kashmir for safety of people, Jammu and Kashmir police has registered 218 FIRs against lockdown violators. The FIRs have been registered for defying orders of lockdown issued by the government, aimed to stop or break chain of deadly COVID-19.

In Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Avantipora districts of South Kashmir, Police has registered 28 FIRs against persons for violating orders. In central Kashmir's Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal Districts, police has registered 14 FIRs against such persons while in North Kashmir's Baramulla, Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore, Bandipora districts, 27 FIRs has been registered against persons for violating lockdown orders.

In Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, police has registered 50 FIRs against persons for violating the orders while in Udhampur-Reasi range, 13 FIRs have been registered against lockdown violators. Similarly, 21 FIRs have been registered against persons for violating the orders in Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range. In Rajouri-Poonch range, Police has registered 65 FIRs against persons violating lockdown orders. Jammu and Kashmir police has once again requested people to follow the instructions seriously to help preventing spread of deadly COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Jammu, Srinagar Police Hospitals have established more helplines for police personnel and their families for immediate assistance. At Police Hospital Srinagar,

available doctors shall include Dr Feroz Ahmad (9419026052), 8899026052), Dr Suhail Afzal (9906962339), Dr Mutahhara Deva (9419040268), Dr Ahraz Wani (9419002927), Dr S M Farooq (9419070951, 7006325258), Dr Nahid Ali (9906902161), Dr Baljeet Kour (9419091149), Dr Irshad Kuchay (9419007114), Dr Showkat Reshi (9419007062), Dr Ibrar Bashir (9419011723, 7006942928), Dr Sajad Rajab (9906634932), Dr Noor ud Din Shah (9419251081, 9697966550) and Dr Mohammad Ashraf (9419055051).

At Police Hospital Jammu, the contact numbers of doctors are Dr Ajay Misri (9419198453), Dr Sunil Kumar Raina (9469002963), Dr Abdul Shabir Gutt (8803569012) and Dr Rajesh Koul (9419181320).

COVID-19: Bhalla seeks free ration, financial assistance for needy; condemns attack on Gurdwara

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla on Wednesday urged Lt Governor G C Murmu to provide free ration to those in need, during national lockdown. "In light of present crisis, I would urge the government to provide free ration to all the needy until the lockdown continues, which will be over and above the provisions of Food Security Act. Moreover, till the lockdown continues, identification process of beneficiaries may also be halted," he added.

Expressing concern on plight of poor, daily-wagers, farmers and marginalized, Bhalla said, "They will be the biggest sufferer in this war against the pandemic." The government should also consider providing cash assistance to needy, which can be identified from pool of Jan-Dhan account holders, Bhalla said.

Bhalla further asked the government to create a National Coronavirus Relief

Fund with three main objectives viz helping states in recovering some of the costs of the pandemic; providing relief to small businesses, farmers & daily wage earners; and funds for testing kits, vaccine research and other necessary innovations.

Bhalla requested Lt Governor to take immediate steps for rescuing daily wage workers and poor families, whose livelihood has come under severe threat because of lockdown. "The government should provide two months ration to poor families, consisting rice, edible oil, pulses, sugar, vegetables and other essential commodities, which should be delivered to their doorsteps. In addition, Rs 5,000 financial assistance should be given to each family in this time of extreme distress," Bhalla suggested. He also expressed concern over almost 300 per cent hike in vegetable prices in open market and demanded Government's intervention with stern action on black-marketing and middlemen.

Former Minister also condemned terrorist attack on a Gurdwara in Afghanistan that killed 11 devotees and wounded a number of others. Seen as one of the deadliest attacks on Sikh community in the country, the attack took place on Gurdwara in Shor Bazaar area of Kabul, when about 150 worshippers including children had gathered for morning prayers. Unidentified gunmen and suicide bombers stormed the Gurdwara killing at least 11.

Slamming the attack, Bhalla said that such cowardly attacks, on places of religious worship of minority community, especially at the time of COVID-19 pandemic, is reflective of diabolical mindset of the perpetrators and their supporters. "We convey our sincere condolences to immediate family members of the deceased and wish speedy recovery to injured," he said.

Bhalla also demanded all possible assistance to affected families of Hindu and Sikh communities in Afghanistan.

Every citizen should become role model in fight against corona: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a 21-day nationwide complete lockdown to contain spread of COVID-19 in the country should be taken seriously by all Indians and every citizen should become a role model for others in the fight against this deadly virus. It was stated by Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, while making a fervent appeal to people to strictly follow precautions for 21 days so that spread of



virus is controlled. To stress the urgency of his appeal for complete lockdown, the Prime Minister has tried to make people understand how precious life is by recalling a Hindi idiom 'Jaan Hai Toh Jahan Hai (world exists only when we live)' which is very true, said Balbir.

"The first and most important thing advised by Prime Minister against coronavirus is to practice strict social distancing for 21 days, which is not a difficult job and can

prove to be effective in saving lives," Balbir said and added that confining ourselves indoors, keeping vigil on day to day health of family members and following advices of doctors are for best of each one of us.

The BJP Spokesperson said that overwhelming response to daylong Janata Curfew on March 22, on call of Prime Minister, proved that it is the will of an individual which makes him stand with others in times of crisis

and that everyone wanted to contribute in defeating corona. "The people should display same will for 21 days and every single citizen must deem it his or her responsibility towards nation and humanity. One should become a role model and educate others about dangerous implications in case coronavirus succeeds in spreading it tentacles," he asserted.

Since corona spreads exponentially, it is mandatory to break its chain and same can be done only through self-control and self-discipline, added Balbir.

We need to practice 'Social Distancing' only in physical distancing & not 'Emotional Distancing' to defeat COVID-19

BY DAYA SAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has 'begged' from 'his people' with folded hands to defeat COVID-19 Corona virus by staying indoor which would be a common man 'meditation' free of any out of pocket expenses. Just 21 days of self-imposed discipline should not be a surprising code of conduct for many Indians who may be having some knowledge of 'conduct rules' for better living enshrined in our cultural heritage. Hence Bharat can fight out the 'enemy' without much difficulty by practicing the conduct & codes for purity in living that our elders practiced.

It is over three months since COVID-19 broke out in China's Wuhan city of Hubei province. So far no pointed cure or a vaccine is in sight, the growth trend as regards the infections that have been observed has forced some countries to go for lockdown / declare national emergencies and India too has formally declared a national level Lockdown w.e.f 25 March 2020 for 21 days.

Even after more than 3 months not much is known of the 'virus'. So, looking at the variety of information as is flowing from different quarters / sources the common worry is understandable but at the same time it is also the duty of one & all to work for putting blocks in

No doubt Narendra Modi ji has shown the international community how a leader can become part of common masses and unite a nation against ultimate challenges. Surely a disciplined private work force / Social Organizations too can do a lot and must be located / taken into confidence by Administration in aid of the Anti-Corona project 'Koyee Road Par Na Nikle' launched by Modi ji

the way of cultivation of fears, myths and misconceptions so that the truthful work taken in hand by the Government makes COVID-19 meet its end. Use of social media must be made with wisdom. The electronic and print media too should very carefully narrate and report the status as regards COVID-19 and the people affected so that the moral of common man remains high. The confidence of the masses has to be strengthened (not allowed to weaken) and for that the information flowing from government sources could be the best feed material.

World community is practicing SOCIAL Distancing to keep away COVID-19 Corona virus that has been so far recognized as the cause of the lethal respiratory disease / disorder worth inflicting more lethally on the individuals with weak immune system and has today shaken the whole world after having started casting havoc in China since last months of 2019. "Social Distancing" has been advocated / suggested so concernedly even by the PM of India like world over for keeping the spread virus from human to human under control and the for-



A Look Through The Mist

mal orders that have been issued by Government for people to stay home too are a step in that direction. But the way "social distancing" is being talked about by some and is being understood it really does not fit in the cultural heritage that Bharat is known for since as per that it should be taken as only "Physical distancing" more for the protections of others than for the self and not "emotional distancing". Surely the Indian Prime Minister too meant like that and those who are out for ensuring the physical & material safety and security of the common on the roads, in public service offices/ fields & in the hospitals too are there for keeping others at a 'distance' from the clutches of Corona virus risking even their own self. People should appreciate the stress under which doctors/para staff and police/ security men may be working and hence they need be extended cooperation.

need of the hour even for those who are being advised to "get locked in home/ stay back at home" is also to think of those who do not have a "home", who are aged / sick/ economically handicapped as all can not be left to be materially/ physically & socially taken care only by those employed in government services categorized as essential service in terms of Lockdown Orders. Government surely needs the help of some citizens to share the "emotional responsibility" towards those who do not have a home / towards those who are sick but no one to take them to doctor / towards old senior citizens with no regular income (particularly those who are not government pensioners) / those who earn their meal for each day even while in seventies but are now advised to remain locked "inside" or in the 'open'. Surely a disciplined private work force / Social Organizations too can do a lot and must be located / taken into confidence by Administration in aid of the Anti-Corona project "Koyee road par na Nikle" launched by Modi ji (Daya Sagar is a Sr Journalist & Social activist dayasagr45@yahoo.com 9419796096)

Set up control room, helpline number to ensure availability of essential goods: Centre to states

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked state governments to set up a round the clock control room with a helpline number at its headquarters and in each of its districts to ensure seamless availability of essential commodities during the 21-day lockdown enforced to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The Union Home Ministry's letter to Chief Secretaries of all states came in the wake of reports that those involved in distribution and delivery of essential commodities and services were facing difficulties due to the restriction of movement of people and police vigilance.

The ministry also said a dedicated helpline number should also be set up to help healthcare workers or others officials who are working in hospitals handling coronavirus cases as some of them are facing harassment by landlords, neighbours or locals.

In its letter, the home ministry said to ensure that these essential provisions are seamlessly available at ground level, it

would be necessary for each state and UT to set-up a 24x7 Control Room or office with a helpline (at state/district level) to address any grievance or undue problems faced by the providers of goods and services, including during inter-state movement.

The ministry said a nodal officer at the state may be appointed to coordinate with the district administration and police in this matter.

This is necessary to ensure continuity of supply chain for essential commodities, several of which may be perishable, the letter said.

It may also be necessary to lay down a Standard Operating Protocol for unhindered operation of essential services, establishments and commodities, including appointment of nodal officers at inter-state borders, issue of vehicular passes etc.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Tuesday announced a 21-day lockdown across India in a bid to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

After the announcement, the home ministry issued guidelines about the services

and people exempted from the restrictions. The guidelines listed several services, including government and private offices that will be out of bounds during the period, while exempting establishments such as hospitals, ration shops, dairies, banks, insurance offices, print and electronic media.

Delivery of all essential goods, including food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment through e-commerce has also been exempted from the purview of the lockdown, the guidelines said.

In the letter to the states, the ministry also advised that the state helpline facilities may be also made available to ensure adequate protection to essential service providers, government or PSU employees and healthcare workers from any unwanted stigmatisation by any local persons on any grounds.

"In view of the above, it is accordingly requested to issue suitable directions to set-up a nodal control room or office with helplines in the state and appoint a nodal officer immediately.