

Weekly Newsletter
(March 2-8, 2020)

Dear Reader

With the tally of confirmed cases of Covid 19 reaching 39, there is a lot of concern over the adequacy of the existing infrastructure to handle a major outbreak. All major public events involving large public gatherings have been cancelled in the national capital and state governments have also followed suit. There has been a significant decline in the Airline and medical tourism industry within the country. Initial assessment of the Asian Development Bank suggests that total losses could be to the tune of \$29.9 billion as on date. The figure can reach \$250 billion or more if the Virus is not contained within the next 3 months. Meanwhile, the government has taken measures to arrest its cascading impact on human lives and the economy.

Meanwhile, the Indian government has banned the export of 26 advanced pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) or basic chemicals, including paracetamol, antibiotics such as metronidazole and neomycin, some vitamins and hormones due to the spread of Coronavirus and disruption in supplies from China. The Department of Pharmaceutical under the Ministry of Chemical & Fertilisers has instructed states to ensure an adequate supply of basic chemicals. The government, however, clarified that there are no restrictions on the export of APIs from China. India imports nearly two-thirds of its API requirement from China.

On its part, NATHEALTH has increased its media outreach in terms of issuing an advisory on Coronavirus. We are continuously updating information and measures through our social and conventional media platforms. News agency such as PTI and newspapers/online media (Biospectrum, Business Standard, Mail Today) carried views of NATHEALTH Leaders. NATHEALTH has called for a unified response to deal with the cascading impact of coronavirus. We have also asked the government to include the private sector in contingency planning to potential scenarios at both central and state levels in India. Time is the essence and therefore it is imperative to diagnose and prevent the spread of the disease at the earliest, NATHEALTH emphasized this in a press statement issued this week.

On the policy front, the government is monitoring and reviewing the situation on coronavirus threat periodically at the top level. Periodic reviews prepare the country to deal with the threat effectively.

Check out the newsletter to know what is happening in other segments of the healthcare sector. Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook for real times updates.

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NATHEALTH Leadership Series

NATHEALTH calls for unified response to arrest coronavirus impact

NATHEALTH has called for a unified response to deal with the cascading impact of coronavirus. Though the disease is more infectious than the regular flu, it seems less fatal than some of the other epidemics the country has faced, Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President NATHEALTH said, adding that the government should to include the private sector in contingency planning to potential scenarios at both central and state levels in India.

COVID-19 infection cases cross 1 lakh mark globally, WHO concerned, masks sales scale up

H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, "Though coronavirus is more infectious than the regular flu it seems less fatal than some of the other epidemics we have faced." For containment of the virus, government is also planning to loop in the private sector.

NATHEALTH calls for collaborative fight against COVID-19

Biospectrum has highlighted NATHEALTH advisory on Coronavirus. It said that NATHEALTH has called for a unified response to arrest the cascading impact of Covid 19 and said that private sector would work collaboratively with the Government to ward off the disease before it takes Greater proportions.

NATHEALTH calls for unified response to arrest coronavirus impact

Business Standard carried NATHEALTH President's view flashed by PTI. "Private sector players will be happy to collaborate with the government to augment the diagnostics/ treatment capacity as was done in 2009 when H1N1 had started spreading incessantly," NATHEALTH President H Sudarshan Ballal said.

Healthcare Policy Updates

Coronavirus cases rise to 39 as 5 found infected in Kerala

The number of Covid-19 cases in India rose to 39 on Sunday, with five people from Kerala – a couple and their son who returned from Italy on February 29 and two of their relatives – testing positive for the novel coronavirus.

Coronavirus in India: Government issues fresh travel advisory

The ministry of health and family welfare advised Indian citizens to refrain from traveling to China, Iran, Republic of Korea, Italy and Japan and advised to avoid non-essential travel to other coronavirus affected countries.

1 crore families benefiting from Jan Aushadhi Centres: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said there were more than 6,000 Jan Aushadhi Centres across the country and over one crore families are benefiting from the cheaper medicines from the stores. The Prime Minister was holding a video conference with the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras.

[Healthcare Industry Overview](#)

[As coronavirus spreads, Medicare gets telemedicine option](#)

Coverage of telemedicine is now limited primarily to residents of rural areas facing long road trips for treatment from specialists. The coronavirus legislation signed by President Donald Trump on Friday would let Medicare expand the use of telemedicine in outbreak areas, potentially reducing infection risks for vulnerable seniors.

[WHO urges globe to 'pull out the stops' against virus' march](#)

The global march of the new virus triggered a vigorous appeal Thursday from the World Health Organization for governments to pull out "all the stops" to slow the epidemic, as it drained color from India's spring festivities, closed Bethlehem's Nativity Church and blocked Italians from visiting elderly relatives in nursing homes.

[Diagnostics Forum](#)

[AIIMS to be nodal centre for coronavirus treatment in India](#)

The Health Ministry has asked AIIMS to designate part of the new emergency wing at its trauma facility, Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, for setting up of isolation beds for acute management of Covid-19 patients. This isolation facility will have a capacity to admit about 20 patients at a given point of time. The patients will be triaged here, following which they will be transferred to National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Jhajjar.

[Measures taken regarding \(nCoV\)](#)

As of now, there is no cure for this infection with a vaccine. Medical researchers continue to study the effects of previous coronavirus outbreaks and are working on a vaccine which has not been developed yet. So, prevention is the key. Personal hygiene such as washing hands thoroughly and frequently can protect a person.

[Medtech Forum](#)

[Coronavirus kits to be sold only on doctors' prescription: FDA](#)

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has directed chemists to sell coronavirus kits only on doctors' prescription. The State FDA has started regulating the sale and storage of coronavirus kits to prevent hoarding and overpricing.

[Advanced imaging tools transforming Heart Care](#)

Turning a corner in interventional cardiology, advanced tools have opened new frontiers in heart care. Dr Nils P Johnson, Associate Professor of Cardiology, University of Texas, Houston, USA while emphasizing on the biggest challenges faced by cardiologists today, and the role played by the latest imaging techniques. Now technologies like Fractional Flow Reserve (FFR) would help doctors to decide in advance if the artery needs a stent or not.

[Insurance Forum](#)

[Create new cover for Covid-19, says Irdai](#)

The insurance regulator (IRDAI) Irdai has asked non-life companies to devise a special policy that provides

compensation if coronavirus is contracted. The regulator has also asked insurance companies to ensure they do not reject claims by those infected by coronavirus, including treatment during quarantine period under existing mediclaim policies.

[International Women's Day: How to buy health insurance with maternity coverage](#)

Not all health insurance plans may not offer maternity cover, one needs to be careful while the selection of the right health policy. In some policies, it may be specifically excluded as well. "Not all Health Insurance plans cover maternity expenses as a part of the base plan. Many health plans offer it as an add-on benefit or in the higher variants of the plan. However, there is a usually a waiting period," says Shanai Ghosh, CEO, Edelweiss General Insurance.

[Healthcare Events](#)

[India Health 2020](#)

Brought to you by the organizers of Arab Health, India Health will take place from 14-16 April 2020 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India. Healthcare has become one of India's largest sectors both in terms of revenue and employment. India Health presents an opportunity to all stakeholders in search of a platform that facilitates business interaction, learning and development, and access to the right healthcare entities, authorities and associations in a fast-emerging economy.

[Conference on Healthcare in India](#)

Conference on Healthcare in India aim is to highlight the emerging trends, identify the challenges, analyze the impact of key policy and regulatory changes and identify the upcoming opportunities in the healthcare sector.