

Since 1920s the Oldest Daily...

Daily Telegrams

...the Largest Circulating Daily of the Islands

Weather

Dry weather most likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 32°C and 27°C respectively on Thursday 16/04/2020.

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 32.6
 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 27.2
 Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST: 069
 Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST: 095
 Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0507
 Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1731
 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 000.0
 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0
 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 1.3 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

Regn. No. 34190/75

No. 96

Port Blair, Thursday April 16, 2020

Web: dt.andaman.gov.in

Rs. 3.00

Pages 4

Administration achieves remarkable success in containing COVID-19 in Isles

- Pioneered Pool Testing in the territory
- Highest number of tests per million
- Highest recovery rate

Port Blair, Apr 15

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands has achieved tremendous success in prevention of COVID-19 in the territory on various fronts such as pioneering pool testing in the territory, conducting highest number of tests per million population and achieving highest recovery rate of COVID-19 patients.

In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that the ICMR, HQ has allowed RMRC-ICMR Port Blair on 09.03.2020 to conduct the COVID-19 test for Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a testing capacity of 20 tests at a time. The first test was conducted by the lab on 11.03.2020. However, during 2nd and 3rd week of March 2020 there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in A&N Islands and only the symptomatic cases of passengers who came from mainland/infected countries were sent to lab for testing. Hence, the load of testing was also quite low. Meanwhile, the Administration has increased its surveillance considering instances of spread of virus

in many States in mainland and took concrete steps to prevent the transmission of virus from outside and decided to keep all passengers under quarantine for 14 days who came from mainland. They were also tested for having any symptoms of cough, cold and fever. On these lines, the Administration quarantined around 2020 passengers in 3 days i.e. from 22.03.2020 to 24.03.2020. During this surveillance, 9 people from Tablighi Jamaat who travelled from mainland by two flights i.e. Vistara and Indigo were detected symptomatic on 24.03.2020 and on testing found infected by the virus. The Administration also identified 208 contacts of these persons and put them under Institutional Quarantine. This has enormously increased the number of persons under surveillance and most of them have been recommended for testing by the medical officials which inter-alia includes the crew and ground staff of airlines, screening team of Police and Medical officials at airport, staff of ambulance who transported the suspected/confirmed

cases to hospital and contact of all confirmed cases. As mentioned above, the sudden increase in number of suspected cases has put a tremendous pressure on RMRC-ICMR, Dollygunj, Port Blair for testing which was working with the capacity of testing only 20 samples at a time. On this back drop and considering the urgent need to test the suspected cases quickly, it was felt necessary to inform RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair to take measures to increase the capacity of laboratory to conduct more tests for meeting the increasing demands for testing. Some references were also shared with RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair relating to pool testing which were conducted in the countries like Korea and Germany.

The RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair accordingly conducted an intensive research and study to explore the possibility of pool testing and their hard work yielded desired results when they successfully conducted pool testing on 06.04.2020 by taking 5 samples in a pool. By this method, the Lab has now

increased its capacity of testing 5 times. This has removed the bottle neck of 20 or 40 tests per day as the pool testing allows conduct of 100 tests at a time. Moreover, to some extent it has also solved the problem of shortage of test kits. This innovative idea of Dr. P Vijayachari, Director RMRC-ICMR Port Blair attracted the attention of other States/UTs who also demanded pool testing from local labs of ICMR to meet the increasing demand of tests. Indian Council of Medical Research, Headquarter then on 13.04.2020 directed other regional ICMR institutions of the country to conduct pool testing.

The RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair is continuing the pool testing and as on today it has conducted test of 1000 samples which is highest in the country which comes around 2500 test against 1 million population criteria.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration admitted 11 confirmed cases, out of which 10 cases

(Contd. on last page)

Fishing & allied activities start in North & Middle Andaman District

Fishermen asked to wear mask & sanitize fishing boats after every voyage



Port Blair, Apr 15

In compliance to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), GoI Order dated 10th April, 2020 endorsed by A&N Administration vide Order dated 11/04/2020, fishing and allied activities have been started in North & Middle Andaman district which included the remote areas like Long Island, Baratang, Paschim Sagar, etc.

Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, Shri Awanish Kumar, along with the Superintendent of Police, Shri Vichitra Veer flagged off the fishing boats today from Pokkadera Fish Landing Centre, Mayabunder.

The officers inspected various fishing boats and advised fishermen to wear mask and sanitize the fishing boats after every

(Contd. on last page)

Extension of nationwide lockdown till May 3

Centre notifies Revised Consolidated Guidelines

Travel, operation of educational institutions, hospitality services, social events, religious congregations suspended

Port Blair, Apr 15

The Prime Minister, in his address to the Nation on April 14, 2020, declared that the lockdown in India will have to be extended till May 3, 2020, with a view to arrest the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The Prime Minister also declared that select necessary activities will be allowed to be opened up from April 20, 2020, in identified areas of the country.

In pursuance of the announcements of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Home Affairs

(MHA) issued an order dated April 14, 2020, extending the lockdown in India till May 3, 2020. Further, MHA issued another Order, dated April 15, 2020, to allow select additional activities in areas not demarcated as containment zones by States/ UTs/ District Administrations.

Along with the Order dated April 15, 2020, consolidated revised guidelines have been issued, delineating the prohibited activities across the country, activities allowed in containment

zones, and select permitted activities allowed from April 20, 2020 in the rest of the country. The objective of the revised guidelines is to consolidate the gains achieved during the 1st phase of lockdown and further slowdown the spread of COVID-19 and at the same time provide relief to farmers and labour and daily wage earners.

❖ The activities prohibited across the country include travel by air, rail and road; operation of educational and training institutions; industrial and commercial

activities; hospitality services; all cinema halls, shopping complexes, theatres, etc.; all social, political and other events; and opening of all religious places/ places of worship for members of public, including religious congregations.

❖ There are certain national guidelines like mandatory homemade face covers at work places and in public places, strong hygiene and health care measures like provision of sanitizers, staggered shifts, access control, thermal screening and imposing

penalties for spitting etc. fines for spitting etc. penalties will be imposed for violation.

❖ The activities permitted under the revised guidelines, from April 20, 2020 will not be allowed within the containment zones as demarcated by States/ UTs/ District Administrations as per the guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHF&W). In these zones, no unchecked inward/outward movement of population would be allowed, except for maintaining essential services, i.e., medical

emergencies and law & order duties, and government business continuity.

❖ Very strong containment measures will be implemented in the hotspot districts accounting for large number of COVID-19 cases or with fast growth of cases. Detailed guidelines on delineation of containment zones and containment measures have also been issued. Only essential services are to be permitted in these zones and strict perimeter control and strict

(Contd. on last page)

Efforts on by Administration to overcome water scarcity due to deficient rains

- ❖ Water transported from Rutland to Phongibalu through water barge
- ❖ Transportation of water from Hut Bay to Port Blair through DSS vessel
- ❖ Tender floated for laying of submarine pipeline between Rutland & Phongibalu
- ❖ General public urged to adopt water conservation measures

Port Blair, Apr 15

Due to high deficit of North-East monsoon rains, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands had issued directions to APWD to review the water availability and supply position and take necessary measures for sustaining water supply till the arrival of next monsoon. Accordingly, APWD reviewed the availability of water supply from various sources including Dhanikhari Dam which is the main water source for Port Blair and surrounding areas. The storage level of water in all the reservoirs and sources, have drastically declined due to poor rainfall during the period from December, 2019 to till date. The rainfall data of the previous years is given below:

(Rainfall in millimetres)				
Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
December	478	219	189	0
January	96	88	195	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	37	25	15	0
April (upto 14 th April)	35	115	0	0
Total rainfall from Dec to April (in mm)	646	447	399	0
Water level in Dhanikhari dam (in metres) as on 14 th April	58.27	56.33	59.94	52.27
Dead storage level of Dhanikhari dam is 48 metre & water cannot be drawn below 48 metres				

While the total rainfall the last 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) was between 399 mm to 646 mm, there was



Water distribution by BMC tankers from the water transported by MV Campbell Bay from Hut Bay, Little Andaman.

virtually no rainfall at all which the reservoirs could not get recharged to their optimum level. Taking the rainfall of previous months into

(Contd. on last page)

Alternative learning platform for school students

DD Port Blair to telecast contents throughout the Islands; students urged to take maximum benefit

Port Blair, Apr 15

In order to facilitate the students with learning activity during the lockdown period, the Directorate of Education has initiated an alternative method to provide learning contents to the students of Class VIII to XII at their home through local

Doordarshan channel and cable network. Doordarshan (Port Blair) channel will telecast the contents throughout the Islands from 20.04.2020 onwards at 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm on all days (except Saturdays and Sundays). The contents will be telecast in South Andaman Urban and Rural areas

upto Jirkatang from 16.04.2020 onwards in CITY PLUS - Channel No. - 705 from 10 am to 12 Noon with a repeat telecast from 6 pm to 8 pm (except Sundays). The classes for the Primary and Upper Primary students from Class I to VII will be included in the meantime.

(Contd. on last page)

Preventing spread of COVID-19

Waqf Board appeals for suspension of gathering for congregational prayer/majlis, Iftar in Mosque, Dargah, Imam Baras etc during month of Ramadhan

Port Blair, Apr 15

COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic and it has become imperative social distancing and follow the guide line of lock down to prevent its spread and hence mass gathering in religious places has been restricted for the time being.

The holy month of

Ramadhan is most probably starting from 23rd/24th April 2020, and all the countries, especially Muslim Nations have suspended all sorts of gathering of people at Mosques and other religious places and advisories have been issued to refrain from assembling to prevent spread of Corona

pandemic. It is necessary to take effective measures in India also by consistently following the social distancing with all seriousness and to evade assembling for prayers (Namaz), Iftar, Taraweeh etc as traditionally the people used to gather in a large number at Mosques,

(Contd. on last page)

DO NOT PAY HEED TO RUMOURS ON CORONA VIRUS: CLARIFY YOUR DOUBTS BY DIALING STATE HELPLINE NO: 03192-232102

Cargo vehicles owners directed to abide by movement pass and be considerate towards fellow shopkeepers

Port Blair, Apr 15

Movement passes have been issued to limited cargo vehicles to particular shopkeepers who own such motor vehicles, for transportation of essential commodities by the Director, Civil Supplies Department. This has been done to ensure that there is no scarcity of essential items for the use of citizen. The permit holders are advised to use the vehicles

strictly as per the route details mentioned in the pass and if required, nearby shopkeepers who do not own such vehicles may also be provided with the facility of vehicles by charging the market rate of vehicles prevailing before the start of lockdown.

Now it has come to the notice of Department that a few movement pass holders possessing cargo vehicles are charging more than the

charge prevailing before the imposition of lockdown. Such a practice will be treated as a misconduct and violation of the permit conditions.

All vehicle owners who ply the cargo vehicles on the basis of special movement pass issued by the Administration during the lockdown period have been directed to abide by the movement pass and be considerate towards fellow

shopkeepers by charging only at the pre-lockdown market rate. Any violation shall result in cancellation of Registration Certificate of original permit of the vehicle.

All concerned have been advised to report any violation to the Control Room of Transport Department over phone number 231216 with details, a communication from the Directorate of Transport said here today.

Administration achieves....

(Contd. from page 1)

have been recovered. The recovery rate of the Island is 90.91% which is also highest in the country. Moreover there is no case tested positive in the UT after 07th April, 2020.

This has been achieved with the constant help and cooperation of law abiding citizens of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. To make our fight with COVID-19 successful the Administration has appealed to the people of the Islands to 'STAY IN HOME' and follow respiratory etiquette and social distancing norms to make the lockdown a success which ultimately prevent the spread of COVID-19, an official communication said here today.

IMD predicts normal southwest monsoon for country this year

New Delhi, Apr. 15

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a normal southwest monsoon for the country this year. IMD today issued the first-stage Long Range Forecast for southwest Monsoon Season rainfall for this year. In an online briefing, IMD Director General, Shri Mritunjay Mohapatra said

that the Long Period Average of monsoon will be 100 per cent which falls in the "normal" category. The Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences M. Rajeevan said, the IMD has revised the onset and withdrawal dates of the monsoon from this year. However, the normal onset date over Kerala, which is June 1, will remain the same.

Efforts on by Administration

(Contd. from page 1)

consideration and factoring in the availability of water in the reservoirs, once in three day supply was made from 1st March, 2020 and later, once in 4 day supply was started in PBMC and other areas from 8th April, 2020, with a view to conserve water and sustain the supply till the arrival of next monsoon in last week of May, 2020.

The Administration is also augmenting the water supply by transporting water from Rutland to Phongibal, through water barge. Presently, one barge of 200 tonnes (2 lakh litre) capacity is making 4 trips in a day and transports about 800 tonnes (8 lakh litres) of water to Phongibal, which is then pumped to Dhanikhari dam through an already existing pipeline. In another few days, a second barge will be deployed, which will help to transport an additional 8 lakh litres of water every day for distribution to urban and rural areas.

In addition, water is also being transported from Hut Bay to Port Blair through DSS vessel M.V. Campbell Bay, which has a capacity of 500 tonnes (5 lakh litres). The first consignment of 500 tonnes of water by M.V. Campbell Bay reached Port Blair on 14/04/2020 and the PBMC water tankers are distributing the water to various locations within municipal area as required. Trips of MV Campbell Bay would be regularly planned to fetch water from Hut Bay, to supplement the water supply position in Port Blair.

In order to augment the water sources in rural areas, the MP along with team of officials consisting of DC, South Andaman and CE(APWD) visited Ferrargunj Tehsil of South Andaman on 26/02/2020 and suggested construction of check weirs in the nallahs in Herbatabad, Sona Pahar, Ograbraj, Namunagar etc. for which estimates are under preparation by APWD. Development of these water sources will improve the water availability in these rural villages.

The laying of submarine pipeline between Rutland and Phongibal and the commissioning of Rutland Water Supply scheme will help to overcome the water scarcity problems due to deficient rains, as is being faced now. In this regard, tender floated by APWD for laying of submarine pipeline between Rutland and Phongibal has evoked good response and the tenders are under evaluation.

While the Administration is making all the required efforts to augment the water sources and sustain the water supply to the residents, the general public have also been requested to use the water judiciously and adopt water conservation measures to tide over the present water crisis, a communication from Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Dr. V. Candavelou said here today.

Waqf Board ...

(Contd. from page 1)

Dargah, Imambada, Madarsas during the holy month of Ramadhan.

In a press release issued here today, the Chief Executive Officer, Waqf Board, A&N Islands have reiterated the need to take effective approach to ensure that the people do not gather at religious and other places under any circumstances. He has requested all the eminent personalities, Muslim Scholars, Mutawallies and social organizations of Muslim community to co-operate with the Local Administration in strict and effective implementation of lockdown and social distancing in the A&N Islands.

Fishing & allied activities

(Contd. from page 1)

voyage, and to follow all the guidelines issued by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration and maintain social distancing at all times.

The DC, N&MA also visited the fish markets to assess feasibility of maintaining social distancing in the market along with maintaining sanitation and hygiene in the market. Necessary directions were given to all the concerned in this regard.

The DC Office in coordination with the Fisheries Department has



also worked to simplify the process for obtaining special permission for fishing and allied activities by the fishers and has authorized all Assistant Commissioners for the same. The Ice Plants in all the tehsils have also started functioning. All facilitation shall be given to the fishermen community to improve their livelihood by promoting fishing activities in the district without compromising the social distancing norm and the safety of other people, a communication from Fisheries Department said.

Alternative learning....

(Contd. from page 1)

Broadcast through Local Cable TV (CITY PLUS - Channel No. 705) For South Andaman urban and rural area upto Jirkatang (Timings: 10 AM to 12 Noon)

Days	Broadcast through Local Cable TV (CITY PLUS - Channel No. 705) For South Andaman urban and rural area upto Jirkatang (Timings: 10 AM to 12 Noon)			
	Class - VIII		Class - IX	
Telecast	10.00 AM to 10.30 AM	10.30 AM to 11.00 AM	11.00 AM to 11.30 AM	11.30 AM to 12.00 Noon
16.04.2020	English	Social Science	Mathematics	Science
17.04.2020	Mathematics	Science	English	Social Science
18.04.2020	Social Science	English	Science	Mathematics
20.04.2020	Science	Mathematics	Social Science	English
21.04.2020	English	Social Science	Mathematics	Science
22.04.2020	Mathematics	Science	English	Social Science
23.04.2020	Social Science	English	Science	Mathematics
24.04.2020	Science	Mathematics	Social Science	English
25.04.2020	English	Social Science	Mathematics	Science
27.04.2020	Mathematics	Science	English	Social Science
28.04.2020	Social Science	English	Science	Mathematics
29.04.2020	Science	Mathematics	Social Science	English
30.04.2020	English	Social Science	Mathematics	Science
Repeat Telecast	06.00 PM to 06.30 PM	06.30 PM to 07.00 PM	07.00 PM to 07.30 PM	07.30 PM to 08.00 PM
Days	Broadcast through Doordarshan available in all Islands (Timing: 5.15p.m. to 6.15 p.m.)			
	Class - X		Class - XII	
	05.15 PM to 05.45 PM		05.45 PM to 06.15 PM	
20.04.2020	English		Physics	
21.04.2020	Mathematics		English	
22.04.2020	Social Science		Accountancy	
23.04.2020	Science		Geography	
24.04.2020	English		Chemistry	
27.04.2020	Mathematics		Economics	
28.04.2020	Social Science		Mathematics	
29.04.2020	Science		Business Studies	
30.04.2020	Mathematics		Biology	

The details of timing of telecast of educational contents in others zones is given below:-

Name of area	Date	From	To	Class	From	Channel No.
Diglipur	16.04.2020	10.00 AM	11.00 AM	X & XII	X - Social Science	Active Cable Network Channel -1
		03.00 AM	04.00 AM		XII - English XII (Sci.) - Chemistry XII - English	
Mayabunder	17.04.2020	03.00 PM	05.00 PM	X & XII	X - Maths, XII - Political Science	SAI Ram Cable Network, Channel - 8
Rangat	17.04.2020	03.00 PM	05.00 PM	X & XII	X - English, Social Science XII - English	Happy Home Satellite Network Channel -92
Hutbay	16.04.2020	10.00 AM	12.00 Noon	VIII, IX, X and XII	VIII - Science, IX - English, X - Maths, XII - Chemistry	Shreya Electronics (NXT Digital) Little Andaman Channel No. 130
Campbell Bay	16.04.2020	07.15 PM	08.15 PM	X & XII & XII	XII - Maths, Economics	Local Cable Network Channel No. - S - 03

Note: The schedule for next day's telecast will be scrolled in the channel during the session.

The students, parents and all stakeholders have been appealed to make use of this facility to the maximum extent for the benefit of enhancing teaching-learning activity during this lockdown period. Parents have also been requested to engage their wards to compulsorily attend the virtual classes as per the schedule and feel free to contact the teachers in the given mobile number for any clarification of the content at later stage, a communication from the Directorate of Education said here today.

Health bulletin for containment of COVID-19

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

(No. 16/ 15th April 2020)

COVID-19 STATUS AS ON 15.04.2020

Andaman & Nicobar Islands:	
Total Positive cases	11
Cured/Discharged from Hospital	10
Death	00
Admitted at Hospital	01
Migrated out of Country	00
Outside Resident	00

Status of Hospitals:			
Name of Hospital	Isolation Beds Available	Occupied	Positive Cases Admitted
G B Pant Hospital, Port Blair	50	01	01

* No cases are admitted at Private Hospital.

* The Health Condition of all +Ve cases are Normal and Stable.

Status of Sample Testing:	
Total Samples sent till date	1298
Total Reports received till date	1045
Total Pending Reports	253

- > House to house surveillance in three "Hot Spots" i.e. Atlanta Point, Mohanpura Masjid area and Biggiline area are conducted by District Administration with the help of Health Workers.
- > Intensive awareness is continued through print and electronic media.
- > 2020 passengers screened at VSI Airport till 24.03.2020 by medical teams.
- > Calls received at 102 - 190 calls.
- > 15 lines are activated in State Head Quarter Control Room and District Headquarter Control Room also set up at North & Middle Andaman District and Nicobar District.
- > 10 COVID-19 patient cured and now under observation.
- > 471 persons put under Institutional Quarantine as on today which includes passengers as well as contacts.

SURVEILLANCE DATA	
Contacts put under Home Quarantine till date	301
Contacts under Home Quarantine as on today	301
Contacts completed 14 days period of Home Quarantine	109
Persons under Institutional Quarantine as on today	224 **
Persons completed 14 days period of Institutional Quarantine	247
Passengers completed 14 days period of Quarantine	1812

** The figure contains institutional Quarantine persons from passengers as well as contacts both.



24x7 CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS: 240126/232102/1077/1070

(Source: Principal Secretary (Health), A&N Administration)

Centre notifies Revised...

(Contd. from page 1)

restrictions on movement enforced. These hotspots are under 3 km perimeter from residence of confirmed case and are being enforced in Atlanta Point, Mohanpura Masjid area and Biggi Line area. Moreover, the District Administration of South Andaman has notified 7 km perimeter from residence of confirmed case which would also remain under strict surveillance. This will more or less include PBMC area and nearby peripheral areas of Port Blair.

❖ The permitted activities from April 20, 2020 are aimed at ensuring that agricultural and related activities remain fully functional; the rural economy functions with maximum efficiency; employment opportunities are created for daily wage earners and other members of the labour force; select industrial activities are allowed to resume their operations, with adequate safeguards and mandatory standard operating protocols (SOPs); and the digital economy. At the same time, keeping the imperative of containing the spread of COVID-19 in the country, National Directives for COVID-19 management have been laid down, which shall be enforced by the District Magistrates through fines and penal action as prescribed in the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

❖ Transportation of goods will be permitted without any distinction of essential or non-essential.

❖ Farming operations, including procurement of agricultural products, agriculture marketing direct and decentralized marketing, manufacture, distribution and retail of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds; activities of marine and inland fisheries; animal husbandry activities, including the supply chain of milk, milk products, poultry and live-stock farming are allowed to be functional.

❖ To provide an impetus to the rural economy, industries operating in rural areas, including food processing industries; construction of roads, irrigation projects, buildings and industrial projects in rural areas; works under MNREGA, with priority to irrigation and water conservation works; and operation of rural Common Service Centres (CSCs) have all been allowed. These activities will create job opportunities for rural labor, including the migrant labor force.

❖ Manufacturing and other industrial establishments with access control have been permitted industrial estates after implementation of SOP for social distancing. Manufacture of essential goods and packaging are also allowed. It is expected that the industrial and manufacturing sectors will see a revival with these measures, and will create job opportunities while maintaining safety protocols and social distancing. At the same time, the important components of the financial sector, e.g., RBI, banks, ATMs, insurance companies will also remain functional, with a view to provide enough liquidity and credit support to the industrial sectors.

❖ Digital economy is critical to the services sector and is important. Accordingly, e-commerce operations, distance learning through Doordarshan, All India Radio and cable TV are all permitted activities now.

❖ The revised guidelines also permit all health services and the social sector to remain functional; public utilities to function without any hindrance; the supply chain of essential goods to operate without any hindrance.

❖ The guidelines provide that the UT Administration may impose stricter measures than the guidelines as per requirement of the local areas from time to time, an official communication said here today.

Advisory on use of Homemade Protective Cover for Face & Mouth

1. We are aware that social distancing and personal hygiene are keys to prevent COVID 19 infections. Certain countries have claimed benefits of homemade face cover for the general public. Such homemade face cover is a good method for maintaining personal hygiene. Such usage certainly will help in maintaining overall hygienic health conditions.
2. Therefore, it is suggested that such people who are not suffering from medical conditions or having breathing difficulties may use the handmade reusable face cover, particularly when they step out of their house. This will help in protecting the community at large.
3. This face cover is not recommended for either health workers or those working with or in contact with COVID 19 patients or are patients themselves as these categories of people are required to wear specified protective gear.
4. It is advised that two sets of such face covers be made so that one can be washed while the other is used. Hand washing would still remain essential criteria and hand should be washed before wearing the face cover. Such face covers should also not be thrown anywhere but kept safely, washed properly with soap and hot water and dried properly before they are used.
5. These face covers could be made out of clean cloth available at home, which needs to be thoroughly cleaned and washed before a face cover is stitched/made. The face cover should be prepared in such a manner that it can cover the mouth and nose completely and can be tied over the face easily.
6. There must not be a sharing of face covers and a face cover must be used by only one individual. So, in a family of several members, each member should have a separate face cover.

Issued by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

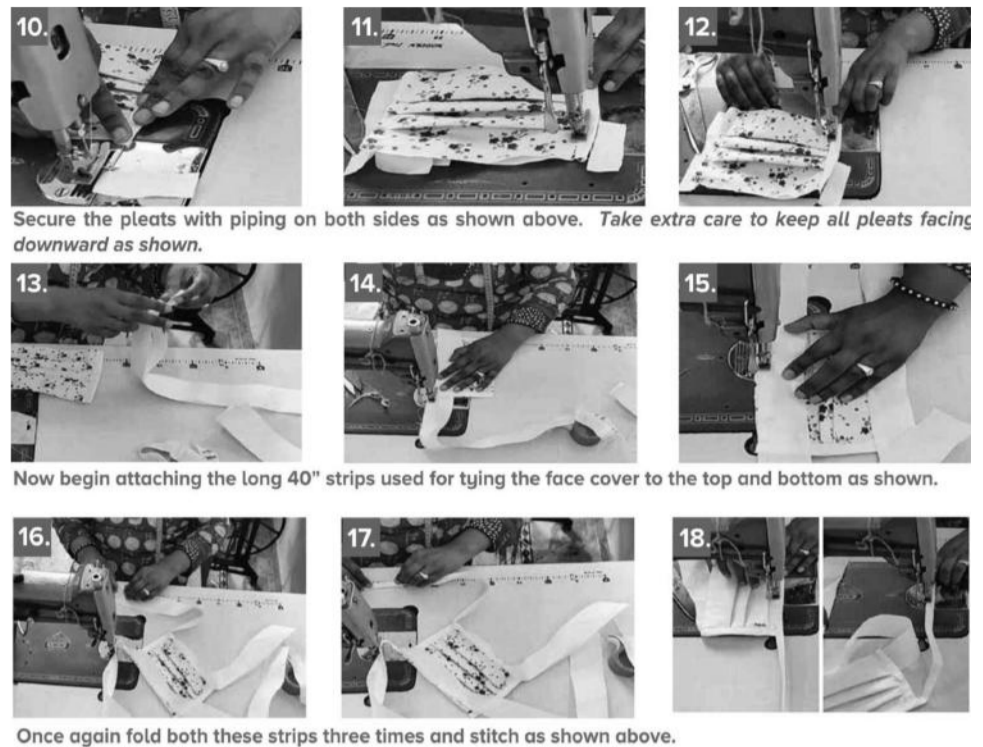


Face Covers for Curbing the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus

Manual on Homemade Protective Cover for Face and Mouth.

Proposed guide is meant to provide a simple outline of best practices to make, use and reuse face covers to enable NGOs and individuals to make face protection themselves. The key criteria for proposed designs are Ease of Access to Materials, Ease of Making at Home, Ease of Use and Reuse.

The homemade face cover should be prepared in such a manner that it can cover the mouth and nose completely and can be tied over the face easily. This face cover is not recommended for either health workers or those working with or in contact with COVID19 patients or are patients themselves as these categories of people are required to wear specified protective gear. Wearing of face covers is especially recommended for people living in densely populated areas across India.



10. Secure the pleats with piping on both sides as shown above. Take extra care to keep all pleats facing downward as shown.

13. Now begin attaching the long 40" strips used for tying the face cover to the top and bottom as shown.

16. Once again fold both these strips three times and stitch as shown above.

Your face cover is now ready

Ensure that the face cover fits around your mouth and nose and there is no gap between it and your face. When wearing the face cover, the side facing you should show the pleats as facing downwards.

You must never reverse the face cover for reuse. Always thoroughly wash it after every use following process shown further.



This face cover is currently being used by community health workers of organizations in South Rajasthan including, Amrit Clinic, Arth Hospital, and Shreyas Hospital. Images and process courtesy: Jatan Sansthan, Udaipur

You can easily make a face cover at home to protect yourself.

Option 1. Make a Face Cover using a Sewing Machine*

Things you will need:

1. **100% cotton material** - Any used cotton cloth can be used to make this face cover. The colour of the fabric does NOT matter but you must ensure that you wash the fabric well in boiling water for 5 minutes and dry it well before making the face cover. Adding salt to this water is recommended.
2. **Four pieces of cloth strips**
3. **Scissors**
4. **Sewing Machine**

Begin with

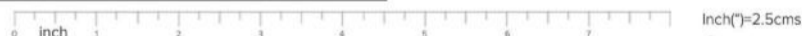
1.a Cutting Fabric - Cut cloth for the face cover at the following sizes as required:

Adult: 9 inch x 7 inch Child: 7 inch x 5 inch

For Adult Size Face Cover

1.b Cutting Strips - Cut 4 strips for tying and piping from cloth: Two pieces at 1.5"x 5" and Two pieces at 1.5"x 40"

*You can also make this face cover without a sewing machine



Process demonstrated below is for Adult Size Face Cover



Take the cut fabric, attach the 1.5x5" strip to be used as piping to the fabric on one end as shown.

Create three downward facing pleats of approximately 1.5" each folding cloth as shown.

Turn the pleated cloth to the other side and repeat steps for pleating on this side as shown above. Once the pleats have been made, the height of the pleated cloth will be reduced from 9" to 5".

Make sure the face cover fits your face well and there are no gaps on the sides...



Remember to still maintain up to 2 meter distance from others at all times, wash your hands thoroughly when back home and do not touch your face or eyes!

Demonstrated by Dr. Gargi Goel, Pediatrician, Rajasthan

Option 2: Making a Face Cover at Home Without a Sewing Machine

Things you will need:

1. **100% Cotton material or a Men's cotton handkerchief**
2. **Two rubber bands**

Step 1



Fold the handkerchief from one side to little above the middle of the cloth

Step 2



Now fold over the other edge to go above the first fold

Step 3



Fold this again evenly from the middle as shown

(Contd. on page 03)

SOME HELPLINE NUMBERS

Police Control room : 100
Fire Service : 101
Coastal Security : 1093
PBMC Control Room : 245798
State control Room: 1077/234287
Extn : 328 / 231179

Shipping : 245555
Women : 1091
Children : 1098
Coast Guard (Search & Rescue) : 1554
District Control Room : 1070 / 238881
Ambulance : 102

Stop Global Warming
Protect future generations from the harmful effects of global warming by reducing emissions from power plants, cars, factories and other sources
You too can help!!



Advisory on use of Homemade.....(Contd. from page 02)

Step 4 Take a rubber band and tie it on left side of the cloth as shown

Step 5 Now tie the other side with another rubber band. Ensure that the area in the middle of the two rubber bands is big enough to cover your mouth and nose

Step 6 Take one edge of the cloth on the side of the rubber band and fold over it. Do this for both sides

Step 7 Now take one fold and insert in to the other fold

1. Your face cover is now ready

3. To wear this face cover just wrap each rubber band around your ears

2. Please ensure that the face cover fits around your mouth and nose comfortably but that there is no gap left between the face cover and the mouth.

4. You must follow all precautions and instructions outlined above when using the face cover

IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:

Before using the handmade face cover remember:

1. Thoroughly wash and clean the face cover (as shown in next page) before wearing it.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly before wearing the face cover.
3. As soon as the face cover becomes damp or humid, switch to another face cover and clean the used face cover.
4. Never reuse a face cover after single use without cleaning it.
5. Never share the face cover with anyone. Every member in a family should have separate face cover.

When removing the face cover:

- Do not touch the front or any other surface of the face cover, remove it only with strings behind
- For string face cover, always untie the string below and then the string above
- After removal, immediately clean your hands with 65% alcohol-based hand sanitizer or with soap and water for 40 seconds
- Drop it directly into a soap solution or boiling water to which salt has been added

How to Clean and Sanitize your Homemade Face Cover Everyday

1. Thoroughly wash the face cover in soap and warm water and leave it to dry in hot sun for at least 5 hours. If you do not have access to the sun, follow Option 2:
2. Place the face cover in water in a pressure cooker and pressure boil it for at least 10 minutes and leave it to dry. Adding salt to the water is recommended. In the absence of a pressure cooker, you may boil the cloth face cover in hot water for 15 minutes. If you do not have access to a pressure cooker/boiling water, follow Option 3:
3. Wash and clean with soap and apply heat on the face cover for up to five minutes. (You may use an iron).

Manual on DIY Face Covers_India_11

How to Store your Clean Face Cover

It is recommended that you make two face covers so you can wear one, while the other is washed and dried

1. Take any plastic bag at home
2. Clean it thoroughly with soap and water
3. Let it dry well on both sides
4. Keep your extra clean face cover in this clean bag
5. Keep it sealed well
6. Now you can rotate your face covers for daily use

Manual on DIY Face Covers_India_12

Issued by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, April 3, 2020

Homemade reusable face covers only reduce the chances of inhaling droplets still in the air from an infected person, they do not give full protection. Homemade reusable face covers must be washed and cleaned each day, as instructed. Reuse without washing should NEVER be done. Never share your face cover with anyone. Social distancing must still be maintained.

Remember to wash your hands frequently with soap for 20 seconds.

Wearing of face covers is particularly useful in crowded areas.

Design by Vertiver

(Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI)

PMGKY package: grant relief in the form of credit of EPF & EPS contributions

The Central Govt. has launched the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) on 26.03.2020 to help poor fight the battle against Corona Virus. As part of the PMGKY package, with a view to prevent disruption in the employment of low wage earning EPF members and support EPF covered establishments employing up to one hundred employees, the Central Govt. proposes to grant relief in form of credit of EPF & EPS contributions (24% of wages) for three months in UANs of contributory EPF members, earning monthly wage of less than Rs.15000/-, who are already employed in EPF covered establishments/factories employing up to one hundred employees with 90% or more of such employees earning monthly wage of less than Rs.15000/-

To implement the above package, the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India has notified a Scheme specifying the objective, eligibility criteria, validity period, process and manner to avail the relief. The EPFO has put in place an electronic mechanism as part of the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) filing to enable the establishments to avail the relief in respect of their eligible employees.

The employer in relation to any eligible establishment, shall disburse wages for the month to all employees of the establishment and file Electronic Challan cum Return (ECR) with required certificate and declaration to avail the benefit under the Scheme.

After ECR is uploaded and eligibility of establishment and employees is validated, then the challan will separately show amount of employees' and employers' contributions due as Central Govt. relief in respect of eligible employees and the remaining amount payable by the employer.

After the employer remits the payment due from him as reflected in challan, the EPF & EPS contributions will be credited directly in the UANs of the eligible employees of the establishment by the Central Govt.

The details of the Scheme and FAQs containing clarifications on various aspects of the package are also available on homepage of EPFO website under the TAB "COVID-19".

HOW TO AVAIL BENEFIT UNDER PMGKY

Eligible employers : Please read this document before filing ECR

The Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for the upfront benefit to the Employers having employment up to 100 and whose 90% of the employees were getting wages less than 15000 has been issued on 10th April 2020.

Based on the Scheme changes have been made in the Unified Portal so that the eligible employers may avail the benefit of the Scheme.

There is no change in the process of ECR filing or in the format. The eligible employers will only have to submit a declaration before filing the ECR.

The eligible establishments have been identified based on the ECRs filed by them taking into consideration:

- The contributory member count from September 2019 to February 2020.
- If the total number of such UANs has been found to be up to 100 and against these UANs the wages of 90% or more is less than 15000/.

Against each of the eligible establishments, eligible members having less than 15000 wages have also been listed. When any employer logs into the Unified Portal, if the establishment code is not in the list of eligible establishments, he will not find any change while filing his ECR.

For eligible establishments:

In case an establishment has been identified as eligible, the ECR screen will ask the employer to submit a **declaration**. Before submitting the declaration ECR filing will not be permitted. The employer will have to declare the total number of employees for the month and the total number of employees getting wages less than 15000.

If the % of employees drawing wages less than 15000 is less than 90%, benefit will not be given.

Since the employer may have several branches and excluded employees, he may also disagree with the declaration. In such case also the benefit will not be given.

Benefit will be given by the system only when:

- The employer declared up to 100 employees as total number of employees.
- The employer has declared such numbers of employees getting less than 15000 wages that the % is 90 or more, and
- He agrees with the declaration.

Please note: Declaration once submitted for a month cannot be edited.

Declaration has to be submitted for the three months that is March, April and May 2020 separately. After a declaration is submitted there is no change in the ECR filing process. For the establishments that have agreed with the declaration, the system does the following:

Establishment wise validation

- The normal format validation will be run.
- The system will check the count of employees in the ECR file and if more than 100, will not allow benefit.
- The system will calculate the % of employees having less than 15000 wages in the uploaded file and if the % is less than 90, no benefit will be given.

UAN wise validation:

- Wages are below 15000.
- System will calculate the maximum dues and if amount paid is more, it will not allow benefit. (Say for example for wages 10000 if amount of 12% shown is 1210 instead of 1200, no benefit)
- In case the UAN is not validated against Aadhar, system will not give the benefit.

Benefits:

- In rest of the cases the benefit will be given as follows:
- Members eligible for PMRPY, the benefit will be given from PMRPY for the employer share. Employee share will come from PMGKY.
- Member eligible for only PMGKY, both share benefit will be given from PMGKY.
- If member is not member of Employees Pension Scheme, the benefit will be given in both shares in EPF.
- For exempted establishment the upfront benefit will be against the EPS Share.

The total amount of subsidy will be reduced in challan and only the reduced amount will have to be paid by the employer. He will have to pay the EDLI contribution and Administrative charges and the contributions for non-eligible members.

Note: Benefit will be given, if eligible, only against the First ECR. Once an ECR is uploaded, second ECR will not be considered for benefit.

The employers have been asked through the Scheme to file only one ECR for the month.

(Source: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Port Blair)