

India's Response to COVID-19 Disease: Till Mid-April 2020

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. The disease primarily transmitted between people through respiratory droplets and through contact. The cases were imported from other nations. Travel and other restrictions were imposed. India also announced lockdown. The foreign returnees, attendees of Nizamuddin Markaz and their contacts were quarantined. The containment zones were created, and surveillance activities were carried out. Awareness about hygiene practices was created among the people through advertisement. In hot spots or cluster areas all symptomatic will be tested by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) within 7 days of illness and antibody test after 7 days of illness. People tested positive will remain to be hospitalized till 2 of their samples were tested negative. In patients with severe disease and requiring intensive Care Unit (ICU) management hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin is used. Webinar trainings were conducted for physicians, nurses and other administrative staff. Guidelines to tackle new corona virus disease were released. BCG vaccine and other corona virus infections might have built immune response in Indian populations. Several vaccines are under trails. India is manufacturing face masks, ventilators, hand sanitizers, testing kit on a war mode. Pals Plush India Private Limited in Andhra Pradesh is manufacturing Personal Protective equipments (PPEs). Aarogya setu app, a blue touch based COVID19 tracker app was launched. PM cares fund is raised through donations. Relief package is released for the poor under various central government schemes. For below poverty line families, many states governments are delivering essential commodities for free for a month and money is deposited into their accounts. The Indian government has also aggressively stepped up the response measures to find, isolate, test, treat and trace. Karnataka state wants to replicate South Korean's model of 3Ts- trace, test and treat. India is looking for exit of lockdown in a staged manner.

Keywords: Corona virus disease (COVID-19), Quarantine, Lockdown, Containment, rRT-PCR, Antibody test, Trace, Hydroxychloroquine, PPEs, Aarogya setu app, Relief package

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