



Minutes of the zoom video call meeting held on the 28th of March 2020 at 11:30 am with AHPI State Chapter bearers to discuss regarding the COVID-19 updates of their respective States.

Participants:

Dr. Alex Thomas, President, AHPI
Dr. Girdhar Gyani, Director General, AHPI
Dr.V.C.Shanmuganandan,Advisor, AHPI
Mr. Joydeep Das Gupta, Vice President, North Zone Chapter
Dr. Ashok Gupta, Secretary, North Zone Chapter
Ms. Neha Lal,Secretary, Gujarat Chapter
Dr. Naresh Shetty, President, Karnataka Chapter
Dr. Prashanth Marla, Vice President, Karnataka Chapter
Dr. Naveen Thomas, Secretary, Karnataka Chapter
Mr. Govind Hari, President, Telangana Chapter
Dr. Guru Shankar, President, Tamil Nadu, Chapter
Mr. Sameer Mehta, Vice President, Tamil Nadu Chapter
Dr. Benny Joseph, President, Kerala Chapter
Dr. Sunil Khetarpal, Secretary, Delhi NCR Chapter
Dr. Sujit Chatterjee, President, Maharashtra & Goa Chapter
Dr. Saumitra Bharadwaj, President, West Bengal & Odisha Chapter
Dr. Anant Sinha, President , Jharkhand Chapter
Dr. Rahul Khare, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Chapter
Dr. Satosh Kumar, Secretary, Bihar Chapter
Mr.Shikar, AHPI
Mr.Shadrach, AHPI

Extensive discussions were held regarding the preparations being made to combat the COVID – 19 infection that is spreading across our Country.

Dr.Alex, President, AHPI briefed the participants regarding the involvement of AHPI with the Government both at the Center and the State level.

Suggestions given by AHPI;

- To set up fever clinic with the participation of private healthcare at strategic places [fulfilling all requirements] to give a helping hand to the Government.
- AHPI was instruments in getting the Government to consent for telemedicine consultation.
- He also noted that private hospitals all over the country are facing financial challenges.

Dr. Gyani briefed the participants regarding AHPI recommendations to convert Public Sector Hospitals, Railways, ESI, Medical Colleges, Dental Colleges and if need be to use private hospitals [whoever offers] and exclusive COVID 19 treatment centres.

All the members unanimously agreed that the private healthcare industry is ready to work with Government and sought a Government intervention fullest support in ensuring availability of PPE's and related equipment's.

After extensive discussions between the members the following decisions were taken:

1. At this hour of financial crisis being faced by the private healthcare set up due to poor attendance and postponement of elective procedures, the financial inflow has remarkably reduced to about 30%. As, a fallout of this hospitals are unable to pay salary, meet the EMI requirements and payment towards the annual maintenance contracts. Therefore, it was decided to seek concession from the Government towards electricity charges, water and waiver of import taxes etc.

2. Regarding non availability of PPE's, as the Government has not being able to provide prompt and adequate supply of PPE's and masks, it was decided to explore the possibilities of manufacturing these requirements at one of the private healthcare institutions, and to be distributed to all at a nominal price.

Fr. Jesudoss from St. Johns National Academy of Health sciences can be contacted for details regarding manufacturing of PPE's and sanitizers, as is being carried out at St. Johns for in house manufacture.

Email id: jesudossr@gmail.com

Possibility of using wind cheaters/rain coats for creating PPE's in house could also be explored.

Members welcomed the suggestion and felt whatever can be made in-house should be encouraged.

3. Dr. Naveen, Dr. Saumitra and Dr. Guru to come out with guidelines in using PPE's and corona treatment protocols.

4. It was also decided to collect validated information on the number of closed clinics, so that the issue can be highlighted.

5. As the hospitals are heading towards runout of working capital, members felt that the Government should financially bail out the hospitals in order to retain the highly trained staff and maintain the hospital in a stage of highest performance to meet the demands relating to COVID-19.

6. The pending dues from Government schemes such as CGHS, ECHS, ESIS and other Government related schemes should be immediately paid to the hospitals to overcome the financial stress.

7. The safety of the team involved in treatment of COVID- 19 patients should be given highest importance and protection by the law and order enforcing agencies is to be ensured.

8. Webinars to be conducted to propagate guidelines for COVID-19 management. Dr.Saumitra to share the guidelines.

9. Mr. Sathosh volunteered to compile credible information and circulate.

10. Dr. Benny was of the opinion that the Government should also focus on training of the hospital staff.

11. Next zoom video on Tuesday at 11:30 am.