



Minutes of the zoom video call meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 at 03:00 pm between AHPI State Chapters office bearers, to discuss regarding the overall situation of COVID-19 in their respective States.

**Participants:**

Dr. Alex Thomas, President, AHPI  
Dr. Girdhar Gyani, Director General, AHPI  
Dr. V.C. Shanmuganandan, Advisor, AHPI  
Dr. Bhagat, President, Delhi NCR, Chapter  
Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Secretary, Delhi NCR, Chapter  
Dr. M.I. Sahadullah, President, Kerala Chapter  
Dr. Rajesh Pai, Secretary, Kerala Chapter  
Dr. Hajela, President, Madhya Pradesh Chapter  
Dr. Rahul Khare, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Chapter  
Dr. Sujit Chatterjee, President, Maharashtra & Goa Chapter  
Dr. Satyajit Singh, President, Bihar Chapter  
Mr. Santosh, Secretary, Bihar Chapter  
MS. Neha Lal, Secretary, Gujarat Chapter  
Dr. Jogesh Gambhir, President, Jharkhand Chapter  
Dr. Naresh Shetty, President, Karnataka Chapter  
Dr. Naveen Thomas, Secretary, Karnataka Chapter  
Mr. Viren Shetty, AHPI  
Mr. Ajit Kumar, Northeast Chapter  
Dr. Vikas, President, Rajasthan chapter  
Dr. Sachin Jhawar, Secretary, Rajasthan Chapter  
Dr. Guru Shankar, President, Tamil Nadu Chapter  
Dr. Raju Sivaswamy, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Chapter  
Mr. Govind Hari, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh  
Dr. Saumitra Bharadwaj, President, West Bengal Chapter  
Dr. Bishnu Panigrahi, President, Odisha Chapter  
Ms. Nilanjana, Secretary, Odisha Chapter  
Mr. Joydas Gupta, Secretary, North zone Chapter  
Dr. Prem [representing Dr. Amandeep], North Zone Chapter



## **Discussion:**

Dr. Alex welcomed the participants of the meeting and initiated the discussions..

1. Dr. Gyani and Dr. Alex briefed the participants regarding their meeting with Shri C K Mishra,
  - The key points brought forth by AHPI was that private hospitals are now a days functioning at 20 to 30% of the capacity and to keep these hospitals in a fully functional mode it was requested that the outstanding dues to the hospitals should to be cleared, so that the hospitals can sustain for a few more months.
  - Shri Mishra took a note of this and issued a letter on the same day to the Finance Ministry, and the Finance secretary as in turn issued a letter to the Health Ministry and Défense Ministry requesting for release of the funds for CGHS & ECHS. Since ESI was missed out, a similar letter was also sent to Shri C. K. Mishra.
  - AHPI also requested to issue a clarification regarding insurance for private health workers who are treating COVID -19 patients.
  - Financial reimbursement packages for hospitals dedicated to treating COVID-19 patients.
  - Requesting State Government to ease the limitations on admitting non COVID-19 patients and carrying out elective surgeries, because it was causing lot of distress to the patients and also pushing hospitals into financial distress. In the state of Karnataka, AHPI has recommended that when the lockdown is lifted in stages, the first thing to be addressed is the issue of patients visiting hospitals.
  - Mr Mishra also conveyed that PPE's and COVID-19 testing kits will be made available

They also informed the participants that offers from two firms one relating to hotel rooms [OYO] and the other relating to transport [taxi company] for facilitating personnel rendering services to COVID-19 patients, Dr. Gyani was requested to circulate the same to the State presidents and secretaries and whosoever were interested, can make use of this facility

In addition, it was also informed that Wolters Kluwer publishing company was making available journals relating to COVID-19 for doctors.



## Update from state chapters.

- **Delhi:**
  - ✓ PPE's are available in Delhi
  - ✓ The problem being faced is that kits were available but the certification was becoming a issue.
  - ✓ Prompt Intimation of the test results of the suspected patient's referred from the private sector should be carried out in order to improve upon the efficiency of COVID-19 management.
  - ✓ Dr. Sanjiv Singh reiterated that with respect to PPE, infection prevention was slightly easier but whereas the ICU management was critical, the recently formulated task force with ISCCM, videos have been done on acute clinical management and which can be put up on AHPI website.
  
- **Kerala:**
  - ✓ Kerala was considering a phase wise release of the lock down
  - ✓ So far the private sector was not involved in treating the COVID cases
  - ✓ Major hospital were ready with PPE to treat COVID in case there was a community outbreak.
  - ✓ Financial impact:- Most of the hospital were working on 25% capacity and there has been no relief package so far.
  - ✓ PPEs were available but the concern was that the prices were being increased, it was requested that the Kerala government medical services should provide PPE's at cost price.
  
- **Madhya Pradesh:**
  - ✓ MP has seen more than 300 cases and the situation was becoming of concern.
  - ✓ Regarding insurance, whether biomedical waste workers also are covered
  - ✓ Regarding PPE's the situation was bad. Private sector was not being involved so far in treating the COVID cases.
  - ✓ Dr. Rahul referred that there was a vendor available at Indore, where the HCQ tablets can be procured. He was requested to share the details of the same.
  
- **Maharashtra:**
  - ✓ Overall situation in the state of Maharashtra was grim with 1018 cases.
  - ✓ Death rate is on the higher side, though the lockdown was reasonably effective. It looks like the infection has become community acquired within the cluster.
  - ✓ The private hospital were fully involved with the Government
  - ✓ Suggest approach the Government about GST / TDS or moratorium, duty on import on ventilator to be waived
  - ✓ PPE's are available and HCQ were being acquired from Indore.
  - ✓ Dr. Alex informed that the concerns raised have been brought to the notice of the government and was being followed up..
  
- **Bihar:**
  - ✓ Bihar has seen spike in COVID cases



- ✓ Requested the Government to provide PPE and rapid test kit free of charge
- ✓ Mr. Santhosh was requested to send validated training information for uploading on the website on the website.

- **Gujarat:**

- ✓ Gujarat has seen sudden rise in COVID-19 cases
- ✓ Private hospitals have stopped elective surgeries. Only Dialysis and chemo are being carried with precautions
- ✓ Requested if AHPI can conduct few webinars
- ✓ It was requested that all necessary information be put on AHPI website.

- **Jharkhand:**

- ✓ Have seen 4 cases, probably because of limited testing
- ✓ State is facing infrastructure problems with no ventilators, monitors and other related equipment's which the private hospitals are donating.
- ✓ 2 private hospitals have been set up for COVID-19.
- ✓ Have requested the state to give subsidy on electricity etc.
- ✓ Wherever there has been a COVID-19 case the hospitals have been sealed.
- ✓ Requested for the details, TELE-ICU concept

- Mr Viren Shetty responded with regards to the TELE ICU concept that theoretically it was possible but to be implemented practically it was difficult as greater amount of discipline and coordination is required to execute this. He also suggested that rather than looking at Tele ICU, the Allied health specialists could be trained [fellowship in critical care] and their services can be used.

- **Karnataka:**

- ✓ In Karnataka the number of cases have not been dramatic
- ✓ Private players are told to keep things ready and hold on
- ✓ Man power is ready in Karnataka, but the medicine and material are the issue, which we are trying to get it across and if that is available we are good to go.

- **North East:**

- ✓ Overall confirmed cases is 27 in the state
- ✓ 2000 plus tests have been done and the government medical colleges are designated as COVID hospitals and non COVID cases are being taken care in 34 private hospitals at Ayushman Bharat rates. Separate agreement has been signed by all private hospitals.
- ✓ No official directive on private hospital to take care of COVID cases.



- **Rajasthan:**

- ✓ 360 cases in Rajasthan
- ✓ Government has earmarked private hospitals, which will be taken over when required, but no agreement as yet and no discussion on rates.
- ✓ Financial hardship: If the CGHS/ECHS outstanding are received that can cover for the moment.
- ✓ PPEs no problems yet
- ✓ It was requested that AHPI should try to get a gazette notification for PPE specification and the rates for the masks.
- ✓ No issues with Human resource as of now.
- ✓ Government should be told not to take active hospitals for quarantine.

- **Tamil Nadu:**

- ✓ Dr. Guru informed that he was to import a N95 making machine from New Zealand which will make 20, 000 mask in 1 hour, for which approval has been given by the state government.
- ✓ Relief from electric bill and local taxes was sought for.
- ✓ Financial hardship, to mitigate this, we have to approach both state and central.
- ✓ Import duty on equipment to be exempted.
- ✓ Financial aid to be provided to the hospitals.
- ✓ Vivadh se vishwas tax dispute scheme, to be given as special scheme to the hospitals (Dr. Guru to send a note on this)
- ✓ If a hospital has a COVID patient, the same should be closed only for disinfection for 2 /3 days and reopened thereafter.

- **Andhra & Telangana:**

- ✓ Private hospitals are on standby
- ✓ 50 to 1 lakh COVID kits have been ordered by the government and being distributed to Government hospitals
- ✓ No cluster infection so far
- ✓ Implementation was poor in AP as not much infrastructure post bifurcation
- ✓ Public health specialist are being consulted in AP
- ✓ Have taken over few hospital but no MOU as such as been signed
- ✓ Lockdown to last up to 30<sup>th</sup> April
- ✓ AP has created a package for treating COVID patients. Any hospital empanelled with Arogya shri and having required the facility and can avail this scheme.

- **West Bengal:**

- ✓ Testing is limited, the government has to open more centers for testing
- ✓ Insurance companies have started asking for inputs on the cost of Covid treatment
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat rates for Covid treatment are very low, there have to be revised rates as the treatment.

- **Orissa:**

- ✓ COVID cases are about to reach the 50 Mark



- ✓ Have come up with a Government MOU for setting up of 1000 bed hospital, for the General ward beds Rs.3000 per day, for ICU Rs. 5000 per day , ventilator Rs.1000 extra and drugs consumable , investigations etc. as per KIMS rates. Group insurance has been given etc.
- ✓ It was requested for the MOU to be shared.

- **Chhattisgarh:**

- ✓ Situation under control
- ✓ Shortage of PPE and testing

- **North Zone:**

- ✓ Uniformity in management of covid cases across the Country can be emphasised by AHPI.

### **Other Points discussed – Suggestions made**

- To arrive at a standard formula for payment to workers in the hospitals to be arrived upon.
- Frontline workers to be paid in full, and others percentage of cut to be decided upon.
- Medium and small hospitals to request the Government for financial assistance.

- ✓ Next meeting was fixed for 15<sup>th</sup> of April