

LOCKDOWN OVERVIEW YOUR WEEKLY SOURCE OF INTEL ON COVID-19 AND THE LOCKDOWN IN INDIA

[9 APRIL to 17 APRIL 2020]

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#FlattenTheCurve Tamil Nadu					1,023 1,242	3 14
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LOCKDOWN OVERVIEW

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEWS



India Lockdown 2.0

On 15 April the Indian government Issued an updated set of guidelines in view of the COVID-19 lockdown extension in the country until 3 May.

The government has categorised districts across India into three sections:

Red Zones (Hotspots – with more than 15 COVID-19 cases) of which there are currently 170 districts;

Orange Zone (Non-hotspots - with fewer than 15 cases) of which there are currently 207 districts;

Green zones (No CIVID-19 cases) of which there are currently 325 districts.

From 20 April some activities will be permitted in districts classified as Orange and Green Zones. These will not be applicable in Covid-19 Red Zones (hotspots/ containment zones.) Agriculture, construction, information technology, industrial units in the special economic zones and rural areas are among the sectors where lockdown restrictions will be lifted from 20 April.

Travel: As per the government directions, those permitted to travel in these zones or those who provide essential services during the lockdown may only travel with one passenger (seated in the back seat) plus a driver in private vehicles. Those riding two-wheelers may not carry a pillion passenger with them. Airlines, railways and state transportation will remain shut till 3 May 2020.

Workplace: In districts where activities are permittied, workplace rules that will apply from 20 April include mandatory temperature screening, regular sanitising and disinfecting of workplaces, provision of hand sanitisers, a minimum 6-foot distance between desks and staggering of lunch breaks to assist with social distancing. Meetings of more than 10 people will continue to be discouraged and no more than 2-4 people will be allowed in elevators. IT companies will be permitted to operate with 50% of their normal staff.

Lockdown crippled by labourers in different cities

Migrants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Nepal who have been stranded due to the 19-day extension of national lockdown, have been protesting in large numbers in a number of locations, as they believed that after the initial 21-day lockdown, they would be free to return to their homes. As thousands of migrant labours gathered to protest in Bandra (Mumbai), Jaipur, Surat and other parts of country; fears of the fast spread of the COVID-19 virus increased due to their non-compliance with social distancing requirements, further exacerbated by the fact that Bandra in Mumbai is one of the city's most heavily affected zones.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



Review of impact of COVID-19 on Indian economy

The complete nationwide lockdown is likely to shave at least ₹7-8 trillion off the Indian economy, as the lockdown has brought as much as 70% of economic activity, investment, exports and discretionary consumption to a standstill. Only essential goods and services such as agriculture, mining, utility services, some financial and IT services and public services have been allowed to operate. The pandemic came at the most inopportune time for India whose economy was showing signs of recovery after bold fiscal/monetary measures, Centrum Institutional Research said the country again stares at the possibility of low single-digit growth for FY2021 (April 2020 to March 2021). The sectors that are most severely impacted are transport, hotel, restaurant, and real estate activities.

More than 90 percent of the nearly 10 million trucks in the country are at a standstill during the lockdown as only truckers with essential commodities are permitted to move. Once the lockdown is lifted, it will take at least two to three months for this industry to begin to recover as the purchase of non-essential items is expected to remain affected by the reduced purchasing power of the general population.

ANALYSIS ON THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION



Clearly the increase in mass protests across India should be closely monitored by those with interests in India, as these may lead to violence or damage to property as protesters become increasingly frustrated by the impact of the lockdown.

Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and others like the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) are said to be exploiting the economic disruption and fallout caused by COVID-19 to ramp up their recruitment of jihadi foot soldiers as thousands of youths lose their livelihood in the economic turmoil brought about by the Coronavirus. Such youths are easy prey for the

LeT, Jaish-e-Mohammad, HM and others who offer them food and some money in these difficult times. They may then be used for lone-actor attacks in India, in the future.

The Central Armed Police Force charged with guarding the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan Borders, has revealed an alleged plot to intentionally spread Coronavirus in India via the Indo-Nepal Border. In a letter to the District Magistrate of the West district of Bihar, the intelligence wing of the SSB stated that there is information about suspected Corona positive Indian Muslim Nationals from Nepal planning to enter India to spread Coronavirus as part of Jihad.

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