

English rendering of PM's opening remarks during Interaction with Chief Ministers on Covid-19

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Namaskar friends,

Unlock-One is taking two weeks. It is necessary to review the experiences that have come in the meantime. In this discussion of today, I will also have the opportunity to know a lot from you; will get an opportunity to understand. Points that will come out of today's discussion and your suggestions, will help the country to plan ahead.

Friends,

Timing is very important to deal with any crisis. Decisions taken at the right time have helped a lot in controlling the corona infection in the country.

Whenever the future of India's fight against Corona will be studied, this period will also be remembered for how we worked together during this time, presenting the best example of Cooperative Federalism

Friends,

When Corona had not even become a topic of discussion in many countries of the world, India had started preparations to deal with it and started taking decisions. We have worked day and night to save the lives of every Indian.

Thousands of Indians have returned to their homeland from abroad in the past weeks. In the past weeks, millions of migrant workers have arrived in their villages. Rail-road, air-sea, all routes have been opened. But despite this, despite our so much population, the corona infection in India has not shown the same devastating effect that it has shown in other countries. The world's big experts, health experts, are discussing the lockdown and discipline shown by the people of India today.

Today, the recovery rate in India is above 50 percent. Today, India is the leader in the countries of the world where the lives of corona infected patients are surviving. The death of anyone from Corona is tragic. For us, the death of even one Indian is uncomfortable. But it is also true that today India is among the countries in the world where the lowest deaths are due to corona.

Now the experiences of many states today arouse confidence that India can move forward in this crisis of Corona by limiting its losses, can handle its economy faster.

Friends,

The last two weeks of Unlock-One, have also given us a big lesson that if we keep following the rules, keeping all the guidelines, then Corona crisis will cause least harm to India.

Therefore, it is necessary to place too much emphasis on the mask or face cover. It is also not right to imagine the exit of the house without a mask or face cover. This is as dangerous for the person himself, as much for the people around him.

Therefore, our mantra should be of the distance of two yards, to wash hands with soap for 20-20 seconds several times a day and use sanitizer, all these should be done very seriously. This is very important for the safety of oneself, for the safety of the family, especially for the children and the elderly at home.

By now almost all the offices have been opened, even in the private sector, people have started going to office, in the markets, the streets are getting crowded, then all these measures will help to prevent the corona from spreading fast. The slightest carelessness, laxity, lack of discipline will weaken all of our fight against Corona.

We always have to keep in mind that the more we can stop Corona, the more it will stop growing, the more our economy will open, our offices will open, markets will open, transport will open, and so will new employment opportunities.

Friends,

In the coming days, the experience gained from the way the economic activity will expand in different states will also benefit other states. In the last few weeks, green shoots have started appearing in our economy. The power consumption which was decreasing earlier has started increasing now. In May this year, fertilizer sales have doubled compared to May last year.

This time, Kharif sowing has been higher by about 12-13% than the previous year. The Demand and Production of Two-Wheeler has reached nearly 70 percent of the level before lockdown. Digital payment in retail has also reached the position before lockdown.

Not only this, the increase in Toll Collection in May shows the increase in economic activity. After decreasing exports for 3 consecutive months, in June, Export has again reached last year's Pre-COVID Period, by bounce back. These are all the signs that are encouraging us to move forward.

Friends,

In most of the states, the share of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries and MSMEs is very large. Under the Self-Reliant India campaign, several provisions have been made for these sectors in the last few days.

A number of decisions have been taken recently to support MSMEs. Efforts are being made to get credit from bank to MSMEs in a time bound manner. Industries with turnover up to Rs 100 crore have been given the benefit of Automatic Increase of 20% additional credit.

If we ensure through the Bankers Committees that the industries get fast credit, then they will be able to start work as soon as possible, will be able giving employment to the people.

Friends,

The small factories that we have here are in great need of guidance, hand-holding. I know that a lot of work is being done in this direction under your leadership. For trade and industry to catch up with its old pace, we also have to work together on Value Chains.

Wherever there are specific economic activity points in the states, there should be work round the clock, loading-unloading of goods should be fast. If there is no difficulty in moving goods from one city to another at the local level, the economic activity will increase.

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Friends,

The reforms which took place recently in the field of marketing of farmer's produce, will also benefit the farmers a lot. This will provide new options for farmers to sell their produce, increase their income and we will also be able to reduce the loss they suffered due to lack of storage capacity, due to bad weather.

When the income of the farmer increases, the demand will certainly increase and the economy of the state will also pick up. Especially in the North East and our tribal areas, there are many opportunities for farming and horticulture. Be it organic products, be it Bamboo Products, be it Tribal Products, a new market is going to be opened for them. The cluster based strategy announced for the local product will also benefit every state. For this, it is important that we identify such products in every block, every district, by processing or marketing, we can introduce a better product in the market of the country and the world.

Friends,

All the announcements that have been made recently under the Atamnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, must come to the ground within a fixed time frame, for that we have to work unitedly. Against this backdrop, I am also eager to know your suggestions related to the fight with Corona and economic activity. I urge the Home Minister to conduct further discussions.

VRRK/SH/RSB/AK

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