

President

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी बहादुर शाह ज़फ़र मार्ग, नई दिल्ली—110002 INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

March 25, 2020

Statement by the Science Academies of India on the novel corona virus Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is of an unprecedented magnitude encountered in many decades. On behalf of the scientific community of the country, the Science Academies pledge full support to the initiatives of the Government to contain the spread of the novel corona virus attack, including scientific and technical support required to develop therapeutic measures. We will also join the Government in its appeal to the citizens to not be misled by rumours and to not use therapies that are not scientifically validated. The Academies support the complete lockdown of our country, and we have initiated the process of explaining to the citizens the importance of this lockdown.

The Science Academies pledge to extend their help and support to develop less-expensive diagnostic assays than those currently used, to validate repurposing of drugs and to develop vaccines and new drugs without compromising on national standards.

If called upon, the academies will actively co-operate and strengthen the hands of the Government to successfully overcome the current novel corona virus crisis, and help establish response systems that are scientifically rigorous, technically sound, administratively competent and sociologically acceptable. This will assure that the Indian society is appropriately and adequately equipped to face similar challenges in future, which the Science Academies strive to attain.

(Chandrima Shaha)

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