



MESSAGE

1. Admittedly, the COVID -19 Crisis is like no other, it is a test of human resilience and our capacity to grapple resolutely with adversity. Human kind and this great nation of ours have dealt with such challenges in the past; I am sanguine that we shall do so this time as well. Even in this hour of crisis there are uplifting tales galore. I am told that a 101 year old man in Italy, born during the Spanish Flu, and afflicted by COVID - 19, has staged a miraculous recovery. In India too, we are hearing of umpteen stories of grit, -determination and selflessness - from health workers to government to business houses to start ups, to the police, to community workers and NGOs - all of society has come together, like never before. From online solutions, offline innovations and numerous street initiatives, we are seeing countless stories of human ingenuity, kindness and compassion.

2. In the given context, the Initiative by the FICCI - FLO, Pune Chapter, 'Hack The Crisis - India Online Hackathon', is a laudatory effort indeed, at devising innovative ways and means to cope with the challenge. There are a host of things that could be done : fever mapping, viremia tracking, identification and monitoring of those quarantined, establishment of containment zones, making supply chains more precise and efficient, product development and creation of networking and video conferencing apps, to name just a few. For bright minds gifted in exploratory programming, the sky is the limit. I am sure that the collective energies and the coming together of the finest minds will propel us towards innovative, productive solutions, tailored to the needs of the current crisis and its aftermath. Remember, it is only the ant who breaks the line that finds new sources of food for the community. My compliments and best wishes, to the organizers and participants of the Hackathon.

3. The Indian Army on its part, is doing its bit as well : we have earmarked 15 hospitals to deal exclusively with COVID -19 crisis. We have created numerous wellness, surveillance and isolation facilities. When called upon, we are assisting the civil administration in establishing food distribution points and in the maintenance of supply



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chains. We are also partnering with Industry to propel resource galvanisation - of masks, gloves, shelters, ventilators and the like. Above all, we remain ready to address all conceivable contingencies as also associated national security challenges.

4. There is however a long haul ahead. It shall need every ounce of Indian energy, drive, fortitude and innovation. I am certain however, that in the end **WE SHALL OVERCOME**. As an Urdu poet has said, "Tundaiye mikhtalif (adverse wind) se na-ghabara-ae aitaab (bird); ye toh aaya hai, tujhe aur ooncha udane ke liye". When translated, it loosely means, "**Fear not the adverse wind o' bird, it comes only to waft you even higher**".

5. I am confident that we shall emerge from this crisis even stronger.
6. Once again, I wish the Hackathon every success.


HAR KAAM DESH KE NAAM

JAIN HIND

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 03 Apr 2020




(MM Naravane)
General
Chief of the Army Staff