Kerala Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan today expressed his concern over the rising number of causalities among the Malayalee community outside Kerala. “We have been able to contain the outbreak of the Coronavirus in Kerala. Our efforts are showing results but we are now concerned about its spread in the world and especially, the rising number of causalities among the Malayalee expatriate community.”

Till now 18 persons of Kerala origin have succumbed to the infection in different countries, the maximum being eight in the USA. The Chief Minister expressed his condolences to the grieving families on behalf of the State Government.

Briefing the media, the CM said, “The State Government is anxious about the Pravasi Malayalees and we are bound to help them in this hour of crisis. The Central Government has been informed about the difficulties faced by the expatriate Malayalee community in the wake of the travel restrictions due to the lockdown.” There have been discussions on the steps to be taken by the Indian Embassies in respective countries to help them. The State Government will engage with the Pravasi community in addressing their concerns. He also publically appealed to the School Managements in the Gulf countries to extend the time for paying school fees. Pravasi Malayalee organisations should explore the possibility of building quarantine facilities for the expatriates in their respective countries. And for those suspected cases under observation, ensure proper safety, especially of women.

The State government has requested the intervention of the Minister for External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar in extension of the visa by six months and also health insurance.

13 new cases reported today, three recoveries; total 266 patients under treatment

Thiruvananthapuram, April 06: Kerala today reported 13 new COVID-19 cases in the State. Nine of the new cases are from Kasargod District, two from Malappuram district, and one each from Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts. Seven of the fresh cases were
reported in those who came from overseas, three from those who returned after attending the Tablighi Jamaat at Nizamuddin and the rest three infected through primary contact with other patients.

As on today, there are 327 confirmed cases in the State with 266 patients currently under treatment in various hospitals. Three patients tested negative today - one each in Kollam, Thrissur and Kannur districts.

As compared to yesterday, the total number of people under observation in Kerala has further dropped down to 1,52,804. Of these, 1,52,009 are under home observation and 795 in hospitals. 122 people were admitted to hospitals today. 10,716 samples were sent for testing and 9,607 results are negative.

Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan said, “The Covid Hospital at the Kasargod Medical College has started functioning. The hospital was converted to a Corona Care Hospital in just four days. 200 beds and 10 ICU beds are now ready. Steps are being taken to add an additional 100 beds and 10 ICUs. State-of-the-art medical equipment worth Rs. Seven crores are being installed at this hospital.”

Meanwhile, a 26-member expert team from Thiruvananthapuram Medical College has reached Kasargod. The team comprising of 11 Doctors, 10 Staff Nurses and 5 Assistant Nurses will coordinate the activities of the Covid Hospital. They would also provide training to the medical staff there apart from serving the patients there.

The CM also informed that 38 Corona Care Centres are now functioning in the State. The guidelines for using the Rapid Test kits are being prepared by the Crisis Management Centre.

Karnataka agrees to allow entry of non-Covid patients from Kasargod, Kerala welcomes patients from Karnataka & Tamil Nadu to Wayanad

Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan today informed that Karnataka has agreed to allow the entry of non-Covid patients to the State. Steps are being taken to allow the entry of regular patients (other than Coronavirus affected) through the Talapaddy border check post to Karnataka. Patients having a medical certificate with a specific Karnataka hospital 's name mentioned in them will be allowed entry to Karnataka after proper checking by the Medical teams of Karnataka present at the border. This would enable patients to travel to the State from Kasargod district through the Karnataka-Kerala check post situated at Talapady. It may be recalled that Karnataka had blocked the entry of any traffic on all the roads from Kasargod district.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also announced that patients from bordering places in Karnataka & Tamil Nadu can come to Wayanad for medical treatment. Currently, 29 patients from Karnataka and 44 patients from Tamil Nadu are undergoing treatment in hospitals in Wayanad. “We are open to them and this is our policy.”

Lighting lamps not enough, we need to spread light in hearts of those affected: Kerala CM
Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan today commented, “When the Prime Minister asks you to do something totally unscientific, there are bound to be criticism and we should not be surprised on that. When the country is fighting out a pandemic, we should give prominence to any directive from the Prime Minister and we should follow his instructions. We have to cooperate with it. We are not against it but we should spread light in the hearts of those who are fighting this pandemic and those who are affected by the lockdown. What they need at this stage is financial assistance. We are still hopeful that the Prime Minister would come out with such a financial help that brings succour to them.”

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