

SBI's Fight Against the COVID-19 Pandemic in India

SBI focuses on collaborating to establish a seamless and integrated plan of action to fight the current public health crisis in India.

Mumbai, New Delhi, 30th April 2020: SBI Chairman, Shri. Rajnish Kumar, today shed some light on the various initiatives undertaken by the premier bank of the country to proactively fight the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

“This month, employees of SBI contributed Rs. 100 Cr to PM Cares Fund to support the nation in its fight against COVID-19. SBI also announced to commit 0.25% of its fiscal year 2020 profit to fight COVID-19 outbreak in India. To translate our commitment into action, SBI through its CSR arm – SBI Foundation, is constructively engaging in collaborative and proactive action to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in India,” said the Chairman.

The Chairman spoke about the SBI COVID-19 Relief Fund set up by SBI Foundation to seek donations from its customers, employees, corporate clients, other public sector banks and undertakings, and other corporates.

SBI Foundation has launched a flagship program under its focus area of healthcare, India COVID-19 Health Alliance (ICHA) with USAID. It is supported by Xynteo Foundation and IPE Global – PAHAL platform. The new collaborative healthcare programme will bolster and build on the current public healthcare system and the interventions to contain the spread of the coronavirus by working in the following areas:

- (i) Upgrade Health Infrastructure and Diagnostic Facilities;
- (ii) Research & Development to identify, design and support innovative solutions;
- (iii) Isolation, Quarantine and Shelter facilities;
- (iv) Address Mental Health Issues;
- (v) Capacity Building of Healthcare Professionals;
- (vi) General Awareness for public;
- (vii) Any other innovative areas for tackling the after-effects of COVID-19.

SBI Foundation has supported **Project ECHO™** in India which will provide training and capacity building through a tele-mentoring facility to healthcare professionals across 10 states in India. The Project has already commenced with capacity building training, in partnership with ECHO India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and National Health Missions, in 3 different states viz. Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan with 7 more states to follow. Over 1,20,000 healthcare professionals have received capacity building training in these 3 States.

The Chairman also announced the partnership between SBI Foundation and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to support the Principal Scientific Advisor led COVID-19 Special Task Force by funding research & development (R&D) efforts of IISc. These short-term projects will aim to build a design of an **emergency electro-mechanical ventilator** with local components, and to build a **mobile molecular diagnostics and testing lab** to shorten turnaround time and scale-up COVID-19 testing.

SBI Foundation has also started distribution of 10,000 freshly cooked meals per day to vulnerable individuals across Ahmedabad, Delhi/NCR, Vrindavan and Bangalore in partnership with Akshaya Patra Foundation. SBI Foundation has also provided dry ration kits in Mumbai in coordination with CORO India.

SBI Foundation has committed Rs. 30.00 crore for supplying ventilator, PPE Kits, food distribution and long term projects for tackling COVID-19 across all states in coordination with its Local Head Offices.

SBI also made a humble appeal to its pensioners and ladies club members to contribute generously to SBI COVID-19 Relief Fund. In response to the appeal by the Chairman, SBI Ladies Club and SBI pensioners has also donated Rs. 3.50 Cr collectively to the SBI COVID-19 Relief Fund

“We are proud of our healthcare professionals who have been braving this fight for the past month and express our solidarity with them, We would like to extend a personal thank you to our partners in this mission for their added support and encourage more corporates, SBI customers and SBI employees to join us to fight to combat COVID-19,” said the Chairman.

Donations can be deposited in the COVID-19 Relief Fund to the following bank A/C:

Account Name:	SBI Foundation
Account No.:	38559184467
Bank:	State Bank of India
Branch Name:	SBI Madame Cama Road
IFSC Code:	SBIN0008586

About State Bank of India (SBI)

SBI is India's premier bank serving 1 in 3 Indians with its vast network of 23,500+ branches and 2,51,000+ employees across the country. SBI aims to be the bank of choice for a transforming India. SBI is committed to provide simple, responsive and innovative financial solutions. It also aims to use its core competencies to solve societal issues and contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

About SBI Foundation

SBI Foundation is the CSR arm of State Bank of India which was launched in 2015 to carry out its CSR activities as well as those of its subsidiaries. As the CSR arm of the premier bank of India, SBI Foundation aims to be the leading institution promoting growth and equality responsive to the communities it serves, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised sections of the society.

For more information, write to md.sbifoundation@sbi.co.in.