

# IMF IN THE TIMES OF CORONA VIRUS 2020

**Dear Respected Members,**

As the pandemic of Corona Virus rages on unabated, I take this opportunity to wish **you and your families, good health and well being !**

These are unprecedented times for our Nation and Countrymen, indeed for the human race the world over. As we fight this deadly onslaught on humanity, we have no option but to come out victorious. To my mind, ' Social distancing ' or should I say ' Social abstinence ' is **key** need of the hour and would be our best contribution as Citizens, to the ongoing National effort to combat Covid-19.

These are also very challenging times for the IMF. As you are well aware, all our activities, have come to a standstill. We have had to cancel some pre-planned mega events of the Foundation and postpone others, including our training activities, indefinitely. As of now, all Foreign Expeditions to India stand cancelled. Indian Expeditions too are in a deep freeze. Nevertheless, we are using this time gainfully for resolving some of our ongoing administrative issues, planning for the future and hopefully execution at a later stage, as and when it becomes feasible for us to undertake our mandated activities.

As things stand today, unless there is a drastic improvement in the present scenario, it is unlikely

that we will be able to resume our activities, anytime in the near future. In this context, I would request you all to read " **IMF Mountaineering and Mountain Outdoor Activities Advisory 2020** ", which had been shared with all our members and is also posted on our Website.

I will also implore all our Committee Chairmen/ Chairperson, to gainfully utilise this time to interact with their respective Committee Members, using a multitude of existing social media tools available, such as Skype/Chorus/ Houseparty/ Zoom/ Whatsapp/ Uber Conference etc to prepare/plan/work/execute/ coordinate their respective Committee tasks, wherever and in whatever form and way, to the extent feasible !

I would also like to place on record the concerted effort being put in at this hour, by our Hony Secretary, Director and our entire IMF STAFF, in keeping the IMF functioning and alive, while working from their respective homes. Under the existing circumstances, they are working to the best of their ability, as presently the IMF complex is closed. For them too, it is a ' first ' such experience !

I would also like to thank our GC Members and Hony Treasurer, for their deep concern, unconditional support and constant inputs, in wake of the present situation.

I am also grateful to all our Esteemed Members, for your intrinsic support, which gives us the strength to look ahead with optimism. It will be our endeavour to do whatever is pragmatic and feasible by

IMF at this juncture. Incase you have any suggestions in this regard, please do share with us !

I would also like to make a Special Mention of **Dr Anil Gurtoo**, our IMF Member, who is playing a **key** role and alongwith other Corona Warriors of the Nation, is in the **forefront** of fighting this pandemic.

Lastly, I would request all of you to **Stay Safe and Take Care** ! I will further request our Senior Members to be '**extra**' careful !!!

I will end by sharing this quote of *Charles Darwin*, which I feel is very relevant to the current times :-

*"It is not the strongest of the species which survives nor the the most responsive, but the one the most responsive to change "*

Regards and Best Wishes,

**Brigadier Ashok Abbey, AVSM**  
**President**

**Indian Mountaineering Foundation**

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