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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Advisory regarding containing and management of COVID-19 in National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves.

Posted On: 06 APR 2020 7:17PM by PIB Delhi

In view of the spread of COVID 19 in the country and a recent news report on a Tiger being infected with the COVID 19 in New York, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued an advisoryregarding containing and management of COVID-19 in National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves as it is felt that there are possibilities of spread of the virus amongst animals in National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves and also transmission of the virus from humans to animals and vice-versa.

The advisory has asked Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/UT's to:

- 1. Take immediate preventive measures to stop the transmission and spread of the virus from humans to animals and vice versa, in National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves.
- 2. Reduce the human wildlife interface.
- 3. Restrict the movement of people to National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves.
- 4. Constitute a Task Force/Rapid Action Force with Field Managers, Veterinary doctors, Frontline staff, to manage the situation as quickly as possible.
- 5. Create a 'round the clock' reporting mechanism with a Nodal Officer for swift management of any cases noticed.
- 6. Set up essential services for emergency treatment of animals and their safe release back to their natural habitats, as and when required.
- 7. Enhance disease surveillance, mapping and monitoring system through coordinated effort amongst various Departments.
- 8. Maintain all other stipulations issued by the Health Ministry in the movement of staff/tourists/villagers, etc. in and around National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves.
- 9. Take other possible steps to control the spread of the virus.

10. Keport the action taken to this Ministry.

GK

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