



### Press Release from Rashtra Manch

8 May 2020  
New Delhi

- Rashtra Manch emergency meeting convened by Yashwant Sinha
- Discussion focused on the plight of labourers, the lack of National roadmap to exit lockdown, and economic vision for India
- Leaders Manish Tewari, Majeed Memon, Pavan Varma, Ghanshyam Tiwari call for defining Rights of Migrants and Labourers in lockdown
- Government questioned on the complete absence of National Roadmap to exit the nationwide lockdown imposed by the Prime Minister
- Yashwant Sinha set to release an open paper on economic vision with ideas from Professor Arun Kumar as well as leaders in Rashtra Manch
- Ghanshyam Tiwari and Ravinder Manchanda to convene next weekly meeting to discuss economic situation

Senior leader and Former Finance and External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha convened an emergency meeting of Rashtra Manch to discuss the abdication of leadership by the Modi Government in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting began with an urgent call for defining the Rights of Migrants and Labourers in the face of the lockdown enforced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The leaders questioned the cruel model of Governance that has led to macabre death of migrant labourers in Aurangabad and the countless stories of lakhs of poor citizens walking with women and children without cash, food, water, and sense of security. This deadly walk of the migrants and labourers is a betrayal of responsibility by the Prime Minister and the Government, the leaders said. Yashwant Sinha, Manish Tewari, Majeed Memon, Pavan Varma, Prof. Arun Kumar, Ravinder Manchanda, and Ghanshyam Tiwari together agreed to issue an open call from the Rashtra Manch to the Narendra Modi Government to urgently define the rights of migrants and labourers under the lockdown situation. This will check the on-going man-made game of discrimination and death that the migrants and the labourers face. Rashtra Manch is ready to work together with leaders across the country to come up with the minimum guarantee that the Government of India must give to migrants and labourers as their right in the nationwide lockdown.

With his vast experience in Governance, Yashwant Sinha pointed to the complete absence of any national plan to exit the lockdown. The Prime Minister of India forced the country into a lockdown with just four hours notice and little preparation on his side. The unending and unplanned extensions to the lockdown further exposes the lack of any National Roadmap to exit. The Prime Minister is now pushing the ball to the States that are forced to take up the responsibility of his Government's unplanned and hasty measures. Leaders across parties at Rashtra Manch are ready to support the development of the National Roadmap to exit the lockdown. However, such a plan must come from the Prime Minister and Rashtra Manch is now issuing a call to the Government to share the plan with the country.





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Finally, the leaders in the meeting took up the important issue of saving the economy which is already in the ICU. After due deliberations, Rashtra Manch has come up with an open paper to set the blueprint for the revival of the economy in these testing times. Yashwant Sinha is set to present an economic vision through a paper for wider consultation that will be shared with the media for building a democratic discourse and enabling the seemingly clueless Modi Government towards a road ahead.

Ravinder Manchanda will convene the next weekly meeting of Rashtra Manch which is expected to have participation from MP Sanjay Singh, Ambassador KC Singh, alongside the leaders who participated in the meeting today.