

## COVID 19

### Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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Ministry of Corporate Affairs issues clarifications - COVID-19 related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has issued a clarification on eligibility of CSR expenditure related to COVID-19. These include whether contribution made to 'PM CARES Fund', contribution made to Chief Minister's Relief Funds' or 'State Relief Fund for COVID-19'; State Disaster Contribution made to State Disaster Management Authority to combat COVID-19; spending of CSR funds for COVID-19 related activities qualifies as CSR expenditure or not.

Robust Digital Payment Infrastructure Enables
Prompt Transfer of Cash Payment under
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package.

A digital pipeline has been laid through linking of Jan-Dhan accounts as well as other accounts with the account holders' mobile numbers and Aadhaar [Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM)].

This infrastructure pipeline is providing the necessary backbone for DBT flows, adoption of social security/pension schemes, etc. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched in August 2014 with an aim to provide bank accounts to unbanked persons. Out of around 126 crore operative CASA accounts as on 20th March 2020, more than 38 crores have been opened under PMJDY.



#### ICMR approves DBT institute as COVID-19 testing facility for Faridabad region

The bioassay laboratory of Department of Biotechnology's Faridabad-based Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) will now function as an extension of diagnostic facility of ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad for COVID-19 testing. It will be the first and only COVID-19 testing facility in the Faridabad region.

## <u>Indian Navy Hands Over In-House Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifolds to Visakhapatnam District Administration</u>

The in-house designed and manufactured 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold' by Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. The entire set up uses an industrial 6-way radial header to enable one jumbo size Oxygen Bottle to supply Oxygen to six patients concurrently. While five sets were handed over to the Collector, balance 20 sets are planned to be progressively supplied over within the next two weeks.

## <u>Indian Railways continues feeding the infrastructure sector and ramps up the</u> supply chain during the COVID-19 lockdown

Indian Railways has continued feeding the infrastructure sector during the period of lockdown due to COVID-19. During last 11 days from 1st April to 11th April 2020, Railways loaded and carried 192165 wagons of coal, and 13276 wagons of petroleum products.

# NRLM Self Help Group network rises to the challenge of COVID-19 situation in the country SHG women use innovative communication and behavior change tools to generate awareness and help containment of the COVID-19 infection

The motivated, enthusiastic and committed approximately 690 lakh women members of around 63 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the country formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAYNRLM), Ministry of Rural Development. SHG members have emerged as community warriors by contributing in every possible way to contain the spread of COVID-19.



#### PM Janaushadhi Kendra people are working as Corona Warriors-Mandaviya

In the current difficult circumstances, the Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendra (PMJK) people are working as Corona Warriors and serving the nation. In a tweet, the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has said that it is being ensured that affordable medicines are available at 6300 Jan Aushadhi centers across the country and to deal with the current situation its warehouses are working day and night on war footing.

## Medical cargo flights under Operation Lifeline UDAN transport 108 tons of essential supplies for the nation in a single day

Over 214 Lifeline Udan flights have been operated by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to transport essential medical cargo to remote parts of the country to support India's war against COVID-19. 128 of these flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air. Cargo transported till date is around 373.23 tons.

## NRLM Self Help Group women emerge as community warriors to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country

About 2 crore masks have been produced by around 78,000 SHG members of 27 State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs); More than 5000 PPE kits manufactured by SHGs in various states; Around 900 SHG enterprises in 9 States have produced more than 1 lakh litres of hand sanitiser, Some SHGs have also produced liquid soaps to guarantee hand hygiene.

# About 85 lakh PMUY beneficiaries have got the LPG cylinder in April 2020; Personnel in Supply Chain of Delivery of LPG Cylinders Working Tirelessly to Provide Essential Service and Supporting the Nation's Fight Against COVID-19

Government of India has announced pro-poor initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, as part of economic response to Covid-19. This is aimed at alleviating the hardships faced by poor due to economic disruption by Corona virus. As per this Yojana, free LPG Refills are to be provided to Ujjwala beneficiaries over the period of 3 months, from April to June 2020.



## <u>CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad engages in the Fight against COVID-19 on Multiple Fronts</u>

CSIRs constituent leading biology lab CCMB based in Hyderabad is employing several tools and approaches in the countries fight against COVID-19. These include Testing patient sample, Training on COVID-19 Testing, Sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 genome and culturing SARS-CoV-2 Virus for Testing Repurposed & New Drugs.

## <u>Dr. Harsh Vardhan exhorts CSIR scientists to develop COVID-19 mitigation</u> solutions to effectively combat the disease

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology held a review with DG CSIR, and all the CSIR lab directors through video conference of the steps undertaken by CSIR and its constituent 38 labs towards mitigation of Corona Virus outbreak in the country. He mentioned that Genetic sequencing was crucial in eradicating Polio; it will help in COVID-19 mitigation also and COVID-19 will give boost to country's resilience and self-reliance and enhance indigenous capacity in developing critical health care equipment

#### Moscow hospitals see 'huge influx' of patients as COVID-19 spreads in Russia

A "huge influx" of coronavirus patients has started to put a strain on hospitals in Moscow as Russia's death toll rose to more than 100. Moscow and many other regions have been in lockdown for nearly two weeks to stem the contagion, but hospitals in the capital are still being pushed to their limit, the Kremlin said.

## SA government plans for Covid-19 to peak in September but questions about data remain

The extended five-week national lockdown has postponed South Africa's worst-case Covid-19 scenario to September, a government projection shows. With no lockdown, South Africa was estimated to reach its peak coronavirus infections in July. A five-week lockdown, that has paralysed the economy, is buying the government two more months to prepare for a flooding of hospitals at the end of winter.



## Uneasy calm descends on empty Jakarta as capital makes it through first day of social restrictions

An uneasy calm has blanketed much of Jakarta as the city made it through the first day of large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) despite concerns over possible social unrest. Activity in and around the metropolis was visibly reduced on Friday, with roads emptying out and people choosing to remain at home despite the long weekend holiday.

#### US COVID-19 deaths cross 20,000, highest in world, surpassing Italy

The deadly coronavirus has so far killed more than one lakh people across the globe. The United States on Saturday became the country with the highest number of deaths at 20,597, surpassing Italy's 19,468 fatalities. More than 5.3 lakh Americans have tested positive for coronavirus.

#### **Central Advisories and Notifications**

MHA directs States to implement Lockdown Guidelines in letter & spirit to ensure smooth movement of Inter & Intrastate Cargo, Trucks, Workers and functioning of Warehouse/Cold Storages

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued consolidated guidelines on lockdown measures to be taken by all Ministries/Departments of Government of India, States/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory Authorities for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country. Subsequent clarifications to these guidelines were also issued to ensure availability of essential goods and services across the country and prevent hardships to the people. MHA has directed States to implement lockdown guidelines in letter & spirit to ensure smooth movement of inter & intrastate cargo, trucks, workers and functioning of warehouse/cold storages, as it has come to the notice of the Ministry that in some parts of the country, the aforesaid guidelines and clarifications are not being implemented in letter and spirit.

## Ministry of Commerce recommends allowing certain additional activities during the lockdown period

Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs for allowing certain new activities, in addition to those already allowed under various notification of MHA, as these are essential to improve the economic activity and provide liquidity to the people. Such industries may be permitted to start with minimum manpower and proper sanitation and distancing norms/ safeguards.

#### **State Advisories and Notifications**

#### AP Government issues order for Reconstitution of Technical Advisory Committee

In view of the dynamic nature of Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread in the country and the State, Government have decided to expand the Technical Advisory Committee to review the evolving situation on a day-to-day basis and advise the Government on measures to be implemented to prevent, contain, control and effectively manage COVID-19.

#### **International Advisories and Notifications**

#### **Visa Advisory for Indian Nationals in Brazil**

The Federal Police of Brazil has informed that the visas of foreign nationals, which were valid as on 16.03.2020, are deemed to be extended automatically in view of the public health emergency in Brazil due to COVID-19 situation.

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