



Confederation of Indian Industry
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COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the virtual session of the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency today, to discuss the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Finance Minister focused upon the role of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in safeguarding the lives and livelihood of people while maintaining macroeconomic stability in a sustainable manner. She shared with her G20 counterparts the measures taken by Government of India to provide the vulnerable sections with swift, timely and targeted assistance. She appreciated the Saudi Presidency for their tireless efforts in delivering on the outcomes as mandated by the G20 Leaders during the Extraordinary Leaders' Summit, particularly in preparation of G20 Action Plan in Response to COVID-19.

Accord top priority to farmers and agriculture during the lockdown – Vice President to Center and States; Safeguard the interests of Agri-producers as well as the consumers

The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu today asked the Centre and State Governments to accord top priority to farmers and agriculture during the lockdown and advised them to facilitate the smooth conduct of farming activities and transportation of agri-produce during this period. During an interaction with the Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, the Vice President appreciated various measures taken by the Agriculture Ministry to protect the farm sector. He suggested tweaking of APMC Act to ensure the purchase of farm produce directly from farmers.



[Date of Filing Electronic Challan Cum Return \(ECR\) for Wage Month March 2020 Extended Up to 15.05.2020 from 15.04.2020](#)

Considering the unprecedented situation created by COVID-19 and lockdown announced by the Central Government from 24.03.2020 midnight onwards to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the due date for filing of Electronic Challan Cum Return (ECR) for wage month March, 2020 is extended up to 15.05.2020 for employers who have paid wages to their employees for March, 2020. The due date for March 2020 is ordinarily 15.04.2020, so grace period of thirty days has been allowed to the establishments covered under EPF & MP Act, 1952 to remit the contributions and administrative charges due for March 2020.

[Exam Schedule Announcements by UPSC following Lockdown; All officers and staff members of the UPSC have volunteered one-day salary to the PM CARES Fund.](#)

In view of the prevailing lockdown restrictions, including social distancing norms, it was decided that dates for all interviews, Examinations and Recruitment Boards, where candidates and advisers are required to travel from all parts of the country, will be reviewed from time to time. A decision on fresh dates for the remaining Civil Services-2019 Personality Tests will be taken after May 3, 2020.

[Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches All India Agri Transport Call Centre numbers to facilitate inter-state movement of perishables during lockdown](#)

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the All India Agri Transport Call Centre to facilitate inter-state movement of perishables in the current situation of lockdown due to the COVID-19 threat. The Call Centre numbers are 18001804200 and 14488. These numbers can be called from any mobile or landline phones any time of the day or night.

[Asean+3 declares war on virus](#)

Asean and its Plus three dialogue partners -- China, Japan and South Korea have agreed in principle to setting up a joint fund to combat the coronavirus pandemic following a virtual summit. The 13-nation special summit initiated by Asean comes as the region struggles to contain the Covid-19 outbreak.

[BMW Group India pledges Rs 3 crore for battle against coronavirus](#)

BMW Group India pledged Rs 3 crore for the ongoing battle against the coronavirus pandemic. The company said that it has partnered with government and non-government organisations for on-ground implementation in Delhi- NCR and Chennai. It will also participate in setting up an isolation ward for COVID-19 patients at the government hospital in Chengalpattu, near its Chennai plant, BMW Group India said in a statement.



[GiveIndia starts India COVID Response Fund with Rs 75 cr in initial donations](#)

Donation platform GiveIndia launched the 'India COVID Response Fund' (ICRF) with initial donations worth Rs 75 crore to support the on-ground COVID relief efforts being carried out by its network of verified non-profits. Some of the early donors to the fund include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Google.org, HSBC India, Omidyar Network India, UBS Optimus Foundation, Marico, Uber India (through Uber Care driver fund), Binny Bansal and A.T.E. Chandra Foundation.

[Indian Railways plans to produce over 30,000 coveralls \(PPEs\) in April 2020 to provide protection to Health Care professionals in fight against COVID 19.](#)

Indian Railways Production Units, Workshops and field units have started manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Coveralls for medical and health-care personnel who get directly exposed to the COVID-19 disease when working amongst infected patients. Indian Railways will produce over 30,000 such coveralls in April 2020 and plan to manufacture 1,00,000 of the same in May 2020. The prototype coveralls have already cleared the prescribed tests with the highest grades at the authorised DRDO laboratory at Gwalior.

[Initiatives of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare to promote farming and allied sectors during lockdown.](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is taking several measures to facilitate the farmers and farming activities at field level during the lockdown period. Under the PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY) insurance claims worth Rs.2424 crores disbursed to farmers in 12 States and over 18.26 lakh applications sanctioned for loan amount of Rs. 17,800 cr under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation drive.

[Integrated geospatial platform to help area-specific strategies & decisions in COVID-19 outbreak: This mobile application will complement the “AAROGYA-SETU” mobile application](#)

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has created an Integrated Geospatial Platform out of available geospatial datasets, standards-based services, and analytic tools to help decision making during the current COVID-19 outbreak and aid devising area-specific strategies to handle the socio-economic impact in the recovery phase. The platform is initially expected to strengthen the public health delivery system of the State and Central Governments and subsequently provide the necessary geospatial information



support to citizens and agencies dealing with the challenges related to health, socio-economic distress, and livelihood challenges.

Over 10.2 lakh Refunds worth Rs 4,250 crore issued in a week by CBDT to help taxpayers in COVID-19 pandemic situation

In pursuance to the Government's decision vide Press Note on 8th April 2020 to issue pending income tax refunds up to Rs 5 lakh in order to help taxpayers in a COVID-19 pandemic situations, the Central Board of Direct taxes (CBDT) today said that it has already issued over 10.2 lakh refunds totaling to around Rs. 4,250 crore as on 14th April 2020. These refunds are over and above the 2.50 crore refunds already issued in FY 19-20 till 31st March 2020 totaling Rs 1.84 lakh crore.

Post offices ensuring doorstep pension delivery to elderly pensioners: Special mail arrangements made for far flung areas of J& K and Ladakh

With an aim to fight Covid-19 and to achieve the objective of social distancing and prevent crowding, post offices have taken steps to ensure doorstep delivery of pension to the elderly pensioners. The neighbourhood Post Office is providing its services to the society and trying to supplement the efforts of the state/local administration to reach out to the masses to fulfil their financial, health care and welfare needs in these challenging times of Covid-19. Post offices across J&K and Ladakh UTs are being opened with the primary objective of facilitating financial transactions easy withdrawals and deposits of funds so that the people can have enough cash flow to fulfil their day to day requirements of basic needs.

Study to identify biomarkers to predict progression from non-severe to severe COVID 19 cases can help interventions

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), will support exploration of metabolomics alteration in COVID-19 infected patients conducted by IIT Bombay in collaboration with some hospitals in Mumbai. The study will identify potential biomarker candidates to predict progression from non-severe to severe COVID-19 conditions. Search for potential diagnostic candidates will involve metabolite profiling of different patient groups with various complications. Metabolites are small biomolecules, capable of regulating various pathways in all the living organisms.



[Women in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab prepare homemade masks for villagers to fight COVID 19](#)

In GugwaalHaar village situated in Hajipur Block of District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, a group of young women, are working tirelessly to safeguard their residents of their village and those in the vicinity, vulnerable migrant workers and ration and food supply distributors from COVID 19 infections by making and distributing face masks free of cost. "The crowd sourcing of home-made masks for the general population is fast catching up as the awareness about the mask making and its use, aided by the local leadership, has become widespread. This will prove to be a vital action in slowing and breaking the chain of transmission," said Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

[Immediate measures needed to slow COVID-19 even if they take short-term toll on economy: DPM Heng](#)

Immediate measures are necessary to stem the spread of COVID-19 and protect people's health, even if they do take a short-term toll on the economy, said Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, Singapore. In the meantime, the Government should do what it can to soften the impact and help people and businesses to recover when the pandemic recedes, he said on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest World Economic Outlook report. The IMF, in its report, said the global economy is expected to contract by 3 per cent this year – a downturn much worse than during the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009 – due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Namibia extends partial coronavirus lockdown until May 4](#)

Namibian borders will remain closed and a partial lockdown in force for a further two-and-a-half weeks until May 4 as part of new strict measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, said President Hage Geingob. The sparsely populated southwest African country of under 3 million people has 16 confirmed cases of the coronavirus with no report of new infections for the past week. Several countries in the region have announced lockdowns.

[UN grants US\\$16 million to aid Angola fight COVID-19](#)

The UN official explained that the pandemic forced the reprogramming of the resources aimed for the cooperation plan with Angola. 12.5 million U.S. dollars have been made available to support the national response against the COVID-19 and 3.5 million for the food security of the populations of the drought-hit provinces of Namibe, Huila, Cunene and Cuando Cubango, the UN official said. Balladeli also said that the resources will serve to grant technical assistance,



through knowledge transfer and internal capacity building, considering essential the improvement of coordination mechanisms with partners.

Central Advisories and Notifications

Union Health Ministry advisory to States and UTs regarding containment of Hotspots

In a letter to all chief secretaries of states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said hotspot districts need to ensure implementation of the outbreak containment plan, adding that the states also need to identify hotspots based on the doubling rate of confirmed cases. The government has identified 170 districts as HOTSPOTS. Health Secretary has asked states to undertake effective surveillance of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and influenza like illness (ILI) cases in districts that do not have any confirmed cases so far besides ensuring setting up of dedicated COVID-19 hospitals. Containment operation would be deemed over when there is no case reported in 28 days from an area after last case tests negative. Hotspots (designated red zones) will be assumed to be undertaking effective containment activities, if no case is reported in next 14 days (designated orange zones) will be deemed successful in containment, if no case is reported for 28 days (designated green zones)

Ministry of Home Affairs: Orders on Strict compliance to consolidated guidelines of the Ministry for containment of COVID-19, which will remain in force till 3 May 2020.

The Ministry in its orders have written to Chief Secretaries of all States to ensure all preparatory arrangements of the select additional activities will be come into effect from 20 April 2020, of the consolidated guidelines for containment of COVID-19 issued by the Ministry.

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Maharashtra's orders on amendment to Lockdown.

The State Government has issued orders on extension of lockdown period in the State, up to and inclusive of 3 May 2020 along with orders on addendum to the guidelines of the lockdown.

Government of Karnataka: Prohibitory orders in connection with measures by the public to prevent COVID-19.

The State Government has issued prohibitory orders in connection with the strict adherence to certain measures by the public to prevent COVID-19. Any person violating containment measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.



Government of Telangana: Extension of time granted to renew the Trader licenses without late fee due to lockdown in the State.

Agriculture and Co-operation Department, Government of Telangana has issued orders on extending of the time for renewal of the Trader Licenses up to 30.6.2020 in respect of trader licenses due for renew on or before 31.3.2020. The late fee prescribed under sub-rule (6) of rule 48 of Telangana (Agricultural Produce & Livestock) Market Rules, 1969 shall be waived off up to 30.6.2020 in view of lockdown due to prevailing circumstances of COVID-19 in the State.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Contribution of Rs.10.00 Crores from Additional Privilege Fee to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for prevention of Covid-19.

The State Government has accorded permission to the Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise, A.P. / Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited, to contribute Rs.10.00 Crores (Ten Crores only) from PD Account of A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited, under Additional Privilege Fund to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for prevention of COVID-19.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Extension of "LOCKDOWN" till 3 May 2020 in the State

The State Government has issued orders on extension of lockdown period in the State, up to 3 May 2020.

Government of Gujarat: Extension of lockdown period

State Government declared further lockdown of entire Gujarat State except for essential goods and service from 15/04/2020 to 03/05/2020. Any person found violating this order would be liable to prosecution under The Disaster Management Act 2005 according to Indian Penal Code 1860.

Government of Gujarat: List invited of auto-garage, spare-parts shops, hotels, etc. in reference to movement of freight vehicles carrying essential or non-essential goods.

With reference to the order issued by Government of Gujarat allowing free movement of freight vehicles carrying essential or non-essential goods, the incident commander and sub-divisional magistrate of Sabarkantha district has invited list of all the auto-garage, spare-parts shops, puncture repair and dhabas and hotels along the route of State and National Highway in



Sabarkantha district. Accordingly, District Magistrate office will announce the list with names of service providers that may be kept open provided they follow the norms issued by State and Central Government for preventing spread of novel corona virus.

[Bhopal- Extension of validity of passes for essential services and goods extended till 3 May 2020.](#)

The Office of the Collector, Bhopal District has issued orders on extension of passes issued for movement for essential services and goods to be extended till 3 May 2020.

International Advisories and Notifications

[UAE: MUBADALA Healthcare Introduces Measures to Facilitate Increased Healthcare Access in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

To date, over 220,000 COVID-19 tests have been administered throughout the UAE with Mubadala Healthcare's National Reference Laboratory (NRL) working around the clock and processing over 25,000 of those tests. Each day 1,000 tests are processed, and in the coming weeks NRL will expand its testing capabilities to 5,000 tests a day. Mubadala Healthcare is also providing flexible payment plans across its network for patients that are not insured.

[Singapore Media Sector gets a boost amidst COVID-19](#)

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) introduced a series of initiatives to help the local media sector tide over COVID-19. Complementing the broad-based measures announced by the Finance Minister in the Unity, Resilience and Solidarity Budgets, these latest initiatives will help media companies benefit from more production project opportunities and reduced operating costs, as well as assist media professionals and freelancers build up their resilience through training and upskilling. These are part of the ongoing national efforts to protect jobs and livelihoods.

[Additional Guidance on the Conduct of General Meetings During Elevated Safe Distancing Period: Joint Statement by Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, Monetary Authority of Singapore0072e and Singapore Exchange Regulation](#)

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA), the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and Singapore Exchange Regulation (SGX RegCo) have prepared a checklist to guide listed and non-listed entities on the conduct of general meetings during the period when elevated safe distancing measures are in place. The checklist provides guidance on COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 (Act) and the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Companies, Variable Capital Companies, Business Trusts, Unit Trusts and Debenture Holders) Order 2020.



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