



Confederation of Indian Industry

125 Years: 1895-2020

COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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News Update

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP): Progress so far

PMGKP announced by Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on 26th March, 2020 to protect them from the impact of the lockdown due to COVID 19. As part of the **PMGKP**, the Government announced free food grains and cash payment to women and poor senior citizens and farmers. The swift implementation of the package is being continuously monitored by Central and State Governments. Finance Ministry, the concerned Ministries, Cabinet Secretariat and PMO are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the relief measures reach the needy swiftly and in line with the intent of the lock down.

- More than 33 crore poor people received financial assistance of Rs 31,235 crore
- Rs 10,025 crore disbursed to 20.05 crore to Women Jan Dhan account holders
- Rs 1405 crore disbursed to about 2.82 crore old age persons, widows and disabled
- First instalment of PM-KISAN :Rs 16,146 crore transferred to 8 crore farmers
- Rs 162 crore transferred in 68,775 establishments as EPF contribution ,
- Rs 2.17 crore Building; Construction workers received financial support
- PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana 39.27 crore beneficiaries distributed free ration of food grains
- 1,09,227 MT of Pulses; dispatched to various States/UTs
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana : 2.66 crore free Ujjwala cylinders delivered



Ministry of Home Affairs issues clarification on apprehensions based on the earlier guidelines.

In a letter to the Chief Secretary of the States, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a clarification on the apprehensions, based on the wrong interpretations of the guidelines, as raised in Media and by some companies regarding legal action by the States, including imprisonment in case a COVID 19 positive employee is found in the factory or in case of noncompliance of precautionary measures, the factory may be closed down for 2 days. He mentioned in his letter that there is no such clause in the consolidated revised guidelines.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates DRDO developed Mobile Laboratory to test COVID19 samples

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled via video conference a Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) developed by DRDO in association with ESIC Hospital, Hyderabad and Private industry. Speaking on this occasion, Raksha Mantri said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken several timely decisions because of which the spread of COVID-19 in the country is far less compared to many other countries. Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated the setting up of this Bio-Safety Level 2 and Level 3 lab in a record time of 15 days which usually takes about six months time.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan calls upon the Oil Marketing Companies officials to speed up the delivery of free cylinders to PMUY beneficiaries

Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has called upon all the stakeholders in the LPG cylinder supply chain to work diligently and in a systematic manner to speedily increase the delivery of free Refills to PMUY beneficiaries.

Shri Gadkari Calls Upon Industry to Ensure Following All Health Precautions as they Resume Works in The Areas allowed by Government

Union Minister for MSME and Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari interacted via video conferencing with the representatives of enterprises from various sectors, media and other stakeholders on “Post COVID -19: Challenges and New Opportunities in India”. During the interaction, the representatives expressed concerns regarding various challenges being faced by MSMEs amid COVID-19 pandemic along with few suggestions and requested support from the government to keep the MSME sector afloat.



145 Indian crew disembark at Mumbai Port from German cruise ship following Ministry of Home Affairs's Standard Operating Procedure of Sign-on/ Sign-off

After the issuance of the SOP for sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers by the Ministry of Home Affairs, for the first time, 145 Indian crew of German Cruise lines has been able to disembark on Mumbai Port. Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) facilitated the disembarkation of Indian crew by following stringent health check-ups in three stages. Elaborate health check-up facilities were arranged at berth. Port Health Officers assisted by MbPT doctors & medics formed the first stage. In the Second stage, the crew were checked and stamped by MCGM health authorities for 14-day home quarantine. In the third and most critical stage, the swab of all disembarking crew was collected for testing.

COVID- Disinfection in Varanasi using special Drones

The Government's Covid-19 strategies align with global best practice: protecting Indians against Covid-19, by minimizing their chances of catching it. To boost local authority capacities in achieving this, the Government is leveraging the power of technology. Drones offer an answer. Using drones, authorities could spray disinfectant over large, crowded, vulnerable urban areas: protecting city-dwellers from Covid-19, while reducing human contact to keep frontline workers safe.

Functional agricultural markets almost double since beginning of lockdown

The arrival of staple vegetables in mandis has seen a big leap compared to last month. 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.

India has acquired enough strength and resources to take on the worst challenge thrown by the corona virus: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

"India's response has been proactive, pre-emptive and graded in handling situation arising out of COVID-19 outbreak", said Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, while participating with in a virtual interactive session with Health Ministers of member countries of World Health Organization (WHO) on the measures being taken for containment of COVID-19. Dr Harsh Vardhan said that India has been proactive, pre-emptive and graded in handling situation arising out of COVID-19 outbreak.



Indian Initiative to Fight COVID-19, Enhancing Natural Defense

Natural defense mechanism of the body (innate immunity) plays a key role in the fight against COVID-19 and other viral infections. It is a fast, first and efficient immune response for identifying and eliminating COVID-19 and other viruses. The majority of persons coming in contact with COVID-19 or other viruses either do not get the disease or get a milder form of the self-limiting disease as Innate immunity is adequate. While the world is working towards developing vaccines and antiviral agents for the management of COVID-19, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has decided to develop / repurpose an approved immunomodulator, *Sepsivac®*, to enhance innate immunity of the body to limit the spread of COVID-19 and fasten the recovery of the patients of COVID-19, through its flagship New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) program.

Indian Railways does record food grain loading

Indian Railways continues to make all efforts to ensure availability of essential commodities like food grains through its freight services during the nationwide lock down due to COVID-19. In order to ensure that kitchens of all Indian homes continue to run normally, on a single day, Indian Railways did record food grain loading of 112 rakes equivalent to 3.13 Lakh Tonnes beating previous best food grain loading of 92 rakes (2.57 lakh tonnes)

Virucidal coating to prevent COVID transmission

A team of researchers at Faridabad-based Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) has initiated a study to engineer virucidal coatings to prevent the COVID-19 Transmission. The study is being conducted in collaboration Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and from Department of Textile Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB).

Antiviral nano-coatings to be upscaled for making triple layer medical masks & N-95 respirator receives support to combat COVID 19

As part of Nano Mission programme, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has approved support for upscaling an antiviral nano-coatings developed by Professor Ashwini Kumar Agrawal of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for use as appropriate material for producing anti-COVID-19 Triple Layer Medical masks and N-95 respirator in large quantities.



China sends \$30m more to WHO for COVID-19

China has decided to donate another \$30 million to the World Health Organization for containing COVID-19 and supporting developing countries in improving their health systems.

UN addresses economic fallout of COVID-19

United Nations leaders called on Thursday for a large-scale and comprehensive response to the devastating socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a health crisis but a human crisis, a jobs crisis, a humanitarian crisis and a development crisis, said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the virtual ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) forum. We must use all the fiscal and monetary measures at our disposal, he said, calling on greater resources for the International Monetary Fund, including through the issuance of new Special Drawing Rights, and enhanced support for the World Bank Group and other International Financial Institutions and bilateral mechanisms. Guterres said a global stimulus package of unprecedented proportions will also be needed to restore sustainable growth and safeguard people's livelihoods. Now is the time to stand by our commitment to leave no one behind, he said.

China's resumption of production anchors global supply chain

The reopening of production lines in China will not only help the Chinese economy, but also recover the global supply chain and lend a great support to the global fight against the pandemic. President Xi Jinping's inspection tour to Shaanxi Province underpins the fact that China is steadily pushing for a comprehensive resumption of production to ensure a smooth supply chain at home and abroad.

China building 500,000 5G base stations

China will build 500,000 5G base stations this year to develop the digital economy, a new growth engine during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Thursday. During the COVID-19 outbreak, 5G applications have been adopted in the sectors such as the Internet of Vehicles, the Industrial Internet and remote medical treatment. Applications like robot, touchless sterilization, work-at-home and online education have become reality with 5G, the MIIT said.



Alibaba Cloud to add 200b yuan in investments in next 3 years

Alibaba Cloud has announced an additional investment of 200 billion yuan (\$28 billion) over the next three years, pulling in more effort in new technologies and new infrastructures. The company said the investment will be dedicated to expanding its technology, including operating system, servers and chips, as well as build more data centers on top of its existing network covering 21 countries and regions globally. Alibaba Cloud is the top cloud provider in Asia Pacific, according to Gartner. In its latest quarterly report released in February, the company reported its cloud revenue to grow 62 percent to roughly \$1.5 billion.

European leaders fail to nail down recovery plan as infections top 1.1 million

Leaders of European Union (EU) states, though under mounting pressure to prop up their virus-stricken economies, failed to nail down a much-awaited recovery plan at a video-summit on Thursday. French President Emmanuel Macron said following the summit If we let part of Europe fall, all of Europe will fall with it. Macron revealed that disagreements over the size and shape of the rescue package remained. Leaders of the 27-bloc agreed that a recovery fund is needed and urgent, said President of the European Council Charles Michel. President of the European Commission said the EU's executive arm would start working on the details. Ahead of the video summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned in her speech in the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament, that the numbers of new cases of COVID-19 and recoveries in her country were only a fragile interim success and moving on thin ice.

Coronavirus pandemic: Argentinean doctor and his team extend free medical help to stranded travelers

With the help of embassies of Argentina and Chile in New Delhi, Dr Sergio Lais-Suarez and his team travelled to Rishikesh to help 80 stranded people of different nationalities there. The doctor and his team to are stranded and they are giving free consultation.

Covid-19: South Korean firm starts production of rapid testing kits in Haryana

A South Korean firm has started manufacturing rapid testing kits for Covid-19 in Haryana's Manesar district, the Indian embassy in South Korea said. The firm has the capacity to produce 5 lakh testing kits per week, the embassy said in a tweet. The Indian embassy said that the firm will help meet both domestic and international demand for testing kits.



China eyes measures to lift NEV demand

China is exploring ways to further boost the domestic demand for new energy vehicles and promote the sustainable development of the industry as more companies resume production since the COVID-19 outbreak, the nation's top industry regulator said on Thursday. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said reviving the demand for automobiles will help mitigate the pandemic's fallout on the industry.

IMF, regional financing arrangements pledge cooperation to mitigate pandemic's impact on economy

Heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Regional Financing Arrangements (RFAs) on Tuesday pledged to cooperate to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy. The IMF and the world's Regional Financing Arrangements stand united in addressing the global challenges related to the pandemic, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and heads from the European Stability Mechanism, Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, Latin American Reserve Fund, Arab Monetary Fund and ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office said in a joint statement after holding a teleconference. The statement came after the IMF said last week that the global economy would contract sharply by three percent in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Japan says economy is in an extremely severe situation

Japan's economy has been worsening rapidly in April due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the government said on Thursday, using the most pessimistic expression in more than a decade in assessing the overall situation in its key monthly report. It is the first time since May 2009, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, that the office has used the term "worse" or "worsening" in its monthly report to describe the health of the Japanese economy. In the April report, it revised the assessments of industrial output, private consumption and another four of the 11 main components. As there are no signs of the global disruption caused by the pandemic subsiding anytime soon, the Japanese economy, highly dependent on exports, is projected to contract by 5.2 percent in 2020 from a year before, its worst downturn since 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis, according to a report released by the International Monetary Fund last week.

French Development Agency (AFD) Grants Morocco €150 Million to Support Post-COVID-19 Economy

The French Development Agency (AFD) announced the allocation of €150 million to support Morocco's plan to prepare for the end of the COVID-19 crisis. The allocated sum will be disbursed throughout the next three months, of which €100 million is dedicated to the state budget while €50 million is intended for Moroccan public enterprises. The AFD is accelerating the financing of new structural policies in favor of strengthened social protection and the sustainable recovery of the Moroccan economy.

Central Advisories and Notifications

Union Power Ministry advises States/UTs to allow construction activities in the power projects outside Municipal limits during nation-wide lockdown for COVID-19 outbreak after observing health protocols

Union Power Ministry has advised the State/UT administrations to allow construction activities in the power projects outside Municipal limits during nation-wide lockdown for COVID-19 outbreak as per the guidelines issued Union Ministry of Home Affairs earlier. These activities may be permitted after observing necessary health protocols to curb COVID-19.

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Maharashtra: Amendment to the Consolidated Revised Guidelines on the measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19

The State Government has issued orders with reference to Ministry of Home Affairs consolidated revised guidelines with inclusions of activities. The order also includes SoP for sign-on and sign-off of Indian Seafarers at Indian Ports and their movement.

Government of Karnataka: Select additional activities allowed from 23 April 2020.

To mitigate hardship of the public, the State Government has allowed select additional activities from 23 April 2020. These additional activities will be operationalized by District Administration based on strict compliance to the existing guidelines on lockdown measures.



Government of Andhra Pradesh: SOP for Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases

To clear doubts of SARI patients attending government hospitals, who may be COVID-19 positive, the State Government has decided to follow the SOP for treating SARI patients in COVID, NON-COVID and Private Hospitals.

Government of Karnataka: Addendum to Consolidated revised guidelines.

The State Government in its addendum to the revised consolidated guidelines for the lockdown measures, have allowed IT and IT enabled services to operate with essential minimum staff.

Government of Nagaland: Select additional activities allowed from 23 April 2020.

To mitigate hardship of the public, the State Government has allowed select additional activities with immediate effect. These include Food processing industries, industries operating in rural areas bamboo, coconut, research establishments etc. These additional activities will be operationalized by District Administration based on strict compliance to the existing guidelines on lockdown measures.

International Advisories and Notifications

U.S. House passes COVID-19 relief package to aid small businesses, hospitals, testing

The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed a 484-billion-dollar relief package to boost funding for small businesses, hospitals and coronavirus testing. The package will provide more than 310 billion dollars in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to boost small business lending, as well as 75 billion dollars for hospitals and 25 billion dollars for virus testing.

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