



Confederation of Indian Industry

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COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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News Update

Telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore on 23rd April 2020.

The two leaders exchanged views on the health and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. They updated each other on the measures being adopted in their respective countries to tackle the pandemic and its economic and social effects. Prime Minister promised to provide all possible support for maintaining supplies of essential goods, including medical products, to Singapore. Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation for the support being extended to Indian citizens in Singapore.

Both leaders stressed the importance of the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership in the present context. They agreed to work together to address the present and future challenges posed by COVID-19. Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes for the health and wellbeing of the people of Singapore during the present crisis.

To become self-reliant and self-sufficient is the biggest lesson learnt from Corona pandemic: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Sarpanchs of Gram Panchayats throughout the country through Video Conferencing, on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2020. During this event he launched a unified e-GramSwaraj Portal and mobile application and Swamitva Scheme. The Prime Minister said the Corona pandemic has changed the way people worked and taught a good lesson. He said the pandemic taught us that one has to be self-reliant always. "This Pandemic has thrown at us new challenges and problems which we have never imagined, but it also taught us a very good lesson with a strong message. It has taught us that we must be self-reliant and self-sufficient. It has taught us that we should not look for solutions outside the country. This is the biggest lesson we have learnt." "Every Village has to be self-sufficient enough to provide for its basic needs. Similarly, every district has to be self-sufficient at its level, every state has to be self-reliant at its level and the whole country has to be self-reliant at its level", he said.



Digital surveillance to monitor and control COVID-19 spread; The surveillance will be done at three levels: the virus, the patient and the clinical course of the patient

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the Institute of Genetics and Integrated Biology (IGIB), along with a few other institutions, are working for the digital and molecular surveillance of the spread of novel coronavirus to understand the biology, epidemiology and disease impact. With digital and molecular surveillance of novel coronavirus, scientists are hoping to get some clue for many of the unknowns. The centre would be established at IGIB where all the labs, research centres and hospitals will share their data through cloud sharing.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs a video conference with States/UTs Health Ministers regarding the steps taken on COVID-19

Reviewing the COVID-19 preparedness and public health measures taken in the country for the same, through Video Conference (VC), Dr. Harsh Vardhan congratulated the State/UT Health & Medical Education Ministers and senior officers for managing and keeping the situation under control in the fight against COVID-19 in their respective States and UTs. He stated that the fight against the pandemic is more than three & half months old and the prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in the country is being monitored at the highest level in collaboration with the States.

Health Ministry to States/UTs: ensure that care of TB patients goes uninterrupted during COVID-19 pandemic

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has written to all States/UTs to ensure that the all the facilities under National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the States and UTs remain fully functional in public interest and ensure that the diagnosis and treatment of TB patients goes without any interruption notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Top business minds from around the country commit INR 300 Cr to build a unique business school

At a time when the economy is going through a global slowdown in the times of COVID-19, it is technological innovation that will keep the world running. As a sector that is seeing growth even in these times, it is technology that shall help recovery and bring the world back on track and fight the challenges ahead. More reason why there is an urgent need to harvest young minds that are duly trained in their fields and have an in-depth knowledge of their subject matter.



IIT Delhi develops low cost Probe-free Covid-19 detection assay

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' felicitated the team of scientists from IIT Delhi involved in the development of COVID 19 probe - free Real-time PCR Diagnostic Kit. Speaking on the occasion the HRD Minister said that our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has invited Scientists, students and researchers to come forward to combat COVID 19 and in response to this clarion call, all the premier institutions under HRD Ministry came to the forefront and have done a commendable work and are contributing to their best in order to combat the situation arising of COVID-19.

Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar holds Video Conference with State Rural Development Ministers

Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar held a Video Conference with Rural Development Ministers and concerned officers of States and Union Territories for scaling up of works under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in the light of the relaxation granted by Ministry of Home Affairs in Non-Containment Areas from 20th April, 2020. The Minister emphasised that although the challenge posed by the spread of COVID-19 epidemic is very serious, but this challenge must be perceived as an opportunity by all States/UTs to develop and strengthen rural infrastructure, create employment opportunities in rural areas and facilitate diversification of rural livelihoods.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reviews preparedness of J & K in combating COVID-19 through Video Conferencing

The Union Minister of State (IC) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern region and MOS in the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh reviewed the Preparedness of J & K in combating COVID-19 virus. The Review was held through Video Conference with Senior J&K UT officers, Heads of Govt Medical Institutions and Colleges.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews operational & COVID-19 preparedness of Armed Forces

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the operational preparedness as well as measures to fight COVID-19 with all the Commanders in Chief through a video conference. Raksha Mantri in his address appreciated the role of the Armed Forces for the assistance extended to the local civilian administration and



preparatory measures taken to fight COVID-19. He also directed the Forces to initiate measures to spend the financial resources, avoiding wastage in view of the economic burden imposed by COVID-19.

Search for solutions to Covid-19 from AYUSH healthcare disciplines

The Ministry of AYUSH has announced a mechanism to support short-term research projects for evaluating the impact of AYUSH interventions/ medicines in the prophylaxis and clinical management of COVID-19. Hospitals/Institutions involved in the management of COVID-19 cases have been invited to participate in this scheme which falls under the extramural (i.e., for those from outside the AYUSH Ministry establishment) research category. The proposals should be related to evaluating the role and impact of AYUSH interventions/medicines in the prophylaxis and clinical management of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 disease.

Sh. Hardeep Singh Puri appreciates aviation professionals and stakeholders for commendable efforts during Covid-19 crisis

Sh. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State, I/C, Civil Aviation appreciated aviation professionals and stakeholders for their commendable efforts during Covid-19 crisis by making life saving medical & essential supplies available to citizens across the country under Lifeline Udan. In a tweet, the Minister shared that 3,43,635 km has been covered by Lifeline Udan flights till date. 347 flights have been operated under Lifeline Udan by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private carriers. 206 of these flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air. 591.66 tons of cargo has been transported till date.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre asks Postal Department to continue their untiring efforts for serving the people during Covid-19 crisis

The Minister of State for Communications and HRD, Shri Sanjay Dhotre reviewed the initiatives taken by the Department of Posts during Covid-19 lockdown through a Video Conference. The Minister expressed satisfaction at the various measures undertaken and exhorted the Postal Department to exert itself to the utmost in the service of the Nation while observing all norms of social distancing. Shri Sanjay Dhotre further said that many government departments may also be requiring to make use of the robust delivery system of Department of Posts and inter departmental coordination can offer new opportunity to Department of Posts.

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute develops magnetic nanoparticle-based RNA extraction kit for PCR and LAMP tests for COVID-19

Chitra Magna, an innovative RNA extraction kit, has been developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an Institution of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, as an innovative technology for isolating RNA from swabs for COVID 19 tests. SARS-COV-2, the causative virus of COVID-19 pandemic, is an RNA virus-- a long single-stranded polymeric substance present in all living cells that carries the genetic information of the organism necessary for life. One of the critical steps in detecting this virus is by confirming the presence of the RNA of the virus in the sample taken from the throat or nose. The sample collected is transported under specified conditions in a viral transport medium to the testing laboratory.

Madagascar hands out 'miracle' virus cure as it lifts lockdown

Unarmed Madagascar soldiers went door-to-door in the capital Antananarivo, doling out sachets of a local herbal tea touted by President Andry Rajoelina as a powerful remedy against the novel coronavirus. Baptised Covid-Organics, the tonic is derived from artemisia - a plant with proven efficacy in treating malaria - as well as other indigenous herbs. It has been developed by the Madagascar Institute of Applied Research (IMRA) but has not been tested internationally. "This herbal tea gives results in seven days," Rajoelina announced at its official launch.

Air Mauritius goes into administration

Air Mauritius went into voluntary administration on Wednesday due to the debilitating impact of travel bans to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Administration is similar to SAA's business rescue process. With state-owned airlines South African Airways (SAA) and SA Express already in business rescue, and Comair busy restructuring, it raises the question as to how long airlines in the Southern African region would be able to hold out before any or all are liquidated.

Central Advisories and Notifications

MHA issues Order to States/UTs to allow Opening of Certain Categories of Shops, except those in Single and Multibrand Malls: Relaxations would not applicable in Hotspots/Containment Zones

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), on 15.04.2020, had issued an order to exempt certain activities under the consolidated revised guidelines to fight COVID-19, in certain areas not included in hotspots/containment zones. Giving relaxation in the

category of Commercial and private establishments, MHA has issued an order to all States/UTs, to allow opening of all shops registered under Shops & Establishment Act of respective States/ UTs, including shops in residential complexes, neighborhood & standalone shops. Shops in market complexes, except those within the limits of municipal corporations and municipalities, would be allowed to open. Shops in single & multi-brand malls would not be allowed to open anywhere. It would be mandatory for all permitted shops to open only with 50% strength of workers, ensure compulsory wearing of masks and strict adherence to social distancing norms.

Central Government constitutes Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) to make assessment of situation and augment State efforts to fight and contain spread of COVID-19 effectively

The Centre has constituted Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs), two for Gujarat and one each for Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra (area of responsibility of earlier constituted Mumbai-Pune team expanded). These teams would make on-spot assessment of situation and issue necessary directions to State Authorities for its redressal and submit their report to Central Government in larger interest of general public. Several violations of the lockdown measures have been reported, in some of the districts of the country, posing a serious health hazard and risk for spread of COVID-19, which is against general interest of public. These violations include incidents ranging from violence on frontline healthcare professionals, attacks on police personnel, violations of social distancing norms in marketplaces and opposition to setting up of quarantine centres and so on.

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Action Plan containing the Operational guidelines concerned to the transport related services in Transport Department for prevention of spread of COVID -19

In compliance to the orders issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on SOP for movement of Stranded Labour, the Transport, Roads & Buildings Department has formulated the Action plan/ Operational guidelines concerned to the transport related services of Transport Department for prevention of spread of COVID – in the State.

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 few activities related to Agriculture & Horticulture, Commercial & Private establishments and Finance sector. The



addendum also clarifies scope of certain activities which are in exempted category.

Government of Tamil Nadu: Amendment issued by Ministry of Home Affairs to provide select activities under the overall permissions

The State Government has issued amendments to the earlier issued notification, which includes operation of Homes for Children/ Disabled/ Mentally challenged etc, and addition of few facilities like research establishments dealing with agriculture & Horticulture activities, facilities for export/ import such as Pack houses, inspection and treatment facilities for seeds and horticulture produce, etc.

Government of Tamil Nadu: Expert Committee to formulate the guidelines for phased exit- Recommendations of the Committee to State Disaster Management Authority

The State Government has issued order to consider permitting the select additional activities in the non-containment zones by invoking the permission available. The order shares list of proposed items within the permitted items in the consolidated instructions issued in the Ministry of Home Affairs order.

Government of Gujarat: Matter of allowing labourers working in industrial units to come and go from the village

The Office of the Development Commissioner, Gujarat State has written to all District Development Officer informing that with due permission of collector of rural territory, labour of operational industries are to be permitted to leave the village of their residence and come back to their residence in the village after the completion of the duty. Hence, while doing this sarpanch or administrative department can check the temperature through thermal gun or check symptoms of cold or cough etc.

Export Units can re-start their business activities from 25th April: CM Gujarat

Mr. Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister, Gujarat announced export-oriented units within municipal limits will be allowed to re-start their business activities from 25th April 2020. However, these units should have export orders and should not fall in containment zones. At the same time, they are required to follow all the safety measures and need to seek an approval from the District Collector announced export-oriented units within municipal limits will be allowed to re-start their business activities from 25th April, 2020. However, these units should have export orders and should not fall in containment zones. At the same time, they are required to follow all the safety measures and need to seek an approval from the District Collector.

International Advisories and Notifications

Prohibition of outdoor movement in Seychelles extended to May 4

The Seychelles Health Authority said on Thursday that it is maintaining the extension of the prohibition of outdoor movement until May 4, four days longer than the April 30 date previously announced. Public Health Commissioner Jude Gedeon said during a weekly press conference that the additional days will ensure more time for active surveillance and monitoring.

Ramaphosa announces gradual easing of Covid-19 lockdown in South Africa

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced an easing of the nationwide lockdown in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in South Africa. He said a phased reopening of the economy will begin on May 1. Ramaphosa noted that although a lockdown remains the most effective way to limit the spread of the virus, the prosperity of South Africans would be at risk with a continued lockdown. “Nationwide lockdown cannot be sustained indefinitely,” he said. “People need to eat, earn a living and companies need to be able to produce and trade, need to generate revenue and keep people employed.”

Dubai eases movement restrictions, allows malls and offices to partially reopen

Dubai has announced that movement restrictions will be eased in the emirate, with malls and offices allowed to partially reopen provided they adhere to certain precautionary measures. The decision will be implemented from Friday, April 24, the Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management announced. The move, which coincides with the start of Ramadan follows a “careful assessment of the current situation and analysis of reports from various authorities working to combat the pandemic”, the committee said.

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