



Confederation of Indian Industry

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# COVID 19

## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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<http://www.ciicovid19update.in>

### News Update

#### PM interacts with CMs to plan ahead for tackling COVID-19; CMs provide feedback, suggest measures to meet economic challenges and boost health infrastructure

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Chief Ministers of states via video conferencing to discuss the emerging situation and plan for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the fourth such interaction of the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers, the earlier ones had been held on 20 March, 2 April and 11 April, 2020. Prime Minister underlined that the Lockdown has yielded positive results as the country has managed to save thousands of lives in the past one and a half months. Reiterating the mantra of 'do gaz doori', he said that masks and face covers will become part of our lives in the days ahead. He added that under the circumstances, everyone's aim must be rapid response.

The Chief Ministers praised the leadership of the Prime Minister during this period of crisis, and highlighted the efforts undertaken by them in containing the virus. They spoke about the need to keep a close vigil on international borders and addressing the economic challenge and ways to further boost health infrastructure. The leaders expressed gratitude towards the police force and medical staff for the exemplary work done by them in the fight against COVID-19.

#### Varanasi Smart City uses Drones to sanitize sensitive areas for controlling spread of COVID-19

Varanasi Smart City has engaged 'Garuda Aerospace Private Limited, a Chennai Based company for spraying of sanitizer in the selected areas of Varanasi City under Smart Cities Mission. Spraying of sanitizer through Drones is prioritized for Hot spots and Containment areas identified by the District Administration / Chief Medical Officer. This is followed by Isolation areas, Quarantined areas, Shelter Homes and other places where manual spraying is difficult. The areas where Drones are to be deployed is decided by a team of Varanasi Nagar Nigam officials.

### Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Nano coatings for Disposable Masks: A formidable arsenal against pathogenic COVID-19

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has approved support for large scale production of organic-Inorganic hybrid nano coatings for disposable masks developed by Jyothy Institute of Technology, Bengaluru under the DST Nano Mission. They intend to make use of the sol-gel nanotechnology to develop a functionalized organic-inorganic hybrid nanocoating based on silica nanoparticles coupled with a polymer matrix that is hydrophobic and disinfects the pathogenic virus associated with COVID-19 that comes in contact with the surface of the mask.

### CIMAP's Herbal products may boost immunity to avoid infection

Researchers at Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, has developed scientifically proven two herbal products, which can boost the immunity of the persons as well as help in alleviating the dry cough symptom generally associated with the coronavirus infection. CIMAP, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has decided to transfer the technology of its herbal products 'CIM-Paushak' and 'Herbal Cough Syrup' to the entrepreneurs and start-up companies. These two products were found to be effective in boosting the immunity of a person.

### WHO warns against 'immunity passports'

As the global death toll in the novel coronavirus pandemic soared past 200,000, the World Health Organization warned against "immunity passports" for recovered patients, seen as a possible tool for countries preparing to reopen their economies. The World Health Organization has warned governments against issuing "immunity passports" to allow people who show antibodies for coronavirus to return to work. As leaders across the world turn their focus to reopening their economies after weeks of social restrictions designed to contain the pandemic, many have been hoping to deploy some form of certificate system allowing people deemed immune to travel and work. The WHO cautioned against such plans, citing a lack of proof that anyone could be definitively labelled immune from the deadly virus. "There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from Covid-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection," the WHO said.

### European tourism needs 375 bln euros to recover

The European Travel Commission (ETC), a European tourism organization, has said that the European tourism sector needs 375 billion euros to recover from the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and to restore operations. "The European Union (EU) estimates are around 255 billion euros to help Member States recover the industry, and around 120 billion euros more for extra investment



to help entrepreneurs and operators to restore operations. With European tourism stagnating, due to restrictive measures adopted by EU Member States to try to contain the pandemic, including with limitations on travel between countries, tourism has reduced to practically 10 percent of what it was, given the total losses.

### **Italian PM announces plan to ease coronavirus lockdown**

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has said that beginning on May 4, the manufacturing, construction, and wholesale sectors can go back to work. They will be followed by retailers, museums, galleries, and libraries on May 18 and by bars, restaurants, hairdressers and beauty salons on June 1. Also beginning on May 4, people will be allowed to visit their relatives as long as they wear masks; parks and public gardens will reopen, and people will be able to go jogging or bike riding further than 200 meters from their homes, Conte said in a nationally televised speech. Conte made the remarks ahead of the end of the national lockdown on May 3, which is to be followed by what he called Phase Two.

### **China's information consumption booms in Q1**

The fast-expanding information consumption sector has played a vital role in countering the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic and advancing the stable development of China's economy during the epidemic period, according to an official. In the first quarter of 2020, the country's mobile data traffic consumption soared 39.3 percent from the same period of last year, a senior official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, told a press conference. In March alone, the average household usage of mobile traffic reached 9.5 GB, the highest level in almost a year, reflecting the rapid growth of information consumption, the official added.

### **EU's leaders agree on need for recovery fund, but details not set**

European Union leaders have agreed to prepare a recovery fund to help its member states salvage their economies, which have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, but details of the plan have yet to be worked out. EU leaders called on the European Commission to come up with a detailed plan. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said she was happy that the leaders gave her commission the task of shaping the collective response to the crisis. "We have to design a common, future-proof answer to this, to ensure the integrity and the cohesion of the single market and its shared prosperity," she told the media. She said the scale, speed and impact of the economic crisis are unprecedented in modern times, with some countries hit harder than others. "And unless we act decisively and collectively, the recovery will not be symmetric and divergences between member states will increase," she said.

### **Mideast economies take massive hit with oil price crash**

The historic crash in oil prices in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic is reverberating across the Middle East as crude-dependent countries scramble to offset losses from a key source of state revenue — and all this at a time when several of them already face explosive social unrest. The economies of all the Arab Gulf oil exporters are expected to contract this year, as much as 5% in Iraq, according to the International Monetary Fund.

### **IAF's support towards fight against COVID-19**

Indian Air Force (IAF) has stepped up its efforts to meet all the emerging requirements of the Government of India during the ongoing novel corona virus pandemic. IAF continues to airlift essential supplies of medicine and ration along with medical personnel within the country, to equip State Governments and supporting agencies to combat the contagion effectively.

### **HIL moves Indian Missions to attract JV investments in Agro-chemical projects in India**

For smooth running of its PSUs, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has taken initiatives to overcome the hurdles posed by Covid-19 pandemic and has suggested them to strengthen their performance by exploring Joint Ventures with global enterprises looking for investments. Department has taken this initiative on the directions of Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri DV Sadananda Gowda who has advised that Indian corporates especially PSUs under his Ministry should try to convert COVID-19 adversity into an opportunity of attracting investments from abroad. Following on the advice, HIL, a CPSU under the Department, is looking for expanding its business area and has sent proposals to Indian Embassies/Missions in China, Japan and South Korea for inviting interested agro-chemical manufacturers in respective countries for investment in India for business tie-up with HIL including contract manufacturing or plan-on-lease arrangement.

### **Study shows that COVID 19 may affect the Central Nervous System causing loss of smell and taste**

Scientists of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur have explored the neuroinvasive nature of the COVID 19 virus SARS-CoV-2 highlighting that loss of smell and taste of infected patients makes their entire Central Nervous System (CNS) and the underlying structures in the brain more prone to viral infection with devastating effects.



**Five out of eight Northeast States are Corona free while the other three States have not added any new Corona positive case in the last few days: Dr Jitendra Singh**

Five out of eight states in the north-east have no coronavirus cases: Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura have no coronavirus cases, Mr Singh said. The other three states have not reported any new COVID-19 cases in the last few days, the government said. Junior Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh also held a video conference with officials of the North Eastern Council (NEC) and representatives of government bodies and state-run firms. Mr Singh told reporters that in the last six years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the north-east has emerged as a model of developmental transformation, and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region has emerged as a model of effective, diligent and disciplined health management.

**Dr. Harsh Vardhan takes stock of preparedness of AIIMS Trauma Centre: Dedicated COVID-19 hospital**

The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan visited Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre (JPNATC) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi to take stock of their preparedness to overcome COVID-19 as well as witness first-hand the treatment and assistance being offered to COVID-19 patients in the Dedicated COVID Hospital.

**Production capacity of PPE coveralls ramped up to over 1 lakh per day: Government**

The government on Sunday said the production capacity of PPE coveralls required by medical personnel treating COVID-19 cases in the country has been ramped up to more than 1 lakh per day, with Bengaluru emerging as a major hub for its production. “The PPE kits are being sent to states by the Ministry of Health as per requirement. “Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Pharmaceuticals, and Ministry of Textiles are continuously working with various industry bodies, stakeholders and manufacturers on 24x7 basis, to streamline the supply chain, remove bottlenecks and maintain a steady supply of all materials required for the healthcare professionals,” an official statement said.



### **Shri Nitin Gadkari reaches out to Overseas Indian Students calling for playing a big role in converting COVID-19 Pandemic into an opportunity**

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSME Shri Nitin Gadkari has undertaken a massive outreach exercise in last few days with various sections and sectors of the society by way of webinars, video conference, and other social media platforms. This has resulted in taking communication outreach with about 1.30 crore people.

### **Railway Emergency Cell for COVID responding to about 13,000 queries, requests and suggestions everyday**

Indian Railways has taken 360-degree measures to ensure that interest of the passengers and all commercial clients are taken care of and national supply chains keep running. To arrest the spread of Covid-19, Indian Railways stopped passenger train operations during Lockdowns 1 & 2. However, this did not limit Railways' outreach to its customers and general public. Railways' initiatives to mitigate the woes of passengers, ensure timely delivery of freight, parcels and medicine supplies throughout the country has drawn appreciation from wide cross-section of people.

### **Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj issues guidelines regarding the SVAMITVA scheme, a new initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar issued guidelines regarding the SVAMITVA scheme. SVAMITVA scheme, a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India, aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India, engaging the latest Drone Surveying technology, for demarcating the inhabitant (Aabadi) land in rural areas. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar also released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding e-Gram Swaraj on the occasion.

### **Circuit breaker extension brings new round of downgrades in growth, employment**

Singapore's decision to keep most of its economy closed and people at home for another month will lower economic growth and raise job losses, said analysts. The latest cut to the gross domestic product (GDP) growth and employment outlook came from DBS Bank, following earlier downgrades by OCBC Bank, UOB Group and Maybank. DBS now expects the coronavirus-driven recession to be deeper and more protracted, with the economy shrinking 5.7 per cent this year.



### **Coronavirus: Some companies bucking trend and looking to hire now in Singapore**

While layoffs and pay cuts are becoming more common as the Covid-19 pandemic continues, some companies are bucking the trend and looking to hire. Property search portal 99.co chief executive officer Darius Cheung, for one, is preparing for when the real estate market picks up and is looking to fill positions for both fresh graduates as well as senior managers.

### **Singapore to offer the world's fastest patent application to grant.**

In conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Day 2020 celebrations themed "Innovate for a Green Future", the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) will offer a pilot programme to accelerate grants of patent applications in all technology fields to just six months, starting from 4 May 2020. The programme – the SG Patent Fast Track - is the world's fastest application-to-grant process of its kind.

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## **Central Advisories and Notifications**

### **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) Issues Guidelines for Home Isolation of very mild/pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases**

A Guidelines has been issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in addition to guidelines on appropriate management of suspect/confirmed case of COVID-19 issued by MoHFW on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. All suspected (awaiting test results) and confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease are currently being isolated and managed in a hospital setting with the intent to break the chain of transmission. As per existing guidelines, during the containment phase the patients should be clinically assigned as very mild/mild, moderate or severe and accordingly admitted to (i) COVID Care Center, (ii) Dedicated COVID Health Center or (iii) Dedicated COVID Hospital respectively. However, very mild/presymptomatic patients having the requisite facility at his/her residence for self-isolation will have the option for home isolation.

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## **State Advisories and Notifications**

### **Government of Telangana: Establishment of Multi-Specialty Hospital and Premier Medical College in the premises of Sports Hostel Building at Gachibowli**

The State Government has issued orders stating that the Sports Hostel Building at Gachibowli, Ranga Reddy District shall henceforth be called as "Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences & Research" (TIMS). It shall be developed as an



exclusive Covid-19 Hospital to begin with, and then to a Multi-Specialty Hospital and Medical Education Research Institute of National Eminence.

**Government of Andhra Pradesh: Appointment of Officer on Special Duty' (OSD) for monitoring of COVID-19 related activities.**

The State Government has issued orders on appointment of Dr. P. Jayachandra Reddy, MS, (Retd.) as “Officer on Special Duty” (OSD) for monitoring of COVID-19 related activities in Health Department Control Room.

**COVID-19 Pandemic: Payment of Salaries/Wages/Remuneration/Honorarium for month of April, 2020 payable in the month of May - Deferment of Payment - Government of Andhra Pradesh**

The State Government has issued orders that the deferred payment of Salaries/Wages/Remuneration/ Honorarium, shall continue for the month of April 2020 payable in May 2020. Further, the Government, after having considered the hardships being faced by the pensioners, hereby order for the payment of full pensions to all the categories of pensioners, as per the usual scale & procedure.

**Government of Tamil Nadu: Infection, Prevention and Control – Drug and herbal powder recommended for frontline staff and other in COVID-19 duty.**

As an important measure to develop immunity against the COVID-19 infection among the who serve the public during the present crisis, The Health and Family Welfare Department has recommended few Drug and Herbal Powder to Police personnel, Healthcare workers, and other persons who are in COVID-19 duty and persons with high risk and low risk in containment area.

**Government of Andhra Pradesh: Migrant labour stranded at Districts, SOP on deporting them to native Districts.**

To encourage migrant labour to participate in the economic activity, the State Government has issued SoP for movement of migrant labourers who want to go back to their native places and labour who want to go to other places for work.

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## International Advisories and Notifications

### Singapore, Ministry of Health: Advisory on provision of Government indemnity against claims arising from work carried out by medical practitioners and healthcare workers deployed to support Whole-of-Government (“WOG”) covid-19 efforts

Ministry of Health, Singapore has issued advisory intended for all medical practitioners and healthcare workers that have been deployed, at the request of MOH, to support WOG efforts in preventing and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

“To the extent not covered by any existing insurance, indemnity or compensation schemes, the Government of the Republic of Singapore will indemnify anything done or omitted to be done in good faith and with reasonable care by all medical practitioners and healthcare workers, in the discharge or purported discharge of their functions and duties in relation to WOG efforts to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

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