



Confederation of Indian Industry

125 Years: 1895-2020

COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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News Update

Telephone conversation between Prime Minister and State Counsellor of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The leaders discussed the evolving COVID 19 scenario in the domestic and regional contexts and updated each other on the steps being taken to control the spread of the pandemic. Underlining the importance of Myanmar as a vital pillar of India's Neighbourhood First policy, Prime Minister Modi conveyed India's readiness to provide all possible support to Myanmar for mitigating the health and economic impact of COVID 19.

Phone call between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on phone with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The two leaders discussed the regional situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and briefed each other about the steps being taken to mitigate its effects in the respective country. Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for contribution of USD 1.5 million towards SAARC COVID- 19 Emergency Fund. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina thanked Prime Minister Modi for taking lead in coordinating efforts to combat COVID 19 in the region and for supplying aid to Bangladesh, both in terms of medical supplies and capacity building.

PM Modi holds a meeting to discuss ways to boost Defence & Aerospace Sector

PM Narendra Modi held a detailed meeting to deliberate the potential reforms to ensure a robust and self-reliant defence industry in India that caters to short and long-term needs of the armed forces and initiatives to give a boost to the economy in the backdrop of COVID-19. The discussions involved reforming of the functioning of the Ordnance factories, streamlining procurement procedures,

focused resource allocation, encouraging R&D/innovation, attracting investment in critical defence technologies and promotion of exports. PM laid emphasis on positioning India among the top countries of the world in Defence and Aerospace sectors, from design to production, with active participation of public and private sector fulfilling the twin objectives of self-reliance & exports. He reviewed the proposed reforms for attracting domestic and foreign investment in defence sector.

Prime Minister holds a comprehensive meeting to discuss strategies on boosting investment in India

Shri Narendra Modi held a comprehensive meeting to discuss strategies to attract more foreign investments into India as well as to promote local investments in order to give a boost to the economy against the backdrop of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was discussed that a scheme should be developed to promote more plug and play infrastructure in the existing industrial lands/plots/estates in the country and provide necessary financing support. During the meeting, the PM directed that the action should be taken for a more proactive approach to handhold the investors, to look into their problems and help them in getting all the necessary Central and State clearances in a time bound manner. Various strategies to bring investments into India in a fast-track mode and to promote Indian domestic sectors were discussed. Detailed discussions were held on guiding states to evolve their strategies & be more proactive in attracting investments.

Country must accept the coronavirus as new normal: NR Narayana Murthy

India could see more deaths due to hunger than from the pandemic if it continues to remain in lockdown to halt the spread of COVID-19, according to Infosys Founder NR Narayana Murthy. The country must accept the coronavirus as the new normal and facilitate the return-to-work of able-bodied while protecting the most vulnerable, Murthy said.

Top Barons of Automobile Industry praise Prime Minister's leadership in dealing with COVID.

Union Minister for heavy industries and public enterprises, Shri Prakash Javadekar convened a meeting with a group of select CEOs of the Indian Automobile Industry, to understand the possible impact of COVID-19 on the Indian Automobile sector and listen to suggestions from the Industry on possible policy interventions to minimise the impact. The meeting, held through video conferencing saw suggestions ranging from reviving the sector, ensuring livelihood and mobilization of resources. Union Minister said that not only did the demands were put forth but also very concrete suggestions also came up during the course of discussions. The Industry highlighted key issues with some suggestions related to Re-opening of the entire Automotive Industry Value Chain, Support for Dealerships,



Employment support interventions, Boosting Demand and with respect to the requirement for Financial support.

Germany to provide India grants worth 20 million euros for Covid-19 response

Germany announced on Thursday that it will provide grants worth 20 million euros to support India's efforts to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19. The provision of the grants had figured in a telephone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on April 2. A statement from the German embassy's spokesperson said Germany is also ready to offer loans on favourable terms that could be used for the social protection response of the Indian government.

Indian Railways crosses 3 million mark in distribution of free meals

Distribution of free hot cooked meals by Indian Railways crossed the three million mark during the national lockdown due to COVID-19. On 20 April, 2020, Indian Railways reached 2 million mark in distribution of free meals, in last 10 days, it has accomplished a million mark in distribution of free meals.

COVID Diplomacy Takes India Closer to the Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

The COVID19 crises has hit countries hard. Both lives and livelihood has been strongly affected. In times like these, India has established itself as a good and reliable friend of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. India has helped various countries in the LAC region with critical medical supplies to fight the virus. The India missions in these countries have been doing an outstanding job in helping people to combat the virus. External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S Jaishankar, has been speaking with his counterparts in the region on this and how the countries can further their partnership, both generally and to combat COVID19. Some of the country highlights of calls are as under :

- **Brazil:** Brazilian External Affairs Minister, Mr Ernesto Araujo in his conversation with EAM, Dr S Jaishankar, stressed that Brazil and India together can contribute to the construction of a post-COVID19 international order founded on common values of democracy, national sovereignty and market economy. They also talked about deepening strategic partnership, especially in the economic and commercial area. Minister Araujo also appreciated India's key role in the supply of critical healthcare items, specifically hydroxychloroquine, and the prospects for cooperation in this area.

- **Columbia:** Colombian Foreign Minister, Ms Claudia Blum de Barberi, thanked India for including Colombia in the list of countries that will receive critical healthcare supplies and its ongoing assistance to bring back stranded Colombians in India. She also strongly agreed with EAM, Dr Jaishankar, to work together with India in the context of COVID19.
- **Peru:** External Affairs Minister of Peru, Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, informed that they are grateful for India's support in supplying of critical healthcare items to Peru. They also discussed strategies to combat COVID19 crises. EAM Dr Jaishankar highlighted the online programme of Yoga Team Lima which has been well received in Peru and indicated that India and Peru will work together for an ITEC exchange of pandemic experiences and best practices.
- **Panama:** Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, HE Dr Alejandro Ferrer López, appreciates the solidarity of India in supporting Panama in sending a shipment of medicines and medical equipment to fight COVID19 including a donation of 17 different medications to treat COVID19. EAM Dr Jaishankar, appreciated the fact that Panama wants to make India as its number 1 of its priority partners and thanked for taking care of the Indian community.
- **Uruguay:** Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, HE Dr Ernesto Talvi, thanked India for sending critical medical care items for combating COVID19. They also discussed on furthering bilateral ties, trade and investment cooperation between the two nations. EAM Dr Jaishankar also said that he is looking forward to welcoming Minister Talvi to India.

FCI moves 60 Lakh Tonnes food grains during April 2020, more than double the monthly average of 30 LMT

Food Corporation of India (FCI) moved 60 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) food grains in the month of April 2020 surpassing the highest ever single month movement of 38 LMT achieved during March 2014 by 57%. This is more than two times the normal monthly average of about 30 LMT. The quantity includes road movement of about 1 LMT to Kashmir valley and Leh/Ladakh as well as about 0.81 LMT to north eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. About 0.1 LMT stocks was also moved to the islands of Andaman and Lakshadweep by sea.

G20 Digital Ministers Summit calls for coordinated global Digital response to fight the pandemic

An Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting was convened to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and to forge a global coordinated response harnessing Digital Technologies. India emphasized on responsibility of G20 nations to focus on making inclusive and sustainable economies and societies. G20 Digital Economy Task Force COVID-19 Ministerial Statement called for a coordinated global Digital response to fight

the pandemic, adopting measures to strengthen Communication infrastructure and network connectivity, Non-personal data exchange in a secured manner, use of Digital Solutions for Healthcare, cyber secured world and measures to strengthen resilience of businesses.

EPFO makes filing of ECR easier for business

In the current scenario of lockdown announced by the Govt. to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and other disruptions, the businesses and enterprises are not able to function normally and are facing liquidity / cash crunch to pay their statutory dues even though they are retaining the employees on their rolls. Keeping in view the above situation and to further ease the compliance procedure under EPF & MP Act, 1952, the filing of monthly Electronic-Challan cum Return (ECR) is separated from Payment of the statutory contributions reported in the ECR.

Startup body tells Piyush Goyal, DPIIT to exempt Chinese VCs from FDI curbs; set up emergency fund

Startup Association of India has urged Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra to set-up a Rs 25,000 crore Startup India Fund on a priority basis as the domestic pool of venture capital remains negligible. They have also written to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra to exempt Chinese venture capital investments, from the FDI's government approval route, into Indian startups that have been "immensely supported" and raised over \$8 billion from Chinese investors. "Government should at least exempt DPIIT-registered startups. The US and European investors will become very conservative ahead to put the money elsewhere than their own country due to the Covid impact.

Serum Institute to Make Crores Of Potential Coronavirus Vaccine Doses

The Serum Institute of India said on Tuesday it plans this year to produce up to 6 crore doses of a potential vaccine against the new coronavirus that is under clinical trial in Britain. Serum, the world's largest maker of vaccines by volume, is mass-producing the vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford, which started testing it on humans last week, and is a leader in the global race to develop an antidote to the novel coronavirus.

SERB approves funding for study of mathematical & simulation aspects of COVID 19

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has approved funding for 11 projects under MATRICS scheme for studying Mathematical modelling and computational aspects to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata (SNBNCBS) develops Nanomedicine to alter oxidative stress for better immune power to treat viral infections including COVID-19

Scientists at S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata (SNBNCBS) has developed a safe and cost-effective nanomedicine that promises treatment of several diseases by altering oxidative stress in the body. The research may provide a ray of hope in India's fight against COVID-19, as the nanomedicine can decrease or increase reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the body, depending on the situation and cure the disease.

CSIR identifies top 25 drugs/drug candidates for Repurposing; Favipiravir a broad-spectrum inhibitor of viral RNA polymerase emerges as one of the most promising drugs

CSIR has been leading the fight against Covid19 epidemic on multiple fronts, with major emphasis on repurposed drugs as they can be quickly deployed for treatment as opposed to new drugs which need almost a decade of development. Globally many drugs are under clinical trials on Coronavirus patients to establish their efficacy against Covid19.

Towards providing drugs for Coronavirus patients in India, CSIR has identified the top 25 drugs/drug candidates for repurposing. Among these top 25 drugs, Favipiravir a broad-spectrum inhibitor of viral RNA polymerase has emerged as one of the most promising drugs. Favipiravir was developed by Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Ltd., and is an approved treatment for common influenza and is marketed in Russia, China and Japan.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan interacts with Civil Society Organizations/NGOs via Video Conferencing

Dr. Harsh Vardhan expressed gratitude on behalf of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Health and Family welfare over the selfless work done by more than 92,000 NGOs in terms of providing food and other necessities to different sections of society. He appreciated the contribution of these organizations as vital in the management of COVID-19. He also highlighted that such work by these institutions also inspired other people to come forward and contribute.



DPIIT Control Room playing a pivotal role in monitoring the issues of Industry and Trade, and solving the difficulties faced by various stakeholders during the lockdown period

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had set-up a Control Room w.e.f 26.3.2020 to monitor the issues of Industry and Trade and take up such matters with the concerned State Government, District and Police Authorities and other concerned agencies. 89% of queries have been resolved/settled. Regular Monitoring and review by the Minister, Secretary and senior Officers has helped in expeditious resolution. Telephone number is 01123062487 and email is controlroom-dpiit@gov.in.

DST launches programme on health & risk communication with focus on COVID-19

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19. It is a comprehensive and effective science and health communication effort for promoting grass-root level appreciation and response on health and would help saving and shaping the lives of people at large, as well as build confidence, inculcate scientific temper and promote health consciousness among them.

Union Agriculture Minister says the Government accords highest priority to agriculture sector even during the lockdown period

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has said the Government has accorded highest priority to the farming and agriculture sector even during the lockdown period. As a result, he said, there has been no shortage of food grains and pulses across the country while the Government has also ensured availability of vegetables and milk supplies.

AarogyaSetu app reaches around 8 crore mobile phones in the country

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad exhorted the Electronics Industry to explore the new opportunities that are arising out of the adversity and make the country the global hub of electronics manufacturing. During a meeting with Electronics Industry Associations, Chambers and prominent Industry players, he requested the electronics industry to take advantage of the opportunity and new Schemes notified by the Ministry, attract global investment and strengthen the sector. He emphasized the role of Medical Electronics Industry that is at a point of a complete turnaround.

Over 3,25,000 people are using “Janaushadhi Sugam” Mobile App to access Janaushadhi kendras

Amid the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak, government's Janaushadhi Sugam mobile application is helping people to locate their nearest Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) and the availability of affordable generic medicine.

The mobile application was developed by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and provides a digital platform at the tip of their fingers. Over 3,25,000 people are using the application to avail the host of benefits provided by it.

The users can avail a host of user-friendly options like locate nearby Janaushadhi kendra, direction guided through Google Map for location of the Janaushadhi kendra, search Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of Generic and Branded medicine in the form of MRP and overall Savings, etc.

Agra Smart city monitors COVID-19 hot-spots using GIS dashboard

Agra Smart City has created a GIS dashboard which will show various hotspots, heat map, positive cases, recovered cases etc. The dashboard updated on daily basis can be accessed through a link .

Microwave steriliser to disintegrate novel Coronavirus developed

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, a deemed university supported by Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a microwave steriliser named as '**ATULYA**' to disintegrate (COVID-19). The virus gets disintegrated by differential heating in the range of 56 to 60 Celsius temperatures. The product is cost effective solution, which can be operated in portable or fixed installations. This system was tested for human/operator safety and has been found to be safe. Depending upon size and shape of various objects, time of sterilisation is from 30 seconds to one minute.

National Testing Agency (NTA) extends / revises dates for submission of online application forms for various examinations

In view of the hardships faced by the parents and the students due to COVID-19 epidemic, Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' advised National Testing Agency (NTA) to extend / revise the dates for submission of online application forms for various examinations. Accordingly, the National Testing Agency has further extended/ revised the dates of submission of Online Application Forms for various Examinations.

Social Distancing Is the Most Potent Vaccine Available Right Now': Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan

NITI Aayog organized an interactive live session with Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations. The session was moderated by CEO Amitabh Kant. Lauding the excellent, selfless work done by NGOs and CSOs in battling the Covid-19 war, the Health Minister appealed for their assistance during the continuance of the lockdown. He appreciated their meticulous efforts to ensure the well-being of Indian citizens. He spoke at length on the issue of stigmatization of Covid-positive patients and frontline workers who are engaged in battling this war. 'Regularly washing your hands and faces and wearing a mask at all times will protect you and your loved ones from getting this infection. These are simple precautions. Take care of elders at home, especially because they are more vulnerable. Stay at home, work from home. Till the time we find a vaccine for this, social distancing aided by the national lockdown is the most potent social vaccine for us', Dr Harsh Vardhan said.

415 flights operated under Lifeline Udan to support India's fight against Covid-19

415 flights have been operated under Lifeline Udan by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private carriers. 241 of these flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air. Cargo transported till date is around 779.86 tons. Aerial distance covered by Lifeline Udan flights till date is over 4,07,139 km. 'Lifeline Udan' flights are being operated by MoCA in domestic sector to transport essential medical cargo to remote parts of the country to support India's war against COVID-19.

Central Advisories and Notifications

MHA Do Ltr Dt. 30.4.2020 to Chief Secretaries and Administrators to allow unhindered movement of trucks carrying goods

In continuation to the earlier order dt 15 April 2020, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories to allow movement of all trucks / carriers with two drivers and one helper, subject to the driver carting a valid driving license. An empty truck will be allowed to ply after the delivery of goods or pick up of the goods. This, he mentioned in the letter, was necessary for maintaining the Supply chain of Goods and services across the country during the lockdown period.

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Action Plan for operationalization of revised guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The State Government has issued “Consolidated Revised Guidelines” incorporating certain relaxations and stated that to mitigate hardship to the public, select additional activities will be allowed, which will come into effect from 20th April, 2020 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The order issued mentions about the activities that will be functional pertaining to the Agriculture & Cooperation Department, as per the Revised Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Instructions for conducting Toddy Tapping operations during the period of COVID-19 Lockdown

The State Government has instructed the District Collectors/Managing Director, A.P. Toddy Tappers Cooperative Finance Corporation Ltd., Vijayawada, to enable the Toddy Tappers for conducting Toddy Tapping operations, during the period of COVID-19 Lockdown duly following physical distancing norms and other measures as enshrined in the COVID - 19 protocol.

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

In continuation to the Order issued the State Government and the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the State Executive Committee Chairperson has issued orders on inclusion of few activities related to movement of people in the consolidated revised guidelines.

Government of Punjab: Regarding quarantine facilities for resident of the State returning from outside of the State.

The State Government has issued a note stating that Government of India has allowed residents stranded in other States of India to return back shortly. Districts in Punjab have created ‘Dedicated Quarantine Facilities’ to house these people. The memo also clarifies that in case the Dedicated Quarantine Facilities fall short for the person to be quarantined, then in that case the District Administration may use 50% of the capacities of the CCCs identified by them for quarantine purpose.

Chhattisgarh Government allows movement of stranded migrant workers, students, tourists and pilgrims with conditions



Following the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order allowing the movement of migrant workers, tourists, students and others stranded at various places, the Government of Chhattisgarh issued a note to facilitate inter-state movement of stranded people including migrant labourers with certain conditions.

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