



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

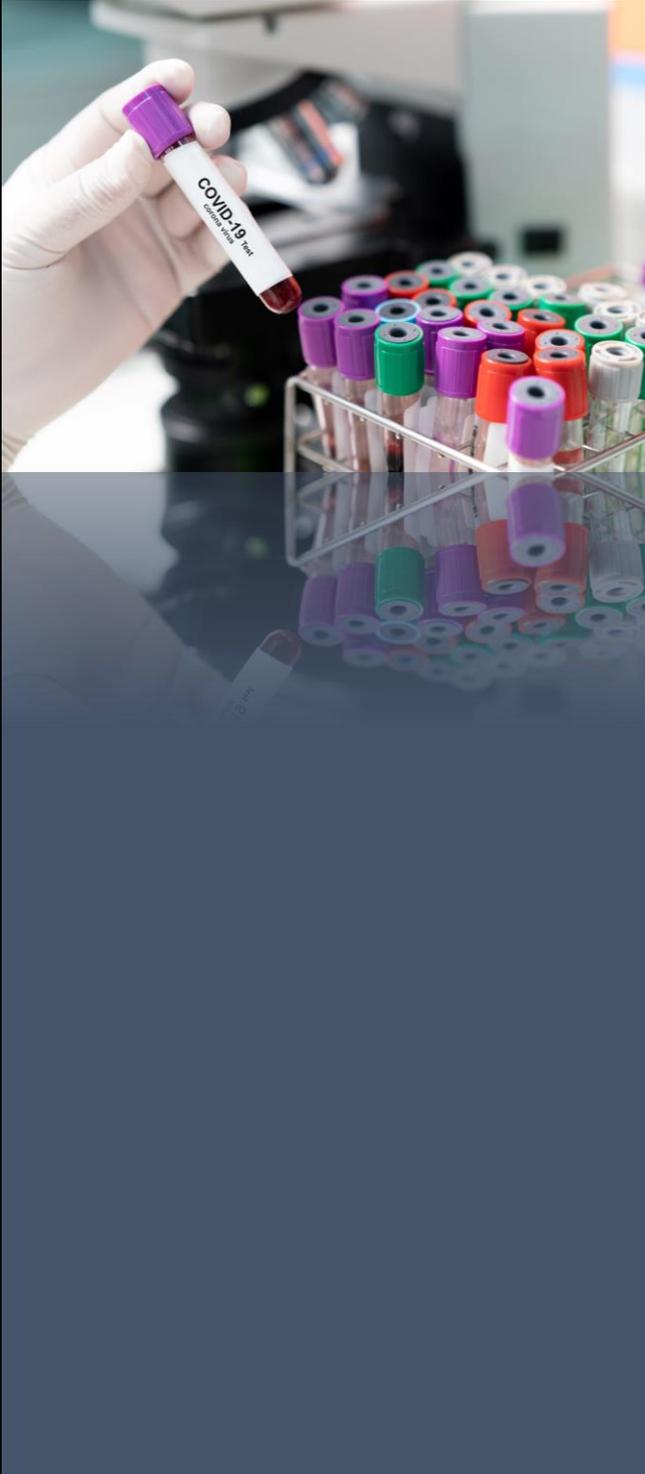
COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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PM interacts with CMs to strategize ahead for tackling COVID-19; Chief Ministers suggest extension of Lockdown by two weeks

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Chief Ministers of all states via video conferencing to strategize ahead for tackling COVID-19. This was the third such interaction of the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers, the earlier ones had been held on 2 April and 20 March 2020. Prime Minister observed that the combined effort of the Centre and the States has helped reduce the impact of COVID-19 but since the situation is rapidly evolving, constant vigilance is paramount. He emphasized the criticality of coming 3-4 weeks for determining the impact of the steps taken till now to contain the virus. He suggested specific measures for agriculture and allied sector including modification of APMC laws to facilitate sale of farm produce. He condemned attacks on health professionals and incidents of misbehavior with students from North-East and Kashmir and assured that the country has adequate supplies of essential medicines. He also gave a stern message against black marketing and hoarding. He also marked a shift in tackling the pandemic, from saving lives to saving both lives and the economy as the lockdown has put severe stress on businesses. The Council of Ministers has been asked to resume work from Monday.





[G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting](#)

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, participated in the G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual Meeting on 10th April 2020. The meeting was called by Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as the G20 Presidency, and chaired by Saudi Arabia Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz. The meeting was attended by Energy Ministers of G20 countries, guest countries and heads of international organizations including OPEC, IEA and IEF. The G20 Energy Ministers' focused on ways and means to ensure stable energy markets, which are affected due to demand reduction as result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing surplus production -related matters.

[India asks US to extend H-1B, other visas of citizens stranded over Covid-19](#)

Following the sharp economic downturn and suspension of business operations triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of US firms employing H-1B visa holders have laid off numerous employees. The Indian government has asked the US to extend the validity of visas, including H-1B and other types of visas, held by Indian nationals who have been hit by the Covid-19-related economic slump, people familiar with developments said on Friday. Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla took up the matter during his telephone conversation with US deputy secretary of state Stephen Biegun on Wednesday, when the two sides also discussed ways to enhance cooperation to counter the pandemic and ensure the availability of essential medicines and equipment.

[IAF'S Support Towards Fight Against Coronavirus](#)

Indian Air Force (IAF) continues to be ready 24 x 7 to undertake any task for complementing the efforts of the Govt of India to contain the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. All efforts are being made to ensure timely delivery of the essential medical supplies and ration to the nodal points of various States, thereby equipping the State governments and supporting agencies to combat the contagion effectively and efficiently.

[Government approves life insurance for more than one lakh FCI employees in case of death due to COVID-19](#)

The Government has approved the proposal for grant of life insurance cover to 1,08,714 workers and officers of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) including 80,000 labour who are working 24x7 to supply food grains across the country amidst the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.

[Around 2,000 NCC cadets employed and 50,000 more volunteered to contribute in fight against COVID-19](#)

National Cadet Corps (NCC) volunteer cadets are helping civil administration by working shoulder to shoulder with civil, defence and police personnel under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan' in fight against Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic since April 01, 2020. Around 2,000 cadets



have already been employed in 12 states and union territories with maximum deployment in Tamil Nadu where 306 of them are performing various duties.

[Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan- Delhi Region has taken several initiatives for taking learning to the students in Covid-19 situation](#)

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has advised the heads of all academic institutions of the country to make optimum use of digital platforms with the objective of making fruitful usage of children's time and keeping abreast with the academic calendar. He said that HRD Ministry is committed to ensure safety and academic welfare of students of the country. Keeping in view the suggestion of the HRD Ministry, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Regional Office Delhi Region took the initiative of creating IDs on Facebook and YouTube to begin online classes in all subjects for the students of class VI to XII.

[COVID-19 and the Effects on Supply Chains in Vietnam](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed global trade and disrupted supply chains. As China shut factories, it resulted in a ripple effect battering global supply chains with businesses struggling to source raw inputs. This has particularly affected Vietnam, which relies on China for importing raw materials for its industries while also exporting to the country.

[DST funded startup develops kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections & gears up for vaccine production](#)

Seagull Bio Solutions, a startup working on new biological technologies, is being funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), to undertake the development of Active Virosome (AV)-Vaccine and Immunodiagnostic kits for COVID-19 emergency. Active Virosome Technology (AVT) developed by Seagull Bio is useful to produce vaccines & immunotherapeutic agents. The AVT platform is useful for producing novel, non-hazardous & economical Active Virosome agents expressing desired antigens from the target pathogen. These will be used to develop an oral vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 infection and immunodiagnostic ELISA kits for COVID-19.

[EPFO puts in place Online Mechanism to credit EPF and EPS Accounts of Subscribers as per PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojna](#)

Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), a statutory body under Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, has put in place an electronic mechanism for crediting EPF and EPS accounts of its subscribers as per the package announced by the Union Government under PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojna for helping the poor to fight Corona pandemic. Around 79 Lakh Subscribers and approximately 3.8 Lakh Establishments would benefit from this subsidy outgo which is estimated at Rs 4800 Crore for 3 months.

[Exploring novel blood plasma therapy for COVID-19; The treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person](#)



Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) an Institution of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology has obtained a go-ahead for taking a bold step to provide innovative treatment to patients suffering from COVID-19 disease. Technically called “convalescentplasmatherapy”, the treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person. Indian council for medical research (ICMR) the top authorising body in India has given approval to the SCTIMST for carrying out the novel treatment.

[India implements strictest lockdown in the world, lags testing](#)

A comparative grid of policy measures implemented by countries to contain the spread of novel coronavirus shows that India has the strictest lockdown in the world. A tracker, based on data from 73 countries, that calculates governments' response to Covid-19 has identified India's response as one of the most stringent in the world.

[Indian industries respond enthusiastically to TDB's invitation for proposals for fighting COVID 19](#)

The Indian industry and the start-up ecosystem have responded enthusiastically to the invitation by the Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), for proposals from Indian companies and enterprises for supporting technologically innovative solutions towards fighting COVID-19.

[Initiatives of Department of Agriculture to facilitate the farmers and farming activities at field level during the lock down period](#)

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 lock down period. During the lockdown period the efforts have been made to use CROP software of Secretariat of Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC) through Virtual Private Network (VPN) to facilitate issuance of Certificates etc. through work from home by the Experts/ Officials. During the period till date, CIB&RC have issued 33 Nos. of Import permits for import of more than 1.25 lakh metrictons of various chemicals. 189 certificates for exports have also been issued to facilitate exports of pesticides. APEDA has put in lot of efforts and issues related to transportation, curfew passes, packaging units are being resolved. Exports of all major products has started.

[NIPER-Guwahati designs innovative 3D products to fight COVID-19](#)

Researchers at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research - Guwahati (NIPER-G) have come out with two products that promise to be of great help in the fight against the current pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 infection in the world. The first product is a 3D-printed hands-free object that could be used to help open or close doors, windows, drawers (both vertical and horizontal), and refrigerator handle, or press elevator buttons, and laptop/desktop keyboards, including turning the switch buttons on/off. The second product is a



3D-printed antimicrobial face-shield to control the spread of novel coronavirus. It was designed after a thorough study to understand how viruses spread through oral, ophthalmic, olfactory and other body cavities.

[OFB units in UP and Tamil Nadu get NABL nod to test fabric for manufacturing of coveralls in fight against COVID-19](#)

In a significant development, two units of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) namely the Small Arms Factory (SAF) Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and the Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) Avadi in Tamil Nadu (TN) have been granted accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for conducting the 'Test for Blood Penetration Resistance' today as the test equipment manufactured by them met the ASTM F 1670:2003 and ISO 16603:2004 standards. The equipment was developed by a number of Ordnance Factories in a competitive mission mode in a record time of a fortnight.

[Overcoming lockdown restrictions, sowing of Summer Crops continues uninterrupted Sown area of summer crops rises significantly, pushed up by rice cultivation](#)

Sowing of the Summer Crops has progressed satisfactorily despite the difficulties experienced due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the 21-day lockdown effective since 24th March midnight to fight the COVID-19 disease. Statistics compiled by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare as on 10th April, 2020 reveal that the total area under the Summer Crops (including Rice, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and Oil Seeds) cultivation has jumped significantly, registering 11.64 lakh hectare increase over last year, overcoming the restrictions and social distancing norms witnessed since last month, particularly after the lockdown w.e.f. 25th March, 2020. As against a total cultivated area of 37.12 lakh ha in the year 2018-19, the summer crops have been sown in an area of 48.76 lakh ha this year, 2019-20. The normal area of corresponding week in the last year was 41.81 lakh ha as on 10th April.

[Railway personnel respond to over 2,05,000 queries in first two weeks of lockdown](#)

In order to assist railway passengers, other citizens and help resolve issues in freight operations, Indian Railways has up-scaled the helpline facilities after declaration of Lockdown. Since its inception a few days back, the facility has become a huge management success so much so that Railway personnel have responded to over 2,05,000 queries in first two weeks of lockdown on designated communication platforms, 90% (over 1,85,000) of which were handled through direct human interaction over the phone.

[TRIFED asks State Nodal Departments & Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement from available funds under 'MSP for MFP scheme'](#)

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has asked the State Nodal Departments and Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the available funds under MSP for MFP Scheme.



[TRIFED offers Supply of Masks made by TRIFED Artisans/SHGs, Van Dhan Beneficiaries & NGOs for basic safety from Corona Virus](#)

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been working with the Tribal artisans, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Van Dhan Beneficiaries and NGOs etc. for providing marketing support of their handloom, handicraft and natural products. In the current circumstances some of these suppliers have started making masks at their homes to help themselves and their community members from this ongoing pandemic. These suppliers have conveyed their willingness to help the Government by way of supplying masks along with their capacities and rates which they are making mostly from their homes.

[ICMR issues list of operational Government Laboratories](#)

The Indian Council of Medical Research has issued a list of total operational (initiated independent testing) Government Laboratories reporting to ICMR in 33 States and Union Territories. These include 146 testing Centres and 3 collection sites

[ICMR: Protocol for approving a COVID-19 Testing Facility in view of National Emergency](#)

Indian Council of Medical Research has issued a note that it would be willing to facilitate establishment of a full- fledged COVID-19 testing facility in all Government colleges and Private Medical Colleges and they would be considered fit for assessment if they meet the basic requirement.

Central Advisories and Notifications

[MHA directs all States/UTs to provide necessary Police Security to Doctors and Medical Staff fighting COVID-19](#)

In view of reported incidents of harassment of Doctors and Medical Staff, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed all States/UTs and respective Police authorities to provide necessary Police Security to them in hospitals and at places where patients who have been diagnosed COVID-19 positive or where suspected cases are quarantined. It has also been communicated to provide necessary police security to doctors and medical staff who visit places to conduct screening of people to find out symptoms of the disease.

[MHA issues 5th Addendum to exempt Operations of Marine Fishing/Aquaculture Industry and its Workers from Lockdown Restrictions to fight COVID-19](#)

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an addendum to the consolidated guidelines to all Ministries/Departments. The 5th addendum exempts from lockdown restrictions the



operations of the Fishing (Marine)/Aquaculture Industry, including feeding and maintenance, harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing; hatcheries, feed plants, commercial aquaria, movement of fish/ shrimp and fish products, fish seed/feed and workers for all these activities.

[Telemedicine Guidelines Approved for Homoeopathic Practitioners](#)

Minister of State (I/C) Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik announced the approval of the Telemedicine guidelines for homoeopathic practitioners and emphasised on the need to mobilise the AYUSH workforce to align with the COVID taskforce if the need arises. He was speaking at an international webinar organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) under the Ministry of AYUSH on World Homoeopathy Day,

State Advisories and Notifications

[Government of Kerala issues order regarding working of food processing units](#)

The Government of Kerala has issued order regarding the food processing/manufacturing units of essential food items shall be allowed to function throughout the day. However, it should be ensured that these units' function with minimum staff observing all other restrictions/regulations connected with the containment of COVID-19, including the 'Break the Chain' campaign.

[Government of Gujarat issues clarification regarding presence of workforce engaged in Essential Services](#)

The Government clarified that during the lockdown period, owners of the organization engaged in essential services can take strict actions including the pay cut against the employees not resuming work as required by the organization. Organisations are to ensure the necessary arrangement as per the guidelines of Government for social distancing, cleaning and screening etc.

International Advisories and Notifications

[Italy PM extends lockdown as COVID-19 death toll rises over 18,800](#)

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Friday extended a nationwide lockdown to contain the coronavirus until May 3 in the country which has reported over 18,800 COVID-19 deaths.

[Click here to download the complete document](#)



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