



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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[Telephone Conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation today with His Majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Prime Minister conveyed his greetings to His Majesty and the people of Jordan for the forthcoming Holy month of Ramadan. The two leaders discussed the challenges posed to the world by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps being taken in their respective countries to limit its impact. They agreed to support each other's efforts to the maximum possible extent, by sharing information and best practices and by facilitating needed supplies.

[Telephone Conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bhutan](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on phone today with H.E. Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister (Lyongchen) of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The two Prime Ministers discussed the regional situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and updated each other about the steps being taken by their governments to control its effects. Prime Minister expressed his admiration for the way His Majesty The King of Bhutan and Lyongchen Dr. Tshering are leading from the front to limit the spread of infection within the Kingdom. Lyongchen Dr. Tshering thanked Prime Minister for taking the lead to promote anti-COVID coordination at the regional level, even while fighting the pandemic within a large and complex country like India. The leaders expressed happiness at the progress made in implementing the special arrangements agreed on 15 March between the leaders of the SAARC countries.



[Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee \(IMFC\) of the IMF through video-conference](#)

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended through video-conference the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The discussions at the meeting were based on IMF Managing Director's Global Policy Agenda titled, "Exceptional Times – Exceptional Action". The members of the IMFC updated the committee on the actions and measures taken by member countries to combat COVID-19 and made observations on IMF's crisis-response package to address global liquidity and members' financing needs.

[Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews efforts of Cantonment Boards in fight against COVID-19](#)

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the preventive measures undertaken by 62 Cantonment Boards situated in all over the country to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Shri Rajnath Singh was also informed that Chief Executive Officers of CBs are maintaining regular liaison with district administrations and Local Military Authorities (LMAs). Director General Defence Estates (DGDE), Smt Deepa Bajwa gave an overview of the ongoing actions in all cantonments, inter alia, maintenance of essential services of sanitation, medical services, and water supply

[Government of India Gives 4 Months' Rental Waiver to the IT Companies Operating from Software Technology Parks of India \(STPI\) Centers](#)

In view of the challenges thrown by COVID19 outbreak and consequent lockdown, the Government took a major decision to provide relief from payment of rental to the small IT units operating out of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). Most of these units are either Tech MSMEs or startups. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has decided to provide rental waiver to these units housed in STPI premises in the country from 01.03.2020 till 30.06.2020 i.e. for 4 months period as of now.

[Indian Council of Medical Research 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 176 testing Centers and 3 collection sites.



[As Part of PMGKY Package EPFO Settles 3.31 Lakh COVID-19 Claims in 15 Days; About Rs 950 Crore Disbursed](#)

The provision notified on 28th March 2020, for a special withdrawal from the EPF Scheme to tide over the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) package, has provided timely relief to the working class of the nation. Since the introduction of this program, in just 15 days, Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has processed 3.31 lakh claims disbursing an amount of Rs. 946.49 crores. In addition, Rs. 284 crore have been distributed by the exempted PF Trusts under this scheme. Under this provision, non-refundable withdrawal to the extent of the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75% of the amount standing to member's credit in the EPF account, whichever is less, is admissible. The member can apply for lesser amount also. This being an advance, does not attract income tax deductions.

[Amid COVID-19 Pandemic Department of Fertilizers is closely monitoring the production, movement and availability of Fertilizers in the country to ensure sufficiency of Fertilizers to the Farmers](#)

To deal with the turbulent situation arising out of COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is closely monitoring and reviewing the production and distribution activities of fertilizers in the country. The interventions at highest level in Department is ensuring required availability of fertilizers to the farmers across India. The real time monitoring by the Department is being done to tide over any issue in the production and supply chain. There is complete coordination with various agencies at the Centre and the State/UT administration to ensure the adequate Fertilizer availability.

[Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology \(DST\), makes confirmatory tests results of COVID 19 possible in 2 hours](#)

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed a diagnostic test kit that can confirm COVID19 in 2 hours at low cost. The confirmatory diagnostic test, which detects the N Gene of SARS- COV2 using reverse transcriptase loop-mediated amplification of viral nucleic acid (RT-LAMP), will be one of the world's first few if not the first of its kinds in the world. The tests performed at NIV Alappuzha (authorized by ICMR) show that Chitra GeneLAMP- N has 100% accuracy and match with test results using RT-PCR. This has been intimated to ICMR, the authority to approve it, for COVID-19 testing in India, following which License needs to be obtained from CDSCO for manufacture.



[DRDO shifts PPE testing facility from DRDE Gwalior to INMAS Delhi](#)

To overcome the time delays and swift delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and masks, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has shifted testing facility from Defence Research Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior to Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi.

[FCI moved more than double of its average food grains across the country during the lockdown](#)

Running the largest food grain supply chain system for public distribution in the world during the country wide lockdown is the challenge taken up by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in a testing environment. The entire workforce of FCI has been engaged with this task over the last 22 days and has delivered results in every aspect of the operations.

[Gram Panchayats in all parts of the country actively taking measures to check the spread of COVID-19 in rural areas](#)

District administrations and Gram Panchayats across the country are proactively taking various measures to check the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country's hinterland. Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India remains in close coordination with State Governments, District authorities and Gram Panchayats to ensure that lockdown conditions are not violated, and norms of social distancing are scrupulously followed.

[Inactivated virus vaccine in focus for novel coronavirus](#)

Researchers from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have embarked upon developing an inactivated virus vaccine for the dreaded novel coronavirus. Inactivated vaccines are known for their safety and easy production. Vaccination is thought to be the most effective and sure way to arrest the progress and deadly effect of this virus. Various organisations across the world are working towards finding a vaccine and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has listed more than 42 promising candidates currently under development.

[MoS Agriculture, Shri Kailash Choudhary inaugurates Pusa Decontamination & Sanitizing Tunnel](#)

Pusa Decontamination and Sanitizing Tunnel, developed by Division of Agricultural Engineering, ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary. The sanitization protocol includes hand washing with foot-operated soap and water dispenser and fogging in a sanitizing tunnel for 20 seconds. In this tunnel, Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QAC) are used at concentration of 0.045%, which is recommended by the Health Department.



[Thailand BOI Approves Steps to Ease COVID-19 Impact, Accelerate Investment in Medical Sector](#)

The Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI) today approved a series of measures to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak on business, including steps to encourage rapid investment in the manufacturing of medical equipment. The board also approved incentives to promote technology-based “smart farming” solutions as well as research and development in a broader range of sectors.

[Union Agriculture Minister chairs the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 through video conference; States should aim to achieve the kharif target and take up doubling of farmers’ income in mission mode](#)

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has said that all States should aim to achieve the kharif target and doubling of farmers’ income should be taken up in mission mode. Addressing the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 through video conference, he assured the States that the Government of India will remove any obstacles that the States are facing. The main aim of the National Kharif Conference was to discuss various issues and list out steps in consultation with the States about preparedness for Kharif cultivation in view of the lockdown situation.

[IMF fears worst recession since 1930s.](#)

With the International Monetary Fund predicting the worst global downturn since the 1930s, China has deployed an additional policy response to address the slowdown caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic and facilitate economic recovery through incentivizing bank lending and stabilizing corporate hiring. The IMF said the global economy is projected to contract by 3 percent this year, and the COVID-19 pandemic would send global growth into its deepest recession.

[IEA predicts ‘worst year in the history’ of oil sector](#)

As per International Energy Agency, the coronavirus outbreak will slash global oil demand in 2020 to erase a decade of growth and set up “the worst year in the history” of the sector.

[Fed says US economy contracts sharply across all regions due to COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

The Federal Reserve said Economic activity “contracted sharply and abruptly” across all regions in the United States as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. The Fed in its survey on economic conditions, mentioned that the hardest-hit industries were leisure and hospitality and retail aside from essential goods; because of social distancing measures and mandated closures.



[European nations voice backing, commitment to WHO after Trump's decision to halt funding.](#)

The decision of US President to halt funding to the World Health Organisation triggered a wave of criticism from European nations, as well as a joint call solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU and various European nations have expressed support and commitment to the International Organisation responsible for global public health.

[Qatar's Supreme Committee for Crisis Management launches portal for contributions as help comes in cash and kind](#)

With Qatar deploying significant resources to contain the spread coronavirus, the civilian society, too, has joined in the fight with contributions in cash and kind. To appreciate the gesture, Qatar has launched a web portal to record all such contributions.

[Saudi Arabia allocates SR50 billion \(USD 13 billion approx\) for support to private sector](#)

Saudi Arabia has allocated SR50 billion (USD 13 billion approx) to support the private sector as part of its package of initiatives approved by King Salman on 15 April aimed at mitigating economic repercussions from the coronavirus disease. The package targets small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and economic activities that have been most affected by the pandemic.

[Singapore to receive essential items to battle Covid-19 from New Zealand under trade declaration](#)

Food and other essential items will be landing in Singapore from New Zealand next week under a new trade declaration launched earlier this week. Both nations have pledged to ensure the continued production and flow of essential items for the combating of the Covid-19 pandemic through their sea and airports.

[Updates on COVID-19](#)

Government of India is taking several steps for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 through a collective effort with the States/UTs. These are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level. Dr. Harsh Vardhan was apprised that WHO officers working at district level are doing technical coordination for the development of Micro Plans for clusters



and outbreak containment with States/UT officials and helping them in devising a strategy for continued surveillance of districts.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan also held an interaction with Indian industry leaders organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) where he thanked them for contributing to the PM-CARES fund. He assured them that the Government is aware of the difficulties faced by them and allayed their concerns with respect to measures being undertaken for revival of the economy. He also encouraged them to make best use of the Make in India opportunities in healthcare posed by COVID-19 so that the country comes out more resilient and self-reliant in providing critical health care equipment. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued a detailed guideline to all the States / UTs on enabling delivery of essential health care services to meet the unprecedented demand on the current healthcare system during the outbreak.

Over 1.51 Crore free LPG cylinders distributed so far to the PMUY beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

More than 1.51 Crore free LPG cylinders have been distributed so far to the PMUY beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) in this month. Under the PMGKY, several relief measures have been announced by the central Government for the welfare of poor, and one of the important component of the Yojana is to provide 3 LPG cylinders (14.2 kg) free to over 8 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) over the period of April to June 2020. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan appreciated the sincerity and hard work of LPG delivery boys.

Power CPSU NTPC utilising all its 45 hospitals/health units for treating Covid-19 Patients; The PSU dedicates two hospitals to state governments to tackle COVID cases in Delhi & Odisha

Expediting its vigil against the global pandemic of COVID-19, NTPC has already utilised its 45 hospitals/health units to make isolation facilities and procured the requisite equipment for the medical staff to handle such cases effectively. About 168 isolation beds, with oxygen supply, have been created across all hospitals/health units and an additional 122 beds can be made available on need basis. Two hospitals have been made ready for use by state governments to tackle COVID cases including the hospital at Badarpur in Delhi and medical college hospital of Sundergarh at Odisha.



Central Advisories and Notifications

[Cabinet Secretary writes to all States/ UTs to ensure Safety, Shelter and Food Security of Migrant Labourers](#)

Cabinet Secretary has written to all States/UTs to ensure effective implementation of detailed guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for ensuring safety, shelter and food security of migrant labourers. The Communication urges States to direct all District Collectors to immediately undertake a review of the situation. They may appoint nodal officers, if not already appointed, for coordinating and monitoring the issues related to migrant labourers. In metropolitan areas, Municipal Commissioners may be assigned the responsibility of implementation of welfare measures.

[Central Government issues Notifications allowing Health and Motor \(Third Party\) insurance policyholders to make premium payments till 15 May which are due for renewal during COVID-19 lockdown](#)

With a view to mitigate hardship to the policyholders whose Health and Motor (Third Party) insurance policies are due for renewal during COVID-19 lockdown, the Central Government issued Notifications allowing such policyholders to make premium payments till May 15th. This will ensure a continued cover and hassle-free claims payment during the grace period.

[Advisory for senior citizens and their caregivers during lockdown period due to COVID-19](#)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi have prepared an Advisory to be followed by all the senior citizens and their care givers during the Lockdown period due to Covid-19.

[Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi directs senior officials of more than 30 state waqf boards to ensure strict and honest implementation of lockdown, curfew and social distancing during the holy month of Ramadan in view of Corona pandemic](#)

Union Minister for Minority Affairs & Chairman, Central Waqf Council, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today interacted with senior officials of more than 30 state waqf boards through video conferencing and directed them to ensure strict and honest implementation of lockdown, curfew and social distancing in view of Corona pandemic during the holy month of Ramadan, which will begin from 24th April. Shri Naqvi directed the state waqf boards' officials to create awareness among the people to offer prayers and perform other religious rituals during the holy month of Ramadan staying inside their home.



AICTE gives instructions to colleges/institutions to ensure safety and academic welfare of students

AICTE has issued instructions to colleges/institutions and has directed them that ensuring safety precautions during the threat posed by COVID-19 and said that Heads of Institutions have the onerous responsibility of safeguarding the health and associated interest of all stakeholders of their respective colleges/ institutions.

MHA issues Advisory on Secure use of ZOOM Meeting Platform

The Cyber Coordination Centre (CyCord), under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has issued an advisory on secure use of ZOOM Meeting Platform by private individuals. This advisory state that the platform is not for use by Government officers/officials for official purposes. The document makes reference to earlier advisories of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(Cert-In) and states that Zoom is not a safe platform. The guidelines have been issued to safeguard private individuals who would still like to use the platform for private purposes.

State Advisories and Notifications

Bangalore: Paperless Customs- Electronic Communication of PDF based Gate pass and OOC copy of bill of entry to Custom Brokers/ Importers

The Office of the Commissioner of Customs, City Customs Commissionerate, Bangalore has issued public notice informing of its decision to enable electronic communication of PDF based Final eOoC (electronic Out of Charge) , copy of BoE, and e-gate pass to the Importers/ Customs Brokers, to reduce interface between the Customs Authority and the Importers/ Customs Brokers in view of COVID-19.

Government of Punjab: Appointment of Nodal Officer for testing in Hotspots/ Clusters of COVID-19

The State Government has issued orders on appointment of Ms Isha Kalia, IAS, Special Secretary to Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Punjab as Nodal Officer for testing in Hotspots/ Clusters of COVID-19.



[Government of Punjab: Purchase and Installation of Laundry Machines for washing clothes of COVID-19 patients and Hospital gowns in Isolation facility](#)

The State Government in its memo has mentioned that for every 25-30 beds in Isolation facility, one automatic Washing machine will be installed for washing Hospital gowns and clothes of COVID-19 patients. The State Disaster Response Fund will be charged for this purpose.

[Government of Rajasthan: Implementation of lockdown declared by Ministry of Home Affairs.](#)

The State Government in its orders have issued Implementation Guidelines in respect to lockdown in the State for the period 20 April - 3 May 2020. These Guidelines cover information on Goods/ Transport services and Transport, issuance of Passes in various sectors, working of Government offices, etc.

[CM Rajasthan reviews the lockdown in State; Economic Activity to begin in Rural areas and Industrial Units from 21 April 2020](#)

Shri Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, in a high-level meeting with his officials, issued order on functioning of units in the Industrial and rural areas with the local labourers from 21 April 2020. The order further stated that Government offices, Public Construction and irrigation related work would also start functioning during the modified lockdown period 21 April onwards.

International Advisories and Notifications

[US Citizenship and Immigration Services: COVID-19 Delays in Extension/Change of Status Filings](#)

US Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued information on various options available for non-immigrants who may remain in United States beyond their authorised period of stay due to COVID-19, like applying for an extension, flexibility of late applications, etc.

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

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