



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

www.ciicovid19update.in

AN31, 17 April 2020



[Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the Development Committee Meeting of the World Bank-IMF](#)

The Union Finance Minister, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, participated in the 101st Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary through video conference. The items on the agenda included update on World Bank Group Response to the COVID-19 Emergency, and the Covid-19 Debt Initiative: International Call for Action in Support of IDA Countries. In her intervention at this session, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman stated that given the size of our population, India could have become a major COVID hotspot. The Government has been taking no chances, launched massive efforts to assist the health system respond effectively to the outbreak. She also shared measures taken to combat COVID-19 including social support measures for poor and vulnerable, and relief measures for firms in statutory and regulatory compliance matters.

[GoM reviews current status, and actions for management of COVID-19; Dr. Harsh Vardhan emphasizes on delivering immediate solutions for meeting healthcare challenges regarding COVID-19; focuses on maintaining quality and standards in manufacturing.](#)

The 12th meeting of Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 was held under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. The Group of Ministers (GoM) had detailed deliberation on containment and management of COVID-19. GoM was informed that all districts have been asked to prepare and strengthen their contingency plans to combat COVID-19 and the measures undertaken for strengthening capacity of states including devoting adequate resources for creating dedicated COVID-19 hospitals, equipping the medical institutes with PPEs, ventilators and other essential equipment etc., were also discussed in detail.



[Centre adds more to List of what is allowed after April 20 amid lockdown](#)

The Government has come out with guidelines for the revival of industrial and commercial activities after Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended till May 3 the lockdown to check the spread of coronavirus in the country. After continuing a strict lockdown till April 20, the districts that are not virus hotspots will be allowed to resume some industrial, construction and manufacturing activities as the government attempts to restart the economy and move towards a gradual exit from the nationwide shutdown to prevent the infection from spreading rapidly.

[Lockdown extension: Discoms face up to ₹30,000 crore revenue loss](#)

Power Distribution Companies (Discoms) face revenue losses of up to ₹ 30,000 crore as the COVID-19 lockdowns are extended, according to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). "The Power sector, one of the essential services under the lockdown till May 3 is battling the twin issues of demand and liquidity compression.

[Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews work of Armed Forces Medical Services to contain COVID-19](#)

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the functioning of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and their assistance to civilian authorities to contain spread of COVID-19. Those who attended the meeting briefed Raksha Mantri about various actions taken in terms of issuing advisories to Armed Forces personnel, aiding civilian authorities in respect of quarantine facilities, provisioning of hospitals and healthcare in the prevailing situation. On a request received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, quarantine facilities for civilians were created and are currently functional at six stations for civilian evacuees from Italy, Iran, China, Malaysia and Japan.

[Road Transport sector helping the common man during the lock-down period](#)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken up the social responsibility of helping people on the roads during the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19. Soon after the announcement by the Prime Minister on the 24th last month, field units of the Ministry across the length and breadth of the country were urged to extend necessary help to their workers/labours and the common people. All the field units and offices of the Ministry, as well as the associated organizations NHAI and NHIDCL came forward to help mitigate the difficulties of the people.



[Shri Gadkari Calls Upon Industry to Work Upon Import Substitution and Adopting Innovative Technology to Remain Competitive; Minister Interacts with Industry Associations to Discuss Revival of Economic Activity as Lockdown Eases from 20th April in some areas](#)

Union Minister for MSME and RT&H, Shri Nitin Gadkari has emphasised that there is also a need to focus on import substitution to replace imports with domestic production. He also urged enterprises to make use of technology and mentioned that Research, innovation and quality improvement can play a major role in industrial development. As the lockdown eases out and focus shifts to increasing economic activity, revival of the sector for large scale employment generation and leading the way for sustained economic growth becomes imminent. Regarding revival of MSME sector, Minister mentioned that industry should lay special focus towards export enhancement and necessary practices be adopted to reduce Power cost, Logistics cost and Production cost to become competitive in the global market.

[Ministry of Health: Updates on COVID-19](#)

Several steps for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 are being taken by Government of India along with the States/UTs. These are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level. The 12th meeting of Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 was held under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. A detailed discussion was held by GoM on the impact of extended lockdown and to create a further roadmap. GoM also reviewed the efforts by Science & Technology institutions to deal with COVID-19 in diagnosis, vaccines, drugs, hospital equipment accessories and general wellness.

[Webinar on manufacturing PPEs and other products for Combating COVID-19](#)

A webinar was organised by Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) in collaboration with the DRDO led by Secretary Department of Defence Research (DD R&D). Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) mentioned that domestic industry needs to gear up their manufacturing capabilities to meet the rising demand of COVID-19 combat products for both Government and non-Government sectors.

[WTO: COVID-19: Trade and trade-related measures](#)

The WTO has compiled an informal situation report and has attempted to provide transparency with respect to trade and trade-related measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. They have requested the members to provide updated information on these and other measures as appropriate.



[Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches “Kisan Rath” Mobile App to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables during lockdown](#)

The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched a farmer friendly mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to facilitate farmers & traders in searching transport vehicles for Primary and Secondary transportation for movement of Agriculture & Horticulture produce.

[50,000 Reusable Face Masks supplied by RCD, Delhi](#)

The Rotary Club of Delhi Heritage is supplying close to 50,000 reusable face masks for wide distribution. The face masks have been made by tailors while working from their home during the lockdown period.

[DD and AIR broadcast Educational content/Virtual Classes](#)

India's Public Broadcaster has been helping students with their studies amidst ongoing lockdown. In collaboration with various State Government institutions, Doordarshan and All India Radio are broadcasting virtual classes and other educational content through their regional channels across the country on TV, Radio and YouTube.

[Indian Railways introduces innovative ideas and registers record landmarks freight movement during COVID-19 Lockdown](#)

Indian Railways continues to deliver essential commodities like food grains through its freight services to strengthen Government's efforts in managing the challenges and adverse impact of corona virus in the country. The Union Government has been focusing special attention to ensure that the supply chains of essential goods are maintained, besides ensuring that farm produce is transported without hindrance within the state and inter-state. Food grains have been transported even higher than the corresponding period April period of last year. To ensure delivery of bigger volumes at a faster speed, Indian Railways have innovated Annapoorna Trains from North and Jai Kisan Special from South mark the beginning of long distance super heavy fast special Freight trains. Almost 5000 tons and more than 80 rakes long haul loaded food grain trains run fast to connect the nation More than 3.2 Million Tonnes of food grains have been loaded between 1st April - 16th April this year as compared to 1.29 Million Tonnes in the same corresponding period last year.



[DRDO introduces two new products to enable COVID-19 disinfection process](#)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in its continuous quest to contribute towards fight against COVID-19, has been developing several solutions from its existing arsenal of technologies and experience. These consist of innovations and quickly configuring the products for present requirements. DRDO has introduced two products which can enhance the operations at public places during the pandemic - Automatic Mist Based Sanitiser Dispensing Unit and UV Sanitisation Box and Hand-held UV device.

[Government of Goa: Appeal to Government employees for contributing voluntarily one day salary towards CM Relief Fund for COVID-19.](#)

Goa Government Employees Association has sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary of the State Government to appeal to all the Government employees for contributing voluntarily one day salary towards Chief Minister Relief Fund –Goa COVID-19, in order to boost the Goa Government efforts in coping the epidemic.

[China rectifies death toll based on facts](#)

The city of Wuhan in Central China's Hubei Province rectified its COVID-19 death toll to 3,869 on Friday, an increase of 1,290 from the previous figure, after the local government altered its counting method. The revision also means that the death toll in the Chinese mainland increased from 3,342 to 4,632. This is a responsible correction in accordance with laws and regulations.

[Slovenian Government measures to limit the coronavirus epidemic](#)

In order to control the situation and to mitigate the adverse consequences for the economy and the population in the long term, the Government of Slovenia has adopted a two-stage system consisting of immediate intervention measures that can be implemented in the short term; and Strategic measures to help the population and economy.

[The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry launches a guide to the National Disinfection Programme](#)

The Dubai Chamber has developed a guide as an added service by the Chamber to provide companies and the private sector with adequate information from a reliable source about the National Disinfection Programme. This has been done with an objective of helping the private sector learn how to manage their businesses smoothly during the implementation of the national disinfection drive.



[No-deal Brexit must be avoided, says IMF; UK and EU urged to take time to reach agreement and avert economic chaos](#)

The United Kingdom should ask for an extension to its post-Brexit transitional period, to minimize economic chaos unleashed by the novel coronavirus, said the chairwoman of the International Monetary Fund. IMF urged the UK and the EU to persist with the arrangement because, with much negotiating time lost due to the pandemic, the prospect of a so-called no-deal Brexit, in which a trade deal is not inked, is looming.

Central Advisories and Notifications

[MHA issues order to exempt certain activities regarding Minor Forest Produce, Plantations, NBFCs, Cooperative Credit Societies and Construction in Rural Areas from Lockdown Restrictions to fight COVID-19](#)

In continuation of MHA's earlier order, revised guidelines has been issued for strict implementation of its order to exempt certain activities regarding Minor Forest Produce, Plantations, NBFCs, Cooperative Credit Societies and Construction in Rural Areas from Lockdown Restrictions to fight COVID-19. These include collection, harvesting and processing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)/ Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFP) by Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers in forest areas, Non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and Micro Finance Companies (NBFC--MFIs), with bare minimum staff, Cooperative Credit Societies, Construction activities in rural areas to include water supply and sanitation , laying/erection of power transmission lines and laying of telecom optical fiber and cable along with related activities.

[Ministry of Health & Family Welfare updates 'containment plan' for large outbreaks](#)

The release of the containment plan comes amid calls by experts for the release of a comprehensive document that is an essential tool of guidance in the health and administrative front in case there is a large outbreak of coronavirus infections. The containment plan gives details about step-by-step measures that are to be taken for different types of transmissions but explains the actions to be undertaken to curb a large outbreak.



State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Goa: Setting up of Government of India Call Centre for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables.

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Goa in its letter to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare have nominated two officers for the coordination for movement between States and inter- state of perishable items.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Consolidated Revised Guidelines for Containment, Control, and Prevention of COVID-19 lockdown till 3 May 2020

The State Government in its orders has issued Consolidated Revised Guidelines on the measures to be taken by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State/ UTs authorities, for containment of COVID-19 in the country, issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Filling up of certain categories of posts on contract basis purely on temporary basis for a period of one year for COVID-19 purpose.

The State Government has accorded permission to recruit (1170) Specialists, (1170) General Duty Medical Officers, (2000) Staff Nurses, (306) Anaesthesia Technicians, (300) FNOs, (300) MNOs and (300) Sweepers on contract basis for a period of one year for providing services for pandemic COVID-19.

Government of Andhra Pradesh releases an amount of Rs. 43. 28 Crores to the Commissioner of Rural Development towards assistance to the all BPL Families in the State

The State Government hereby accorded administrative sanction and release of an amount of Rs.43.28 crores to the Commissioner of Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh towards sanction of Scale of Assistance to the all BPL Families in the State of Andhra Pradesh, whose lives are affected due to lockdown activity in the State of Andhra Pradesh for containment of COVID-19.

Government of Andhra Pradesh: Constitution of Hospital COVID Control Committee to prevent outbreak of COVID- I9 in hospitals and hostels.

The State Government, in order to prevent outbreak of COVID-I9 in hospitals and hostels and safe guard the health of all the health care workers, has directed to constitute a COVID Control Committee to monitor the disinfection and sanitation activity in the hospitals and hostels of doctors and faculty attached to the hospital and medical college.



[Government of Gujarat: Steps to be taken in relation to Commerce & Industries with reference to COVID-19](#)

Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat, has formed a committee with Collector as Chairperson, at district level, to follow the orders of Government of India on movement during lockdown and reopening of select services from 20 April 2020. The committee would permit the eligible units to start the production / operation. The Committee would also ensure that workers from areas declared as hotspots by State Government of local authorities do not report to work.

[Government of Gujarat: Industrial and commercial activities to resume from 20th April, 2020 in accordance with guidelines issued by Government of India](#)

The Government of Gujarat has decided to form a committee at district level under the leadership of District Collector who will oversee the implementation of the relaxations to the industries and commercial activities in their jurisdiction. Additionally, a seven member committee comprising regional head of the concerned GIDC, officer from the department of Labour and Employment, Chief District Health Officer, factory inspector, a deputy municipal commissioner in areas governed by municipal corporation, and an officer from district industrial centre will be formed to issue permissions as per the guidelines of Government of India for resuming industrial and commercial operations from 20th April 2020.

[Government of Karnataka: implementation of Standard Operating Procedure in the industries operating from 20 April 2020.](#)

The State Government has directed the Industry Associations to spread awareness about the MHA order to the concerned industries / industrial Establishments, excluding in containment zones, to strictly implement the SOP, without any dilution, procedures mentioned in the MHA order.

International Advisories and Notifications

[G 20 agrees on debt relief for poorest countries](#)

With the Global economy plunged into the worst recession in a century, the G 20 finance Ministers and central bankers endorsed “a time bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries” as they struggle to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.



[The President of the United States issues guidelines for opening-up America again](#)

President Trump has unveiled Guidelines for opening-up of America again. A three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts, these steps will help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives.

[Jordan's Minister of State, Prime Ministry Affairs announces cabinet decisions to support Covid-19 hardest-hit people](#)

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs, Sami Dawoud has announced several decisions taken by the Council of Ministers to back the national funds, and Ministry of Health to support those hardest-hit people of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Korean Government add second supplementary emergency budget](#)

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun, Economy and Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki and the heads of other relevant ministries confirmed the extra budget in an extraordinary Cabinet meeting at Government Complex-Sejong. The additional budget is part of a one-time temporary measure focused on the emergency relief package and was made possible by restructuring spending and borrowing without issuing public bonds.

[Indian Embassy in Sweden: Update on Latvia & Sweden](#)

The Indian Embassy in Sweden has shared the latest update of COVID-19 in Latvia & Sweden. The Government decided to extend the temporary entry ban to the EU via Sweden until 15 May. The decision was taken following a recommendation of the European Commission. The temporary entry ban began to apply on 19 March and initially applied for 30 days. Swedish citizens are not affected by the entry ban. Nor does the entry ban prevent travel within the EU.

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

Copyright © 2020 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), in part or full in any manner whatsoever, or translated into any language, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. CII has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information and material presented in this document. Nonetheless, all information, estimates and opinions contained in this publication are subject to change without notice, and do not constitute professional advice in any manner. Neither CII nor any of its office bearers or analysts or employees accept or assume any responsibility or liability in respect of the information provided herein. However, any discrepancy, error, etc. found in this publication may please be brought to the notice of CII for appropriate correction.

Published by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Mantosh Sondhi Centre; 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003, India, Tel: +91-11-24629994-7; Fax: +91-11-24626149; Email: info@cii.in; Web: www.cii.in

All stock photographs sourced from © shutterstock.com