



Confederation of Indian Industry

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# COVID 19

## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

AN36, 22 April 2020

<http://www.ciicovid19update.in>

### News Update

#### Telephone Conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Ireland

During a telephone call with the Prime Minister of Ireland, H.E. Dr. Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister discussed the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps being taken by both countries to control its health and economic impact. Prime Minister Varadkar appreciated the role being played by Indian origin doctors and nurses in fighting the infection in Ireland. Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Varadkar for the care and support being extended to the Indian citizens present in Ireland and promised to similarly facilitate Irish citizens in India. The two leaders agreed that India and Ireland can leverage their strengths in the pharmaceutical and medical fields to contribute to the global fight against the pandemic. They also deliberated on the potential for strengthening India's cooperation with Ireland, as well as with the EU, in the post-COVID context.

#### Prime Minister to interact with Gram Panchayats across the country on the 24th of April 2020

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall be addressing various Gram Panchayats across the country on Friday, the 24th of April 2020. The Day is celebrated annually as the **National Panchayati Raj Day**. Shri Narendra Modi shall be launching of the unified **e-GramSwaraj Portal and Mobile App** on the occasion. The Unified Portal is a new initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj which will provide the Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Prime Minister shall also be launching the **Swamitva Scheme** on the occasion. The scheme provides for an integrated property validation solution for rural India; the demarcation of inhabited land in rural areas would be done using latest surveying methods – Drone's technology with the collaborated efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Department, State Revenue Department and Survey of India.



### **Bill Gates writes to PM Modi, lauds leadership in Fighting Covid-19 in India**

Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates on Wednesday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to combat the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. Commending PM Modi's bid to flatten the curve in India, the co-founder of Microsoft said, "We commend your leadership and the proactive measures you and your government have taken to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 infection rate in India, such as adopting a national lockdown, expanding focused testing to identify hot spots for isolation, quarantining, and care, and significantly increasing health expenditures to strengthen the health system response and promote R&D and digital innovation."

### **Cabinet approves Rs. 15,000 Crore for "India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package"**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved significant investments to the tune of Rs. 15,000 crore for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package'. The funds sanctioned will be utilized in 3 Phases and for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response (an amount of Rs. 7,774 Crore) has been provisioned and rest for medium-term support (1-4 years) to be provided under mission mode approach. The key objectives of the package include mounting emergency response to slow and limit COVID-19 in India through the development of diagnostics and COVID-dedicated treatment facilities, centralized procurement of essential medical equipment and drugs required for treatment of infected patients, strengthen and build resilient National and State health systems to support prevention and preparedness for future disease outbreaks, setting up of laboratories and bolster surveillance activities, bio-security preparedness, pandemic research and proactively engage communities and conduct risk communication activities. These interventions and initiatives would be implemented under the overall umbrella of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### **Comprehensive steps taken by North DMC to safeguard staff during Covid-19 pandemic; Docking station formed outside every containment zone to provide PPE kits to staff**

In these testing times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC) has taken a series of comprehensive steps to ensure full safety and all possible protection for its staff. These steps have been taken with regard to the servicing of the containment zones formed all over the city.



### **DST supported NGO network tackle COVID-19 at community level through S&T interventions**

The network of S&T enabled NGOs spread across 22 states of India, supported by the Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have demonstrated capabilities in containing COVID-19 through various S&T interventions and complimented the efforts of the Government at different States and below levels. Apart from preventing COVID-19 infection, these interventions have also provided an alternate source of livelihoods for women SHGs. The potential high costs and impact of the outbreak on the rural population have thus been minimized by these measures that have been put in place by the strong S&T enabled NGO network of the DST.

### **Ensure adequate security to Healthcare Professionals, Medical Staff and Frontline Workers to prevent violence against them: Union Home Minister**

Under the directions of Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has again directed all States/UTs today to ensure adequate security to healthcare professionals, medical staff & frontline workers to prevent violence against them. Strict action must be taken against those who obstruct performance of last rites of medical professionals or frontline healthcare workers succumbing to COVID19, while discharging their services. In spite of the earlier advisory by Ministry of Home Affairs, some incidents of violence have been reported from different parts of the country against healthcare professionals/frontline workers.

### **Indian Embassies undertake herculean task of community outreach**

Indian envoys and diplomats across the globe are doing everything possible to assist Indian nationals in places as far apart as Washington, Singapore, Moscow, Tokyo, Rome and Riyadh, providing them food and arranging for shelters, as countries fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Embassies in the Gulf, which has millions of Indian expatriates, have been at forefront in assisting the community. In the UAE, the embassy is supplying food to Indians in need during the lockdown, Ambassador Pawan Kapoor told ET. In Oman, which also houses a big Indian community, the embassy in Muscat has established 24/7 helplines and a network involving social workers and hypermarket chains to provide food to needy Indian nationals all over the country. The Missions have been effectively handling the issue of extension of visas for the stranded Indian nationals and making arrangements for accommodation and daily meals, etc. Assistance is being provided to the affected people through various Indian diaspora associations, ensuring that the basic needs like food and accommodation are being taken care of. Besides, accommodation, food and medicines are also being provided to Indian nationals.



### Indian Railways announces slew of Incentives for Freight Traffic during COVID pandemic

Considering the pandemic COVID-19, Indian Railways has announced slew of incentives to the freight customers. These incentives are expected to boost the economy by aiding country's export. These incentives will make customers to register their demands for goods electronically instead of going to goods shed physically, thus making it more convenient, speedier and transparent process.

### Ministry of Tourism has not issued any letter on closing of hotels/restaurants till 15th October 2020 due to Coronavirus outbreak

A fake letter claiming that hotels/restaurants will remain closed till 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 due to Coronavirus outbreak doing the rounds in social media in the name of Ministry of Tourism and creating panic among whole tourism sector. The Ministry of Tourism has clarified that **“no such letter has been issued by Ministry of Tourism”** and people must not believe such kind of fake news.

### PM expresses gratitude to Mother Earth

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has expressed gratitude to Mother Earth on International Earth Day. “On International Day of Mother Earth, we all express gratitude to our planet for the abundance of care & compassion. Let us pledge to work towards a cleaner, healthier & more prosperous planet. A shout out to all those working at the forefront to defeat COVID-19”, the PM said.

### Proactive Initiatives of TRIFED during Covid-19

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is proactively responding to the situation by addressing the issues arising out of the long period of lock-down with a set of immediate, medium term and long-term initiatives, aimed at lending extra support to the tribals in this unprecedented time. The current situation due to Pandemic Covid-19 has dealt a serious blow to the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized communities including the tribal artisans and gatherers, being the most vulnerable people in the country.



### **Union Home Minister interacts with Doctors and Senior representatives of IMA; assures them of their Security in the fight against COVID-19**

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harshvardhan interacted with doctors and senior representatives of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), through a video conference, in New Delhi today. Attack on Health Professionals is condemnable, and the Modi government would leave no stone unturned in ensuring their wellbeing and security, said Shri Amit Shah.

### **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today discussed COVID related issues with Councillors / Corporators from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.**

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today discussed COVID related issues with Councillors/Corporators from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. In a one-and-a-half hour long video conference interaction, Dr. Jitendra Singh exchanged inputs with representatives of different Municipal bodies. Dr. Jitendra Singh complimented the elected representatives of all the Municipal bodies for ensuring perfect coordination between civil society and the administration for effective implementation of government's guidelines regarding COVID-19 crisis management and offering their full cooperation in ensuring lockdown. He said, he was particularly delighted to note that District Collectors and Deputy Commissioners from different districts were voluntarily expressing their appreciation for the cooperation received from the local body representatives.

### **Campaign to boost safety in workplace, China**

The Work Safety Committee of the State Council, the country's Cabinet, has launched a campaign to "remove safety hazards at the root" and effectively curb major accidents in workplaces across the country in about three years.

### **China will step up efforts to expedite technological research on the construction and application of digital infrastructure**

China will step up efforts to expedite technological research on the construction of digital infrastructure, according to Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. China also stressed the importance of emphasising the huge demand for digital infrastructure so facilitate economic and social upgrade of the country.



### **US Senate approves new US \$ 480 billion pandemic relief plan**

The US Senate approved a bipartisan, nearly half-trillion-dollar coronavirus relief package on Tuesday, with funding earmarked for devastated small businesses, overwhelmed hospitals, and a ramp-up of testing nationwide during the pandemic.

### **Trump, British PM Johnson reaffirm cooperation to reopen global economies**

U.S. President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson reaffirmed their close cooperation to reopen global economies during a phone conversation, according to the White House. "President Trump and Prime Minister Johnson reaffirmed their close cooperation through the G7 and G20 to reopen global economies and ensure medical care and supplies reach all those in need," the White House said in a statement.

### **Foreign investors remain optimistic about China**

The Ministry of Commerce, China has said that Foreign investors remain optimistic about China and there won't be large-scale withdrawal of foreign investment from the market despite the novel coronavirus outbreak.

### **China to free up more funds to better serve small firms**

The State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang has decided to give greater weight to inclusive financing in evaluating the performance of financial institutions and lower the provision coverage ratio of small and medium-sized banks so as to boost financial services for micro and small firms.

### **Coronavirus: China extends welfare support to vast migrant labour force amid 'unprecedented challenges'**

State Council has announced a new package of welfare support to help China's vulnerable migrant workers weather the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Measures come as Beijing shifts its priority from pursuing economic growth to ensuring employment and social stability, as economy contracts in first quarter

### **Field hospitals for Covid-19 patients to open in Abu Dhabi, Dubai**

Three field hospitals (including two in Abu Dhabi and one in Dubai), developed by Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA), are set to open in the UAE to accommodate Covid-19 patients, it was announced. One of them is being set up in Emirates Humanitarian City, located in Mohammed bin Zayed city in Abu Dhabi. The construction of the field hospital, spanning over 29,000 square metres, will be



finalised by the first week of May and it will be managed by a medical team of 200 healthcare professionals, with a capacity to serve 1,200 patients, official news agency WAM reported. Another hospital will be opened at the Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center. Spread across 31,000 sqm, it has capacity to cater to 1,000 patients and is staffed by a medical team of 150 healthcare professionals.

### **COVID-19 infections in Singapore top 10,000, with 1,016 new cases**

The number of COVID-19 cases in Singapore has crossed the 10,000 mark, with 1,016 new cases reported as Wednesday, April 22. Majority of the new cases are work permit holders residing in foreign worker dormitories, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said in its preliminary release of figures.

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### **Central Advisories and Notifications**

#### **MHA Secretary to State Chief Secretaries/ UT Administrators: Clarification on exemptions of specific services/ activities within categories.**

MHA Secretary has written to State Chief Secretaries and UT Administrators clarifying queries on exemptions of specific services/ activities within categories. These includes queries on bed side attendants, care givers, recharge facilities for prepaid mobile connection, supply of essential goods, etc.

#### **Ministry of Home Affairs: Consolidated revised guidelines**

The Ministry has issued orders on inclusions in consolidated revised guidelines and its strict implementation by Ministries/ Departments of the Government, State. UTs, etc. This order also includes SoP for sign-on and sign-off of Indian Seafarers at Indian Ports and their movement.

#### **Advisory to Print and Electronic Media**

Considering the recent incidents in various parts of the country, wherein media-persons have contracted COVID19 in line of work, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has today issued an advisory to all Print and Electronic media. The Ministry has advised that media persons including reporters, cameramen, photographers etc., who are covering incidents relating to COVID-19 in various parts of the country and are involved in travel to, among other places, containment zones, hotspots and other COVID affected areas, may take due health and related precautions while performing their duties. The Ministry has also requested the Management of media houses to take necessary care of their filed staff as well as office staff.

### **Promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 in the light of the pandemic situation of COVID-19; Home Secretary writes to Chief Secretaries regarding security to healthcare professionals.**

Several States have enacted special laws to offer protection to doctors and other medical personnel in the past. However, Covid-19 outbreak has posed a unique situation where harassment of the healthcare workforce and others working to contain the spread of the disease has been taking place at all fronts, in various places including even cremation grounds. The existing state laws do not have such a wide sweep and ambit. They generally do not cover harassment at home and workplace and are focused more on physical violence only. The penal provisions contained in these laws are not stringent enough to deter mischief mongering. In this context, the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 22nd April 2020 has approved promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to protect healthcare service personnel and property including their living/working premises against violence during epidemics. The President has given his assent for promulgation of the Ordinance. The Ordinance provides for making such acts of violence cognizable and non-bailable offences and for compensation for injury to healthcare service personnel or for causing damage or loss to the property in which healthcare service personnel may have a direct interest in relation to the epidemic. The Home Secretary in his letter to Chief Secretaries, Administrators, DGPs has mentioned that it is responsibility of all State Governments/ UT Administrators and law enforcement agencies to take all necessary measures to ensure adequate protection to healthcare professionals. They are also requested to appoint Nodal Officers at District level. State/ UT level, who would be available 24\*7 to redress any safety issue.

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## **State Advisories and Notifications**

### **Government of Telangana: Procurement of Paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations: Government guarantee for Rs.8,000.00 Crores to obtain credit facility from N.C.D.C., New Delhi.**

The State Government has accorded permission to obtain the credit facility of Rs.8,000.00 Crores (Rupees Eight Thousand Crores only) by the Telangana State MARKFED from N.C.D.C., New Delhi for procurement of 45 Lakhs MTs of Paddy during Rabi Market Season 2019-20 under Minimum Support Price subject to payment of 2% Guarantee Commission.

### **Government of Telangana: RIDF-Schemes for completion of ongoing Projects assisted by NABARD under RIDF –Loan instalments – Repayment of principal on RIDF as on 01.05.2020**

The Assistant General Manager, NABARD has informed that an amount of Rs.8,78,53,828/- (Rupees Eight crores Seventy Eight lakhs Fifty Three thousand



Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight only) is due from Government of Telangana towards the principal loan instalments under RIDF as on 01.05.2020 and requested to remit the same amounts. In this view, the State Government has accorded administrative sanction for the same amount towards repayment of principal loan as on 01.05.2020 under RIDF.

### **Government of Telangana: Prohibition of strikes by the Employees of Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board**

The State Government in its orders has prohibited strikes in all services connected with the maintenance of Water Supply and distribution in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for a further period of six months with effect from 21.04.2020.

### **Government of Telangana: Sanction of Chief Minister's Special Incentive to certain categories of employees for the month of April, 2020**

The State Government in recognition of the services of Health, Medical, Sanitary, Police and other related employees who are attending COVID-19 relief operations, have decided to grant a monetary incentive as a token of encouragement. The incentive is to be drawn and paid to only those employees and persons who have actually attended to duties during the month of April 2020 and not to those who are on leave, suspension or unauthorized absence.

### **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited: Relief to the electricity consumers in the State**

On account of extension of lockdown up to 3 May 2020 and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab has approved extension of due date of electricity bills of Domestic and Commercial consumers with current monthly bill up to Rs 1000 and all industrial consumers payable from 20 March-9 May 2020 to 10 May 2020.

### **Government of Telangana: Industries and Commerce Department- Relief to Industries**

The State Government has decided that electricity bills during the lockdown will be collected as per actual consumption only and fixed charges for the same period be deferred till 31 May 2020 without any penalty and interest. Further those industries which pay the bills within due date shall get 1 percent rebate of billed amount.



**Exemption of Inspections from the provisions under sub-section (c) of Section 6 and Section 8 of the Boilers Act, 1923 for a period of two months: Government of Andhra Pradesh**

The State Government has exempted, from subsection (c) of Section 6 and Section 8 of the Boilers Act, all certified Boilers situated in the industries in Andhra Pradesh state due to lockdown for a period of two months or till lifting of the lockdown whichever is earlier, for Boilers for which inspections are due in the months of April & May, 2020.

**Government of Punjab: Orders on COVID-19 patients going to Private Hospitals**

The State Government has issued orders that COVID-19 patients who go to private hospitals of their own for treatment, will have to bear the cost themselves. However, no private hospital shall charge the exceeding CGHS rates.

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**International Advisories and Notifications**

**Covid-19 reprieve: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City ( HCMC) to end social distancing with variations**

Hanoi and HCMC, in a 'lower risk' classification now, have been allowed to end their social distancing campaigns Thursday. Both cities will begin implementing Directive 15 that allows more relaxed restrictions than Directive 16, which guided the social distancing campaign. With a couple of districts still having active Covid-19 patients, Hanoi will have more restrictions in place than Ho Chi Minh City.

**Indonesia Extends Partial Lockdown in Capital to Curb Virus**

Indonesia extended stringent social distancing rules in Jakarta, home to more than 10 million people, as the capital region continued to remain the epicenter of infections in the Southeast Asian nation. The large-scale social distancing measures, which include a ban on gatherings of more than five people, limited public transport services and mandatory work-from-home, were extended to May 22, Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan said.

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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](mailto:info@cii.in); Web: [www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)