



Confederation of Indian Industry

125 Years: 1895-2020

# COVID 19

## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

AN39, 25 April 2020

<http://www.ciicovid19update.in>

### News Update

#### India to get lead role at WHO next month amid Global Covid-19 crisis

India will move into a leadership role at the World Health Organisation (WHO) headquarters after the annual meeting of the global health body next month, people familiar with the development told Hindustan Times. The appointment of India's nominee as chairperson of the WHO's executive board will come at a time the world and the United Nations agency is struggling to stop the highly contagious Sars-Cov-2 pathogen from spreading.

#### Finance Commission holds meeting with its Advisory Council

Members of the Advisory Council felt that the impact of the Covid pandemic and the national lockdown on the Indian economy can come through the slowdown in the domestic activity. All of them were unanimous that the projections of real GDP growth made before March 2020 need to be relooked into entirely and revised downwards considerably. Once the lockdown of the economy is released, the recovery can only be expected to be gradual, depending on the ability of the workforce to get back to work soon, restoration of supplies of intermediates and cash flows and, of course, the demand for output.

#### GoM reviews current status, and actions for management of COVID-19

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 was held under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. A detailed presentation on the status of COVID-19 in the country along with the response and management of COVID-19 in the country were made for the GoM. The Group of Ministers (GoM) had detailed deliberation on the measures taken as on date by the Centre and various States/UTs for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19. GoM was informed that all districts have been asked to follow and further strengthen their contingency plans to combat COVID-19; the GOM was briefed on the state-wise details of dedicated COVID-19 hospitals along with the adequacy of isolation beds/wards, PPEs, N95 masks, drugs, ventilators, oxygen

cylinders etc. The GoM was also informed that as of now, 5,062 people have been cured with a recovery rate of 20.66%. Since yesterday, an increase of 1429 new cases have been reported.

### CSIR-IICT initiatives to reduce dependency for APIs and drug intermediates

Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and intermediates are the key components of any drug that produces the intended effects. India is largely depended especially on China for supply of APIs and drug intermediates. Now Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, is collaborating with another Hyderabad-based integrated pharmaceutical company, LAXAI Life Sciences, to develop and manufacture APIs and drug intermediates. The initiative may help in reducing the dependency of the Indian pharmaceutical sector on Chinese imports of these ingredients. IICT, a laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is working with LAXAI for synthesis of drugs being used in the fight against the Corona Virus. The collaboration will primarily focus on Umifenovir, Remdesivir and a key intermediate of Hydroxy Chloroquine (HCQ).

### Herbal decongestant spray on mask can protect from suffocation his formulation helps in clearing the windpipe and congestion by removing the mucus or cough leading to ease of Breathing

Health authorities have been strongly advocating the use of face masks to prevent corona infection. At the same time, wearing a mask for a long time is reportedly causing difficulties in breathing and congestion in the respiratory system. To address this issue, scientists at CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, have developed a herbal decongestant spray. This formulation helps in clearing the windpipe and congestion by removing the mucus or cough leading to ease of breathing. It also reduces stress due to excessive use of mask and decongestion.

### NTPC provides uninterrupted power supply despite lockdown

The Corona pandemic has failed to dent the spirit of NTPC, India's largest power producer and a PSU under Ministry of Power, in providing uninterrupted power supply to the nation. Every power station of the Maharatna has risen to the occasion and is performing at its optimum level under support and guidance from the Power Ministry led by Shri R K Singh Union Minister of State (I/c), for Power and New & Renewable Energy.



**Union Road Transport & Highways Ministry has provided a animation video illustration of Dos and Don'ts for Truck/Lorry Drivers as they handle increasing movements of goods across the country**

Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Ministry has released an illustrative animation video which provides for broad Dos and Don'ts for truck/lorry drivers as they are handling trips to transport essential goods across the country. The animation calls upon people to respect and cooperate with truck/lorry drivers who are working to ease our life by transporting essential goods and medicines in the scenario when Government had to extend lockdown to curb COVID-19 and save lives.

**Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs a video conference with States/UTs Health Ministers regarding the steps taken on COVID-19**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare interacted with all the State Health Minister and Health Secretaries through a video conference to review the preparedness and actions taken for management of COVID-19. He thanked the States for their efforts so far and requested them to focus on districts reporting a higher number of cases or faster doubling rate of their cases and districts where high case mortality is being noted. He urged the States to focus on surveillance, house-to-house active case finding, early identification of cases and proper clinical management to ensure that the patients get timely treatment and mortality is reduced.

**Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh holds widespread consultations with Ex-Bureaucrats to take stock of India's fight against COVID-19**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today held extensive discussions with Ex- Bureaucrats about India's fight against COVID-19 and explored ways for an exit plan post lockdown.

**UV disinfection trolley can effectively clean up hospital spaces in combating COVID-19**

International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India and University of Hyderabad (UoH) together with the help of Mekins Industries Ltd. (MIL), have developed a UVC based disinfection trolley to fight against COVID-19 by rapid cleaning of hospital environment. Coronavirus is sensitive to UVC light, as in the case of other viruses and bacteria. The present system has been deployed at Employee's State Insurance Corporation hospital in Hyderabad for field trials.



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## Central Advisories and Notifications

### Clarification on MHA order allowing Opening of Shops

Ministry of Home Affairs issued an Order yesterday on amendments in the consolidated revised guidelines on lockdown measures to allow opening of shops. This Order implies that in rural areas, all shops, except those in shopping malls are allowed to open. In urban areas, all standalone shops, neighbourhood shops & shops in residential complexes are allowed to open. Shops in markets/market complexes and shopping malls are not allowed to open. It has been clarified that sale by e-commerce companies will continue to be permitted for essential goods only and sale of liquor and other items continues to be prohibited as specified in the National Directives for COVID-19 management. As specified in the consolidated revised guidelines, these shops will NOT BE PERMITTED TO OPEN in areas, whether rural or urban, which are declared as CONTAINMENT ZONES by respective *States/ UTs*.

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## State Advisories and Notifications

### Government of Telangana: Procurement of Jowar (hybrid) under MSP during Rabi 2019-20 - Appointment of Telangana State MARKFED as State Nodal Agency and Exemption of Market Fee

The State Government has exempted the Market fee and all the state duties/taxes in respect of procurement of Jowar (hybrid) to implement the MSP operations during the Rabi season 2019-20, only in the interest of farmers to get the remunerative prices for the commodity in relaxation of section 12 of Telangana (AP & LS) Markets Act, 1966 and also appointed the TS MARKFED as State Nodal agency for procurement of Jowar (hybrid) under Price Support Scheme to implement the MSP operations during the Rabi Season 2019-20. The losses on transactions if any will be borne by the State Government.

### Government of Telangana: Repairs and Renovation to establish Covid-19 Isolation Centre at Sports Hostel in Gachibowli Stadium, Ranga Reddy District

The State Government has accorded an administrative sanction to the Director of Medical Education, Hyderabad for an amount of Rs.6.50 Crores (Rupees Six Crores and Fifty Lakhs Only) from the B.E. provision 2020-21 in addition to Rs.18.50 Crores totalling for Rs.24.50 Crores to take up repairs and renovation to establish COVID-19 Isolation Center at Sports Hostel in Gachibowli Stadium, Ranga Reddy District as annex to Osmania General Hospital.

## **Government of Andhra Pradesh: SOP for shifting Patients from COVID hospitals to other hospitals**

Health Medical & Family Welfare Department, in its COVID instant order has issued SOP to shift / divert patients from the COVID hospitals to other hospitals, in view of the District COVID Line 2 Hospitals immediately as the number of cases are expected to go up in next 2-3 weeks.

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

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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; Web: www.cii.in