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COVID 19

Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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[Telephone Conversation between PM and Prime Minister of Sweden](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation today with H.E. Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden. The two leaders discussed the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps being taken in their respective countries for controlling its health and economic impacts. Both leaders agreed on the potential for collaboration and data sharing between Indian and Swedish researchers and scientists, which would also contribute to the global efforts against COVID-19.

[Telephone Conversation between PM and Sultan of Oman](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on telephone today with His Majesty Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman. The two leaders discussed the health and economic challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps being taken by their respective countries to respond to them. They agreed that both countries would extend all possible support to each other in dealing with the crisis. His Majesty The Sultan assured PM about the safety and wellbeing of the Indian community in Oman in the present situation. He also thanked PM for the recent support provided by Government of India to Omani citizens in India.



[Coronavirus: Japan to declare emergency as Tokyo cases soar](#)

Japan is to declare a state of emergency in the capital Tokyo and six other regions to tackle the rapid spread of coronavirus. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the move could come early. He also announced a huge stimulus plan to help the economy weather the virus. Japan has a relatively small number of infections compared to other countries, but there are concerns a sudden surge in cases in Tokyo could lead to a major outbreak in the world's biggest city.

[DR Congo 'prepared' to take part in vaccine testing](#)

The Democratic Republic of Congo is prepared to take part in testing of any future vaccine against the coronavirus, as stated by the head of the country's taskforce against the pandemic.

[Lesotho healthcare workers strike over COVID-19 grievances](#)

Lesotho healthcare professionals said that they were downing tools from Monday and they would only attend to emergencies excluding suspected COVID-19 cases. Doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians among others are protesting following failed attempts to engage government on how to obtain protective gear.

[Malawi president takes 10% pay cut](#)

Malawi's president and all government ministers are taking a 10% wage cut for three months to raise money to tackle the coronavirus outbreak. President Peter Mutharika made the announcement as he set out a stimulus package to help cushion the economic impact of the disease.

[MRIC launches special call for proposals for fast-track innovative projects to counter impacts of Covid-19](#)

The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) is launching a Special Call for proposals for fast-track innovative projects to counter the impacts of Covid-19. The deadline for submitting application is Friday 17th April 2020. The objective is to develop, expedite the production or adaptation of technologies and services that will help assist health and relevant authorities in their work and in the deployment of general protection measures in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.



[Seychelles and COVID-19: International airport closed until end of April](#)

The Seychelles' international airport will remain closed until end of April while new maritime surveillance will be applied in the island nation, two measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, President Danny Faure said on Monday.

[New Wave of Virus Infections in China with Sharp Rise in Imported Cases](#)

China stepped up border control measures today as the number of imported coronavirus cases rose sharply to 951 while the asymptomatic cases also surged, raising fears of a second wave of the COVID-19 infections, mainly from Chinese returning home from abroad despite drastic containment efforts.

[COVID-19: City governments collaborate with medical practitioners in Smart Cities](#)

Smart Cities are ensuring collaborated efforts of District Administration, District Police and City Administration to monitor the suspected cases of COVID-19. Leveraging the smart infrastructure, Cities are developing predictive analytics using heat maps and acting in monitoring the movements (using geo-fencing) as well as periodic health status of suspected cases.

[CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute \(CSIR-CFTRI\) to provide testing equipment for COVID-19 detection](#)

CSIR-CFTRI is providing two PCR machines and one RNA extraction unit along with necessary chemicals to the district administration for coping with the large number of samples to be tested in the district.

[Ex-Servicemen play their part in providing succour to people in their fight against COVID-19](#)

As the nation continues to battle Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Ex-Servicemen (ESM) belonging to Army, Navy and Air Force are assisting the civil administration and providing their services voluntarily and selflessly.

[Health concerns shall precede over that of economy for post lockdown road map, says Vice President](#)

Referring to the consultations between the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers on the exit strategy, Shri Naidu urged the people to abide by whatever decision follows and cooperate



with the same spirit that has so far been demonstrated even if hardship were to continue after April 14. He expected that governments will ensure smooth functioning of supply chains and adequate relief and support for the vulnerable sections. In his assessment of the completion of two weeks of lock down today and the way forward, Shri Naidu opined that the next week will be critical for deciding on the exit from the present nation-wide restrictions in force from March 25. He said that the data regarding the extent and rate of spread of virus infection will have a bearing on exit strategy.

[IAF Continues its Support towards Fight Against Corona virus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Indian Air Force continues its support against Novel Corona virus wherein medical supplies are being transported to equip the state governments and supporting agencies to combat the contagion effectively and efficiently.

[Indian Railways in a race against time to make In-house PPE overall](#)

Indian Railways has taken up the in-house production of PPE type overall on a mission mode. Approved design and material will now be used for making this protective overall by other workshops under different zones. This PPE overall will offer much needed protection to Railway Doctors and paramedics working on the front line of COVID care at hospitals of Railways. Facilities are being geared up in Railways to make up to 1000 such protective overall for Railway Doctors & Paramedics every day. Around 17 workshops would be striving to contribute to this exercise. Railways is considering to supply 50% of the innovated PPE garment to other medical professionals of the country.

[Lifeline UDAN flights carry medical supplies to Jorhat, Lengpui, Dimapur, Imphal and other NE regions](#)

Under Lifeline UDAN initiative of MoCA, 152 cargo flights have been operated till date across the country to transport medical cargo to various parts of India including remote and hilly areas. With support from Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private airlines, medical supplies of more than 200 tons have been delivered till date during lockdown period.

[Maruti, India's largest car maker opens larger heart, feeds Haryana villages](#)



Maruti Suzuki recently revealed that it has taken several steps to fulfill the basic needs of communities in Manesar and Gurugram while also coming up with initiatives for welfare of its own employees amid a national lockdown in place till April 14 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

[Ministry of Human Resources Development launches "Samadhan" a challenge to fight against covid19 and future challenges](#)

The Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council for Technical Education in collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris launched a mega online challenge - SAMADHAN - to test the ability of students to innovate. The students participating in this challenge will search and develop such measures that can be made available to the government agencies, health services, hospitals and other services for quick solutions to the Coronavirus epidemic and other such calamities. Apart from this, through this "Samadhan" challenge, work will be done to make citizens aware, to motivate them, to face any challenge, to prevent any crisis and to help people get livelihood.

[Ministry of Shipping plays a pro-active role towards ensuring smooth shipping operations in COVID-19 situation and lockdown in the country](#)

In the wake of unprecedented crisis due to Covid-19, the Ministry of Shipping has been taking pro-active steps to ensure smooth running of shipping and port operations, ease the hardships, and at the same time, following the restrictions imposed during the lockdown.

[Dr Jitendra Singh chairs review meeting of Actions for COVID-19 for the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.](#)

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 took a comprehensive review through Interactive Video Conferencing. The Union Minister reviewed the steps/initiatives taken by DoPT during the period of the lockdown and its preparedness to bring in normalcy after the lockdown is lifted. The Integrated Government On-line Training Platform has been rolled out for training workers in and outside Government on COVID 19 matters.

[Qatari Ports implement necessary preventive measures against Coronavirus](#)

Under the direction of the Ministry of Communications and Transport, Qatar Ports has implemented necessary precautionary and preventive measures against the coronavirus while maintaining the operations of its ports.



[SAARC Development Fund allocates \\$5 million for Covid-19 projects](#)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Fund (SDF) has allocated \$5 million for Covid-19 related projects in its member states. The objective of the US\$ 5 million allocation is to provide fund support to the Member States in their efforts and to protect the people of the SAARC Member States by mitigating the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Two initiatives to help Singapore economy bounce back from Covid-19 crisis, build social resilience, says DPM Heng](#)

When the Covid-19 pandemic is tamed and overcome, two new initiatives will step forward to build up Singapore's resilience, both economically and socially, said Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat. One is the Emerging Stronger task force on economic resilience while the other is a refreshed Singapore Together movement with a new emphasis on social resilience, he told the House in rounding up the debate on the Supplementary Budget on April 7.

[Swasth ke Sipahi delivering essential services and medicines at doorstep of patients and elderly under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana \(PMBJP\)](#)

Pharmacists, popularly known as "Swasth ke Sipahi", of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra, are delivering essential services and medicines at doorstep of patients and elderly under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) of the Government of India. Working as part of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK), they are extending essential services by making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to the common People of the country and the elderly persons at their doorstep to fight Corona pandemic. This is supporting the government's initiative of practicing social distancing.

[TAFE comes to the rescue of Covid-19 hit farming community with free tractor rental scheme](#)

Leading tractor maker TAFE has come out with a scheme to help small and marginal farmers hit by the Covid-19 lockdown use its tractors and farm implements rent free. The rent-free scheme through TAFE's JFarm Services platform is available in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh as of now. As part of its CSR initiative, TAFE has brought together more than 18,000 Massey Ferguson and Eicher tractors and over 60,000 implements which the farmers can use free of cost. The facility is open for three months from April 1.



[Opening-up policies to boost competence of financial sector](#)

China's stepped-up pace in financial sector opening-up amid the COVID-19 outbreak will not only sharpen the competence of its financial industry but contribute to global economic stability, experts said on Monday. China's leading epidemiologist, Zhong Nanshan, has received international recognition for the pivotal role he played in combatting the COVID-19 pneumonia outbreak by being named the inaugural winner of the 2020 Being Edinburgh Award.

[Vice premier stresses facilitating employment of college graduates in Hubei](#)

Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan stressed the implementation of policies designed to facilitate the employment of college graduates in Hubei Province. Leading a central government group to oversee the COVID-19 epidemic control work in Hubei, Sun, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in a visit to Wuhan University.

[China's medical supplies for 18 African countries arrive in Accra, Ghana](#)

China's medical supplies for 18 African countries have arrived here on Monday and are scheduled to be delivered to the other 17 countries within a few days. The beneficiary African countries are Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Gabon, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, Benin, Cape Verde, as well as Sao Tome and Principe.

[Business Calls for Urgent OECD Action on Trade Policy Response to Covid-19](#)

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) releases statement outlining priorities for a Covid-19 trade policy response with below objectives:

- support OECD member and partner countries in establishing necessary, effective, and evidence-based measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic;
- safeguard that governments do not misuse these developments to adopt or keep arbitrary discriminatory or protectionist policies that disrupt supply chains and put further strains on the economy;
- highlight the crucial role of open trade and global value chains as fundamental drivers to recover from this global crisis.



CORONAVIRUS- RESEARCH TRACKER : Update as on 07 April 2020

- A second US company is poised to begin safety test of a vaccine against Covid-19. Inovio Pharmaceuticals stated that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has accepted the company's Investigational New Drug (IND) application for INO-4800, its DNA vaccine candidate designed to prevent COVID-19 infection, paving the way for Phase 1 clinical testing in healthy volunteers beginning this week, reported Xinhua news agency.
- Voltron Therapeutics formed a joint venture with Hoth Therapeutics, named HaloVax, and tasked it with using a vaccine technology developed at MGH to find a COVID-19 candidate. HaloVax is preparing to take its COVID-19 vaccine into animal trials this month.
- Department of Science and Technology (DST) has invited ideas in the form of short-term proposals for developing antiviral nano-coating and new nano-based material for use in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which can be transferred to a partnering industry or start-ups for scale up.
- An antimicrobial coating, developed by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore, an autonomous institute under Department of Science & Technology (DST), has shown excellent results in tackling the spread of deadly influenza virus, the root cause of severe respiratory infections, by inactivating large loads of influenza virus.
- DST has funded Module Innovations, a Pune based healthcare start-up working on point of care diagnostics to build up on its platform technology for rapid diagnosis of diseases to develop a product for detecting Covid-19 with a 10-15-minute test.
- Scientists are reporting promising results for a new drug to treat COVID-19. The drug is known as EIDD-2801. It works by interfering with the coronavirus' ability to make copies of itself once it infects a cell



- India Covid-19 Clinical Research Collaborative Network, a hospital-based clinical research initiative, is in the works to enhance the understanding of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). The move will help India-specific treatment protocols and push research and development in the field of drug development for the pandemic
- IIT team develops LED-based disinfection machine for sanitising floors of hospitals, buses The current prototype of the machine, requires to be manually manned, however, the team is working on making it a robot manned machine which requires limited human intervention
- In a bid to help the government deal with COVID-19, researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have developed a mobile application that can track movement of people with the disease and can do geofencing around him or her.

Update on COVID-19: Sweden

The Government proposed 50% rental discount for establishments in vulnerable sectors, such as restaurants, cafés and shops selling clothing and electronics and other durables, proposing a SEK 5 billion package. However, the proposal has not yet been approved and turned into law, which is causing confusion and frustration among companies and landlords.

Czech Chamber of Commerce: Information concerning the occurrence of COVID-19 disease

The Government decision to approve the proposal of changes in the Antivirus program is considered by the Czech Chamber of Commerce as the most important one. The essence is a partial reimbursement of the total wage expenses in the form of wage compensations to the employees for the duration of the obstacles at work caused by quarantine, emergency precautions, crisis precautions relating to the COVID-19 infection spread



[France: Update for 6 April 2020](#)

The Government, which had discouraged people from using masks unless they had Covid-19 symptoms, is now advising everyone to use them. This has raised both alarm and protest, which threatens national unity sought by Macron.

Central Advisories and Notifications

[Ministry of Commerce: Amendment in Export Policy of APIs and formulations made from these APIs](#)

Ministry of Commerce notifies of amendments in Export Policy of APIs and formulations made from these APIs which are made “Free” for export, with immediate effect.

[Ministry of New & Renewable Energy: Extension of six months in effective dates for ALMM List-I \(solar PV modules\) and ALMM List-II \(solar PV cells\)](#)

With the objective of ensuring reliability of Solar PV manufacturers, The Ministry had earlier issued “Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019” (ALMM Order) and had published an Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM). However, due to COVID-19 disruptions, the Ministry has given extension of six months for the list to be implemented.

State Advisories and Notifications

[Government of Telangana: Further orders on Economic Slowdown- Certain Austerity Measures](#)

The State Government has issued orders on modification of its earlier order on measures for “Economic Slowdown; Certain Austerity Measures”, exempting regular & outsourced sanitation personnel, of GHMC, regular and outsourced water supply lineman and sewerage workers of HMWS & SB and regular and outsourced sanitation personnel of all Municipal Corporations and Municipalities, other than GHMC; from the operation of the orders on deferment of payment of salaries/ wages.



[Government of Telangana: Sanction of one-time Chief Minister's Special Incentive to certain categories of employees](#)

The Government in reorganisation of the services of Health, Medical, Sanitary and other related employees who are attending COVID-19 relief operations, have decided to grant a one-time monetary incentive as a token of encouragement.

[Government of Andhra Pradesh: Inclusion of certain procedures under Dr YSR Aarogyasri Scheme to treat the cases of suspected and confirmed positive COVID-19](#)

In view of the present situation consequent to the incidence of COVID-19 in the State, the Government had started the isolated rooms/ wards / Blocks in all the private hospitals to treat the suspected COVID-19 cases duly following the safety measures. The State Government, further has accepted the proposal to include 15 new procedures under Dr YSR Aarogyasri Scheme to treat the COVID-19 suspected and confirmed positive stable or unstable cases.

[Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Hyderabad passes petition filed by Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited and Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited](#)

Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Hyderabad passes petition filed by Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited and Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited, on providing certain relaxations from performance of services, which are not directly related to maintaining continuity of power supply.

[Government of Andhra Pradesh: Latest consolidated guidelines of the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India about the exceptions for lock down.](#)

Government of Andhra Pradesh issues communication of the latest consolidated guidelines of the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India about the exceptions for lock down and have instructed all departments to strictly implement them.

[Karnataka Government Secretariat, Agriculture Department circular on exemption of Bakery & Biscuit, Condiments, Confectionary & Sweet for manufacturing, supply and operating retail outlets.](#)



The Karnataka Government Secretariat in its circular has permitted the functioning of food units engaged in Bakery & Biscuit, Condiments, Confectionary & Sweet for manufacturing, supply and operating retail outlets with minimum staff. These units shall not permit serving/dining in the premises and only takeaways will be permitted.

[Government of Rajasthan order on clarification regarding list of permitted activities during lockdown](#)

The State Government has issued orders clarifying list of permitted activities during lockdown, which includes clarification on permitted category of shops, outlets, offices, establishments, factories, etc to operate and system for passes for owner, staff, worker, labour who are staying nearby or within factory premises.

[Government of West Bengal: List of dedicated treatment facilities for COVID-19](#)

Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal has issued list of dedicated treatment facilities for COVID-19 with details of available isolation beds, ICU beds and ventilators.

[Government of West Bengal: Temporary arrangement of Fever clinic for Influenza like illness or Severe Respiratory Tract Infection cases](#)

To segregate the patients with fever, cough, breathlessness / ILI from other OPD cases and send them to designated Fever clinic for necessary investigation and treatment, the State Government has notified for arrangement of Fever Clinic for treatment of Influenza like illness (ILI) or Severe Respiratory Tract Infection (SARI) to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection among other patients.

[Government of Telangana: WhatsApp Chatbot for COVID-19 info](#)

Telangana Government has launched its official WhatsApp Chatbot – TS Gov COVID Info (on **+91-9000 658 658**) as part of its efforts to provide authentic information to citizens on the Coronavirus/ COVID-19 pandemic. Launching the Chatbot, Minister for IT, Industries and MAUD Sri KT Rama Rao said, “The Government of Telangana has partnered with WhatsApp to establish a dedicated Coronavirus helpline for citizens to receive accurate information on the pandemic.



[Government of Sikkim appoints nodal officer for issuance of e-passes for inter-state and intra-state movement of vehicles.](#)

Following the implementation of E-passes for inter-state and intra-state movement of vehicles for all purposes including carriage of essential commodities and medical emergencies, Government of Sikkim has designated Nodal Officer for South Sikkim district for issuance of e-passes.

[Government of Meghalaya: press release on decision taken in the Cabinet Meeting held on 6 April 2020](#)

The office of the Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya, Media & Communication cell issues press release on decision taken by the Cabinet Meeting held on 6 April 2020, regarding COVID-19

International Advisories and Notifications

[Coronavirus: State of emergency, but no lockdown, in Japan's largest cities](#)

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a month-long state of emergency covering seven prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka on Tuesday (April 7), urging people to drastically reduce contact as the coronavirus pandemic shows little signs of abating.

[Dubai Economy Announces Closure of All Commercial Sectors until 18 April](#)

Dubai Economy announced that all commercial sectors will remain closed until the end of the National Disinfection Program on 18 April. The exempted sectors, however, will operate as usual. The decision comes in line with the preventive measures to limit the spread of Corona Virus (Covid-19).

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