



Confederation of Indian Industry  
125 Years: 1895-2020

# COVID 19

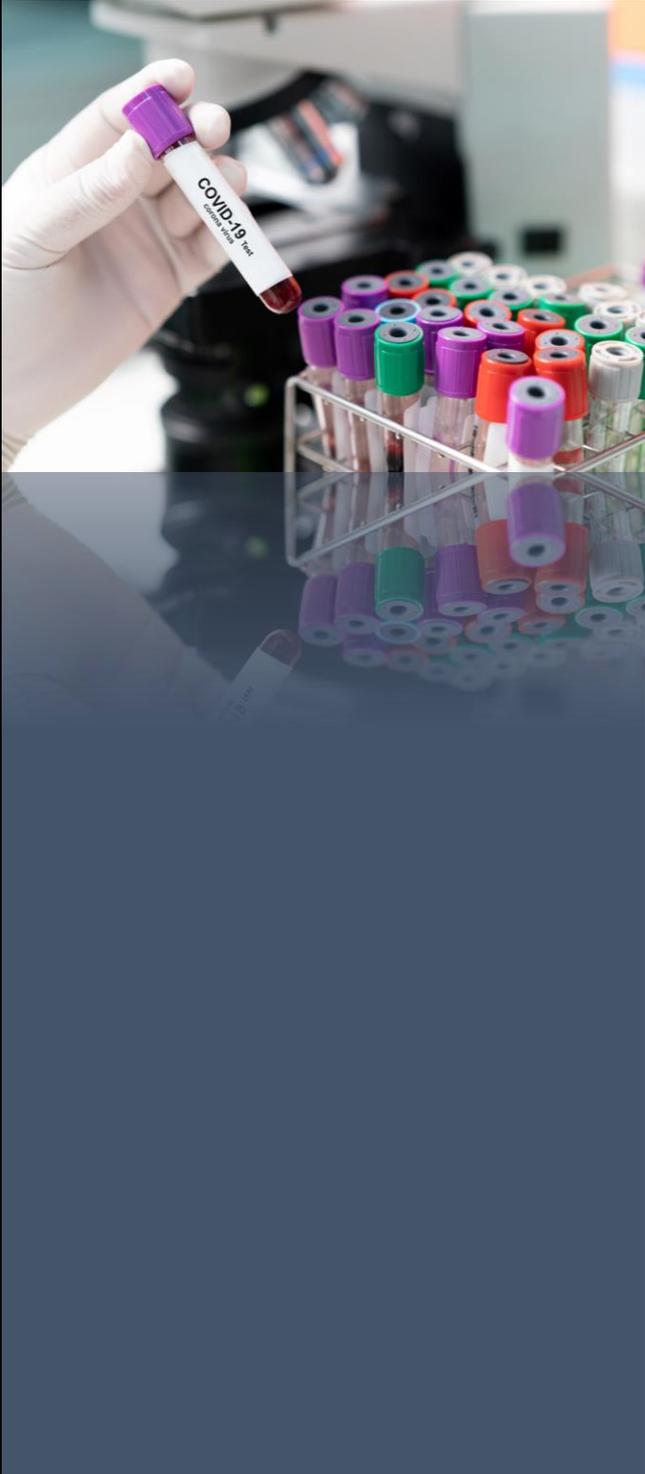
## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

[www.ciicovid19update.in](http://www.ciicovid19update.in)

AN22, 08 April 2020

### PM interacts with leaders of political parties: Priority of the government is saving each life

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today interacted with floor leaders of political parties in Parliament, via video conference. Prime Minister said that the entire world is currently facing the grave challenge of COVID-19, adding that the present situation is an epoch changing event in mankind's history and we must evolve to counter its impact. He praised the efforts of state governments working together with the Centre in this fight against the pandemic. He noted that the country has witnessed constructive and positive politics through the coming together of all sections of polity to present a united front in this battle. He also praised the sense of belonging, discipline, dedication and commitment with which every citizen is contributing in this endeavor, be it in following social distancing, Janta Curfew or the Lockdown.





### **Shri Piyush Goyal calls upon the Exporters to think big and be ready for harnessing the potential in the post-Covid era; Says that we are globally responsible citizens**

Ministry of Commerce and Industry today held interaction, through Video conferencing, with various Export Promotion Councils of the country to assess the ground situation and problems being faced by them in the wake of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown. This was the third such meeting since the lockdown in the country. Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, MoS Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Commerce Secretary Dr Anup Wadhawan, DGFT and other officers of the Department of Commerce were present in the meeting. Calling upon the exporters to think big, and be ready to harness the opportunity in the post-Covid era, Shri Goyal said that if we improve our quality, build capacity, bring in economies of scale, improve price competitiveness, then we can grow and harness the potential in post-Covid world.

### **CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) working with Industry to Scale up Personal Protective Equipment Digital training to make face masks by interested rural women**

Under the present COVID-19 pandemic situation, in line with CSIR's special efforts, its constituent lab CSIRCECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) at Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, has come out with helping hands to reach out to the society through scientific service in mitigating COVID-19. In the current situation, Sanitizers, Hospital assisting Devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are essential. In that direction CSIR-CECRI prepared series of lab made PPEs that include Hand sanitizer solutions, as per the WHO recommendations. These solutions were packed in containers, printed for instructions to use and distributed to the needy organizations at free of cost.

### **The Department of Personnel and Training, under the Government of India, launches digital platform to train all healthcare and COVID-19 warriors of India**

The Department of Personnel and Training has announced the launch of a learning platform (<https://igot.gov.in>) to combat COVID 19 for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic. Appropriate training will also prepare them for the subsequent stages of the pandemic. By giving COVID 19 training to other potential second line workforce, India will be better prepared for the emergent situations.



### [Dr. Jitendra Singh hands over 2200 Essential kits prepared by Kendriya Bhandar for distribution to needy families in Delhi in the wake of COVID-19.](#)

Responding to the call of the Hon Prime Minister of India in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, Union Ministries of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions and DoNER have been taking a series of measures after the declaration of the Lockdown. Kendriya Bhandar, which functions under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has taken the unique initiative of providing "Essentials Kits" to needy families.

### [DST approves funding for developing a gel for nasal passage as prevention for COVID 19](#)

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is supporting a technology by the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering (DBB), IIT Bombay for capturing and inactivation of novel corona virus, the causative agent of COVID-19. The funding will help the team from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Bombay develop a gel that can be applied to nasal passage, which is a major entry point of the corona virus. This solution is not only expected to protect the safety of health workers but can also lead to reduction in community transmission of COVID-19, thereby helping disease management.

### [Indian Railways introduces 109 Time tabled parcel trains over 58 routes to connect all the important centers.](#)

In a major boost to the supply chain across the country, Indian Railways has introduced unhindered services of Time tabled Parcel Trains for nationwide transportation of essential commodities and other goods. This is expected to boost the availability of vital goods required for ordinary citizens, industry and agriculture. Approximately, 58 routes (109 trains) for Parcel Special Trains have been notified since the start of the lock-down. Till 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 27 routes were notified, out of which 17 routes were regular scheduled services, while the remaining were for single trip only. Subsequently, 40 new routes have been identified and notified (and frequency of some of the previous routes has been increased). With this almost all the important cities of India will get connected for transportation of vital goods at a fast speed. It may be noted that these services are expected to be further scaled up.



### [Indian Railways to deploy more than 2500 Doctors and 35000 paramedic staff to meet the COVID 19 challenge. Hospitals have all risen to the occasion locally producing PPEs type overalls, sanitizers and masks etc. to supplement the national efforts](#)

Sustaining the fight against COVID-19, Indian Railways is making an all-out effort to supplement the health care efforts of Government of India. The spectrum of steps includes equipping the existing Railway Hospitals to meet the needs for COVID-19, earmarking of hospital beds to meet the contingencies, recruitment of additional doctors & paramedics, modification of passenger coaches as isolation coaches, availability of medical equipment's, in-house production of PPEs and Ventilators, etc. Health Department of Railways is getting ready and equipped to supplement the healthcare efforts of Government of India in its fight against COVID-19. Railways have a chain of 586 Health Units, 45 Sub Divisional Hospitals, 56 Divisional Hospitals, 8 Production Units Hospitals and 16 Zonal Hospitals spread all over the country. A significant portion of these facilities will now be dedicated to combat the Corona virus.

### [Indian researchers start working on novel coronavirus genome sequencing](#)

Novel coronavirus is a new virus and researchers are trying to figure out all the different aspects of it. Two institutes of Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi have started working together on the whole genome sequencing of novel coronavirus.

### [Rapid diagnostic kit being developed by Pune based startup for COVID 19 screening](#)

FastSense Diagnostics, a startup incorporated in 2018, developing innovative products for rapid disease diagnosis, funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is now developing two modules for detection of COVID-19. The major challenges of testing for COVID-19 are speed, cost, accuracy and accessibility at the point-of-care or use. Several startups have developed rather creative and innovative ways to address these needs. DST is supporting the most promising of these to facilitate their development to commercialization chain if found suitable on technical grounds.



### [SCTIMST scientists develop disinfected barrier-examination booth for examining COVID-19 patients](#)

Scientists at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, have designed and developed a **disinfected barrier examination booth** for examining COVID-19 patients. The innovative disinfected examination booth is closed like a telephone booth for examining the patient without direct contact with the doctor to prevent transmission of infection. It is equipped with a lamp, table fan, rack, and Ultraviolet (UV) light. “A thoughtfully designed protective booth with clinician inputs is a good step in preventing transmission of infection”, says Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

### [Shri Arjun Munda writes to Chief Ministers to advise State Nodal Agencies for undertaking procurement of minor forest produce at MSP in right earnest](#)

The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has written a letter to the Chief Ministers of 15 States to advise the State Nodal Agencies for undertaking procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in right earnest. These States include Uttar Pradesh; Gujarat; Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka; Maharashtra; Assam; Andhra Pradesh; Kerala; Manipur; Nagaland; West Bengal; Rajasthan; Odisha; Chhattisgarh; and Jharkhand.

### [TRIFED to launch a digital campaign in collaboration with UNICEF for self-help groups to ensure Tribal Gatherers carry on their work safely](#)

To ensure tribal gatherers carry on their work safely, TRIFED has collaborated with UNICEF for developing a digital communication strategy for promoting a digital campaign for Self Help Groups (SHGs) involved in this work, highlighting the importance of Social Distancing. UNICEF would provide the necessary support to be circulated to the SHG centers in the form of Digital Multimedia content, Webinars for Virtual trainings (basic orientation on COVID response, key preventive behaviors), Social Media campaigns (on social distancing, home quarantine, etc.) and Vanya Radio. Additionally, TRIFED has reached out to the Art of Living Foundation’s #iStandWithHumanity Initiative with a Stand With Tribal Families component in providing much needed food and ration for survival of the tribal community. The webinar, for the promotion of the campaign is scheduled to be held on 9th April, 2020. It is aimed to reach more than 18,000 participants and would cover tribal regions across all the 27 States.



### [De Beers Group Contributes \\$2,500,000 Across Botswana And Namibia To Support Covid-19 Response](#)

De Beers Group is recognized as one of the world's leading diamond companies. It employs over 20,000 people, with mining operations in Botswana, Canada, Namibia and South Africa. To mark their support, the Group has announced the contribution of \$2,500,000 across Botswana and Namibia to aid the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### [COVID-19 South Africa updates:](#)

- **South African COVID-19 Tourism Relief Fund open for applications**

In a bid to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on South Africa's tourism sector, the Department of Tourism is urging eligible small, micro and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) to apply for a share of the R200 million Tourism Relief Fund.

- **South Africa hopes its battle with HIV and TB helped prepare it for COVID-19**

As the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps into South Africa, the decades the country has spent fighting the world's worst combined epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV could give it an advantage. But those infections could also worsen the pandemic's impact.

- **Covid-19: Opportunity for Investment in South Africa's healthcare sector**

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak has revealed both the strengths and weaknesses of South Africa's healthcare system. On the other hand, the Covid-19 pandemic presents a greater opportunity to develop South Africa's health sector value chain. The South African government was able to massively increase the country's short-term care capacity, providing emergency hospital services and conducting sporadic testing. Meanwhile, the outbreak exposed wide disparities in the quality of care between hospitals across regions.

### [Doctors in Zimbabwe sue state for not providing protection against Covid-19](#)



Zimbabwean doctors have filed a lawsuit aimed at compelling the government to beef up coronavirus protection for public hospitals and healthcare workers. In an application filed to the high court on Sunday, the doctors said the government had failed to set in place “measures to ensure that health practitioners across the country, who include nurses, nurse aides and pharmacists among others, are adequately protected”.

### [Wuhan reopens after 76-day lockdown](#)

Ending the lockdown of Wuhan, Hubei province, on Wednesday became a milestone for China in securing final victory in the people's war against the COVID-19 outbreak under the command of President Xi Jinping, observers said.

### [Chinese coming from 26 countries must submit health info to fly](#)

Chinese passengers who are going to fly from 26 countries to China are required to submit their health information prior to boarding the plane, the country's civil aviation regulator said.

### [China to set up new integrated pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce to stabilize foreign trade, investment.](#)

China will set up 46 new integrated pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce, as well as support processing trade with new steps and hold the Canton Fair online to keep foreign trade and investment stable amid the epidemic, according to the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang Tuesday.

### [Coronavirus: Asia-Pacific nations unleash massive stimulus measures as scope of Covid-19's economic impact grows clear](#)

Asia-Pacific economic policymakers who chose to keep their powder dry in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic have begun unleashing massive new rounds of fiscal stimulus as the full scope of the global health crisis' financial impact becomes apparent.



### [Coronavirus: IMF, WHO say no trade-off between saving lives and livelihoods](#)

The International Monetary Fund and the World Health Organisation have urged political leaders, especially in emerging markets and developing economies, to priorities public health expenditure as saving lives and protecting the economy go “hand in hand”.

### [World at risk of second Great Depression due to coronavirus, says Chinese central bank](#)

China’s central bank has warned the international community to be alert to the risk of a “Great Depression” in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, although it said the chances of this occurring was low.

### [Coronavirus: China foreign exchange reserves drop to 17-month low as market turmoil pushes up US dollar](#)

China’s foreign exchange reserves fell to their lowest level in 17 months as global impact of the coronavirus pandemic caused a plunge in global asset prices and a rise in the US dollar exchange rate.

## Central Advisories and Notifications

### [IT Department to release all pending income tax refunds up to Rs 5 lakhs immediately; Around 14 lakh taxpayers to benefit/ All GST & CUSTOM refunds also to be released; to provide benefit to around 1 lakh business entities including MSMEs Rs 18,000 crore of total refund granted immediately](#)

In the context of the COVID-19 situation and with a view to provide immediate relief to the business entities and individuals, it has been decided to issue all the pending income-tax refunds up to Rs. 5 lakhs, immediately. This would benefit around 14 lakh taxpayers. It has also been decided to issue all pending GST and Custom refunds which would provide benefit to around 1 lakh business entities, including MSME. Thus, the total refund granted will be approximately Rs. 18,000 crores.



### **[MHA writes to States to ensure availability of Essential Goods, by invoking provisions of the Essential Commodities \(EC\) Act 1955, under Lockdown to fight COVID-19](#)**

As part of maintaining smooth supply of essential items in the country, Union Home Secretary, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written to all State Chief Secretaries to take urgent steps to ensure availability of essential goods, by invoking provisions of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act 1955. These measures include fixing of stock limits, capping of prices, enhancing production, inspection of accounts of dealers and other such actions.

There have been reports of loss of production due to various factors, especially reduction in labour supply. In this situation, there is a possibility of inventory building/hoarding and black marketing, profiteering, and speculative trading, resulting in price rise of essential goods. The States have been asked to take urgent steps to ensure availability of these commodities at fair prices for public at large.

### **[Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19- FAQs](#)**

This document shares light on few FAQs related to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19.

### **[Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions: Integrated Government Online Training \(iGOT\) Courses on DIKSHA platform on COVID-19 pandemic.](#)**

To take care of the training needs of the frontline workers, Department of Personnel & Training has launched iGOT platform on [https:// igot.gov.in](https://igot.gov.in). The platform will provide the training modules on flextime and on-site basis so that the COVID-19 response can be delivered at scale for the workforce required to tackle the pandemic.

### **[Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Guidance document on appropriate management of suspected / confirmed COVID-19 cases.](#)**

One of the measures taken by Central and State Governments is to isolate all suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19. MoHFW has issued guidance document to put in place all SOPs to ensure optimal utilization of available resources and providing appropriate care to all the COVID-19 patients. This document will ensure that available hospital beds capacity is



used only for moderate to severe cases of COVID-19. The SOPs also specify the different types of facilities to be set up for various categories of Covid-19 cases.

### Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Revised Guidelines for Dialysis of COVID-19 patients

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued revised guidelines for Dialysis of COVID-19 patients and advised that medical supplies such as dialysate, dialyzers and tubing, catheters, fistula needles, disinfectant and medicines etc. must be ensured in adequate quantity and patients on regular dialysis should adhere to prescribed schedule and not miss their dialysis sessions to avoid any emergency dialysis.

### IRDA Advisory on Rescheduling of Term Loans in the context of outbreak of Covid-19

Considering the cashflow problems faced by the borrowers and in line with the RBI directions, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has given instructions to the Insurers for providing moratorium on repayment of term loans

## **State Advisories and Notifications**

### Government of Andhra Pradesh notifies officers In-charge to look after the matters relating to VRDL Labs and other Labs used for COVID-19

The State Government appoints Officers as in-charge to look after all the matters relating to VRDL Labs and any other Labs which are used for testing the suspected COCOVID cases in the State.

### Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai implements use of masks as containment measures.

Municipal Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai implements usage of masks as containment measures in the City. Violators of these instructions will be punishable under the section 188 of IPC and will be strictly penalized and may be arrested.



### [Office of the Commissioner of Customs, City Customs Commissionerate, Bangalore issues public notice on Measure to facilitate trade during the lockdown period](#)

Considering the situation caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has decided to take certain measures for a temporary period in terms of section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962 to expedite Customs clearance of goods and for maintaining the balance between Customs control and facilitation of legitimate trade. In this regard, Board has approved the relaxation of the requirement to submit bonds prescribed under section 18, section 59 and section 143, and under notifications issued in terms of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962, subject to compliance of conditions.

### [Health and Family Welfare Department, Himachal Pradesh issues order on ESI Katha as secondary level isolation facility.](#)

Health and Family Welfare Department, Himachal Pradesh issues office order notifying on ESI Katha as secondary level isolation facility for confirmed cases of COVID-19. This facility shall cater to confirmed COVID-19 cases of District Sirmaur and Solan.

### [Government of Punjab Memo: Items & Norms of assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund \(SDRF\)](#)

Revenue Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Government of Punjab in its memo to all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Punjab stated that reasonable amount has been released out of SDRF to all DCs of all the districts. Among other things, these funds can be used for food, medicines, shelter, sanitation, etc. for the notified quarantine camps. on Items & Norms of assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). These funds can also be used for purchase of other medical consumables, including PPE if urgently required.

## **International Advisories and Notifications**

### [Syrian Government prepared 14 Centres and suspends export of several medicines for treating COVID19 patients](#)

The Health Ministry has set up 14 fully equipped and fully staffed centres for medical isolation to treat cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry suspended the exportation of several medicines as part of the efforts to confront the Coronavirus and ensure the availability of these medicines in the market.



**[Government of Singapore passes a COVID 19 \(Temporary Measures\) Act 2020 in the parliament](#)**

Government of Singapore passes a COVID 19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 in the parliament yesterday. The Act elaborates on the Restriction on Movement of People and Closure of Premises. The act gives powers to the Government to act against those who do not follow it. A very strict enforcement of this Act is in place currently in Singapore.

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

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