



Relief in the form of food, PPE and other essential safety equipment, and enhanced use of IT are some of the ways in which industry is responding to the COVID 19 pandemic. BMW Group India focuses on providing relief to communities around its areas of operation - will participate in creation of an isolation ward for patients at the Government General Hospital in Chennai, Critical care equipment and services will be provided for in medical facilities. Hershey India has distributed 1,20,000 nutrition drinks / fortified beverages and cookies and snacks to medical and other frontline workers across 20 cities pan India.

In international efforts against the COVID 19 pandemic, Buckman Laboratories introduces protocols for Business Continuity which emphasize safety of employees and customers. Del Monte Foods has donated \$2 million worth of its products to Feeding America, the largest domestic hunger relief organization in the United States. Exel Industries introduces protocols to ensure the highest level of hygiene and health protection; also reorganizes Agricultural Spraying to enable continuity of operations. Ericsson has joined UNESCO-led Global Education Coalition and launches a digital program delivering online learning which can be accessed free of charge via web portals specifically created by Ericsson.

#### **BMW Group India**

##### **BMW Group India focuses on providing relief to communities around its areas of operation**

BMW Group India has pledged INR 3 crore in the ongoing battle against COVID-19 pandemic. Associations with government and non-government organisations have been initiated for on-ground implementation in Delhi / NCR and Chennai. Employees of BMW Group India, BMW Group Plant Chennai and BMW India Financial Services voluntarily contributed towards the cause.

An official spokesperson for BMW Group India said, "The coronavirus pandemic presents a mammoth challenge to public health, industry, economy and business. Responsible action and sincere efforts are immensely crucial for minimising impact on human life, providing immediate relief to the underprivileged and reinforcing those engaged at the frontline of this crisis. The most important need of the hour is to flatten the curve and ensure social distancing. It is a top priority and responsibility that we are taking very seriously. At the BMW Group, we have a strong culture and value system which has always stood the test of time. The resolve and commitment of our employees and dealer partners across India to fight this unprecedented threat to mankind is strong and undeterred. We will remain resilient and responsive."

In the BMW plant in Chengalpattu, near Chennai, BMW Group India will participate in creation of an isolation ward for patients at the Government General Hospital.

Critical care equipment and services will be provided for medical facilities in Delhi / NCR and Chennai.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will be provided for frontline medical personnel in Delhi / NCR and Chennai.

Nutrition for the economically marginalised families around the Chennai plant and Delhi / NCR will be funded as part of the initiative.

#### **Hershey India Pvt Ltd**

##### **Hershey India donates nutrition drinks and snacks to medical and other frontline workers**

Hershey India Pvt Ltd has distributed 1,20,000 fortified beverages and cookies across 20 cities pan India to express their gratitude and support towards the medical staff, police, sanitation workers, migrant laborers and underprivileged children in these tough times. The organization will be distributing Hershey's Milk Shake, Sofit Almond Milk, Sofit Soy Milk and Sofit Protein Cookies. The distributed products are fortified with essential vitamins and minerals.

Hershey India has associated with India Food Banking Network (IFBN) of the Food Security Foundation India to conduct the distribution. The organization will also be distributing their products to the medical staff in All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhopal and Sion Hospital in Mumbai.

Herjit Bhalla, MD, Hershey India, said, "As India and the world continue to battle the pandemic, this is a small gesture of gratitude and support by Hershey India to lift the spirits of all the brave frontline workers and the affected communities. We salute the medical staff and the police who are gallantly serving the society in these critical times, and hope that they continue to stay safe."

The company has also rolled out several programs to ensure protection and safety for frontline sales force, contract workmen and depot staff in these challenging times. Bhalla said "Hershey India has implemented our 'Hershey Cares' program which ensures suitable insurance scheme for all our frontline sales force. Additionally, we have allocated a special fund to cater to medical needs of our frontline sales force and contract workmen."

Hershey India and its employees have also contributed towards PM CARES fund.

#### **Buckman Laboratories India Pvt Ltd**

##### **Buckman Laboratories introduces protocols for Business Continuity which emphasize safety of employees and customers**

A company statement said: "As we begin to experience the economy opening, albeit slowly and deliberately, we remain focused on doing what we can to help our customers run safely and smoothly. We are pleased to hear that business is beginning to move in a positive direction.

Of course, safety is our #1 value and our top concern. It will become even more challenging as the economy opens, but we will continue to make the best possible decisions to take care of our people, our customers and our company. Our Global Task Force is monitoring the COVID-19 trends and following the advice and recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in N. America and other local health organizations as well as local city and state governments.

Our business continuation protocols remain in place to secure the safety of our global employees and customers. We are continuing to:

- work with customers to limit site visits but comply with customer safety guidelines and expectations when visits are necessary,
- monitor our supply chain daily, and work with our logistics and transportation partners to maintain delivery with as few disruptions as possible,
- equip our employees with appropriate PPE and sanitizing supplies
- support our work-from-home initiative
- strengthen our technology infrastructure to facilitate a high level of virtual collaboration.

We urge everyone to remain vigilant as businesses open by continuing to wear masks, wash hands frequently and practice social distancing. Together we will continue to work together to weather this storm

#### **Exel Industries Ltd**

##### **Exel Industries to ensure the highest level of hygiene and health protection; also reorganizes Agricultural Spraying to enable continuity of operations**

An official spokesperson for Exel Industries said: "As the Coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic continues to spread, to deal with this unprecedented health situation, EXEL Industries is mobilized worldwide to ensure the highest level of hygiene and good health protection for our employees and external partners, by implementing health guidelines that are consistent with the directives defined by the governments in the different countries in which we operate.

EXEL Industries' teams are also organizing with commitment and creativity to enable the continuity of operations in order to serve our customers and provide products and equipment that are often essential for the agricultural and industrial sectors in which we operate. We are asking our suppliers to take responsibility in these particular circumstances in order to enable us to achieve our task.

Nevertheless, the Group:

- has implemented measures to reduce fixed costs and has frozen certain investments;
- is continuing to implement the reorganization of Agricultural Spraying;
- benefits from a solid balance sheet.

At this stage, our credit lines are sufficient to cover the additional requirements and we do not anticipate any cash flow problems."

#### **Del Monte Foods Inc**

##### **Del Monte Foods donates \$2 million worth of its products to Feeding America**

A company spokesperson said: "To protect team members and to do our part in protecting our communities, we have implemented "work from home" measures wherever possible. We have eliminated nonrequired travel and are holding virtual team meetings. Our teams play an essential role keeping food production and supply chain in operation to support the needs of our population. To that end, we're taking preventive measures that allow our manufacturing plants and distribution centers to continue operating while protecting the health and safety of our team members.

As Growers of Food, we have a long history of donating food to support local food banks and nonprofit programs. With school and business closures more Americans may struggle with food insecurity and we are donating \$2 million of Del Monte products to Feeding America®. Feeding America is the largest domestic hunger relief organization in the United States with a network of food banks to provide emergency food assistance to more than 40 million people annually.

At Del Monte Foods, our commitment to ensuring that our products are safe, wholesome and meet all food safety and regulatory requirements continues to be unwavering. We are accelerating our product deployment efforts to provide you with faster access wherever you may shop.

To combat any food safety misperception, the CDC and the USDA state that there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 as a foodborne pathogen and the FDA is not aware of any reports of transmission through food or food packaging. We will continue to comply with all requirements and guidelines regarding sourcing and trade of material set by the relevant authorities."

#### **Ericsson**

##### **Ericsson joins UNESCO-led Global Education Coalition and launches a digital program delivering online learning which can be accessed free of charge**

Ericsson has joined the UNESCO-led Global Education Coalition and launched Ericsson Educate, a digital program delivering online learning content focused on improving digital skills for students in secondary schools and universities. This is in response to how the global COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted education and learning around the world

Education is one critical sector particularly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic, with around 1.2 billion students and youth around the world unable to attend traditional education institutions. This has placed a huge demand for comprehensive online education programs on governments and education institutions alike.

As its main contribution in this effort, the company has launched its latest Connect To Learn initiative, Ericsson Educate, a digital learning program that has the potential to benefit students all around the world who are currently disadvantaged due to lockdowns and home quarantines. The program includes different learning paths, customized to the educational needs and maturity level of the target audience, and can be accessed free of charge via web portals specifically created by Ericsson.

Ericsson Connect To Learn program director, Zohra Yermeche, says: "The current pandemic situation has affected students' learning efficacy on a global scale never encountered before. Without schools, friends, and direct contact with teachers to reach out to, studying remotely brings its share of challenges for the learners. It is particularly difficult for teachers as well, who have to adapt to the new conditions and rethink their approach towards teaching, with little to no adequate training on how to transition towards remote lesson delivery and virtual classroom management. The need of the hour is digital learning systems that are inclusive, scalable and easy to use, providing access to quality educational content aimed to be both informative and engaging."

Ericsson Educate provides inclusive learning opportunities for students to help them through this period of sudden and unprecedented disruption. Learning is made more interesting through a comprehensive curriculum that encourages improving the digital skills of students in secondary schools and universities, at the same time empowering teachers to transition effectively to a more virtual medium of teaching and facilitating.

The digital skills portal developed by Ericsson features courses on 5G networks, IoT, data science, automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning. The curriculum aims to strengthen the ICT skills of university students to increase their readiness for jobs in the telecom and ICT sectors.

Teaching AI is another learning program developed by Ericsson in partnership with UNESCO, which includes a free, multi-lingual artificial intelligence (AI) skills portal that can be accessed globally by parents and teachers, enabling them to support children and students in home learning environments to learn about AI.

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