



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

UPDATE ON COVID 2019 ADVISORIES AND NOTIFICATIONS (24 March 2020)

News Updates

India under lockdown for 21 days

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India announced complete lockdown across the country for 21 days from Tuesday midnight, asserting that social distancing is the only way out for the country in its decisive battle against the coronavirus.

Finance Minister announces several relief measures relating to Statutory and Regulatory compliance in view of COVID-19

The Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced several important relief measures taken by the Government of India in view of COVID-19 outbreak, especially on statutory and regulatory compliance matters related to several sectors. While addressing the press conference, Minister announced much-needed relief measures in areas of Income Tax, GST, Customs & Central Excise, Corporate Affairs, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Fisheries, Banking Sector and Commerce.

India update: COVID-19

Thirty states and Union territories declared a lockdown by late evening on Monday as the country recorded its ninth death linked to the highly contagious coronavirus. As reports of infection came in from all the key states, the Centre tightened its clampdown with a ban on domestic flights and warned of legal action against rule-breakers. Punjab, which had thousands of expats heading for home, declared curfew. So did Maharashtra, which has the highest number of COVID-19 cases.

China Britain agree to support WHO's role in combating COVID-19

President Xi Jinping and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke over phone on Monday and voiced support for the role of WHO in the global fight against COVID-19.

China resumes construction of nearly 90% of Infrastructure projects

China is speeding up construction on major infrastructure projects to mitigate the economic impact of the novel coronavirus epidemic.

China's Wuhan reports zero increase in COVID-19 cases

No new confirmed cases of the novel COVID-19 were reported in Wuhan, marking the fifth day in a row of zero report.

G20 Press Release

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually on Monday 23 March 2020, under the Saudi G20 Presidency, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy and coordinate their efforts in response to this global challenge. They also discussed the preparation for the virtual G20 Leaders' Summit, which the Saudi G20 Presidency is convening in a few days to coordinate international efforts to address this pandemic and the related economic and social impacts.

Indonesian Health Ministry sees rise in license requests for imports.

The BKPM (Investment Coordinating Board of Indonesia) is easing distribution and import licensing processes for health equipment, raw materials and other necessities required to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Health Ministry and the BKPM are committed to prioritizing (licenses) necessary to mitigate the virus.

Czech Republic: Tax Relief measures

To address the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government approves few tax-relief measures such as general waiver of penalties and default interest in respect of income tax, waiver of default interest for the late payment for tax and other relief opportunities that may enhance cash flow.

India Inc response to COVID-19

From converting existing manufacturing plants to make ventilators to giving free fuel to emergency vehicles, several Indian companies have announced initiatives to help combat the ongoing crisis over the COVID-19 epidemic.

Sweden PM's addresses the nation

Prime Minister of Sweden in his address to the nation stated that COVID-19 is now spreading in the community and the only way to manage this crisis is to face this as a society with everyone taking responsibility. In Sweden, public gatherings of more than 500 people have been banned and secondary schools and universities are being conducted online.

Denmark and Sweden Governments offer \$ 302 million to Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) over COVID-19 crisis

The two Governments, which together own almost 30% of the carrier are to provide state-backed credit guarantees worth a total of 3 billion Swedish krona. Scandinavian Airlines has suffered greatly from the COVID-19 crisis along with major airlines in the world.

Europe: Helping companies and workers amid COVID-19 pandemic

As the COVID-19 crisis deepens, countries including Ireland, Germany and Denmark are introducing emergency measures to help. Where Employers in Ireland are being urged by the Government to continue paying an employee who is unable to attend work or is self-isolating, Germany has offered companies unlimited loans to prevent them from collapsing because of the pandemic.

Norway: Economic, tax measures to address the COVID-19 situation

The Norwegian government introduced initial measures that are intended to support employment and help businesses address the economic situation resulting from COVID-19. As part of a larger package, the government will establish two state-backed loan and guarantee schemes in the total amount of approximately U.S. \$10 billion, in an effort to provide liquidity for Norwegian enterprises.

Bihar announces major relief package in wake of coronavirus outbreak

A high-level meeting in Patna was chaired by Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar on 23 March 2020 where a major relief package was announced for the people affected by enforcement of lockdown in urban and semi-urban areas in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. Few incentives included Government doctors and health employees and cash transfer to families residing in lockdown areas

CISA guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) developed an initial list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" to help State and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety as well as economic and national security. The list identifies workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are essential to continued critical infrastructure viability, including staffing operations centres, maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure, operating call centres, working construction, and performing management functions, among others.

BC Government announces \$5 billion coronavirus aid package for individuals and businesses.

The B.C. government has introduced a \$5-billion aid package to support British Columbians and businesses that are suffering because of the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. The plan includes \$2.8 billion in support for individuals and services, and \$2.2 billion for businesses. The benefit will be paid to eligible B.C. residents, on top of the recently announced federal income supports, and is expected to be available by May.

Central Advisories and Notifications

Ministry of Steel: No restrictions to be imposed on operation of Steel Plants and mine ores

Ministry of Steel in its letter to Chief Secretaries has advised that any service in establishments or undertaking dealing with the production, supply or distribution of coal, power, steel or fertilizers is an Essential Service and hence no restrictions should be imposed on operation of Steel Plants, mines of iron ore, coking coal, etc.

Ministry of Chemicals: No restrictions to be imposed on establishments/ factories engaged in manufacturing and distribution of essential commodities like medicines, vaccines, etc

Ministry of Chemicals in its letter to Chief Secretaries stated that the establishments/ factories engaged in manufacturing and distribution of essential commodities like medicines, vaccines, masks, medical devices, etc should be exempt from restrictions.

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Goa issues fresh Notification

All Secretaries and Heads of Department have been directed to allow skeletal staff in all the Government offices / Department.

Madhya Pradesh Government issues circular for payment of wages to workman during the lockdown period

The Labour Commissioner, Government of Madhya Pradesh has issued a circular that payment of wages shall be made to all workman during the lockdown period and no retrenchment of jobs or break of service would be applied for absence during this period.

International Advisories and Notifications

Kingdom of Bahrain launches Public Awareness Campaign

The Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain has launched a Public Awareness Campaign to combat Coronavirus (COVID-19) for the Citizens and Residents.

Public Health Advisory to the citizens of Nigeria on Coronavirus disease

The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

Monetary Authority of Singapore issues Advisory to Financial Institutions to adopt safe distancing measures

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) issues Advisory to Financial Institutions telling them to implement safe distancing measures in all aspect of their business operations to adopt safe distancing measures

Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore issues Advisory for employers and self employed persons on application for Leave of absence

Ministry of Manpower, Singapore announced that it will support extend under the Leave of Absence Support Programme to employers who give additional paid leave to employees who returned to Singapore between 14 March and 20 March 2020.

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