



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

UPDATE ON COVID 2019
NEWS, ADVISORIES AND NOTIFICATIONS
(27 March 2020)

News Updates

G20 Leaders' Statement Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement on COVID-19

The G20 is committed to overcome the pandemic, along with the World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), United Nations (UN), and other international organizations, working within their existing mandates. The Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement on COVID-19 stated that they are determined to spare no effort, both individually and collectively to Protect lives, Safeguard people's jobs and incomes, Restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger, Minimize disruptions to trade and global supply chains, provide help to all countries in need of assistance and coordinate on public health and financial measures.

COVID-19: US Tops World in Coronavirus Cases, Overtaking China and Italy

The United States on Thursday took the grim title of the country with the most coronavirus infections and reported a record surge in unemployment as world leaders vowed \$5 trillion to stave off global economic collapse. In the United States, more than 83,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19, edging out Italy, which has reported the most deaths, and China, where the virus was first detected in December in the metropolis of Wuhan.

Australia Closing Down for Months to Stop Covid-19

Australia is set to enter a period of various lockdown stages for at least 6-months as the Covid-19 crisis hits the nation. All non-essential services and business will close including restaurants, cafes, pubs and other non-essential retail. Domestic travel will be restricted to all non-essential trips.

Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico announces 1 million Pesos loans to small businesses to deal with crisis

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced 1 million Pesos (1 peso = INR 3.2) loans will be granted to small businesses without interest, or with low rates, to attend the economic recession that is coming as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus.

Nine European countries calls for issue of Corona Bonds

European countries have called upon their EU counterparts to issue bonds – a new debt instrument that would combine securities from different countries. Pressure is building up in Europe to come up with new ways to mitigate the economic impact of corona virus.

Denmark offers companies \$6 Billion in coronavirus cash hand-outs

Denmark's Finance ministry has announced plans to spend up to 40bn Danish kroner (\$6bn) to help companies hit by the coronavirus crisis to cover their fixed costs until cash flow resumes. Under the scheme, companies who have seen their revenues decline by 40 percent or more, will receive government grants to help cover between 25 to 80 percent of their fixed costs. The self-employed and firms with up to ten people who see their revenues fall more than 30 percent will also be offered government compensation worth 75 percent of their normal monthly income -- up to a maximum of 23,000 Danish kroner per month.

Morocco Special Fund for the Management and Response surpasses \$2.54 billion since its inception.

In order to mitigate the fallout of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy, King Mohammed VI established Special Fund with initial sum of \$1 billion. Several public, private companies, national institutions and philanthropists have also made contribution to this fund.

CORONAVIRUS- RESEARCH TRACKER : UPDATE AS ON 27 MARCH 2020

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), has set up a COVID-19 task force to fund market-ready solutions including, among other things, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of coronavirus through AI and IoT based solutions.
- The Gol has launched *beta* version of a Covid-19 tracking mobile application - Corona Kavach - which helps users to check if they have crossed path with patients who tested positive of the Coronavirus. For Apple users the iOS version of Corona Kavach is coming soon.
- In India, over 20 research institutes are working overnight to develop vaccines for the treatment of the highly infectious novel coronavirus. The National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are among these Research institutes.
- "Fabiosys Innovations", a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi has developed an "infection-proof fabric" to be used at hospitals to prevent hospital-acquired infections (HAIs).
- Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M), has indigenously developed a prototype of bag valve mask, which is commonly known as an Ambu bag. This could cost less than ₹7,500. The artificial manual-breathing unit, or ambu bag, is a self-inflating device that is typically used to help patients with breathing problems.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has formed a nine-member team, including doctors from Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences (NICS), Bangalore to vet the prototype following which the start-up will get around 1000 portable ventilators ready within a month.
- The Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology (CCMB) is working on sequencing the whole genome of the Covid-19 virus taken from "isolates" from people who have tested positive. The large-scale genome sequencing will help to understand how similar or different Indian isolates are, compared with others.
- The Kolkata-based Indian Institute of Chemical Biology has designed a research proposal to find "inhibitors" against the coronavirus' proteins -- meaning, finding biochemicals that will prevent the coronavirus from gaining entry into human cells
- Scientists from Hyderabad-based Tata Consultancy Services Innovation Labs-Hyderabad (Life Sciences division), using Artificial Intelligence, found 31 new promising chemical compounds, which they claim can be synthesised and tested further to find perfect drug to fight the dreaded disease.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing to launch an official Android, iOS and Web app for news, tips, alerts, to keep people informed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Entos Pharmaceuticals, a Canadian biotechnology company, is in the process of developing a new DNA vaccine against the novel coronavirus.

Detailed Guide on Coronavirus (COVID-19) History, All Current/ Pipeline Treatments & Ongoing/ Past Research/Patents

Though there is no proper cure for Covid-19 yet, there are some companies claiming that they can provide cure for the disease by modifying already existing drugs and vaccines or work to find new cure or are already have drugs in the pipeline. Approx. 3200 patents were identified in this domain out of which approximately 92 % of the patents were based on vaccines.

Singapore Airlines aims to raise \$15 billion with support from Temasek to combat COVID-19 fallout

Singapore Airlines (SIA) aims to raise \$ 15 billion amid major financial challenge due to COVID-29 pandemic which has hit the global air travel sector badly.

ITC sets up Rs 150 crores COVID Contingency Fund for vulnerable sections of society

ITC is setting up a Contingency Fund of Rs 150 crore to address and manage the challenges arising out of this adversity. This fund will be utilised primarily to provide relief to the vulnerable and most needy sections of society who have been harshly impacted by the pandemic and have faced significant disruption in their livelihoods. In addition, the fund will collaborate with District Authorities to provide assistance to the district health and rural healthcare eco-system that reaches out to the weakest sections of society.

Draft Regulation on public security management at the city's hospital in China

Lawmakers in Beijing are mulling over better protection of Medical staff after several attacks on doctors. The Standing Committee of Beijing People's Congress has started to review a draft Regulation on public security management at the city's hospital.

President Xi Jinping stresses key role of G20

Addressing the G 20 members, President Xi Jinping mentioned that members of the G20 should enhance their coordination in macroeconomic policies to prevent a global recession resulting from the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Chinese Vice Premier stresses major projects construction, stabilizing investment

Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng on Thursday called for efforts to advance the construction of major projects and give full play to investment in stabilizing economic growth.

China to ban most foreign arrivals to block contagion's spread

Suspension order is set to take effect at midnight on Friday. Foreign ministry makes some exceptions, including for transit passengers

Thailand bans entry by foreigners in emergency decree

Thailand on Thursday declared a state of emergency through April 30 to curb the spread of the coronavirus, banning most foreigners from entering the country but largely sparing the manufacturing sector.

Job Openings in China Fall Over 30% Amid Coronavirus

Job openings in China for the first two months of this year dropped by more than 30% as the coronavirus epidemic severely disrupted economic activity, a new survey has found.

Central Advisories and Notifications

Video Conference of senior health professionals of SAARC countries on the fight against Covid-19

The Prime Minister had announced at the Video Conference of SAARC Leaders on 15 March 2020 that health professionals of all SAARC member states could hold a video conference to carry forward collaboration in the common fight against Covid19 at the practical level.

RBI Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies

The statement sets out various developmental and regulatory policies that directly address COVID-19 stress and consists of (i) expanding liquidity in the system; (ii) reinforcing monetary transmission; (iii) relaxing repayment pressures and (iv) improving the functioning of markets.

Cabinet Secretary requests all States and UTS to put incoming International passengers under surveillance.

Bureau of Investigation had shared details of more than 15 lakhs International passengers with States and UTs, to put under surveillance for COVID-19. However there seems to be a gap between who were to be monitored and who actually were monitored. Cabinet Secretary has requested States and UTs to immediately put such passengers under surveillance.

Central Government directive for retail sale of “Hydroxychloroquine”

To regulate and restrict the sale of the drug ‘Hydroxychloroquine’, essential to meet requirements of emergency arising due to COVID-19, the Central Government directed that retail sale of any preparation containing the drug shall be in accordance with the conditions for sale of drugs specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs asks distilleries and sugar mills to maximize manufacturing of hand sanitizers.

With increase in demand of sanitizers and to maintain demand and supply balance, State Government authorities including Excise Commissioners, Cane Commissioners, Drug Controllers as well as District Collectors of various states have been advised to remove any bottlenecks in supply of ethanol/ENA to manufacturers of hand sanitizers and to give permissions /licenses to the applicants including distilleries who intend to manufacture hand sanitizers. Distilleries/ Sugar mills which can produce hand sanitizers in bulk have also been motivated to manufacture hand sanitizers.

Defence Minister reviews Ministry action plan to deal with COVID19

In a review meeting with senior officials of Ministry of Defence (MoD) on the action plan of the Ministry to deal with the COVID19 situation, Defence Minister urges Armed Forces, Defence PSUs and other organisations to gear up preparedness and provide all required assistance to civilian authorities.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) sets up helpdesk for COVID-19 related Export-Import issues

For COVID19 related Export or Import issue, a Helpdesk has been operationalized by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Exporters/importers may directly flag their issues here.

Department of Science and Technology sets up task force for mapping of technologies by Start Ups on COVID19

DST has set up a COVID 19 Task force for mapping of technologies from R&D labs, academic institutions, startups, and MSMEs to fund nearly market ready solutions in the area of diagnostics, testing, health care delivery solutions, equipment supplies. Some of these solutions include masks and other protective gear, sanitizers, affordable kits for screening, ventilators and oxygenators, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of outbreak through AI and IOT based solutions, to name a few.

Ministry of Home Affairs makes 2nd Addendum to Guidelines issued on 24 March 2020.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued orders to all States and Union Territories for inclusion of the following in the essential / exempted category. These include Agencies engaged in procurement of agriculture products, Mandis operated by APMC, Farming operations, Manufacturing and packaging units of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds, Intra and Inter-state movement of harvesting / sowing related machines besides horticulture and agriculture implements.

State Advisories and Notifications

State Government of Goa appoints Incident Commanders for talking effective measures to prevent spread of COVID-19.

State Government of Goa appoints Incident Commanders for talking effective measures to prevent spread of COVID-19. These Commanders will coordinate with other line Departments and verify status of quarantined individuals and implementation of other Government orders related to COVID-19.

Department of Tourism, Goa deposes officials for queries related to Goa Tourism.

To address queries from public in respect to Government orders in view of COVID-19, Government of Goa deposes officers from Department of Tourism. These officers will operate out of various Control Rooms set up at respective District Collectorate.

International Advisories and Notifications

“New measures to strengthen the border measures”: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

“New measures to strengthen border measures” were decided at the 23rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. These measures were decided, amidst the further spreading of coronavirus in foreign countries, to take proactive measures including border controls, aligning with measures taken by foreign countries, in order to prevent the further spread of infections.

Indonesia- Government plans to issue recovery debt to help the Business world amid COVID-19 pandemic.

The government plans to issue recovery bonds or recovery bonds to help business continuity as a scenario so that the business sector is not affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The recovery bonds will later be issued to Bank Indonesia or to the private sector which still has liquidity.

Indonesia: Press release on import of medical equipment

The Indonesian Trade Ministry has issued a regulation to temporarily do away with guidelines for importing protective gear and medical equipment to reverse the shortages of such items used to treat COVID-19 patients and prevent further spread. The Ministry said that importers would no longer need surveyors reports from originating countries or ports until June 30. Shipment will now only need a bill of lading.

Minister for Future Border and Immigration, UK writes to all Members of Parliament on COVID-19 in-country visa extensions.

The Minister in his email stated that due to widespread travel restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, people may now be facing uncertainty in relation to the expiry of their visa or leave to remain in the UK. Minister further stated that they wish to continue with the proportionate approach they adopted in February and avoid penalising any individual in these circumstances.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China National Immigration Administration Announcement on the Temporary Suspension of Entry by Foreign Nationals Holding Valid Chinese Visas or Residence Permits

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, China has decided to temporarily suspend the entry into China by foreign nationals holding visas or residence permits effective from 28 March 2020.

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