



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

UPDATE ON COVID-19 NEWS, ADVISORIES AND NOTIFICATIONS (29 March 2020)

News Updates

Prime Minister continues his interactions with various stakeholders to get first-hand feedback from various quarters

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is continuing his interactions with various stakeholders in India's fight against COVID19. Prime Minister has been interacting with over 200 people daily which includes phone calls to various State Governors, Chief Ministers, and Health Ministers to get a first-hand feedback on India's fight against the COVID19 menace.

VP requests to contribute to PM CARES Fund

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, The Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman has appealed to all Members of Parliament to contribute at least Rs. 1 crore initially from their MPLADS funds to supplement the Government's efforts in the fight against COVID19 pandemic. The Vice President also urged individuals to come forward and contribute to the PMCARES Fund to strengthen disaster management capacities.

Guidelines for Liver Transplantation and COVID-19 infection

In view of rapidly changing scenario of COVID-19 infection in India, the Liver Transplant Society of India (LTSI) has issued guidelines that may be revised /updated accordingly. Immunocompromised patients are at a greater risk and there is an immediate need of guidelines for liver transplantation in India, both in deceased donor Liver Transplant (DDLT) and living donor Liver Transplant (LDLT) Centres. Also, health care transmissions of COVID-19 have occurred and given the potential for greater infectivity, strict isolation precautions should be followed for anyone with suspected SARS-CoV2.

Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research issues List of Private Laboratories to Test COVID-19

The Indian Council of Medical Research has issued a list of 47 private laboratories in eleven States e in the country as on 28 March 2020.

CORONAVIRUS- RESEARCH TRACKER : Update as on 29 March 2020:

- National Institute of Immunology (NII), has formed a core team of ten topmost scientists from different streams to develop a vaccine for treating the virus which has devastated the world. The core team includes scientists from various fields like drug repurposing, antibody characterisation, diagnostics etc, who can undertake a comprehensive research for developing a vaccine for treating this highly infectious virus.
- Scientists from the University of Oxford have opened up their Covid-19 vaccines for clinical trial recruitments as part of rapid vaccine response to coronavirus pandemic. The trial is a collaboration between the University's Jenner Institute and Oxford Vaccine Group clinical teams.
- A leading scientist at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in New Delhi has found that valproic acid, an anti-epilepsy drug, can be

repurposed and used for acute cases of Covid-19. Valproic acid is an approved drug, whose patent expired recently.

- TCS is collaborating with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to synthesize molecules and test them against SARS-CoV-2. The novel 'Severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2' (SARS-CoV-2) is the source of a global pandemic COVID-19, which has severely affected the people and economy of several countries.
- Apple Inc has released an app and website that will direct users to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control on the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Real Time PCR machines supplied to Government Labs

As a part of strengthening the COVID-19 testing across the country, several Virus Research and Diagnostic Labs, approved under the Department of Health Research scheme have been provided with Real Time PCR machine to enable testing at these labs at the earliest possible.

Tata Group commits ₹1,500 crore to fight Covid-19

The Tata Group--Tata Trusts and Tata Sons-- is the latest to join the fight against coronavirus and will together donate ₹1,500 crore towards coronavirus relief fund, chairman Ratan Tata announced on Saturday. The funds will be utilized for providing protective equipment to medical personnel, respiratory systems for treating increasing cases, testing kits to ramp up testing in the country and setting up treatment facilities for those who have already caught the virus. The group has also said that it will train health workers and the general public to empower them against coronavirus. Tata Sons Chairman, N. Chandrasekaran said the group is also bringing in necessary ventilators and are gearing up to also manufacture the same soon in India.

UAE launches drive-through coronavirus test

The UAE announced the launch of a coronavirus drive-through test zone where residents would be able to get tested for COVID-19 while remaining in their cars.

Germany takes coronavirus patients from Italy, cases more severe across Europe

Germany has started to accept coronavirus patients from harder-hit nations across Europe, including Italy. Several German State Governments have offered to take in patients from Italy, with a planned 47 total patients to arrive over the weekend. Germany has also taken patients from the French city of Mulhouse, where hospitals are overwhelmed with cases.

Egypt: Jail sentences and fines for spreading fake news and rumours about coronavirus

As per Egypt's general prosecution, spreading fake news and rumors about coronavirus may lead to jail sentences and fines up to EGP 20,000.

COVID-19: Morocco allows tax payment deferral for large businesses

Moroccan companies with an annual turnover equal to or higher than MAD 20 million (\$2 million) can request a postponement of their tax payment deadlines, announced Morocco's General Directorate of Taxes (DGI).

Algeria authorities expand night curfew to nine other Governorates

Under new measures taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Algeria's Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad issued a decree that includes the expansion of curfew procedures on new governorates, starting from Saturday.

Government forms empowered Groups, task force to deal with COVID-19 outbreak.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government on Sunday formed 10 empowered groups and a strategic task force comprising senior civil servants to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak.

Department of Pharmaceuticals, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) shares list of manufacturers of Gloves, Masks and Sanitizers

Since many State Governments/ UTs face problems in placing orders for Masks, Gloves and Sanitizers, NPPA shares indicative list of these manufacturers, as received from Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Sciences (AiMeD).

Ministry of Shipping advisory on non-charging of container detention charges on import shipments.

In order to maintain proper supply lines at the Indian seaports, Ministry of Shipping issues advisory to shipping lines not to impose any container detention charge on import shipments for the period from 25 March 2020 to 7 April 2020 (both days inclusive) over and above free time arrangement that is currently agreed and availed as part of any negotiated contractual terms. During this period the shipping lines are also advised not impose any new or additional charge.

Provision for temporary accommodation, food, medical care, etc applicable to homeless people including migrant labourers: Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of Home Affairs notifies "Relief Measures- Provision of accommodation, Food, clothing, medical care, etc" would be applicable to homeless people including migrant labourers, stranded due to lockdown measures, and sheltered in relief camps and other places.

Union Labour Ministry Notifies Amendment in EPF Scheme to Allow Withdrawal of Non-refundable advance by EPF Members in The Event of Outbreak of Pandemic

Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued a notification amending the EPF Scheme 1952 that allows withdrawal of non-refundable advance by EPF members in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The notification permits withdrawal not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowance for three months or up to 75% of the amount standing to member's credit in the EPF account in the event of outbreak of epidemic or pandemic.

Ministry of Home Affairs writes to Chief Secretaries for all States clarifying on movement and transport of essential and non-essential goods and services.

Home Secretary has written to Chief Secretaries of all States on movement of essential and non-essential goods and services. The guideline issued earlier on lockdown measures has been updated through 2 addendums.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India makes regulations related to timelines.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India adds regulation "40C Special provision relating to timeline. The period of lockdown imposed by the Central Government in the wake of COVID19 outbreak shall not be counted for the purposes of the time-line for any activity that could not be completed due to such lockdown, in relation to a corporate insolvency resolution process."

State Advisories and Notifications

Government of Goa advisory on engaging any migrant workers

Government of Goa issues advisory to all Private/ Public Sector employers to restrain from inviting any fresh migrant labourers in the State. Additionally, if they have employed such labourers who have arrived after 10 March 2020, to be quarantined mandatorily at their residence.

Office of Director General of Police, Punjab nominates State Police Supervisory Officers for effective supervision and coordination of COVID-19 related activities.

To supervise and strengthen various Police activities being carried out in the State in connection with COVID-19, Office of Director General of Police has deputed State level Supervisory Officers and Coordinators.

Government of Tamil Nadu authorizes General Manager (DIC) and Regional Joint Directors (Small Scale Industries) to issue passes for movement of personnel and goods for essential industries.

Movement of personnel and goods for the operation of essential industries and permitted industries, the General Manager (DIC) in all districts and Regional Joint Director (Small Scale Industries) will be authorised to issue passes under intimation to District Collector/ RDOs.

Government of Jharkhand issues list of Seed Storage house and pesticides shops for Farmers in Ranchi.

In order to help farmers in Ranchi in getting seeds and necessary pesticides for their farming, during the lockdown period, State Government has issued a list of Seed Storage and pesticide shops to be opened as per the provided roster.

Shops dealing with animal fodder, pet food, to be operational during lockdown: Ranchi

Government of Jharkhand issues notification that all shops dealing with animal fodder, pet food, fish, poultry in Ranchi can be operational during the lockdown period.

Government of Manipur issues office memorandum on “Relief Measures- Provision for temporary accommodation, food, medical care, etc”

Government of Manipur authorized Deputy Commissioners to take appropriate action on Ministry of Home Affairs earlier notification on “Relief Measures- Provision of accommodation, Food, clothing, medical care, etc” that would be applicable to homeless people including migrant labourers, stranded due to lockdown measures, and sheltered in relief camps and other places.

Government of Uttar Pradesh issues advisory to operate industry and ensure well-being of the workers

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has allowed limited number of employees to work in industrial units (including the bricks & Kiln) for a fixed period and the wages must be paid in time. It has advised the District Magistrate to ensure that the industry is following the Social distancing norms and health regulations properly.

Government of Chhattisgarh issues revised instruction of the National Disaster Management Authority for prevention and control of infection with Novel Corona virus dated 29 March 2020.

An Immediate order has been released by General Administration Department, Government of Chhattisgarh to follow the revised instructions of the National Disaster Management Authority, and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for prevention and control of infection with Novel Corona virus dated 29 March 2020.

International Advisories and Notifications

Dubai Free Zones Economic Stimulus

Under the directives of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, Dubai Free Zones has announced several measures as part of the economic stimulus package. These include postponement of rent payments for up to 6 months, Facilitating financial payments through easy instalments on a monthly basis, refunding various insurance and guarantees claims, allowing intra-corporate transfer of labour between companies and sectors operating in the free zones and cancellation of number of penalties for companies and individuals.

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