

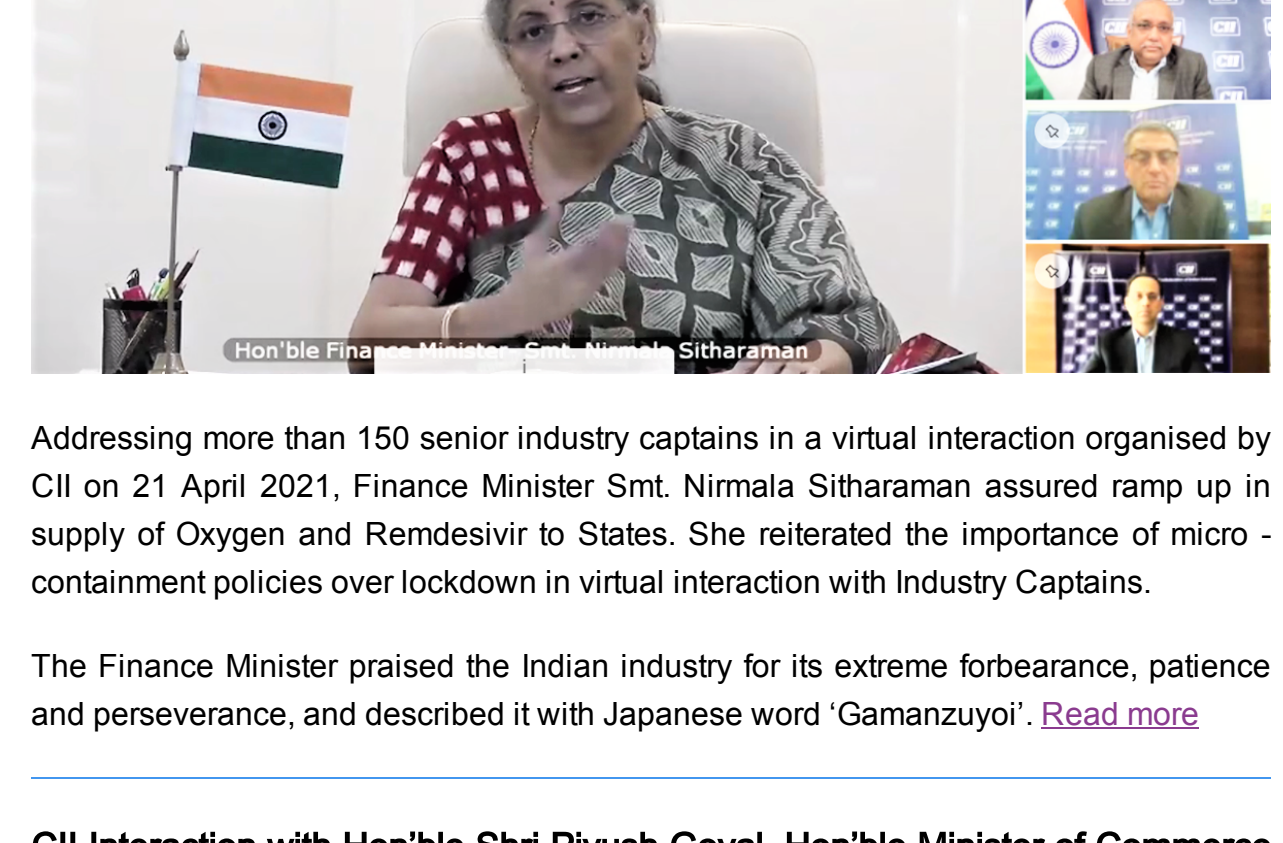
CII has been proactively engaging to catalyze the private sector and industry initiative to complement and supplement the Government of India in combating the second wave of COVID-19. It has made critical policy submissions, apart from supporting and assisting industry members to address issues arising out of various measures at the state and district level.

A high level Taskforce on COVID-19 Vaccine has been constituted under the chairmanship of Mr. TV Narendran, President Designate, CII and Dr. Randeep Guleria, Chairman, CII Public Health Council & Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), to interact with the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC). The Task Force is supporting the Government of India's efforts towards the distribution and inoculation of the COVID vaccine and also providing inputs from industry side on policy issues.

In addition, CII is supporting and assisting industry members to address issues arising out of various measures at the state and district level that impact their operations.

CII has also been making relief and rehabilitation interventions. To support the cause, [click here](#).

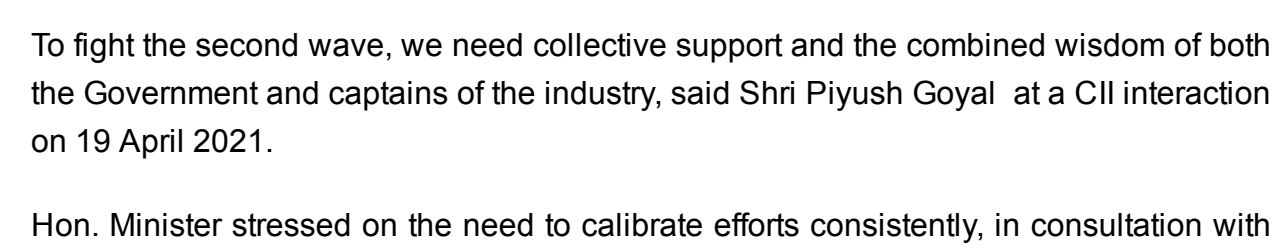
**CII Interaction with Hon'ble Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs**



Addressing more than 150 senior industry captains in a virtual interaction organised by CII on 21 April 2021, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assured ramp up in supply of Oxygen and Remdesivir to States. She reiterated the importance of micro-containment policies over lockdown in virtual interaction with Industry Captains.

The Finance Minister praised the Indian industry for its extreme forbearance, patience and perseverance, and described it with Japanese word 'Gamanzuyoi'. [Read more](#)

**CII Interaction with Hon'ble Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Railways, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution**



To fight the second wave, we need collective support and the combined wisdom of both the Government and captains of the industry, said Shri Piyush Goyal at a CII interaction on 19 April 2021.

Hon. Minister stressed on the need to calibrate efforts consistently, in consultation with health experts. He also highlighted that industry and CII can play a leadership role in helping create healthcare facilities.

Mr. Uday Kotak, President, CII outlined a 3-pronged agenda, relating to saving lives and protecting livelihoods.

**Critical Submissions**

The CII Task Force on Covid Vaccine has in the recent weeks shared the following critical submissions with NEGVAC:

1. **Economic Planning for Phased Private Sector Engagement in Inoculation** – This note recommends considering the private sector contribution from the very beginning in possible partnership modes to amplify access, reach and acceptance. The recommendation was earlier shared with Hon'ble Prime Minister.
2. **Comprehensive Legal Framework Document** – This document highlights issues related to safeguarding and limiting the liability / compensation of various stakeholders involved in vaccine distribution, delivery, administration, etc.
3. **CSR Spends under COVID-19 Vaccines Programme** - CII undertook the exercise of identifying the elements in the vaccination program, which if supported or undertaken by companies, may be considered under the 2% CSR spends.
4. Submissions on including certain important groups within the priority categories for vaccination with the objective to get the workforce back to work have been shared with NEGVAC.
5. Further submissions on the list and coordinates of manufacturers of Auto Disable syringes, Insulin Syringes, Needle Cutters and Medical Waste Bags have been provided to NEGVAC.
6. **Communication Collaterals** – A campaign tagline has been developed by the best creative minds along with a detailed strategy for dissemination to remove vaccine hesitancy.
7. **Other suggestions** – Following inputs have also been recommended to NEGVAC
  - RT-PCR testing should be ramped up across all states by 70%.
  - Rigorous contact tracing must be followed.
  - Strict adherence on wearing masks and maintaining adequate social distancing protocols must be re-emphasized and encouraged.
  - There are approximately 850 million people above the age of twenty years in India today. There is need to vaccinate at least 60% of the population for herd immunity to protect the rest. The inoculation processes may set a target of 100 million vaccinations a month for three months and then step it up to 200 million vaccinations per month from July 2021.
  - Most large private hospitals can expand capacity to 1000 shots per day in a week, from the current 200 shots/day, provided they get the vaccine supply.
  - The Government may also want to describe criteria for mobile vaccination clinics and allow vaccination in these units specially to reach out to rural areas. Once again, the government can utilise the corporates with many having existing arms on the ground to reach communities in the last mile as well.
  - As the vaccines are made available to industry at large, there will be the requirement of training COVID SATHIS – these are essentially non-medical support staff that need to be trained in providing counselling/ services to the beneficiaries. These job roles will need to be ratified and CII along with the Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) is well placed to facilitate such trainings/ capacity buildings across States.

**Key Recommendations made to Empowered Group 3**

- Vaccination to be available walk-in and on demand.
- Rigorous Testing, Tracing and Treatment to be followed.
- With the recent guidelines released for vaccination at workplaces, to allow vaccination for employee family members, support staff, etc. over 18 years of age
  - No public or social gatherings to be permitted.
  - Digital classes for schools and educational institutes to be instituted again.
  - To scale up RT-PCR Testing in all states.
- To consider reviewing the directive of restriction on further registration and vaccination of Healthcare & Frontline Workers.

**Suggested Support from Industry**

- Industry will encourage shop floors to continue functioning with strict adherence on wearing masks and maintaining adequate social distancing protocols while industry without shop floor will work from home as far as possible.
- Industry can help in increasing the testing by partnering with existing labs and can encourage their employees to get tested.
- A joint communication group by government and CII may be set up to drive the communication programme on vaccines and COVID appropriate behaviour.
- Industry can support in providing mobile vans in rural areas for vaccination and testing.
- Industry can help in augmenting healthcare infrastructure (oxygen supply, ventilators and PPEs).
- Industry can play a critical role in procuring vaccines from India and abroad for providing to the population segments identified by the government, with strong checks and balance.
- On behalf of the Industry a review mechanism can happen every 2-3 weeks between CII and EG3 to amplify the communication strategy.
- A consultation forum of Government and vaccine manufacturers is suggested which can help do trouble shooting for the vaccine manufacturers so that more vaccines can be brought on stream in the quickest possible time.

**Critical CII Actions**

- **Communication Strategy:** CII has developed a social media campaign for addressing the issue of vaccine hesitancy as well as promoting the continuation of COVID appropriate behavior among its Members. These include communication collaterals on Social Distancing, Masking and Sanitizing (SMS) on a frequent basis.
- **Technology Integration and Strengthening:** CII has submitted detailed specifications on strengthening the COWIN app, integrating it with other existing platforms. CII has also defined the private sector's role in COVID vaccine deployment through the COWIN Open Platform (COP).
- **CII State Volunteers:** CII can play a role in helping people in rural India who are not tech savvy. People can volunteer and get the rural/urban poor to the vaccination site. CII can also leverage HSSC to catalyze assessment and capacity building of larger number of vaccinators in preparation for the next phase.

**CII Recommendations Accepted by the Government**

CII thanks the Government for considering and allowing all private providers to join the vaccination drive pan India. In the first phase of vaccination program from 1 March, 20,000 private healthcare providers were added to the existing 10,000.

CII had also requested the Government to expand vaccination delivery capacity by bringing in the corporate sector. This has been introduced with the policy to permit enterprises to set up their own vaccination facilities for inoculating eligible workers and families, which will help to fast-track vaccination.

In phase – 3 of the vaccination program, the Government has extended vaccination to all those over 18 years and above. CII had urged for this in order to strengthen worker confidence.

**Updates, Notifications and Advisories**

Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the nation on the COVID-19 situation, highlighting the Government's efforts. The PM also interacted with vaccine manufacturers from across the country.

The documents below provide a compilation of central and state government notifications and advisories.

[COVID-19 Updates, Notifications and Advisories: Issue No 1, 1 – 21 April](#)  
[COVID-19 Updates, Notifications and Advisories: Issue No 2, 22 April](#)

**State Interventions**

**Representations made to State Governments:** A total of 56 policy representations were submitted to State Governments as of 21 April 2021. These related to permitting operations of continuous process plants, inclusion of various services and manufactured goods under essential items, movement of goods, and vaccination by industry, among others.

**Queries addressed from Industry:** A total of 35 queries from industry members were taken up with State and local governments as of 21 April 2021. These related primarily to movement of goods, issue of e-passes, operations during curfews, and others.

CII Western Region held various interactions with state governments, organised vaccination camps, mobilised members and arranged for oxygen cylinders, established tele-ICU setups, and made various suggestions for containing the spread of COVID-19 in the region, among others. [Read more](#)

**COVID-19: Workplace Protocol**

Indian businesses must continue to keep the safety protocols at the topmost agenda. CII has developed workplace protocol for enterprises, offices and factories to keep their workplaces functioning and safe. [Read more](#)

**Media**

**Media Coverage**

**Lockdown Not A Solution: CII**

**CII President Designate TV Narendran on #VaccineForAll order**

**TV Narendran Discusses Corporate Sector Helping With Oxygen Supply**

**Hope vaccinations bring this wave under control: Sanjiv Bajaj, Vice President, CII**

**Covid 2nd wave, lockdowns and vaccine rollout: CII Vice President Sanjiv Bajaj talks to Bloomberg Quint**

**CII Vice President, Sanjiv Bajaj on vaccine for all**

**Social Media Coverage**

Confederation of Indian Industry

Sanitization & hand wash

Mask use

Social Distancing

#SMSforCoronaSafety

**CII Helpline No: +91 9910446244**

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