

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Coronavirus Update in India

CONFIRMED CASES	567,570
ACTIVE CASES	215,302
CURED	335,298
DEATHS	16,910

Data as on 30 June, 12pm

I. COVID-19 UPDATES IN INDIA

The number of positive cases in India grew by nearly 400,000 in June. A total of 8,400,000 samples have been tested by 1,047 COVID-19 diagnostic labs as of 28 June. The country also experienced coronavirus infections increase by more than 15,000 from 25 June to 30 June.

Around 330,000 patients who tested positive have recovered, improving the recovery rate to 58.7%. [The government is also ramping up efforts to increase the number of labs for testing.](#)

Several States have extended their lockdown. Maharashtra, the worst affected state in India with around 170,000 positive cases, has extended its lockdown until 31 July. Guidelines issued under its “Mission Begin Again” will restrict the movement of people within their neighbourhoods.

From 1 July, India will enter phase 2 of its reopening strategy from coronavirus lockdown. Phase 2 will include the relaxation of curfews and the expansion of rail and air travel services. However, schools, colleges and malls will remain closed until 31 July. [Read the official guidelines.](#)

II. MIGRANT WORKERS IN INDIA

[Millions of migrant workers who returned to their homes in rural India during the lockdown are reluctant to go back to their jobs in the city](#), with many choosing to work in farms in the nearby rural areas.

As a result, key Indian industries such as the Apparel exporters and garment manufacturers are struggling to resume operations due to shortage of labour.

Government and businesses alike are rolling out incentives to encourage migrant workers to return, with many workers being offered higher wages. In addition, [the Indian Central Government is set to redefine the term “migrant workers” for the first time in 41 years](#) to allow migrant workers access to health benefits and social security under the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation.

III. INDIAN LABOUR LAWS

In May, [a few Indian states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat made significant changes to the labour laws](#), raising concerns that they would curtail basic rights and the social security of workers in the country. This prompted several European and American trade bodies such as amfori

and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to write to Prime Minister Modi and urge him to intervene in the matter.

Just-Style: [US and European groups uneasy at India labour law plans](#)

The Hindu: [ILO to PM Modi: 'send clear message' on changes in labour laws](#)

IV. INDIAN ECONOMY

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, 21 million jobs were added in May, reducing unemployment. [The unemployment rate stands at 23.5%](#).

[Banks have reduced the lending and deposit rates in India](#) as they turn more risk-averse as deposits have increased by 11.3%.

A shortage of labour due to the reverse migration of migrant workers has caused several industries such as textile and apparel exports and [the garment industry to struggle](#) to resume their operations.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has published a notification allowing the export of PPE suits under quota system. [Read the official notification](#).

DPIIT Amended Public Procurement Policy

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has amended the [Public Procurement Order 2017](#) to give greater preference to local suppliers. "Local supplier" is now defined as a supplier offering goods or services with local content equal to or more than 50%.

FIEO Urges India's Commerce and Industry Minister to Expedite Trade Agreement with EU

The [Federation of Indian Export Organisations \(FIEO\)](#) has urged Piyush Goyal, Commerce and Industry Minister to increase its engagement with the European Union to seal the long-pending free-trade agreement (FTA) with India.

CBIC Unveils Paperless Customs Export Processing

[The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs \(CBIC\)](#) launched paperless customs export processing. The initiative seeks to promote Ease of Doing Business and facilitate greater trade.

India Plans Tariffs on 300 Imported Products

[India plans to raise import duties on around 300 products](#) from China and other countries to protect domestic businesses. The new duties are likely to be implemented gradually.