



NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER



POST-EVENT REPORT

INTERACTIVE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE & MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR THE INDIAN INDUSTRY

Chief Guest:

**Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State
for External Affairs, Government of India**

30th APRIL, 2020



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About PHDCCI

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has been working for the promotion of Indian industry, trade and entrepreneurship as a catalyst for the past 114 years and is a forward looking, proactive and dynamic pan-India apex organization present in 23 states and 2 Union Territories. As a partner in progress with industry and government, PHDCCI with a special focus on MSMEs, works at the grass roots level, with strong national and international linkages for propelling progress, harmony and integrated development of the Indian economy.

About Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung:

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a German foundation and has its headquarters situated in Berlin. KAS is active in more than 120 countries and in India since 1968 with the basic philosophy of respect for partner country's sovereignty in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. KAS is associated with many Think tanks, Apex bodies and non-profit organizations. Specifically, KAS offers to contribute by assisting India in its process of social, structural and political transformation based on democratic values and the rule of law; strengthening economic reforms, the small and medium business sector and an effective social market economy as well as supporting the integration of India into the global economy; intensifying the dialogue between Germany, Europe, and India and other major powers, especially on current foreign and security policy as well as promoting the education of young print journalists.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India is taking pro- active and extensive preventive measures to protect the citizens and the economy from the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking the momentum forward, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organized an interactive video conference with Shri V. Muraleedharan (Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt. of India) focusing on the **"Impact of COVID-19 on the International Trade & Measures taken by the Govt. of India for the Indian Industry"**.

The world is witnessing the carnage of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. There has been a significant loss of human lives and the global economy has also felt the impact severely. Global markets are in a free fall with supply-chain disruption and manufacturing falling to the lowest levels in decades.



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For a better understanding of the global impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the economy and the way forward especially in the international arena, an interactive video conference was organised on the topic "Impact of COVID-19 on the International Trade & Measures taken by the Govt. of India for the Indian Industry" was organised on 30th April, 2020 by the PHD Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), India Office. The interactive video conference witnessed a participation of 110 industry professionals.

The proceedings of the Session are as follows:

Dr. D.K. Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and thanked him for taking out the time to address the delegates via video conference. **Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, Sr. Vice President, PHDCCI** appreciated the efforts of the government in curtailing the spread of the virus and thanked the Hon'ble Minister for agreeing to address the industry. The PHDCCI Leadership also acknowledged and thanked Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and its representatives for supporting the interactive session bringing the synergy from the German organisation.

In attendance were leading Indian Industry and Business houses from various sectors, senior members of PHDCCI, and Representatives from KAS India Office.

- Dr. D.K. Aggarwal opened the session and on behalf of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, appreciated the government for its pro- active and extensive preventive measures to protect the citizens and the economy from the adverse impact of the unprecedented catastrophe which has befallen the nation due to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. He further said that to mitigate the affect and spread of novel coronavirus, the announcement of lockdown and then its extension was very timely. He added that India will be remembered in times to come as one of country, which took prompt action to handle the issue of COVID- 19 pandemic very well.
- Dr. Aggarwal appraised that even before the onset of this pandemic; the global economy was facing turbulence because of disruptions in trade flows and attenuated growth because of trade war and currency war. The situation has now been aggravated by the demand, supply and liquidity shocks that COVID-19 has inflicted globally. The sudden brakes in economic activity resulting from various mitigation measures that we are witnessing in the world's largest economies are simply unprecedented. He further added that COVID-19 pandemic has brought all the international trade activity to halt. According to World Trade Organisation, there will be downfall of maximum 32% to which he believes that this figure was given much earlier and today when they will

come up with new percentage, it would be much higher. For instance: India's exports in the month of March fell by 34.5% and in April everything got stopped.

- Dr. Aggarwal, on behalf of the Chamber, also congratulated the Government of India for taking proactive measures when the lockdown was declared. The Government intervened and made sure that all the export orders were filled, all the logistics & packaging problems got solved and difficulties in issuance of curfew passes were also solved. He also added that the Foreign Trade Policy, which was ending on 31st March 2020, the government has extended that policy and all the benefits available under it to be continued.
- Dr. Aggarwal further reiterated that 9759 phytosanitary certificates (digital phytosanitary certificates) were issued which helped in the exports. Similarly, even for imports, the Government of India accepted the digital phytosanitary certificates, on the condition that whenever the lockdown opens, they will make physical copy available to Government. He also highlighted that 50,000 tonnes of wheat were exported to Afghanistan & 40,000 tonnes of grain were exported to Lebanon during this period under G2G arrangements. Almost 2,728 import consignments were released. Government has been proactive to ensure that damage charges, ground run charges are taken care of, furthermore there is also a lot of stuffing problem that was there at the ports, and the Government has ensured there is staff available at the ports to help with this. This has helped lessen the burden of exporters and importers.
- Having said that, the Government of India is very proactive, although there are lot of things which still need to be done to make sure those Indian industries get on same trajectory of growth which the country required. Dr. Aggarwal said that there is a projection by IMF that India will grow at the rate of 1.9% of the GDP, to which he added that recent figure came up by Fitch Solution, where they had revised India's GDP growth from 4.6% of their earlier projection to 1.8%. And if this growth happens from 1 to 2 percent there will be huge unemployment created. There will be huge job cuts, pay cuts and many MSME units will go out of the system.
- While we are now focusing on India on securing the population from health hazards and on providing relief, we also need to think long-term – to secure the health of the economy, viability of business, and the livelihoods of people. To ensure that we grow at a higher rate, we should look at a stimulus package. For example, Germany, France, USA, Denmark have come up with stimulus package ranging from 5% to 20% of their GDP.

- Dr. Aggarwal appreciated the Indian Government for the measures they have taken like 1.7 lakh crore packages were announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister for poor and needy, liquidity infusion of 3.7 Lakh crore Rupees was done by RBI, The Repo Rate reduced by 75 basis points. However, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggested that at this stage, 7% of GDP kind of stimulus package which comes to around 60 Lakh Crore needs to be given to the industries. He appraised that the delay each passing day in the stimulus package is creating uncertainty in the minds of people and business and it will cost economy heavily and in order to boost the confidence of the people, the package has to be announced at the earliest.
- Dr. Aggarwal further stated that UPI has depreciated to almost 6.7% in last one and half month and because of this imports order which were placed at the current rates would be a big burden on the exporters. He requested to make Indian Industry competitive and reduce the rate of import duty by 6%-7% for all those basic imported raw materials where India does not have sufficient production capacity. He further added that India is a huge market as compared to other countries. According to International Monetary Fund, India's growth is projected at 1.95% which would be recorded as a country having highest GDP growth. The world would look at India as a big market and China would target Indian Market. There would be lots of influx of Chinese products and to protect Indian industries, he requested the Hon'ble Minister to impose safeguard duties on all those items where India has sufficient production and to protect our industries. We believe that this is very important to boost our exports, as post COVID-19 scenario, there will be large demand and supply disruption. He further reiterated that to compensate the domestic demand we need to export market. India needs to be competitive in the global economy as compared to other countries (when it comes to exports).
- He also informed the Hon'ble minister that PHD Research Bureau has identify few costs which needs to be lower down:
 - **Logistic Cost** – As per the International Standard we are 8-10% higher. There is an urge to bring the logistic cost down.
 - **Power Cost**- Fixed charges to be charged from the industries for next 6 months. It should be charged on actual use basis.
 - **Land Cost** – As per the studies, 300 big factories which are operating in China will be setting production base in another country. India has to be very competitive if India wants to be home of this place and land cost is one of the important criteria.
 - **Compliance Cost**- It has to be simplified and needs to be lower down.

- **Capital Cost** –The cost of funding has to come down drastically. In the last one year, RBI reduced repo rate to 135 basis point to which only 45 basis points were passed on. Currently, RBI has reduced the current repo rate by 75 basis points out of which only few were passed on.
- He also suggested the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, that at least for the next 2 years, provide “tax-holiday” for all the incremental exports, assuming 2019-20 to be the base year which will make Indian industries to become more competitive. Similarly, he pointed out, that the biggest problem faced by MSME and other industries would be the Liquidity Issue. He further added that working capital is needed. Even the pre and post shipment credit (whatever the due dates were) after COVID 19 pandemic should be extended by 90- 180 days. Extreme support to MSMEs and Start-ups is required to save them from the impact of pandemic COVID -19. It is suggested that the value chains of MSMEs should be enhanced further, thus, making them more structurally competent to add to their efficiency and hence the country’s overall export growth momentum.
- At this juncture, it becomes crucial for economies to have a more diversified export basket. The economies that are diversified in terms of their export basket would suffer less than those that are dependent on a fewer item. India has a relatively more diversified export basket as compared to a majority of other countries. Going forward, it is suggested to further diversify India’s export basket in terms of both product categories and export destinations. Dr. Aggarwal informed that the PHD Chamber, Research Bureau is identifying the areas where India can strengthen and where other countries are exporting their products. To which he added that this study can help the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Commerce. He also requested to encourage these products and give some special concession so that industries can become competitive. With these words, Dr. Aggarwal invited the India Representative from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Mr. Peter Rimmele to the forefront, to share his views on the Impact of COVID-19.

Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, gave an insight into the steps the German government is taking to help the industry and its citizens to get back to work.

- Following the rules over social distancing, even the famous Munich Oktoberfest in Germany has been cancelled in the country, which alone has an economic value of 1.3 billion Euros. Many companies in Germany are facing direct effects of the coronavirus. Foreign demand has halted, and international supply chains are disrupted. Mr. Rimmele shared the German perspective, as to how the government is creating a kind of stimulus package of measures to support companies. One main goal is to infuse enough liquidity so they can emerge stronger after the pandemic. Germany has created a protective shield for its employees; hence the government is emerging stronger. He gave a glimpse of German as well as the European Union situation during this pandemic.
- He threw light on the **4 pillars** of the German government that have been well appreciated by all and are working in favour of the country.
 - **First** is that they have developed a concept of “short-time working”. As there is not much work during the social-distancing period and also to avoid laying off of the staff, the people are working for limited hours. He informed that in Germany most of the employees are working in formal sector while 80-90% workforce of India was in informal sector. India can consider bringing more workforce to the formal sector as it protects the labour and companies. The German government has pledged 10 billion Euros to finance the losses to the business in the country. One part of it is to pay for the losses to the labour in order to continue competencies within the business, so that when businesses pick up, they do not have to start from zero.
 - **The second pillar** is related to tax, which is to provide liquidity assistance for businesses, and in order to improve companies’ liquidity situation, there is an option for delayed tax payments. As a result, businesses will be able to defer billions of Euros in tax payments. The German Minister of Finance has initiated this step already. The government has come up with these measures to make up for losses as maximum companies and workplaces are shut or people are working from home. Such measures could be taken as precedents for other nations as well.
 - **The third pillar** that was highlighted was related to financial stability of the businesses. Mr. Rimmele shared that since many businesses in Germany are suffering due to the disruption in the supply chain, even the financially stable

companies are at a risk. Due to this high level of uncertainty, the government is deciding on protecting businesses with new measures to provide liquidity, which has come as a huge relief for the businesses. The government has decided not to set any limits on the volume of these measures. This significant decision is well supported by the entire government and in the first step; the existing liquidity assistance solutions will be expanded to make it easier for companies to access those.

- **The fourth pillar** is the position of Germany in the European Union. The current situation due to the coronavirus is a test for the survival of the European Union, because Germany is an integral part of the European Market, and whatever is decided in Europe, cannot be done by the German government alone, as the countries have a common currency, i.e. Euro. Comparatively, the situation in India is different. In India decisions can be taken on national level, but not in Europe. The government is considering a Marshall Plan like the one after World War II, for the economic recovery of the European region after the coronavirus pandemic. There are also regional disparities in the region itself, as all the economies are not as strong as the German economy. The Italian and Spanish economies are suffering more, hence some more solidarity is expected out of the EU to share the financial burden. The EU is being criticized for not performing well so far, while China sent doctors to Milano in Italy.

Sh. V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India appreciated this platform and was glad to know that the businesses are working to promote economic interests through this tough time. COVID-19 is the first major disruption in the global economy since the 2008 financial crisis. The pandemic will have a far greater impact on human life and the global economy. According to the IMF estimates, global GD will suffer by 3% in 2020.

- The Hon'ble minister also shared that the government is making tremendous efforts to help the businesses, and livelihoods, and advised everyone to understand the spirit of the lockdown, as many things are going to change in the coming future, including ways of doing business and contributing to the growth of the economy. He assured one and all that the government is concerned, and the issues of the industry will be taken up by the concerned Ministries.
- The pandemic will leave 170 countries at lower per capita GDP by the end of 2020. If this pandemic spills over or the virus reoccurs in 2021, it will have major negative impact on the life and economy. At the outset, the Government of India has taken proactive

and preventive measures, by announcing a nationwide lockdown since 24th March 2020 when India was in early stages of the outbreak. He stressed on the fact that the Government of India is doing its best by taking the right steps way before as compared to other countries, as the doubling rate of the cases of people infected with the virus in India was 8 days, from 10,000 to 20,000 while across the globe the first one lakh cases came in 90 days while another lakh came in 8 days.

- The Hon'ble Minister assured that the government is cautious of the economic impacts. Quoting the motto of *"jaanhai to jahaanhai"* and *"jaanbhi, jahanbhi"*, the Hon'ble minister said that the emphasis is on need to work on all frontiers especially on livelihood and mitigating the negative economic impacts. We also have to take advantage of business opportunities brought by the current situation. The relief measures adopted by the Indian government have been focused on protecting vulnerable section of the population, by employing targeted relief measures like food security and cash transfers. The government has also announced working capital support, loan structuring and credit alteration, and stimulus increase in spending power of consumers' spending power to assist MSMEs and Indian companies. In addition, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced measures to maintain liquidity in system, as well as facilitate bank credit flow. To help domestic exporters, the RBI has extended the deadline for realisation period and repatriation of export proceeds to 15 months, which is 9 months at present. This will enable exporters to realise their receipts especially from COVID-19 affected countries within the extended period and provide greater flexibilities to exporters to negotiate future contracts with buyers abroad. These measures are to provide relief to Indian industry and MSMEs. It is important that Indian businesses assess opportunities and take advantage of these measures to not only mitigate the economic hardships brought by the pandemic, but proactively capitalise on the export opportunities, substitute other countries' goods in global supply chain, and epitomize the spirit of Make in India, Make for the world.
- Sh. V. Muraleedharan further shared that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had observed that in present times, the need of the hour is to think of business and lifestyle models that are easily adaptable ensuring the biz and commerce can run smoothly in time of crisis. He also observed, that with the right blend of physical and virtual, India can emerge as a global nerve center of complex modern multinational supply chains.
- This is an important observation that ministries, businesses, and industries must take cognizance of. It is our duty to support the collective global effort to mitigate disruption in global supply chains by increasing supplies of products where we have available

capacity and to ramp up capacity where we can become market leaders. This outbreak has showcased the fragility of global supply chains heavily dependent on a single country. This is the time to think of a **two-fold strategy**.

- i. To build capacity in sectors especially pharmaceuticals, textiles, manufacturing, electronics where we could have some relative advantage to the rest of the world. This will help in reducing our over-dependency on China for raw materials as well as diversifying global supply chains by offering an alternative to the world.
 - ii. Partnering with industries and businesses of other countries both through inward and outward FDI. This will help Indian businesses generate technological expertise where we lacked.
- Sh. V. Muraleedharan informed the delegates that the Line ministries have been working on the above and stand ready to assist Indian businesses in their strategies for the same. One such opportunity lies in the healthcare sector- India can emerge as the healthcare hub of the world in the long term for the development of the hospitals, emergency rooms, provision of equipment, and supplies like PPEs, ventilators, etc. and training of healthcare professionals. The emphasis on personal hygiene will also see a rise in the demand for hand sanitizers and related supplies given the impending change in public behavior. This offers an important opportunity for manufacturers to ramp up production of such equipment and supplies to meet the rise in the demand. He informed that the Government of India has set aside 10,000 crore Rupees for shifting the entire manufacturing value chains for pharmaceuticals to India. And to boost domestic manufacturing of active pharma ingredients.
 - The Indian industry will need to pay more attention to the issue of building supply chain resilience which hold the key for the future. The digital India initiative has held the groundwork and could help in the creation of greater number of e-commerce players in the Indian start-up sector providing greater employment in the logistics and distribution departments for e-commerce players and retailers. In line with the government of India's mission towards enhanced economic development the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is already pursuing multipronged effort to improve India's Global bilateral trade and regional connectivity. These efforts hold greater importance in the post-pandemic times.
 - The Ministry of External Affairs will be working with the Missions to promote the **3 Ts- tourism, trade, and technology** into India. This is also a time when Indian exports can go up. The MEA in collaboration with Department of Commerce as well as Missions and

Posts abroad are already in the process of exploring, sourcing and export opportunities in various countries and to guide our exporters by putting potential suppliers and buyers in touch with our EPCs and industries and also facilitate B2B meetings for them. In addition, several connectivity projects are already under implementation. Speedy conclusion of the same will help enhance regional connectivity so as to promote seamless flow of goods and services from India to the neighbouring countries.

- The MEA and other Indian ministries are working towards facilitating the industry to ensure that India comes economically resilient. With a concerted and collaborative approach, we will overcome the pandemic and its worst economic effects. It is time to adapt to the changes and capitalize opportunities which others see as challenges. The minister assured that he will take up the specific points raised by the President, PHDCCI, and KAS representative to the respective ministries. He said he is sure that in the coming days, the government of India will address the issues that have been raised on this platform.
- The Prime minister has already mentioned that at present, the government has come up with a package, as mentioned by President, PHDCCI. The 1.7 lakh crore Rupees package which the government is working on is the urge and requirement of the time. He accepted that the packages for the MSMEs and various other sectors have to come at the earliest, otherwise, as mentioned by Dr. DK Aggarwal, it may not give full benefit of those packages. Like refunding the IT payments, refinancing MSMEs 50,000 crore Rupees through the NABARD, and National Housing Bank, all these things will come. The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce, and the MSME Ministry will address this issue surely. They will come up with proper guideline and plan of action for the coming days.

With these words the Hon'ble Minister extended his good wishes to all present on the occasion.

Dr. D.K. Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI thanked Shri. V. Murleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for his comforting words and complimented the efforts of the government taken to deal with the current situation of COVID-19 and requested Minister that some relief packages for MSME industry should come at the earliest.

He also requested the Hon'ble Minister to forward the suggestions given during his speech to the concerned Ministry to have a real time impact and requested for a better attention.

The Q&A session had participants with various queries to the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs which were aptly addressed by the Hon'ble Minister. Some of the highlights of the session were:

- Preparations being made by the government on planning for getting more than 500 students back to India who are in US and other countries and requested to expedite the same.

The Hon'ble Minister acknowledged the concern and said that the MEA is aware about the issue and MEA is working across the globe and informed that we all have to respect the measures taken by the government and should respect the Lockdown and due to the ban implemented by the government on travel and hotspots of COVID 19 are sealed they don't want to bring anyone to the country till 3rd May 2020.

The Hon'ble Minister also suggested that we should wait till the current lockdown period which is 3rd May 2020, with the assurance of getting all the Indians back whether they have gone on student visa, tourist visa or business visa back to the country.

- Request for extension in F1 Visa for students

The Hon'ble Minister informed that status needs to be checked viewing the current situation and said that our Missions abroad in all countries are extending all kind of support in such matters to students who are facing issues.

- Views were solicited regarding the
 - Recurring of COVID 19 situation in 2021.
 - Resuming the export services specifically pertaining to service industry in the current situation and
 - How to secure Indian Borders from such situations.

The Hon'ble Minister informed the entire situation will be considered and viewed pre and post COVID 19 situation and many things we are now looking at will change after this situation is over. He also informed that the impact of this Pandemic is being looked up and India is in much better situation as compared to the other countries in the globe.

He further stated that it took 90 days to 1st one lakh cases across the globe except India and it doubled in just 11 days across the globe except India

where as in India the count of 1st ten thousand cases to double took a lot more time due to the measures taken by the India and with dedicated efforts and support provided by the COVID19 warriors and he assured that the govt will support the Indian Industries to come up with a new plan of action and to secure the Indian Borders we all have to support in keeping such Pandemic situations away.

- Views on post COVID 19 situation and what and how the Industry should look at the Geo-Political situation post COVID 19.

The Hon'ble Minister said that it is a very early stage to comment and predict on the post COVID 19 situation and mentioned that the government is working on a detailed plan to launch a website on Global Mapping of Strategic Resources to provide detail information on world resources opportunities in 3 basic areas:

1. Mineral Resources
2. Agricultural Exports
3. Overseas opportunities for Indians

He also mentioned that India is a vast country and with combination of various sectors and govt is not restricting itself to any particular sector but planning to cater all sectors and is making efforts to benefit all sectors.

- Concerns were raised particularly for Food and Agriculture Sector:
 - India being major Agri and Food processing country serving mainly to Middle East and the major Pulses Industry are based in North India and they are facing challenges like Logistics and Transport from North India to Indian Ports is not at all cost effective and the industry has tried various solutions but major shipping lines are not offering any discounts on the containers lying down in their companies due to the lock down and requested to share his views.
 - The point of procuring raw material the farmers as this is the correct time to do that but B2B markets (*mandis*) are not operating properly due to which no procurements are going on and during this 45days cycle of lockdown if no procurements are done then the food and Agri Industry will not be able to fulfill the future demand.
 - The Interest cost is very high in MSME exports and Govt. has tried giving some temporary reliefs to the MSME which should be given at least for a year and requested the Hon'ble Minister to convey the suggestions to the concerned Ministry. Countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who do Government procurements heavily, Indian Missions in these countries should encourage them to process their

procurement orders with India as Indian Companies can fulfill the requirement directly.

The Hon'ble Minister replied that the Agricultural Ministry is making special efforts for the crops to reach B2B Markets (mandis) since 20th April, 2020 when the relief to farmers was given and govt is still putting efforts to improve the situation more. He also said that our Hon'ble Prime Minister has already expressed that the role of MEA is to encourage our Missions abroad is to promote 3T's as mentioned before-Tourism, Technology and Trade and the Hon'ble Prime Minister has told the MEA to focus on how much India is being able to export and MEA is working specially on improving the exports.

- The govt should provide some relief support to Logistics Sector as the sector has been working delicately on decongestion of the ports and Airports. He also mentioned that the relief given in the announcements is given to the general logistics sector but not to the port and airport logistics sector. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested the Logistics sector to work free of cost in clearing the ports which in itself is a big problem for the sector in paying salaries to people working in this sector.

The Hon'ble Minister took a note of the above concerns and mentioned that seeing the current situation the problems and troubles faced are temporary and are just part of the current situation and every Industry is going through the same things and the entire economy is facing challenges and the suggestions shared will be passed on to the concerned Ministry.

Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General, PHDCCI while thanking the Hon'ble Minister for his inspiring speech appraised the Hon'ble Minister about the Chambers Inception which was done in 1905 and the efforts PHDCCI is putting for its members.

Mr. Sanyal also mentioned how Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce grew to a National Apex Chamber with now presence in 16 States with its own offices and MOU partners in 9 states and other Union territories and PHDCCI is still not allowed to Co-host the Country Heads of other countries/State Heads whereas other three Chambers/Associations like CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM are co-hosting it. Mr. Sanyal mentioned that PHDCCI has 70% of its membership from MSME sector and it is the only Chamber of Commerce catering to all sectors from Micro, Small and Large industries and requested the Hon'ble Minister to include PHDCCI in co-hosting such visits.

Post the Question and Answer Session, Mr. Naveen Seth, Principal Director, PHDCCI appraised the Hon'ble Minister about the PHDCCI contribution of Rs.5.25cr to the PM cares

Fund to support the COVID 19 situation to which the Hon'ble Minister Congratulated and thanked PHDCCI for their Support.

The Interaction was ended by a formal Vote of Thanks by Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, Sr. Vice President, PHDCCI in which he praised the positive and proactive approach by the government in this situation which has not been seen in the living memory.

He also praised the efforts of MEA in acting proactively in banning the travel from other countries to India which has proven to be a huge step in controlling the situation and has played a great role. Mr. Aggarwal congratulated MEA for its efforts as a great service.

At the end of the session, the Hon'ble Minister thanked PHDCCI and KAS for organising this interactive video conference. He also ensured the PHDCCI leadership and the delegates to pass on the suggestions to the respective ministries.

The session was well appreciated by the honourable speaker, members from PHDCCI and representatives from KAS and it has set a momentum to carry forward these thoughts with acclamation and support the government and each other during this period of lockdown and minimise the impacts of the pandemic.

GLIMPSES



Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India addressing the delegates.



Dr. DK Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, sharing his views during the session.



Mr. Peter Rimmale, India Representative to KAS, sharing the German perspective on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Global Economies



Hon'ble Ministers Official tweet thanking the Chamber for organising the session, he also tagged the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Union Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of External Affairs Official Twitter Handle.

The event has been highlighted by leading Financial, English, and Hindi news portals.

Print:

The Statesman (Delhi)

The Statesman (Kolkata)

The Statesman (Bhubaneswar)

Online:

S.NO	Website	Date	Links
1	The Economic Times	24-04-2020	https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/be-patient-till-may-3-mea-making-best-efforts-muraleedharan-to-indians-stranded-abroad/articleshow/75328596.cms

2	Business Standard	24-04-2020	https://hindi.business-standard.com/storypage_hin.php?autono=1882705
3	Mint	24-04-2020	https://www.livemint.com/news/india/be-patient-till-3-may-mea-making-best-efforts-muraleedharan-to-indians-abroad-11587740668426.html
4	The Times of India	24-04-2020	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/be-patient-till-may-3-mea-making-best-efforts-union-minister-to-indians-stranded-abroad/articleshow/75328511.cms
5	CNBC TV 18	24-04-2020	https://www.cnbctv18.com/healthcare/indians-stuck-on-foreign-shores-govt-says-stay-put-be-patient-stranded-citizens-share-their-feelings-5768681.htm/
6	NDTV	24-04-2020	https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-union-minister-v-muraleedharan-to-indians-stranded-abroad-be-patient-till-may-3-2217236
7	Business Today	24-04-2020	https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/be-patient-till-may-3-mea-doing-its-best-junior-minister-tells-indians-stranded-abroad/story/401855.html
8	First Post	24-04-2020	https://www.firstpost.com/india/mea-making-best-efforts-during-covid-19-crisis-be-patient-till-3-may-union-minister-tells-indians-stranded-abroad-8294421.html
9	News 18	24-04-2020	https://www.news18.com/news/india/be-patient-till-may-3-govt-making-best-efforts-mea-tells-indians-stranded-abroad-amid-covid-19-2590109.html
10	Navbharat Times	24-04-2020	https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/muralitharan-told-indians-stranded-abroad-to-have-patience-till-may-3/articleshow/75330138.cms
11	Amar Ujala	24-04-2020	https://www.amarujala.com/world/covid19-world-updates-donald-trump-says-coronavirus-is-not-just-a-flu-but-attack-on-usa?pageId=1
12	Daily Excelsior	24-04-2020	https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/be-patient-till-may-3-mea-making-best-efforts-muraleedharan-to-indians-stranded-abroad/
13	Yahoo News	24-04-2020	https://in.news.yahoo.com/patient-till-may-3-mea-145705092.html
14	Alkhaleej Today	24-04-2020	https://alkhaleejtoday.co/international/83650/COVID-19-Be-patient-till-May-3-India-tells-expats.html

15	Gulf News	24-04-2020	https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/india/covid-19-be-patient-till-may-3-india-tells-expatriates-1.71152147
16	Scroll	24-04-2020	https://scroll.in/latest/960081/covid-19-mea-making-efforts-be-patient-till-may-3-union-minister-tells-indians-stranded-abroad
17	Latestly	24-04-2020	https://hindi.latestly.com/agency-news/muralitharan-told-indians-trapped-abroad-have-patience-till-may-3-r-512692.html

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‘Growth opportunities for MSMEs post corona’

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 APRIL

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“Ministry of external affairs has taken measures to promote the 3Ts, which

are trade, tourism, and technology, which will boost the economy and development of the country,” he said.

The conference, “Impact of Covid-19 on the International Trade and Measures taken by the Government of India for the Indian Industry” witnessed a participation of more than 100 industry players and senior members of PHD Chamber all over the country, a PHDCCI communique said today.

Stating that the government is making efforts to help the businesses and livelihoods, Mr Muraleedharan advised everyone to understand the spirit of the lockdown, as many things are going to change in the coming future, including ways of doing business and contributing to the growth.

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NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER



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