

## We Can! We Will!

### CII Young Indian's COVID 19 ACTION Communiqué

**WHO calls this the year without a precedent.** It invites us to 'take stock of all that's been achieved – and the partnerships working to end the pandemic'. This is in the backdrop of a pandemic that has affected over 200 countries and a total count of over 176 million people who have tested positive for the COVID 19 virus. While the virus has been non-discriminatory in nature, the impact on lives and livelihoods has not been equal.

The public health community had feared this scenario for decades. A dangerous virus that threatens the entire globe. WHO further reminds us that as the virus spreads rapidly around the world, COVID-19 will infect people when they come together? However, working together is the only way we can also beat it. 2020 saw the world unite against the virus, from small personal gestures to protect others, to international collaboration on research and innovation. The year ended with COVID-19 vaccines rolling out in record time – an extraordinary feat in global history.

**Science, solutions, and solidarity have been tools for addressing the biggest health threat of the past century – this is the summary of the response we have built together.**

### Young Indians lead:

Young Indians (Yi), a movement for Indian Youth to converge, lead, co-create and influence India's future is an integral part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Formed in 2002, Yi has created a vibrant and dynamic platform for its 3600 direct members across 55 chapters pan-India and stakeholders - 30,000 YUVA college members; over 2,30,000 school children and 68 rural communities across the country to engage through initiatives and activities focused **on Nation Building, Youth Leadership and Thought Leadership**. Yi is a unique platform for young minds to influence and lead positive change with the conviction "**We Can, We Will**".

As conscious and responsible citizens, CII Young Indians has been in the forefront, championing and leading responsibly during this unprecedented pandemic with a four-step strategy - **Efficacy, Safety, Connectivity and Hope** directed at its stakeholders across Yi chapter cities. An important component of Yi's LEAD strategy during these times has been on **Informed Advocacy**, which has been facilitated through sharing of experiences and dialogues with global experts to build an actionable plan on the way forward for the Indian youth.

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This Communiqué provides the road map for:

- **Action to ensuring COVID appropriate behavior** – the key stakeholders of CII’s Young Indians across the country will initiate and lead this intervention over the next 6 months across India
- **Dialogue to mark India@75** As India enters its 75th year in the next few months, what would be the significant actionable takeaways for the youth to spread hope and positivity moving forward?
- **Global knowledge outreach to better inform India’s people:** To assimilate key learnings from other nations which have dealt with the impact of the pandemic earlier and build on our commitment to ‘informed advocacy’, we will continue to help build actionable plans with our stakeholders.

The Communiqué also builds on the recommendations that came out of our National round table discussion with subject experts from across the world on June 5, 2021. Our deliberations went beyond the ongoing 2nd wave of the COVID 19 pandemic to shape and formulate our plans to ensure preparedness, readiness and timely response to what lies ahead. It also looked at the public health challenges that COVID presents as well as the other crises that it has triggered.

### EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE

Prioritizing high value equitable health care is a clear priority in our road map during this pandemic. Challenges of resource allocation and availability led to inequity in health care in the country and presented significant challenges for the healthcare workers and administration. Therefore, there is a need for development of an actionable plan with time-frame that include short term needs and long term investments.

#### Short Term and immediate need focus on include:

- Vaccination for all.
- Tele-health and remote patient care.
- Long COVID care.

#### Long Term Investments will need a focus on:

- Last mile health connectivity for vulnerable groups and communities.
- Mental health.

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## INFORMED ADVOCACY, SURVEILLANCE AND COMMUNICATION

To understand and contain the spread of the virus, genomic sequencing is a vital and rapidly developing tool that helps by detecting new mutants and their consequences in humans. Therefore, genomic surveillance plays an important role in pandemic control. Public Health research and Genomics will also serve in preparation of Government and Public advisories on COVID appropriate behaviour, travel guidelines and other public health interventions. A robust genomic surveillance system will aid vaccine developers to test existing vaccine efficiency and give rise to further vaccine development possibilities. Therefore, this public health surveillance tool is extremely essential to monitor and contain the COVID-19 virus.

We at Yi will not only support informed advocacy and surveillance, but also augment public communication. This is probably the first pandemic where technology and social media are being so widely used to communicate and educate people the world over. This has its positives and brings some challenges. The infodemic of false or misleading information about the pandemic has had an extremely severe impact on people's behavior and their response to the pandemic. Misinformation costs lives and may be as dangerous to human health and security as the pandemic itself. Therefore, healthy literacy is the need of the hour to assess, understand, appraise and disseminate only verified health information to navigate the COVID-19 virus effectively.

### Our focus at Yi will be to provide connectivity to:

- Trusted sources of scientific and proven information
- Amplify support for official public health policies

## EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. **Fighting the Learning Loss** - The COVID 19 devastation goes beyond just the academic learning loss. It has exposed many inequalities in the education system including the availability of a digital infrastructure and a supportive environment for learning for many groups. This needs to be overcome by ensuring equitable access to technology to even the most underprivileged and adapting distance learning techniques and availability of other online learning aids to all.
2. **Social Entrepreneurship should be encouraged** - In order to respond effectively to this Public Health crisis and the economic fall-out, social entrepreneurship needs to be encouraged. COVID 19 has caused an emergency with a host of other systemic issues coming to the forefront like climate change, gender inequality and social disparities. To combat this confluence of multiple stressors, we need to focus on convergence, multi-disciplinary dialogue, on-ground practical efforts and disruptive solutions. Social entrepreneurs are focused on reforming the status quo and building stronger communities. Since they are already well positioned and are working with the underserved communities, their connections should be leveraged to flatten the disproportionate impact of the current pandemic.

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## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

When it comes to climate change, water security and deforestation, we have now entered a global emergency. This pandemic has taught us that the best time for action is long before the problem becomes severe.

We need to prioritize our actions for a green recovery. The emphasis will be to:

- adapt sustainable solutions to prevent pollution
- pioneer green manufacturing techniques
- invest in solutions to meet the growing food demand
- accelerate power sector transition
- achieve land degradation neutrality

## INNOVATION AND CONTINUED LEADERSHIP

More than ever before, the COVID 19 pandemic has exposed a large divide between the high-income and poorer countries and the availability of technological solutions to support them during the pandemic. Despite this divide, disruptive technologies are enabling numerous responses in emerging markets. The presence of a relatively developed digital ecosystem is linked to their ability to pivot to newer cost-effective solutions. These technologies must be identified and made equitably available across the nation. We commit to explore the following further:

- big data to provide services
- e – logistics
- home based working solutions
- online educational platforms
- robotic and artificial intelligence solutions

Above all this COVID 19 Pandemic has demonstrated that focus on health is imperative for public good; it is a building block for human progress and productivity. This pandemic demands of us a leadership style that is not only impactful but also transformational.







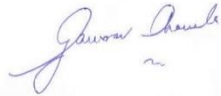

**As Young Indians (Yi), a movement for Indian Youth, we re-dedicate ourselves to converge, lead, co-create and influence India's present during this COVID 19 pandemic and work towards building an optimistic, fair and equitable future for all.**

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Signed on June 30 2021  
by the Chapter Leaders of  
CII Young Indians

 <p><b>Ms Smita Agarwal</b> National Chair -Yi</p> 	 <p><b>Mr Raunak Goyal</b> National Vice Chair -Yi</p>
 <p><b>Dr Kaushik Murali</b> Team COVID Task Force -Yi</p> 	 <p><b>Dr Aishwarya Arjun</b> Team COVID Task Force -Yi</p>
 <p><b>Ms Alifiya Calcuttawala</b> Team COVID Task Force -Yi</p>	 <p><b>Mr Dhruv Desai</b> Chair</p> <p>AHMEDABAD</p>
 <p><b>Mr Miheer Vaidya</b> Chair</p> <p>AURANGABAD</p>	 <p><b>Mr Falak Sheth</b> Chair</p> <p>BHAVNAGAR</p>
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 <p><b>Mr Mayur Navlani</b> Chair</p> <p>INDORE</p>	 <p><b>Ms Komal Lath</b> Chair</p>  <p>MUMBAI</p>
 <p><b>Mr Janak Sarda</b> Chair</p>  <p>NASHIK</p>	 <p><b>Mr Abhishek Khade</b> Chair</p>  <p>PUNE</p>

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