



NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER

Impact of Pandemic COVID-19

**Recommendations on Trade, Industry and
Economy to the Government**

March 25, 2020

PHD RESEARCH BUREAU

PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PHD House 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi 110016

Phone: 91-11-49545454 | Fax: 91-11-26855450, 26863135

Email: research@phdcci.in | Website: www.phdcci.in

PHD Chamber's Viewpoint



Dr D K Aggarwal
President

The growing severity of the impact caused by the widespread pandemic, COVID – 19, on our economy, its people and the Nation as a whole is a matter of deep concern. PHD Chamber of Commerce stands in complete solidarity and pledges to extend its all-out support to the Government in the fight for making India COVID-19 free. There is a need for an immediate interest rate cut by 100 basis points by the RBI to rejuvenate demand. Existing working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose. Markets have turned very volatile at this juncture with a negative bias so financial services should also be considered under the code of essential services so that the investors are able to place their orders with the stock brokers to protect their wealth. Further, the margin requirements for loans against shares should be reduced to 40% wherever it is more, as the share prices have come down drastically at the unrealistic level.



Shri Sanjay Aggarwal,
Senior Vice
President

The proactive and combative measures undertaken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to curtail the spread of Corona Virus and take complete control on the current alarming situation are highly appreciable. At this juncture, the Government should set up a Corona Distress Fund of Rs 25,000 crore for MSMEs to provide assistance to units getting severely affected by the impact of lock down. Interest subvention of 2% should be given to all the severely affected industries such as travel & tourism, aviation, leather, textiles, hospitality, electronics, among others. Since MSMEs face various challenges to fulfil their financial requirements, the interest subvention for MSMEs should be 3%. Certificates/ rules of origin are required by the exporters to export their consignments to foreign markets. Therefore, it becomes crucial to allow issuance of rules of origin under essential services to mitigate the impact on exports due to Coronavirus.



Shri Pradeep Multani,
Vice President

The steps undertaken by the Government to contain the spread of COVID-19 in India are highly encouraging thereby resulting in a Healthy and Prosperous India. It is suggested that the exemption for essential commodities should cover all raw materials and food ingredients and others used by the food processing industry and not just milk, fruits and vegetables, among others. Going forward, there should not be any prosecution against the businesses excluding the frauds till the impact of Coronavirus subsides. The recent measure undertaken to clarify the spending of CSR funds, by any corporate or business entity, for COVID -19 to be treated as an eligible CSR activity, relating to promotion of health care and disaster management among others, are highly laudable and would go a long way to support the industry and economy.



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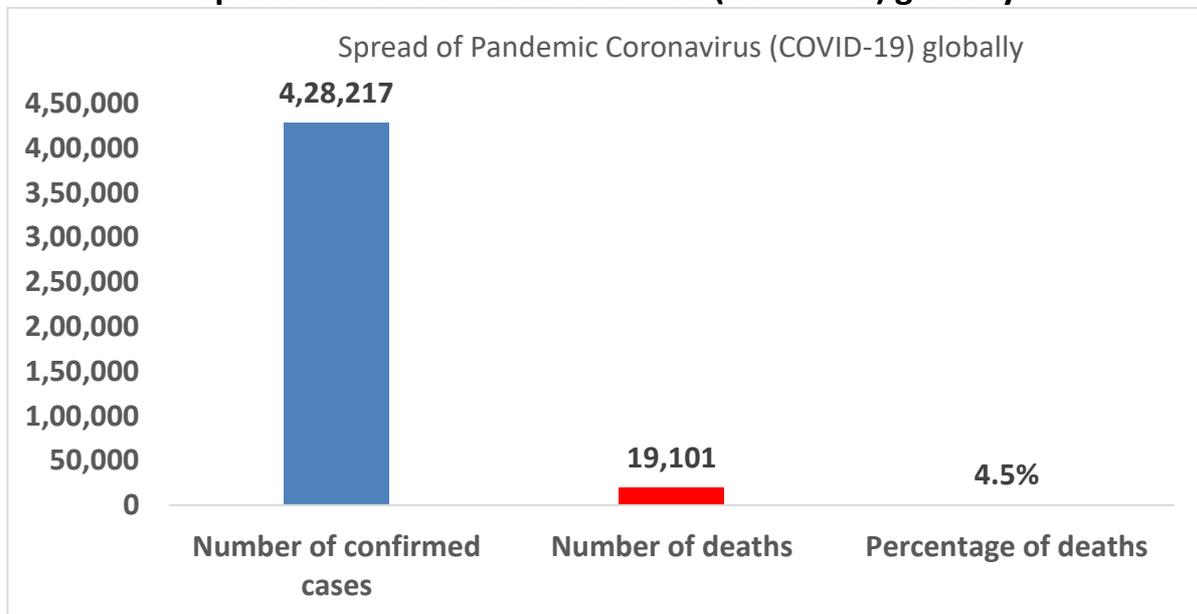
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Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19)

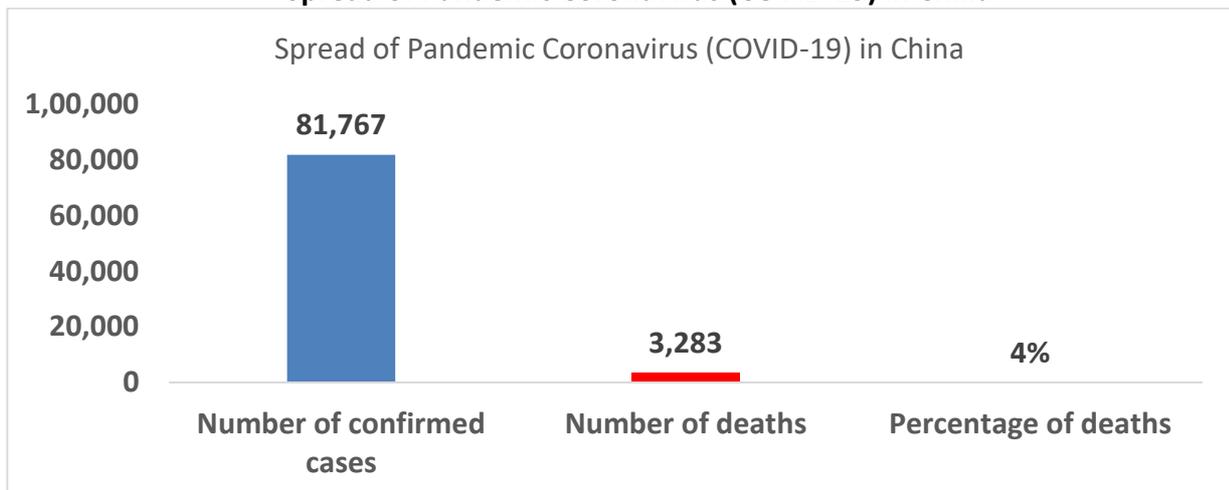
The Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been spreading rapidly around the world. More than 4,28,217 cases have been confirmed since the outbreak started and the death toll has reached 19,101. Countries such as China, USA, Italy, Spain, among others have been severely affected due to the spread of Coronavirus in recent times.

Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) globally



Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 25th March 2020

Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in China



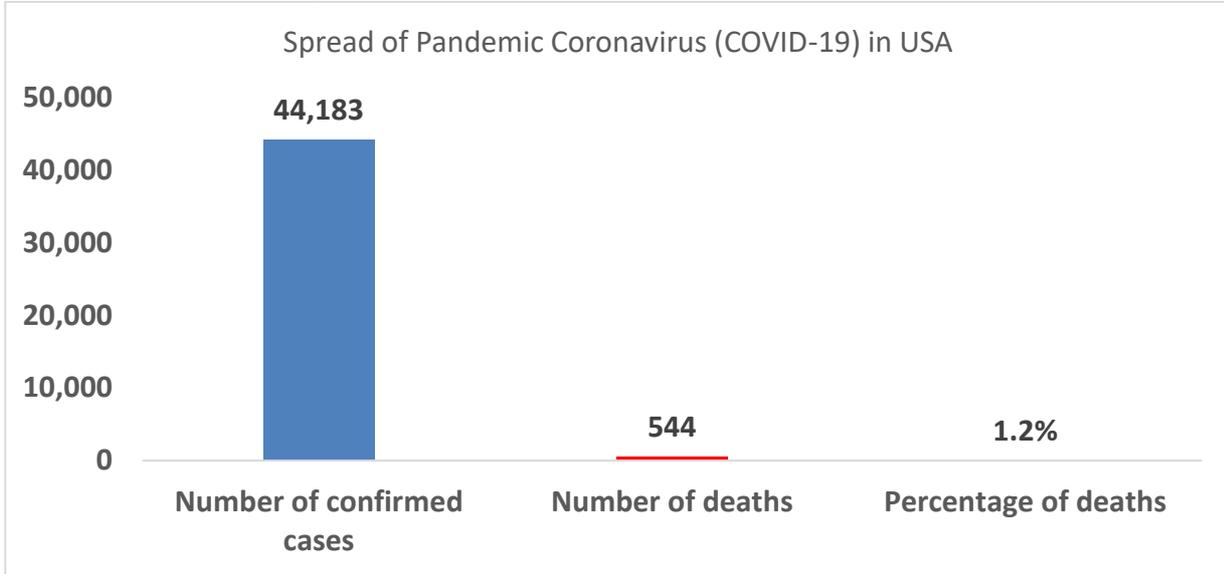
Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 25th March 2020



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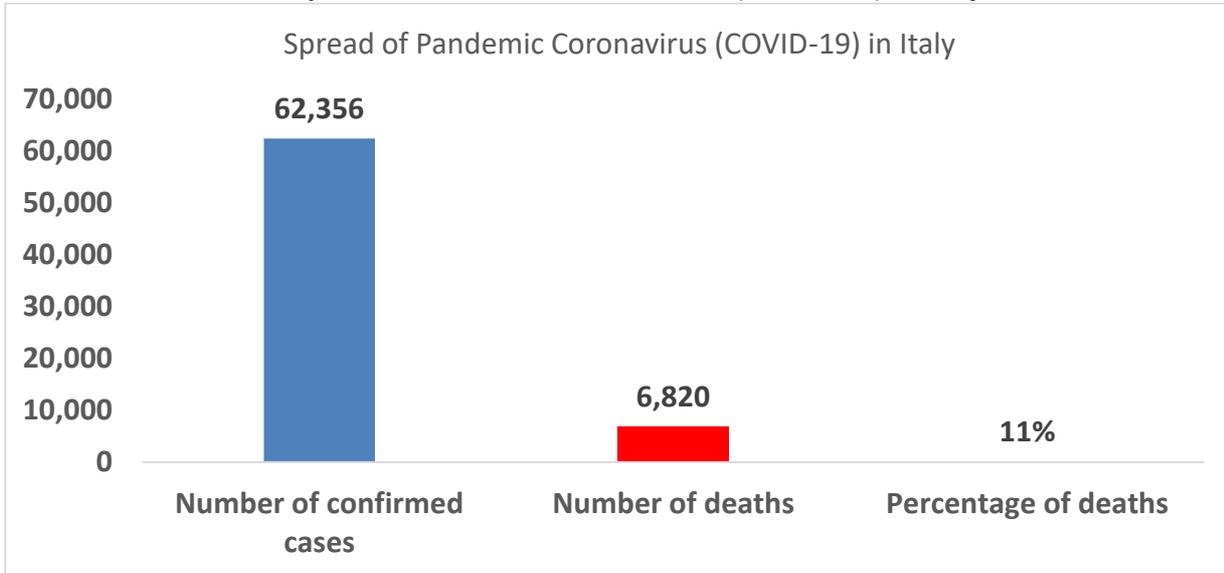
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Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in USA



Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 25th March 2020

Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Italy



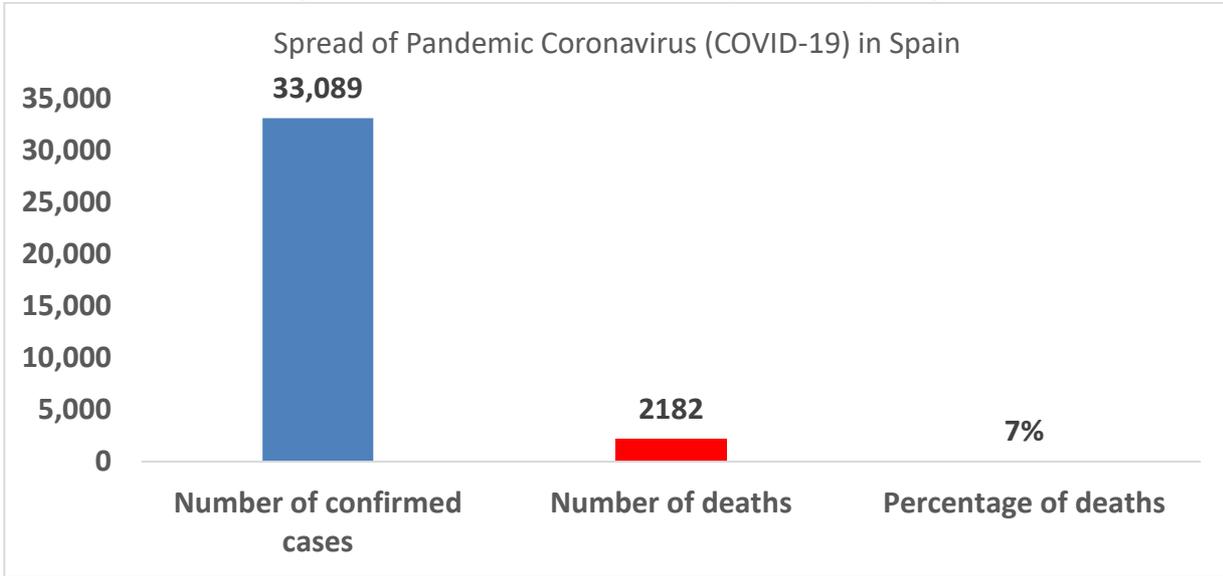
Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 24th March 2020



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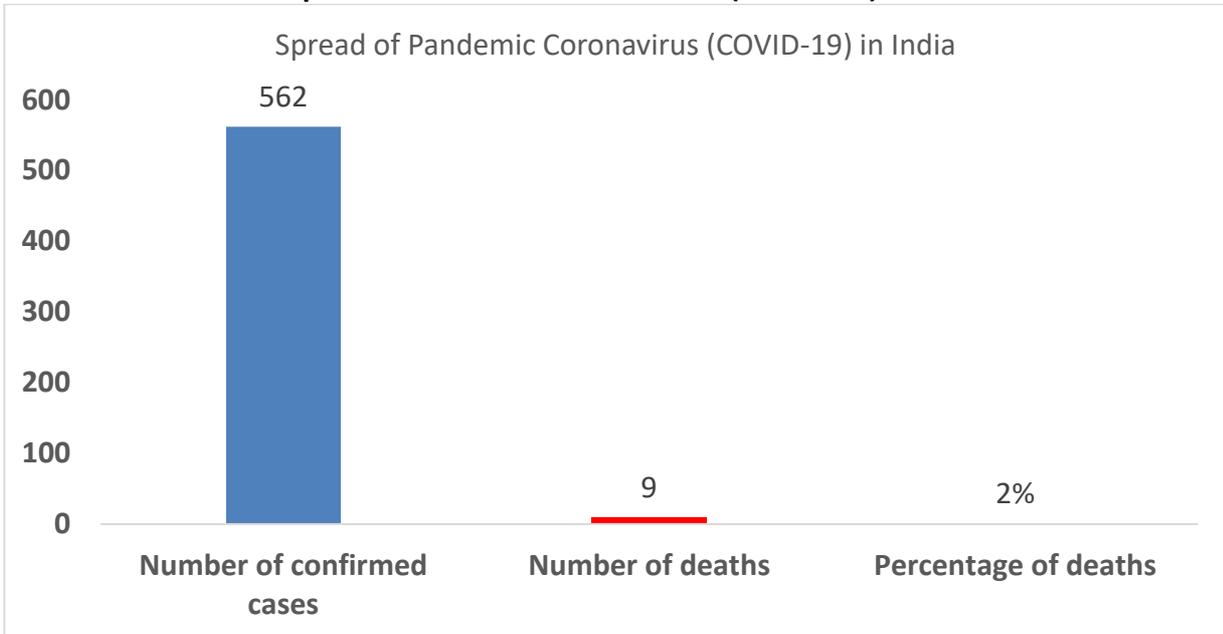
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Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Spain



Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 24th March 2020

Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in India



Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from various sources. Note: Data stands as on 25th March 2020

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Executive Summary

The severity of pandemic COVID 19 is increasing each day. Around 195 countries including China, Japan, USA, Italy, Spain, UK, among others have been severely impacted. The whole mankind in the world is in huge problem and uncertainty about the severity and spread of pandemic Covid-19. In India, there is complete lockdown in the country.

There is a multi-speed spread and recovery of the pandemic Covid-19. Globally 19101 people died out of 4,28,217 cases with a death rate of 4.5%. Italy has observed severity of deaths; around 6,820 people died out of the total 62,356 cases with a death rate of 11%, in Spain, 2,182 people died out of total 33,089 cases with a death rate of 7%, in China, 3,283 people died out of total 81,767 cases with a death rate of 4%, in India, 9 people died out of 562 cases with a death rate of 2%, In USA, 544 people died out of 44183 cases in USA with a death rate of 1.2%. Accordingly, the respective countries are providing relief to the people and trade & industry with financial stimulus along with various reform measures.

PHD Chamber of Commerce industry is keeping a close watch on the impact of pandemic COVID 19 on the global and domestic trade and economy. To know the impact of pandemic COVID 19 on Indian trade, industry and economy, PHD Research Bureau of PHD Chamber of Commerce and industry conducted a quick survey of the various industry stakeholders. The survey reveals that more than 83% of the businesses have been severely impacted in terms of decrease in sales volumes of which 90% business firms are from the services sector and 75% business firms are from the manufacturing sector. The services sector businesses are not able to render their services whereas manufacturing sector firms face problems in the availability of raw materials, increase in costs of raw materials. Both, manufacturers and merchant exporters have reported severe decline in export orders and fulfilment of export orders.

Accordingly, we have made our recommendations and representations to the Government of India and State Governments to mitigate the impact of pandemic COVID 19 on trade, industry and economy. We will continue to provide our suggestions / recommendations/ representations to the Government on the basis of various inputs received from our members and industry stakeholders.

We wish a good health to all our esteemed members, industry stakeholders and all the citizens of India.



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1. Severity of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The current Pandemic coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak which began in December 2019 presents a significant challenge for the entire world. The spread of the disease in more than 185 countries is very unfortunate and has severely hit the world's second largest economy China. It has been spreading rapidly from China to other regions (Italy, USA, Spain, Germany, Iran, France, Korea, UK, Canada, Japan, Australia, among others) thereby causing grave human suffering and economic disruption.

The World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared the Pandemic Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak as a pandemic on 11th March 2020. Total infections outside of China are accelerating and there have been more than 428217 confirmed cases globally with around 19101 deaths. The outbreak has raised health concerns and the risk of wider restrictions on the movement of people, goods and services resulting in fall in business and consumer confidence and slowing production.

The outbreak of Coronavirus has adversely affected the supply chains in China. The manufacturing operations in the country have been disrupted as a significant number of companies have temporarily shut their assembly and manufacturing plants. As China is a major player in global trade, contributing around 11% in world exports, exporting majorly to USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, India, Netherlands, among others, the impact on global trade would undermine the growth prospects of world trade and economy.

COVID-19 has the potential to cause considerable global economic and market dislocation, however, the economic impact of the disease will depend on its duration and severity. Countries face different levels of risk and vulnerability to COVID-19 and will require different levels of support. There is a need for Governments to act immediately to limit the spread of coronavirus and protect people and businesses from its effects thereby retaining demand.

At this juncture, there is a need to boost domestic consumption demand and domestic capacities to mitigate the likely impact of Coronavirus on global trade. Governments across the globe should act swiftly and devise effective measures to combat coronavirus and its economic impact. This would include the need for ensuring the availability of well-resourced public health facilities to prevent further infection and contagion and implement well-targeted policies to support healthcare



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systems. In addition, it becomes important to extend timely protection to the vulnerable social groups and businesses during the health emergency.

The efforts undertaken by the Government of India for announcing measures to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus are very encouraging. The pro-active and preventive measures will go a long way in combating the alarming situation created by COVID 19 and paving a way towards a Healthy and Prosperous India. The announcement of the constitution of Covid19 Economic Response Task Force under the leadership of the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India to look into the concerns of industry and well-being of industry is a welcome step. The Government should provide a financial package which should support the businesses in terms of availability of liquidity, working capital and to meet up the maintenance of employment in their respective businesses.



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2. Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the world

The COVID-19 disease -- a global health emergency -- has disrupted economic activity in China and has put global economy at risk. The continuous spread of coronavirus in more than 185 countries and regions is highly alarming and calls for concentrated efforts by Governments and various international organizations to limit the spread of the virus to protect people and businesses from its ill effects and boost demand. During the past few days, a number of economies have devised measures to support economy and industry from adverse economic consequences of the pandemic.

Measures to support economy and industry by select economies

Country Name	Status of COVID-19 cases	Measures to support economy and industry
China	<p>Around 82,000 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 3250 deaths</p>	<p>China’s economy has been severely hit by the outbreak of COVID-19. Some of the measures that have been announced to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has provided relaxation in the reserve requirement ratio and the loan prime rate. • The Government has announced tax and rent reductions, deferred payments of social security and target funding. • The People’s Bank of China (PBOC) has lowered the rate on 200 billion-yuan (\$28.65 billion) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans to financial institutions by 10 basis points (bps) to 3.15% from 3.25% previously. • Firms in Hubei province, the epicentre of the outbreak will not have to pay pensions, jobless and work-injury insurance until June 2020.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small firms in other provinces will be exempt from paying pensions, jobless insurance and work injury insurance until June, while payments by large firms will be reduced by half until April 2020. • The country will expand the enrolment of postgraduate and degree top-up programs, create more jobs of medical and social services at the community-level and strengthen support for micro and small enterprises to recruit more college graduates. • Employment of rural migrant workers will be enhanced by creating more job opportunities at the laborers' hometowns or places nearby and approving a group of new projects providing a large number of posts.
<p>United States of America (USA)</p>	<p>More than 44,000 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 500 deaths affecting 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and US Virgin Islands.</p>	<p>As per the recent reports, the Senators and White House have agreed on a US\$2 trillion economic stimulus in the wake of COVID-19 spread. Following are some the measures that the US Government is undertaking to support economy and industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of the Treasury is supporting American workers and businesses. • The Export-Import Bank of USA is offering a number of relief measures for small businesses, including waivers and deadline extensions. • The Farm Credit Administration has urged lenders to work with borrowers affected by COVID-19.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is working with banks and consumers to respond to coronavirus.• The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network reminds financial institutions to remain alert, and report concerns.• The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is working with banks and customers to manage the impact of the outbreak.• The Small Business Administration (SBA) has streamlined the application process for low-interest disaster loans, which offer up to USD 2 million in assistance for each affected small business. SBA's traditional loan programs also remain available including approximately USD 18 billion.• The Department of Agriculture is offering loan guarantees for rural businesses.• The Department of the Treasury has delayed Tax Day until 15th July, giving small business owners more time to pay their taxes without incurring interest or other penalties.• As per the legislation signed by the President of USA, small business owners will receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for providing paid leave to employees affected by the coronavirus.• The US President signed into law the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act," builds on the Administration's longstanding commitment to take every step necessary to provide
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		<p>economic relief and support for Americans affected by the virus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligible workers who are sick with the virus, quarantined, taking care of someone affected or caring for a child whose school has closed, will continue to be paid. ○ Employees will receive pay directly from their employers, rather than from a government-run program. ○ Though every dollar of required paid leave will be offset by tax credits for eligible employers, the act protects small businesses by offering an exemption in the rare event that paid leave requirements would jeopardize their business. ○ The legislation incentivizes states to ease access to unemployment benefits, assisting Americans who may be unemployed due to the impact of the virus. ○ To support families and the most vulnerable, the bill also provides funding and flexibility for emergency nutritional aid for senior citizens, women, children, and low-income families.
<p>United Kingdom (UK)</p>	<p>More than 6600 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 330 deaths</p>	<p>The country has announced a plethora of measures to combat the economic impact of COVID-19. Some of the measures to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <p><u>Measures to support businesses:</u></p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UK has announced business support for its economy in the form of government support for firms to keep operating in the face of the global economic emergency brought on by coronavirus.• Two new loan schemes have been confirmed and an information campaign has been launched to spread awareness among businesses.• More than £330 billion of loans and guarantees has been announced to help firms continue operating.• For small and medium sized businesses, the new Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is now available. This scheme will help any viable business with a turnover of up to £45m to access government-backed finance of up to £5 million. Interest payments and any lender-levied fees for businesses will be covered by the Government for an initial period of up to 12 months.• The Government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each facility to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.• A new lending facility for larger firms provides a quick and cost-effective way to raise working capital for companies who are fundamentally strong but are experiencing severe disruption to cashflows, helping businesses across a range of sectors to pay wages and suppliers.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Government information campaign has also been launched to ensure that businesses are aware of the support available to them and how to access it. <p><u>Measures to support Workers (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK workers of any employer who are placed on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme can keep their job with the government paying up to 80% of a worker’s wages upto a total of £2,500 per worker each month. • VAT payments due between now and the end of June will be deferred. • The standard rate in Universal credit and Tax Credits will be increased by £20 a week for one year from 6th April, meaning claimants will be up to £1040 better off. • Nearly £1bn of additional support for renters, through increases in the generosity of housing benefit and Universal Credit. From April, Local Housing Allowance rates will pay for at least 30% of market rents in each area.
<p>Canada</p>	<p>More than 1600 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 20 deaths</p>	<p>The country has announced a set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this period. These measures as part of the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan will provide up to USD 27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses. Some of the measures undertaken by Canada to support economy and industry are as follows:</p>



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		<p><u>Measures to support businesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the Government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of 3 months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of USD 1,375 per employee and USD 25,000 per employer.• The Bank of Canada also took a series of actions to support the Canadian economy and help ensure that financial institutions can continue to extend credit to both households and businesses. This included cutting the interest rate to 0.75% as a proactive measure in light of the negative shocks to Canada's economy arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent sharp drop in oil prices.• The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer until after 31st August, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due as well as instalments under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.• The Canada Revenue Agency will not contact any small or medium (SME) businesses to initiate any post assessment GST/HST or Income Tax audits for the next four weeks. For the
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		<p>vast majority of businesses, the Canada Revenue Agency will temporarily suspend audit interaction with taxpayers and representatives.</p> <p><u>Measures to support people facing unemployment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is waiving the one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. • For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours as a result of COVID's impact, the Government is introducing an Emergency Support Benefit to provide up to USD 5 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment.
<p>Australia</p>	<p>More than 2100 confirmed cases</p> <p>Around 8 deaths</p>	<p>The Government of Australia has announced an economic stimulus of around USD 189 billion to address the economic consequences of Coronavirus. The Government's consolidated stimulus of USD 189 billion represents fiscal and balance sheet support across the forward estimates of 9.7% of annual GDP. Some of the measures to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <p><u>Measures to support individuals and households:</u></p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over the next six months, the Government has temporarily expanded the eligibility to income support payments and established a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of USD 550 per fortnight.• The Government has provided two separate USD 750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. These payments will help to support confidence and domestic demand in the economy.• The Government has allowed individuals affected by the Coronavirus to access up to USD 10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further USD 10,000 in 2020-21. Further, the Government has temporarily reduced superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products by 50 per cent for 2019-20 and 2020-21. <p><u>Measures to support businesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government is providing up to USD 100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits (NFPs) that employ people, with a minimum payment of USD 20,000. These payments will help businesses and NFPs with their cash flow so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity and other bills and retain staff.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld (up from 50 per cent), with the maximum payment being increased from USD 25,000 to USD 50,000. In addition, the minimum payment is being increased from USD 2,000 to USD 10,000.• The Government has temporarily increased the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and to initiate bankrupt proceedings against an individual as well as temporarily increasing the time companies and individuals have to respond to statutory demands they receive.• The Government has increased the instant asset write-off threshold from USD 30,000 to USD 150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than USD 500 million (up from USD 50 million) until 30th June 2020.• The Government has introduced a time-limited 15-month investment incentive (through to 30th June 2021) to support business investment and economic growth over the short term, by accelerating depreciation deductions.• The Government is supporting small business to retain their apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage for 9 months from 1st January 2020 to 30th September 2020.
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		<p><u>Measures to support flow of credit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme, the Government will provide a guarantee of 50 per cent to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans to SMEs. The Scheme will guarantee up to USD 40 billion of new lending. • The Government will cut red tape by providing a temporary exemption from responsible lending obligations for lenders providing credit to existing small business customers. • The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has announced a term funding facility for the banking system. Banks will have access to at least USD 90 billion in funding at a fixed interest rate of 0.25 per cent. This will reinforce the benefits of a lower cash rate by reducing funding costs for banks, which in turn will help reduce interest rates for borrowers.
<p>Italy</p>	<p>More than 62000 confirmed cases</p> <p>Around 7000 deaths.</p>	<p>The country has announced support measures to mitigate the economic impact of coronavirus in the form of protection of work and income; credit support for families and micro, small and medium enterprises through the banking system and the use of the central guarantee fund; suspension of payment obligations for taxes, among others. A few of the measures to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers, including companies with fewer than 5 employees, who suspend or reduce their business following an



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		<p>epidemiological emergency, can resort to the layoffs earnings notwithstanding the new reason "COVID-19" for the maximum duration of 9 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compensation of € 600 is recognized, on a monthly, non-taxable basis, for self-employed workers and VAT numbers. The compensation will help professionals not registered with orders, artisans, traders, direct farmers, settlers and sharecroppers, seasonal workers from the tourism and spa establishments, workers from the entertainment sector, agricultural workers, etc.• A moratorium on loans to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (which concerns mortgages, leasing, credit openings and short-term loans falling due);• Strengthening of the central guarantee fund for small and medium-sized enterprises, also for the renegotiation of existing loan.• Workers with a gross annual income of up to € 40,000 who perform their services in the workplace in the month of March (not in smart working) are awarded a bonus of € 100, non-taxable (in proportion to the days worked)• A tax credit equal to 60% of the rent in the month of March is awarded to shops and shops.• Introduction of tax measures in order to prevent obligations and obligations from aggravating liquidity problems.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a revolving fund for the granting of zero-rate mortgages for agricultural enterprises in difficulty. • The extension of the validity of health cards and the National Service Charter.
Spain	<p>More than 33000 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 2000 deaths.</p>	<p>The Government of Spain has announced an economic stimulus of more than USD 200 billion to mitigate the impact of coronavirus. Some of the measures to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on mortgage payments for people adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. • The Government will stop evictions and guarantee water, electricity and internet to vulnerable households. • Upto €100 million will be used to guarantee liquidity for Spanish businesses. • The Government has announced that all self-employed workers who lose their business due to the crisis will receive special help. • €30 million has been pledged to researchers trying to develop a coronavirus vaccine.
Japan	<p>More than 1100 confirmed cases</p> <p>More than 40 deaths.</p>	<p>Some of the measures announced by Japan Government to support economy and industry are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government will significantly expand special measures on the Employment Adjustment Subsidies so as to protect employment and secure the stability of the people's lives.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government will implement financial measures of 1.6 trillion yen from the Japan Finance Corporation and other institutions, primarily focusing on micro, small and medium-sized business operators.• The Government will establish a COVID-19 special loan program (on the scale of 500 billion yen) and reduce the interest rate, as well as provide real interest-free, unsecured financing support to micro, small and medium-sized business operators and others.• Promote private financial institutions to actively provide new loans and change terms for existing debt.• The Government will enable expedited assistance, regarding priority supports on capital investments to respond to the damages, including those on supply chains, and for business owners who work to cultivate new sales channels.
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Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI compiled from various sources



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3. Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in India

The confirmed cases of COVID-19 in India has reached to around 562 so far, of which 41 cases¹ have been cured/discharged/migrated and there are 9 death cases. Till date, 15,24,266 passengers² have been screened at the airports in the country. Government is taking all necessary steps to ensure that the country is prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID 19. Central and State Governments have issued various guidelines and instructions to monitor and contain the transmission of COVID-19.

Major measures/advisory/guidelines undertaken/announced by the government with regard to COVID-19:

- In view of alarming situation of COVID-19, a complete lockdown has been enforced across the country (all States and Union Territories) till 14th April 2020.
- State Governments have issued orders allowing only essential services, such as hospitals, telecom, medicine shops, provision stores etc., to operate during lockdown and curfew.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister has requested the State Governments to make people adhere to the lockdown.
- Government has announced for legal action against lockdown violators.
- All train services have been suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub-urban rail services. However, goods trains are exempted. Indian Railways is making all efforts to ensure availability of essential commodities through its uninterrupted freight services. Indian Railways has slashed the demurrage and wharfage rates for goods and parcel at half of the prescribed rates till 31st March 2020. Validity of the rate policies pertaining to goods/container traffic has also been extended by one month i.e. up to 30th April 2020. No haulage charge shall be levied for movement of empty containers/empty flat wagons from 24th March 2020 to 30th April 2020.
- Free time for loading/unloading of wagons and free time for removal of consignment from railway premises has been increased to double of the prescribed free time till 31.03.20.
- All metro rail services have been suspended till 31st March 2020.

¹ Source: Government of India Website on COVID-19- www.mygov.in/covid-19

² IBID



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- Inter State passenger transport are suspended till 31st March 2020.
- The Union Government has ordered suspension of all domestic flight services beginning Tuesday, 24th March 2020 midnight in a bid to move towards a complete lockdown. The restrictions shall not apply to cargo flights.
- No scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall be allowed to land in India from March 22, 2020 for one week.
- Bureau of Immigration, Government of India has issued advisory suspending all existing visas issued to nationals of any country, except those issued to Diplomats, Officials, UN/International organizations, Employment, Project visas till April 15, 2020.
- Railways and civil aviation shall suspend all concessional travel except for students, patients and divyang category.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has advised all the employers of Public/Private establishments to extend their coordination by not terminating their employees, particularly casual or contractual workers from jobs or reduce their wages. If any worker takes leaves, he/she should be deemed to be on duty without consequential deductions in wages.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued an advisory, under Section 60 of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996, to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to transfer funds in the account of construction workers through Direct Benefit Transfer mode from the cess fund collected by the Labour Welfare Boards.
- In order to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the pensioners on account of the prevalent situation, Central Provident Fund Commissioner has directed the field offices of EPFO to generate and reconcile pensioners' details and pension amount statements for the current month by 25th March, 2020. It has been further directed that the same should be forwarded to the banks in advance so that the monthly pension is credited into the account of the pensioners in time i.e. during the month of March itself.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has issued precautionary measures for all educational institutions and examination boards under the MHRD. Under the measures issued, all ongoing examinations may be rescheduled after 31st March 2020. This would include CBSE, NIOS and University Exams; all evaluation work may be rescheduled after 31st March 2020. This would include evaluation work of CBSE, NIOS and University Exams.; JEE Mains should be rescheduled and new date will be announced on 31st March 2020 after re-assessment of situation.



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- The Central Government has asked all the State Governments to deploy fiscal resources for establishing additional medical facilities such as hospitals, clinical labs, isolation wards, expanding & upgrading existing facilities to combat the challenge posed by COVID19. These facilities need to be well equipped with ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPEs), masks and drugs to treat the patients.
- The National Task Force has recommended that the maximum cost for testing Coronavirus samples should not exceed Rs 4500.
- In its efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has prohibited the export of all ventilators, including any artificial respiratory apparatus or oxygen therapy apparatus or any other breathing appliance/device. The export of all Sanitizers has also been prohibited.
- The Election Commission has deferred the poll and extended the period of the biennial elections, for 18 seats from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Rajasthan, under the Section 153 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- Invest India, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched The Invest India Business Immunity Platform. The platform, hosted on the Invest India website, is designed as a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This dynamic and constantly updating platform keeps a regular track on developments with respect to the virus, provides latest information on various central and state government initiatives, gives access to special provisions, and answers and resolves queries through emails and on WhatsApp. The Business Immunity Platform (BIP) is the active platform for business issue redressal, operating 24/7, with a team of dedicated sector experts and responding to queries at the earliest. Invest India has also announced a partnership with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) for responding and resolving queries for MSMEs.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has deployed a web form named CAR (Company Affirmation of Readiness towards COVID-19) on 23rd March 2020. This form has to be filled by the companies/LLPs to confirm their readiness to deal with the COVID-19 threat.

Government's constant efforts to tackle the situation of COVID-19 in the country:



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Since January, 2020 Hon'ble Prime Minister has been undertaking several rounds of meetings and discussions with people from various walks of life, industry stakeholders, industry chambers and officials in order to find ways and means to fight COVID-19.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister has addressed the nation on 24th March 2020 on issues relating to the menace of COVID-19. He has announced a complete lockdown in the entire country for another 21 days, ie till 14th April 2020. Further, he has encouraged people to stay in their homes. The Centre has allocated Rs 15,000 crore for people infected with COVID-19. This will be used for increasing and enhancing health infrastructure, such as increasing the number of beds & testing kits, training of professionals to combat the disease, among others.
- Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has announced various relief measures regarding statutory and regulatory compliance, in light of prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country, on 24th March 2020. The key Highlights of the press conference are as follows:

A. Income Tax

1. Extended the last date for income tax returns for (FY2018-19) from 31st March, 2020 to 30th June, 2020.
2. Aadhaar-PAN linking date to be extended from 31st March, 2020 to 30th June, 2020.
3. Vivad se Vishwas scheme is extended till 30 June 2020 and no additional 10% amount, if payment made by June 30, 2020.
4. Due dates for issue of notice, intimation, notification, approval order, sanction order, filing of appeal, furnishing of return, statements, applications, reports, any other documents and time limit for completion of proceedings by the authority and any compliance by the taxpayer including investment in saving instruments or investments for roll over benefit of capital gains under Income Tax Act, Wealth Tax Act, Prohibition of Benami Property Transaction Act, Black Money Act, STT law, CTT Law, Equalization Levy law, Vivad Se Vishwas law where the time limit is expiring between 20th March 2020 to 29th June 2020 shall be extended to 30th June 2020.



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5. For delayed payments of advanced tax, self-assessment tax, regular tax, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), TCS, equalization levy, STT, CTT made between 20th March 2020 and 30th June 2020, reduced interest rate at 9% instead of 12%/18% per annum (i.e. 0.75% per month instead of 1/1.5 percent per month) will be charged for this period. No late fee/penalty shall be charged for delay relating to this period.
6. Necessary legal circulars and legislative amendments for giving effect to the aforesaid relief shall be issued in due course.

B. GST/Indirect Tax

1. Last date for filing GSTR-3B in March, April and May 2020 will be extended till the last week of 30th June, 2020 for those having aggregate annual turnover less than Rs. 5 Crore. No interest, late fee, and penalty to be charged.
2. For any delayed payment made between 20th March 2020 and 30th June 2020 reduced rate of interest @9 % per annum (current interest rate is 18% per annum) will be charged. No late fee and penalty to be charged, if complied before till 30th June 2020.
3. Date for opting for composition scheme is extended till the last week of June, 2020. Further, the last date for making payments for the quarter ending 31st March, 2020 and filing of return for 2019-20 by the composition dealers will be extended till the last week of June, 2020.
4. Date for filing GST annual returns of FY2018-19, which is due on 31st March, 2020 is extended till the last week of June 2020.
5. Due date for issue of notice, notification, approval order, sanction order, filing of appeal, furnishing of return, statements, applications, reports, any other documents, time limit for any compliance under the GST laws where the time limit is expiring between 20th March 2020 to 29th June 2020 shall be extended to 30th June 2020.
6. Necessary legal circulars and legislative amendments to give effect to the aforesaid GST relief shall follow with the approval of GST Council.
7. Payment date under Sabka Vishwas Scheme shall be extended to 30th June, 2020. No interest for this period shall be charged if paid by 30th June, 2020.

C. Customs

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1. 24 X 7 Custom clearance till end of 30th June, 2020.
2. Due date for issue of notice, notification, approval order, sanction order, filing of appeal, furnishing applications, reports, any other documents etc., time limit for any compliance under the Customs Act and other allied Laws where the time limit is expiring between 20th March 2020 to 29th June 2020 shall be extended to 30th June 2020.

D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs/Insolvency & Bankruptcy (IBC)

1. No additional fees shall be charged for late filing during a moratorium period from 01st April to 30th September 2020, in respect of any document, return, statement etc., required to be filed in the MCA-21 Registry, irrespective of its due date, which will not only reduce the compliance burden, including financial burden of companies/ LLPs at large, but also enable long-standing non-compliant companies/ LLPs to make a 'fresh start'
2. The mandatory requirement of holding meetings of the Board of the companies within prescribed interval provided in the Companies Act (120 days), 2013, shall be extended by a period of 60 days till next two quarters i.e., till 30th September.
3. Applicability of Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 shall be made applicable from the financial year 2020-2021 instead of from 2019-2020 notified earlier. This will significantly ease the burden on companies & their auditors for the year 2019-20.
4. As per Schedule 4 to the Companies Act, 2013, Independent Directors are required to hold at least one meeting without the attendance of Non-independent directors and members of management. For the year 2019-20, if the IDs of a company have not been able to hold even one meeting, the same shall not be viewed as a violation.
5. Requirement to create a Deposit reserve of 20% of deposits maturing during the financial year 2020-21 before 30th April 2020 shall be allowed to be complied with till 30th June 2020.
6. Requirement to invest 15% of debentures maturing during a particular year in specified instruments before 30th April 2020, may be done so before 30th June 2020.
7. Newly incorporated companies are required to file a declaration for Commencement of Business within 6 months of incorporation. An additional time of 6 more months shall be allowed.

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8. Non-compliance of minimum residency in India for a period of at least 182 days by at least one director of every company, under Section 149 of the Companies Act, shall not be treated as a violation.
9. Due to the emerging financial distress faced by most companies on account of the large-scale economic distress caused by COVID 19, it has been decided to raise the threshold of default under section 4 of the IBC 2016 to Rs 1 crore (from the existing threshold of Rs 1 lakh). This will by and large prevent triggering of insolvency proceedings against MSMEs. If the current situation continues beyond 30th of April 2020, we may consider suspending section 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC 2016 for a period of 6 months so as to stop companies at large from being forced into insolvency proceedings in such force majeure causes of default.
10. Detailed notifications/circulars in this regard shall be issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs separately

E. Banking

1. ATM withdrawal from any bank's ATM will be free of charge for the next three months. Also, there shall not be any minimum balance requirement fee.
2. Bank charges are being reduced for digital trade and transactions.
3. The Minister has clarified that banks not imposing the minimum balance requirement fee is for a three-month period, for now.

F. Fisheries

1. All Sanitary Permits (SIPs) for import of SPF Shrimp Broodstock and other Agriculture inputs expiring between 01.03.2020 to 15.04.2020 extended by 3 months
2. Delay upto 1 month in arrival of consignments to be condoned.
3. Rebooking of quarantine cubicles for cancelled consignments in Aquatic Quarantine Facility (AQF) Chennai without additional booking charges
4. The verification of documents and grant of NOC for Quarantine would be relaxed from 7 days to 3 days

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Hon'ble Finance Minister has reiterated that an economic package will be announced sooner.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with over twenty journalists and stakeholders from Print Media from all over the country via video conference on 24th March 2020. Hon'ble Prime Minister said that media has played a praise-worthy role in disseminating information to every nook and cranny of this nation. He said that the network of media is pan-India and spread across cities and villages. This makes the media all the more significant in fighting this challenge and spreading correct information about it at micro level. It is essential to inform people about where the testing centres are, who should get tested, whom to contact to get tested and follow home isolation protocols. This information should be shared in newspapers and web portals of the paper. He also suggested that information like location of availability of essential items during lockdown can also be shared in the regional pages. Hon'ble Prime Minister asked the media to act as a link between government and people and provide continuous feedback, at both national and regional level.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23rd March, 2020 interacted with industry representatives through video conference on measures to curb and mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Indian economy.
 1. Hon'ble Prime Minister said that while the government was working on giving fillip to the pace of growth in the country, an unforeseen hurdle in the form of COVID-19 came in front of the economy.
 2. He said that the challenge posed by the pandemic is graver than even that posed by the World Wars and we need to be on constant vigil to prevent its spread.
 3. Hon'ble Prime Minister said that the fulcrum of the economy is trust. Trust has a unique yardstick – it is earned or lost in difficult and challenging times. The parameters of trust are at a critical juncture in various sectors of the economy.
 4. He said that several sectors like tourism, construction, hospitality and daily life engagements including the informal sector have been hit due to COVID-19. The impact on the economy will be felt for some time to come.
 5. He said it is imperative that production of essential items should not be impacted at this time, and black marketing and hoarding be prevented.

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6. Hon'ble Prime Minister also reminded about the importance of 'swachhta' and following medical advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at factories, offices and workplace. He added that social distancing remains our biggest weapon in our fight against preventing the spread of the virus.
 7. Hon'ble Prime Minister also requested industry to use their CSR funding for humanitarian causes related to the pandemic at this critical juncture.
 8. The industry representatives thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister for leading from the front and taking swift, front-footed action to counter the threat. They informed the Hon'ble Prime Minister about the steps being taken by them to maintain supply lines of essential items and medical equipment including ventilators, assistance in creation of isolation wards, utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for combating COVID-19 and provision of assistance to migrant labour.
 9. They discussed the specific issues being faced by sectors like banking, finance, hospitality, tourism, infrastructure and requested for help to overcome these challenges through financial and fiscal assistance. Industry representatives also appreciated the importance of instituting a lockdown, irrespective of economic losses, to prevent the spread of the virus.
 10. Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked the industry representatives for speaking in one voice on the needs of the unorganized sector and said that this marks a new dawn of economic integration. He asked them to allow employees to work from home wherever doing so is feasible through using technology. He urged them to adopt a humanitarian approach and not to cut down on workforce in spite of the negative impact on their businesses.
- In an effort to maintain the regular supply of medicines and medical equipment, Hon'ble Prime Minister held a video conference with the Pharmaceutical Sector Representatives on the 21st March 2020. In his interaction, the Hon'ble Prime Minister asked the Pharmaceutical industry to work on manufacture of RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) Testing Kits for COVID-19 on war footing. He assured them that the Government is committed to maintaining supply of APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) and manufacture within the country.
 - On the 20th of March, Hon'ble Prime Minister interacted with all the Chief Ministers of the states through a video conference where in had called for tackling the challenge together. Prime Minister called for a constant vigilance

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and monitoring of spread of the virus and that Centre and States must work together to combat the pandemic.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the nation on combating COVID-19 on 19th March 2020. Key highlights of the address:
 - Asked people to work from home.
 - Hospital staff and media people are required to work on field.
 - Senior citizens advised not to come out of house.
 - Janta Curfew on 22nd March 2020 between 7.00 a.m. and 9.00 p.m.
 - Hospital should not be overburdened.
 - Avoid routine medical check up.
 - Elective surgery may be postponed.
 - Asked people to try to consult doctors over phone.
 - Setting-up of COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force to meet economic challenges of the pandemic
 - No deduction of wages / salaries requested.
 - Supply of essential items / edible items will be ensured. Asked people to avoid panic buying and storing.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister held telephonic discussions with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the UK, H.E Boris Johnson, with Hon'ble Prime Minister of Israel H.E Benjamin Netanyahu on the 12th of March 2020 and Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman on the 17th of March 2020.

- A meeting of the SAARC leaders under India's leadership was held on the 15th of March 2020. The Hon'ble Prime Minister led the way, in the spirit of collaboration and proposed creation of a COVID-19 Emergency Fund based on voluntary contributions from all the countries, with India making an initial offer of US\$ 10 million for the fund. The fund can be used by any of the partner countries to meet the cost of immediate actions.



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4. Spread of Pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) in States

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi called for a complete lockdown for the entire nation for 21 days since the beginning of 24th March 2020 midnight to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The following table depicts the total cases of coronavirus detected in each state wherein Kerala has the highest number (101) of COVID-19 detected cases followed by Maharashtra with 98 detected cases of COVID-19.

Statewise status of COVID-19

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total confirmed cases (Indian national)	Total confirmed cases (Foreign national)	Cured/discharged/migrated	Death
1	Andhra Pradesh	9	0	0	0
2	Bihar	3	0	0	1
3	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	0
4	Delhi	30	1	6	1#
5	Gujarat	32	1	0	1
6	Haryana	14	14	11	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	3	0	0	1
8	Karnataka	41	0	3	1
9	Kerala	101	8	4	0
10	Madhya Pradesh	9	0	0	0
11	Maharashtra	98	3	0	2
12	Manipur	1	0	0	0
13	Mizoram	1	0	0	0
14	Odisha	2	0	0	0
15	Puducherry	1	0	0	0
16	Punjab	29	0	0	1
17	Rajasthan	30	2	3	0
18	Tamil Nadu	16	2	1	0
19	Telangana	25	10	1	0
20	Chandigarh	7	0	0	0
21	Jammu and Kashmir	7	0	1	0
22	Ladakh	13	0	0	0
23	Uttar Pradesh	34	1	11	0
24	Uttarakhand	3	1	0	0



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25	West Bengal	9	0	0	1
	Total Number of confirmed cases in India	519	43	41	9#
The total number of cases of pandemic coronavirus in India stands at 562 with 9 deaths reported so far					

Source: PHD Research Bureau, compiled from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Note: data as on 25th March 2020, 9:15 am)

Table: States' Measures on COVID-19

S. No.	State	Measures
1	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state has deployed over 2.5 lakh volunteers with responsibility of screening 50 households each. • Findings of these volunteers are being directly monitored by the district health authorities and primary health care centres. • A 100 bedded quarantine/isolation facility would also be established at each assembly constituency level.
2	Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No operation of public transportation Delhi borders will be sealed but the essential services related to health, food, water, and power supply will continue. • 25% of the DTC buses will run to transport people associated with essential services. • Measures announced to ameliorate the hardships amid the wake of coronavirus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distribution of free ration for the month of April to 7.2 million beneficiaries for nearly 1.8 million families. ○ The quantity of ration under PDs has also been increased by 50%.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doubling of monthly pension of 2 lac 50 thousand widows, 5 lac senior citizens and 1 lac differently abled persons. ○ All homeless will be given free food, lunch and dinner at night shelters run by the state government.
3	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Imposition of section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) across major cities. ● Government announced that 1200 bed hospital in Ahmedabad will be devoted to treating coronavirus patients. ● Hospitals are being set up in 4 locations Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot and Vadodra. ● The state government added one more testing lab to its existing two laboratories with a capacity to test 200 sample sin a day.
4	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Karnataka government pledged Rs 200 crore fund towards immediate expenses to contain the spread of coronavirus . ● The government formed 100 teams, each consisting of one doctor, one staff nurse, and one medico social worker for contact tracing. ● Free ration for next two months will be given to all who avail ration in one go. ● A government hospital of 1700 beds has been directed to be converted into a special hospital to treat COVID 19 patients. ● The state is working on equipping the facilities and capacity improvement immediately for every



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		<p>one million population minimum 200 tests can be conducted.</p>
5	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government has declared a Rs 20000 crore special package to tackle the impact of COVID 19 outbreak. This includes Rs 14000 crore to clear all arrears in various sectors and Rs 500 crore health package.• The state government will facilitate loans worth Rs 2000 crore through the self- help group Kudumbasree to those are who are impacted by COVID 19.• Another Rs 2000 crore will be distributed as part of a village employment assurance programme in April and May.• Social welfare pensions due in April will be distributed in March.• Foodgrains will be provided to families across segments.• The government has allowed one-month extension for the payment of water and electricity bills.
6	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state is working on putting a plan to tackle the economic challenges put forward by pandemic.• The state is currently working on to find a solution to financial challenges caused by COVID 19 crisis, a working group has been formed to look into the matter.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-essential services, including private and offices and stores in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur would remain shut till March 31st. • Stock exchanges, stock broking offices, clearing corporation and primary dealers under the ambit of RBI and SEBI will remain open. • Restrictions have been enhanced and section 144 of the IPC was imposed in all urban areas in the state. • Groceries, milk centres, pharmacies and banks are exempt from the restrictions. • Buses will be available to those providing essential services. • All government offices will function with 5% attendance. • Factories can function at 50% staff strength in the state.
7	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate vigilance is maintained in the state in view of corona virus. • Disease resistant AYUSH medicines are being directed to be distributed to health workers. • Arrangement of isolation wards have been made in all district hospitals and medical colleges. • Ten lakh disease resistant homeopathy medicines have also been distributed under AYUSH. • Daily monitoring of quantity and prices of essential materials like masks, sanitizers, etc. is being done.
8	North Eastern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No positive case of COVID 19 infections has been recorded in the North East Region. But states have put their measures in place.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assam has ordered schools to remain shut till March 31 and asked all the essential services shops, parlours, salons , museums, libraries to remain closed till March end. 50% of government employees other than essential services have been asked to work from home on rotation till the end of March 2020. The Assam government has announced financial assistance of US\$2000 each to citizens of its state who are stranded in foreign countries. Meghalaya and Manipur have ordered the closure of markets as well for a short period.
9	Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All private establishments such as shops, offices, factories and workshops excluding godowns and warehouses to remain closed. Gathering of more than 10 persons in public places is prohibited
10	Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state's CM had said that more than 1 crore families are linked to the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and will get free wheat till month of May. The state has formed a core group to take daily decisions which shall visit the deprived and poor section of the society to check on their needs during the lockdown period. The street vendors and daily workers who are not a part of NFSA list shall get food packets free of cost for two months from April. Each district of the state had been ordered to prepare the quarantine beds. The state has imposed completer ban on private vehicles in cities and on highways.
11	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state government closed the borders with Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state constituted a taskforce to closely monitor the preventive measures against the virus outbreak. • A sum of Rs 60 crore has been allocated to exacerbate the efforts against the spread of disease.
12	Telangana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state ordered supermarkets and grocery shops to remain open only between 6am and 7 pm. • No person will be allowed on the streets after 7pm except for those with medical emergencies.
13	Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state announced the financial package of more than Rs 353 crore to give cash handouts to an estimated 3.53 million daily wage earners and labourers who are likely to be hit due to outbreak of coronavirus. • The beneficiaries include 2.03 million labourers registered with the UP labour department and 1.5 million rickshaw pullers, hawkers and kiosk owners, will get money directly into their bank accounts. • The state will provide free foodgrains for the month of April and May in advance to more than 8.4 million widow, old age and handicapped pensioners next month. • 16.53 million beneficiaries enrolled under MNREGS and Antyodaya in UP would also be paid a month's free foodgrain comprising 20kg and 15kg of wheat and rice. • The state government has urged the Centre to sanction Rs 556 crore for payment towards the



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		jobs rendered by beneficiaries under the MNREGS.
14	Uttarakhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state restricted the entry of tourists to prevent the spread of virus on the state.
15	West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state adopted several measures to combat the economic fallout of the coronavirus.• The state government will offer free foodgrains and ration under the PDS for next 6 months.• The move will benefit 75 million people in the state. An extra 2 kg of rice will go to the houses of children under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the mid-day meal scheme.• For one million workers directly involved in preventing the spread of coronavirus, the state is providing insurance coverage and more than Rs 5 lakh. A Rs 200 crore fund has been set up to fight the pandemic.



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5. Impact of Pandemic Corona Virus on Indian Businesses: A Quick Survey by PHDCCI

To know the impact of unfortunate Pandemic COVID 19 on Indian trade and industry, PHD Research Bureau of PHD Chamber of Commerce and industry conducted a quick survey on the Impact of corona virus on Indian Businesses. The survey reveals that more than 83% of the businesses have been severely impacted in terms of decrease in sales volumes. So far, 430 responses were received and analysed on the basis of five major parameters including business sales volumes, export orders, opportunities in the new markets, availability of raw materials and costs of raw materials.

A quick survey on Impact of Pandemic Coronavirus on Indian Businesses

S. No.	Business Parameter	Impact of Pandemic COVID 19
1.	Sales Volumes	A majority of 83% respondents stated that there is a drastic decrease in business sales volumes. More than 90% of the business firms are from the services sector and 75% business firms are from the manufacturing sector who reported decrease in their business volumes.
2.	Export Orders	76% of the respondents stated that there is a drastic decrease in export orders.
3	Opportunities in the new markets	75% of the respondents stated that there are no opportunities in the new markets for exports.
4	Availability of raw materials	67% of the respondents stated that they are facing severe disruptions in the availability of raw materials.
5	Costs of raw materials	43% of respondents said that there is more than 10% increase in the costs of raw materials.

Source- Quick Survey by PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI



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6. PHD Chamber's Viewpoint on COVID-19

I. PHD Chamber appreciates the address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji for the extra precautionary & combative steps taken for a complete lockdown of India for 21 days (24th March 2020)

PHD Chamber appreciates the address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji for the extra precautionary & combative steps taken for a complete lockdown of India for 21 days from 12.00 midnight of 24th March 2020, without any impact on the supply of necessary and essential items to the citizen of the nation. Let us all implement this in letter and spirit for the good health of every citizen of India.

His appeal for "Jaan hai toh Jahaan hai" is right for saving the lives of citizens of our country from the impact of coronavirus. India is at a stage where our actions on the present day will decide to what extent we can bring down the impact of this disease in the country in the coming days.

Allocation of Rs.15,000 crores allocated towards the build-up of health infrastructures for combating against the Covid-19 pandemic is highly laudable which will go a long way in expediting India's fight for Covid-19 free nation.

II. Relief measures announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, are in line with the industry expectations, looking forward to a financial package sooner than later: PHDCCI (24th March 2020)

Various relief measures announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, are in line with the industry expectations. These measures will go a long way to address the issue arisen from the Impact of Covid-19.

PHD Chamber appreciates the proactive and combative measures undertaken by the Hon'ble Minister for a sustained economic health, like extending the last date of filing the Income tax returns for the Financial Year 2018-19 to 30th June 2020, reducing the interest rate for delayed payments to 9% from 12% for delayed payments; extension provided to the Vivaad se Vishwas Scheme till the 30th June 2020 and no interest, penalty and late fee to be charged for companies with a turnover of less than Rs 5 crore, among others.



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Going forward, PHD Chamber suggests the government to provide a financial package which should support the businesses in terms of availability of liquidity, working capital and to meet up the maintenance of employment in their respective businesses.

III. Financial services/ stock market operations should be considered as essential services (24th March 2020)

As the markets have turned very volatile with the negative bias, the investors are not able to protect their wealth due to closure of broking houses in various states. Though states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan, have classified it as an essential services, the other states should follow their example and exempt these services from the total lockdown, so that investors are able to take decision about their investments in stock market.

Financial markets are globally integrated with India playing a major part standing among the top ten ranks globally in equity volumes. Hence it is suggested equity and derivative market cannot be kept shut while global exchanges or financial market are actively working.

At this juncture, it is imperative to declare financial markets or stock market operations as essential services exempted from lockdown. Going forward, PHD Chamber requests the Government/Regulators/to take a balanced view and decide on the future course of action at the earliest. PHD Chamber has written to SEBI, Ministry of Finance and Delhi government for their consideration and necessary action on the same.

IV. Request to cover all agriculture, agri inputs, agro-chemicals and food items and their raw materials/ ingredients and packaging materials as also their logistics under the scope of Essential Commodities / Services and Exempted from manufacturing and movement restrictions (24th March 2020)

The Government has undertaken several appreciable steps for the safety of the people in the wake of the spread of COVID 19, which are appreciable. In this hour of difficulty when there is restriction on movement of people and there is complete lockdown in several districts in many states, not only the general public but the agribusiness and processed food industry is also extremely concerned about the uninterrupted continuity of supplies of food items to consumers. While shops selling milk, fruits, vegetables, medicines, take away/ delivery of food items

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are allowed, it is important to understand that a blanket cover on movement of other items of agriculture origin / for agriculture production – particularly agri inputs, raw materials used in preparation of food items and packaging material – need to be specifically brought under the scope of essential commodities and their movement not restricted.

It is particularly important that there is free movement of all agri inputs – seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, other agro chemicals, irrigation equipment, farm implements that are necessary for preparation of fields for sowing as Kharif season has already started. Farmers need seeds and other inputs in time to start sowing, which if deferred is going to severely affect the agriculture production and nation's food security. So all agri inputs require to be exempted for restriction of manufacturing and movement.

In order to ensure adequate supplies of all consumer food items, perishables and non-perishables alike, we request the relevant departments and ministries to ensure that the movement of agri produce and agri inputs, and related items and workforce working in these units are not restricted to avoid a situation of shortage of these products and unnecessary panic among the consumers.

The summarization of the recommendation is as follows-

Not only transportation and sale of fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and meat but also all agri-produce, agri-inputs including Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, soil testing equipment, irrigation equipment and raw material for processed food and beverage manufacturing and its distribution should be treated as essential commodities and essential service.

Companies and employees involved in manufacture, processing, distribution, logistics of these mentioned items must be kept exempted from any Central or State Declaration of work and movement restrictions. This exemption is also required for ingredients, and packaging materials.

PHD Chamber assures the government that the industry and trade will adopt highest level of precautions in the common interest of all concerned.



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V. PHD Chamber suggests Seven prong strategy to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus on trade and industry (17th March 2020)

PHD Chamber suggests a seven prong strategy to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus on trade and industry. Firstly, as there is a drastic fall in the business activities, vis – a vis lower domestic and internal sales, the working capital requirement of the businesses has to be addressed by increasing the working capital limits of business enterprises by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose.

Secondly, it is suggested to reduce the cost of capital by atleast 100 basis points by instructing banks to pass on the benefit of earlier cuts and also cutting the Repo Rate from the current levels of 5.15 %. Also, create enough liquidity for the businesses and the lower interest rates will help to maintain and rejuvenate domestic demand. Reduced cost of capital will enhance the competitiveness of exporters in international market and help exporters to grab the opportunity of slowing China's global exports with increased markets share of India.

Thirdly, crude price has come down substantially but in India due to higher fixed excise duty and central and state VAT, the petrol and diesel prices have not come down. To boost and hand hold the Indian industry in these difficult times, PHD Chamber suggest to reduce Excise duties and VAT on petroleum, diesel and allied products by atleast 25%, to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 9-10 per litre. This will be a big relief to the industry, will boost and kick start growth, while reviving the spirit in the economy.

Fourth, as MSMEs are not that much strong in their financial requirements, at this juncture a special category fund for the MSMEs to fund their finance needs will be crucial to save them from the Corona shock. Fifth, government needs to enhance the consumption expenditure in the economy as increased domestic demand will help manufacturing sector to grow and maintain the capacity utilization.

Sixth, the allocation of Rs 102 lakh crore made for the National Infrastructure Pipeline for next five years needs to be implemented for the coming Financial Year, as increased spending in infrastructure will give a multiplier effect and rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy and mitigate the impact of Corona Virus of the growth trajectory of the country.

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Seventh, the outbreak of Corona virus has adversely affected the supply chains in China. The manufacturing operations in the country have been disrupted as significant number of companies have temporarily shut their assembly and manufacturing plants. To benefit from China's decreased manufacturing production due to the Corona virus outbreak, the government needs to build up a well-integrated and competitive supply chain logistics including increase the number of cargo containers to meet the growing global demand of Indian spices, ceramics, home-ware, fashion and lifestyle goods, textiles, engineering goods and furniture, among others.

VI. PHD Chamber welcomes government's Visa restrictions related to Covid-19 (12th March 2020)

The strict travel and visa restrictions related to pandemic Covid-19 is welcoming as it will help restricting the outbreak of Covid-19 in India since the number of patients has been rising mostly with travel history to affected countries.

In response to an increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country, Bureau of Immigration, Government of India has issued advisor suspending all existing visas issued to nationals of any country, except those issued to Diplomats, Officials, UN/International organizations, Employment, Project visas till April 15, 2020.

This reflects the government's strong commitment to ensure effective health measures to put a check on further spread of infection and contagion of Covid-19 in the country. The effective precautionary and proactive measures taken by the government, such as strengthening community surveillance, enhancing quarantine facilities, increasing isolation wards and deploying trained manpower & rapid response teams, to prevent and manage COVID-19 in the country, is appreciable.

Going ahead, it is expected that the government to take further containment and mitigation measures along with efficient fiscal and monetary policy support to alleviate the spread of virus, restore growth, induce demand and reduce prevailing uncertainty in the economy.



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VII. Coronavirus may hit global growth, domestic capacity building must be enhanced, PHD Chamber; disease may hit global GDP by more than USD 250 billion (27th February 2020)

PHD Chamber apprehends about the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID) in many countries. It is very unfortunate that Coronavirus has severely hit the world's second largest economy China, leading to a subdued global demand scenario and weaker prospects for exports across the nations. As China is a major player in global trade, contributing around 13% in world merchandise exports, exporting majorly to USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, India, Netherlands, among others, the impact on global trade would undermine the growth prospects of the world economy.

Disruptions in the global supply chains will not only hit China's exports but also the exports of the importing countries as they are importing a large chunk of raw materials and intermediate goods from China while exporting to other respective destinations. The outbreak has the potential to cause considerable global economic and market dislocation, however, the economic impact of the disease will depend on its duration and severity.

The continuous spread of Coronavirus may impact global growth by 0.3 percentage points which becomes more than USD 250 billion. At this juncture, India need to boost its domestic consumption demand and domestic capacities to mitigate the likely impact of Coronavirus on global trade.

Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, solar and iron and steel have been facing disruptions in imports of raw materials from China due to the outbreak of the virus. However, the fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong and businesses will adjust consequently in the backdrop of robust economic reforms undertaken by the Government to create a strong and resilient economic environment in the country.

Focus must be given to strengthen India's supply chain to its top 10 export destinations including USA, UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, UK, Germany, among others where China has also its significant contribution in their respective imports. China increased its presence in the total imports of USA from 8.8% in 2001 to 21.7% in 2018 whereas India was able to increase its share in USA's imports from only 0.7% to 2% during the same period. Further, China increased its presence in the total imports of UAE from 7.3% in 2001 to 18% in 2018 whereas India's share in UAE's imports decelerated from 11% in 2001 to 7.3% in 2018.



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Going ahead, India should strengthen its supply chain to regain its lost market share as the country is moving up in terms of Ease of Doing Business and competitiveness of businesses along with market access opportunities. The significant efforts undertaken by the Government to create a level playing field for the Indian Industry by enhancing competitiveness of domestic goods and services are highly appreciable.

The recent cut in corporate tax for domestic firms will significantly accelerate investments in manufacturing, open up new employment opportunities and kick start economic growth trajectory of the country. Domestic capacity building at this juncture will not only mitigate the impact of Coronavirus but will also provide an opportunity to increase India's presence in global exports particularly towards our top export destinations.

7. PHDCCI recommendations on the growing severity of the impact of COVID-19

We are deeply concerned with the growing severity of the impact caused by the widespread pandemic, COVID – 19, on our economy, its people and the Nation as a whole. PHD Chamber of Commerce stands in complete solidarity and pledges to extend its all-out support to the government in the fight for making India COVID-19 free.

We appreciate the proactive and combative measures undertaken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji to curtail the spread of Corona Virus and take complete control on the current alarming situation.

Apart from the government's continuous preventive and path breaking measures, the recent measure undertaken to clarify the spending of CSR funds, by any corporate or business entity, for COVID -19 to be treated as an eligible CSR activity, relating to promotion of health care and disaster management among others, are highly laudable and would go a long way to support the industry and economy.

Going forward to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus (Covid – 19) on maintaining businesses, supporting employment and stabilising the economy, we would like to submit a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government:

- We request that the financial year 2019-20 to be extended to 30 June 2020 and accordingly current quarter (Q4 2019-20) will be of 6 months. All statutory dues/ other dues, the last dates related to their payments / compliances of CBDT/MCA/ RBI/ SEBI etc should be changed accordingly i.e. say where the last date to pay any statutory dues is 31st March 2020 it should change to 30th June 2020.
- Also, the next financial year will start from 1st July 2020 and will be for 9 months ending on 31st March 2021.
- We request no NPA be declared for the next 6 months till 30 September 2020.
- Release of outstanding payments from Government departments and PSUs immediately to MSMEs within 7 days should be considered and they should be asked to report the compliances to their controlling Ministers with any pending dues with reasons.
- Change in the definition of MSMEs based on Turnover should be notified quickly so that many MSMEs being adversely affected by Corona lockouts can access concessions being made available to MSMEs.

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- Moratorium on repayment of interest and loan installments by the banks and NBFCs for the next 6 months should be allowed for all loans.
- Interest subvention of 2% should be given to all the severely affected industries like travel & tourism, aviation, leather, textiles, hospitality, electronics and others basis the adverse impact arising due to corona issue. For MSME we suggest interest subvention of 3%
- The Government should set up a Corona Distress Fund of Rs 25,000 crore for MSMEs to provide assistance to those units which get severely affected by the impact of lock down.
- Immediate interest rate cut by 100 basis points by RBI needed at this juncture to rejuvenate demand
- Vivad se Vishwas scheme should be extended by 3 months till 30 June 2020
- TDS should be allowed to deposit in two months in place of one month.
- Salary for Lockout period, 80% of the same be paid by the Government. It may be mentioned that UK Government has set up the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme covering 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of Euro 2,500 a month.
- Existing working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose. There should be automatic approval for this.
- The margin requirements for loans against shares should be reduced to 40% wherever it is more, as the share prices have come down drastically at the unrealistic level.
- Also Circuit filter in the index for closing should be revised from the current level of 10% to 5% to contain excess volatility.
- Markets have turned very volatile at this juncture with a negative bias so financial services should also be considered under the code of essential services so that the investors are able to place their orders with the stock brokers to protect their wealth.
- There should not be any prosecution against the businesses excluding the frauds till the impact of Coronavirus subsides.
- As crude oil prices have come down substantially however the excise duty has been further increased by Rs 3. So this gain should be used by the Government to promote exports by making income of exporters exempted from the tax. Also, there is a need to cut the custom duties by 5 percentage points to take care of Rupee devaluation.
- Exports are vital component of the economy and in the current situation the significance of exports becomes crucial to meet up the import requirements/

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foreign exchange. Certificates/ rules of origin are required by the exporters to export their consignments to foreign markets. So, at this juncture it becomes crucial to allow rules of origin issuing under the essential services so that exports are not impacted due to Coronavirus.

- It is suggested that the exemption for essential commodities should cover all raw materials and food ingredients and others used by food processing industry and not just milk, fruits and vegetables, among others.

7.1 Our representations to the Government on our recommendations

7.1.1 Representation to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
PMO Office, New Delhi

23rd March 2020

Respected Shri Narendra Modi ji

Namashkar!

Suggestions on the growing severity of the impact of COVID-19: We are deeply concerned with the growing severity of the impact caused by the widespread pandemic, COVID – 19, on our economy, its people and the Nation as a whole. PHD Chamber of Commerce stands in complete solidarity and pledges to extend its all-out support to the government in the fight for making India COVID-19 free.

We appreciate the proactive and combative measures undertaken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji to curtail the spread of Corona Virus and take complete control on the current alarming situation.

Apart from the government's continuous preventive and path breaking measures, the recent measure undertaken to clarify the spending of CSR funds, by any corporate or business entity, for COVID -19 to be treated as an eligible CSR activity, relating to promotion of health care and disaster management among others, are highly laudable and would go a long way to support the industry and economy.

Going forward to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus (Covid – 19) on maintaining businesses, supporting employment and stabilising the economy, we would like to submit a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government:



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We request that the financial year 2019-20 to be extended to 30th June 2020 and accordingly current quarter (Q4 2019-20) will be of 6 months. All statutory dues/ other dues, the last dates related to their payments / compliances of CBDT/MCA/ RBI/ SEBI etc should be changed accordingly i.e., say where the last date to pay any statutory dues is 31st March 2020 it should change to 30th June 2020.

Also, the next financial year will start from 1st July 2020 and will be for 9 months ending on 31st March 2021.

We request no NPA be declared for the next 6 months till 30 September 2020.

Release of outstanding payments from Government departments and PSUs immediately to MSMEs within 7 days should be considered and they should be asked to report the compliances to their controlling Ministers with any pending dues with reasons.

Change in the definition of MSMEs based on Turnover should be notified quickly so that many MSMEs being adversely affected by Corona lockouts can access concessions being made available to MSMEs.

Moratorium on repayment of interest and loan instalments by the banks and NBFCs for the next 6 months should be allowed for all loans.

Interest subvention of 2% should be given to all the severely affected industries like travel & tourism, aviation, leather, textiles, hospitality, electronics and others basis the adverse impact arising due to corona issue. For MSME we suggest interest subvention of 3%.

The Government should set up a Corona Distress Fund of Rs 25,000 crore for MSMEs to provide assistance to those units which get severely affected by the impact of lock down.

Immediate interest rate cut by 100 basis points by RBI needed at this juncture to rejuvenate demand.

Vivad se Vishwas scheme should be extended by 3 months till 30 June 2020.

TDS should be allowed to deposit in two months in place of one month.



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Salary for Lockout period, 80% of the same be paid by the Government. It may be mentioned that UK Government has set up the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme covering 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of Euro 2,500 a month.

Existing working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose. There should be automatic approval for this.

The margin requirements for loans against shares should be reduced to 40% wherever it is more, as the share prices have come down drastically at the unrealistic level.

Also, Circuit filter in the index for closing should be revised from the current level of 10% to 5% to contain excess volatility.

Markets have turned very volatile at this juncture with a negative bias so financial services should also be considered under the code of essential services so that the investors are able to place their orders with the stock brokers to protect their wealth.

There should not be any prosecution against the businesses excluding the frauds till the impact of Coronavirus subsides.

As crude oil prices have come down substantially however the excise duty has been further increased by Rs 3. So, this gain should be used by the Government to promote exports by making income of exporters exempted from the tax. Also, there is a need to cut the custom duties by 5 percentage points to take care of Rupee devaluation.

Exports are vital component of the economy and in the current situation the significance of exports becomes crucial to meet up the import requirements/ foreign exchange. Certificates/ rules of origin are required by the exporters to export their consignments to foreign markets. So, at this juncture it becomes crucial to allow rules of origin issuing under the essential services so that exports are not impacted due to Coronavirus.



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It is suggested that the exemption for essential commodities should cover all raw materials and food ingredients and others used by food processing industry and not just milk, fruits and vegetables, among others.

We are hopeful that our suggestions would be considered for the benefit of trade and industry to mitigate the impact of coronavirus.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal

President

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454 (EXT 121/111/131)

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: president@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

7.1.2 Representation to Hon'ble Finance Minister of India

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Finance Minister
Ministry of Finance
Government of India
North Block, New Delhi

20th March 2020

Respected Madam,

Namashkar!

Suggestions to COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI): At the outset, we appreciate the Government for announcing measures to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus. The pro-active and preventive measures will go a long way in combating the alarming situation created by COVID 19. We look forward towards a Healthy and Prosperous India

We appreciate that the Government has announced the constitution of Covid19 Economic Response Task Force under your leadership to look into the concerns of

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industry and well-being of industry. We are quite optimistic that this task force will soon come out with a stimulus package for the industry to support it in these difficult times.

Please find appended a few suggestions to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus on India's trade and industry for your consideration:

1. As there is a drastic fall in the business activities vis – a vis lower domestic and international sales, the **working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25%** and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose.
2. **Industry interest rates on loans should be reduced by 1 percentage point** to reduce the cost of capital for enhancing business efficiencies and competitiveness. Reduced cost of capital will enhance the competitiveness of exporters in international market and help exporters to grab the opportunity of slowing China's global exports with increased markets share of India.
3. Availability of liquidity in the system is significant for businesses growth. Therefore, ease of sanctioning loans must be promoted by the banking system to meet the capital requirements of the industry. Further, **banks should pass on the benefit of 100 basis points transmission of earlier rate cuts by RBI**. Going forward, if there is any further rate cut by RBI, that must be fully transmitted by the banking sector.
4. Crude price has come downsubstantially but in India due to higher fixed excise duty and central and state VAT, the petrol and diesel prices have not come downas transport and freight transport services are major costs to the businesses. To boost and hand hold the Indian industry in these difficult times, we suggest to **reduce Excise duties and VAT on petroleum, diesel and allied products** by atleast 25% to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 9-10 per litre. This will be a big relief to the industry while reviving the spirit in the economy.
5. MSMEs face various challenges to fulfill their financial requirements, hence, at this juncture, **a special category fund of Rs 25,000 crore with no collateral being asked for the MSMEs is required to fund their financial needs.**



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Collateral requirements by the banking sector from the MSMEs against sanctioning loans should be removed in these difficult times.

6. There is a need to **enhance the consumption expenditure by the Government** in the economy as increased domestic demand will help manufacturing sector to grow and maintain the capacity utilization.
7. India should **build domestic capacities** to mitigate the impact on import demand and to fulfill domestic demand with indigenous production. Domestic capacity building at this juncture will not only mitigate the impact of Coronavirus but will also provide an opportunity to increase our presence in global exports particularly towards our top export destinations.
8. The outbreak of Corona virus has adversely affected the supply chains in China. The manufacturing operations in the country have been disrupted as significant number of companies have temporarily shut their assembly and manufacturing plants.

To benefit from China's decreased manufacturing production due to the Corona virus outbreak, there is a **need to build up a well-integrated and competitive supply chain logistics** including increase in the number of cargo containers to meet the growing global demand of Indian spices, ceramics, home-ware, fashion and lifestyle goods, textiles , engineering goods and furniture, among others. Going ahead, India should strengthen its supply chains to USA, UAE, UK, Germany and Netherlands as it has good exports presence in these economies and China's exports are impacted to these economies due to coronavirus. At this juncture, stimulus and facilitation from the Government is required to enhance the capacity building and strengthen the supply chain.

9. The allocation of Rs 102 lakh crore made for the National Infrastructure Pipeline for next five years needs to be implemented for the coming Financial Year, as **increased spending in infrastructure** will give a multiplier effect and rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy and mitigate the impact of Corona Virus of the growth trajectory of the country.
10. **Moratorium on repayment of interest and loan installments by the banks and NBFCs** for the next 6 months should be allowed to the businesses.



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11. The **margin requirements fulfilled for loans against shares** should be reduced to 40% wherever it is more as the share prices have come down drastically at the unrealistic level.
12. It is suggested that **no NPAs should be declared by the banks from January 2020 to September 2020** as the industry is facing huge challenges because of Coronavirus.
13. There is a significant fall in the value of rupee against USD from 72 to 75 during the last few weeks and rupee has become extremely volatile. Therefore, we request **intervention by RBI to stabilize the rupee**.
14. The country has sufficient forex reserves of more than USD 480 billion to intervene in the markets. **Some of the reserves should be earmarked to fund the exporters** in terms of dollar loans at a low rate of interest.
15. Interest subvention of 1% to 2% to the most impacted sectors such as tourism and hotel industry, aviation, manufacturing, among others should be provided to rejuvenate and resume businesses in the coming times.
16. Under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, labourers, cobblers, rickshaw pullers, tailors, carpenters, among others should be given support of Rs 6,000 to rejuvenate demand in the economy.

We are hopeful that our suggestions would be considered for the benefit of trade and industry to mitigate the impact of coronavirus.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal

President

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454 (EXT 121/111/131)

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: president@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

7.1.3 Representation to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Shri Shaktikanta Das
Governor
Reserve Bank of India
Mumbai

19th March 2020

Respected Sir,

Namashkar!

Suggestions to RBI by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI): At the outset, we appreciate the measures undertaken by the RBI in mitigating the impact of COVID-19. please find appended a few suggestions for the consideration of RBI:

- Industry interest rates on loans should be reduced by 1 percentage point to reduce the cost of capital for enhancing business efficiencies and competitiveness.
- Availability of liquidity in the system is significant for businesses growth. Therefore, ease of sanctioning loans must be promoted by the banking system to meet the capital requirements of the industry. Further, banks should pass on the benefit of 100 basis points transmission of earlier rate cuts by RBI. Going forward, if there is any further rate cut by RBI, that must be fully transmitted by the banking sector.
- Collateral requirements by the banking sector from the MSMEs against sanctioning loans should be removed in these difficult times.
- MSMEs face various challenges to fulfill their financial requirements, hence, at this juncture, a special category fund of Rs 25,000 crore with no collateral being asked for the MSMEs is required to fund their financial needs.
- As there is a drastic fall in the business activities vis – a vis lower domestic and international sales, the working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose.



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- Moratorium on repayment of interest and loan installments by the banks and NBFCs for the next 6 months should be allowed to businesses.
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- The margin requirements fulfilled for loans against shares should be reduced to 40% wherever it is more as the share prices have come down drastically at the unrealistic level.
- There is a significant fall in the value of rupee against USD from 72 to 75 during the last few weeks and rupee has become extremely volatile. Therefore, we request intervention by RBI to stabilize the rupee.
- The country has sufficient forex reserves of more than USD 480 billion to intervene in the markets. Some of the reserves should be earmarked to fund the exporters in terms of dollar loans at a low rate of interest.
- There is an apparent anomaly in the RBI ODI Master Directions on Real Estate. We suggest mirroring the FDI policy on the construction/development of residential/commercial premises (for leasing or sale purposes) as one core activity to be treated as real estate business activity, to be corrected and included in the ODI policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal

President

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

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7.1.4 Representation to Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

**Ms Kamna Dikshit
Under Secretary
FT(NEA) Division & ITPO
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India**

20th March 2020

Dear Madam,

Greetings!

Inputs/ Suggestions by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Global Disruptions in Supply Chains and their impact on India: The spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in more than 165 countries is very unfortunate and has severely hit the world's second largest economy China, leading to a subdued global demand scenario and weaker prospects for exports across the nations.

As China is a major player in global trade, contributing around 11% in world exports, exporting majorly to USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, India, Netherlands, among others, the impact on global trade would undermine the growth prospects of world trade and economy.

The outbreak of Coronavirus has adversely affected the supply chains in China. The manufacturing operations in the country have been disrupted as a significant number of companies have temporarily shut their assembly and manufacturing plants.

Disruptions in the global supply chains has not only hit China's exports but also the exports of the importing countries as they are importing a large chunk of raw materials and intermediate goods from China while exporting to other destinations.

China's exports to the US fell by more than 25% in the first two months of 2020 whereas imports increased by 2.5% during the same period. China's major export items to USA are electrical machinery and equipments, mechanical appliances, furniture, toys, games and sports requisites, plastics and articles, vehicles other than railway, articles of apparel and clothing, footwear and articles of iron or steel.



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At this juncture, as USA is also India's major export destination with 16% of India's total exports to US, we should strengthen our exports in product lines where China is unable to export to USA due to spread of coronavirus vis-à-vis supply chain constraints in the country but impacted due to coronavirus.

China's exports to India's major export destinations such as USA, UAE, UK, Germany, Netherlands, among others have been impacted due to coronavirus. Therefore, India may strengthen its supply chains with these economies and fulfill the demand for imports of these economies.

India has significant presence in 4 items of China's top 10 exports to USA; in 6 items of China's top 10 exports to UAE, in 5 items of China's top 10 exports to Hong Kong, in 6 items of China's top 10 exports to Singapore, in 7 items of China's top 10 exports to both UK and Germany, in 5 items of China's top 10 exports to Bangladesh, in 6 items of China's top 10 exports to Netherlands, in 2 items of China's top 10 exports to Nepal and in 4 items of China's top 10 exports to Belgium.

Table I: India's significant presence in top export items of China to select economies

S.No.	India's significant presence in top export items of China to select economies	
1	China's top export items to USA	Machinery and mechanical appliances (84), vehicles other than railway (87) and articles of apparel knitted (61) and not knitted (62)
2	China's top export items to UAE	Electrical machinery (85), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), articles of apparel knitted (61) and not knitted (62), iron and steel (72) and mineral fuels and mineral oils (27)
3	China's top export items to Hong Kong	Electrical machinery (85), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), precious or semi-precious stones (71), mineral fuels and mineral oils (27) and articles of apparel not knitted (62)
4	China's top export items to Singapore	Electrical machinery (85), mineral fuels and mineral oils (27), machinery and

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		mechanical appliances (84), Ships, Boats (89), Optical, photographic, cinematographic (90) and Organic Chemicals (29)
5	China's top export items to UK	Electrical machinery (85), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), articles of apparel knitted (61) and not knitted (62), footwear (64), articles of iron or steel (73) and vehicles other than railway (87)
6	China's top export items to Germany	Electrical machinery (85), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), articles of apparel knitted (61) and not knitted (62), vehicles other than railway (87), organic chemicals (29) and articles of iron or steel (73)
7	China's top export items to Bangladesh	Cotton (52), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), mineral fuels and mineral oils (27), iron and steel (72), plastics and articles (39)
8	China's top export items to Netherlands	Electrical machinery (85), machinery and mechanical appliances (84), organic chemicals (29), articles of apparel knitted (61) and not knitted (62) and articles of iron or steel (73)
9	China's top export items to Nepal	Electrical machinery (85) and machinery and mechanical appliances (84)
10	China's top export items to Belgium	Machinery and mechanical appliances (84), organic chemicals (29), iron and steel (72) and vehicles other than railway (87)

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from trademap database. Note: The identified products are at 2-digit HS code.

At this juncture, focus must be given to strengthen India's supply chain to its top 10 export destinations including USA, UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, UK, Germany, among others where China has also its significant contribution in their respective imports.



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China increased its presence in the total imports of USA from 8.8% in 2001 to 21.7% in 2018 whereas India was able to increase its share in USA’s imports from only 0.7% to 2% during the same period. Further, China increased its presence in the total imports of UAE from 7.3% in 2001 to 18% in 2018 whereas India’s share in UAE’s imports decelerated from 11% in 2001 to 7.3% in 2018.

Table II: China’s share in India’s top 10 export destinations (Top 25 commodities)

S. No.	Country	Share of China in their imports (%)		Share of India in their imports (%)	
		2001	2018	2001	2018
1.	USA	8.8	21.7	0.7	2
2.	United Arab Emirates (UAE)*	7.3	18	11	7.3
3.	Hong Kong	44.3	44.5	1.2	2
4.	Singapore	5.6	13.4	0.9	2
5.	UK	4.6	9.6	0.6	1.3
6.	Germany	3.2	9.9	0.3	0.7
7.	Bangladesh [#]	11.3	21.4	10.3	12.1
8.	Netherlands	3.9	17.1	0.3	0.7
9.	Nepal [@]	6.2	11.9	55	66

* Data for UAE pertains to year 2005 and 2017 respectively; # Data for Bangladesh pertains to year 2001 and 2015 respectively; @ Data for Nepal pertains to year 2003 and 2017 respectively; Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI compiled from TradeMap database

Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, solar and iron and steel have been facing disruptions in imports of raw materials from China due to the outbreak of the virus. Therefore, at this juncture, we suggest to strengthen our supply chains by reducing logistics costs, costs of capital and compliances.

We, at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry appreciate that India restricted export of about 26 Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations including antibiotics, vitamins and hormones to ensure there is no shortage of drugs in India due to the lockdown in China’s Hubei’s province, the epicentre of the Coronavirus outbreak and also a major source of raw material or APIs.

We appreciate that the Government has announced the constitution of COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force to look into the concerns of industry and well-being



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of industry. We are quite optimistic that this task force will soon come out with a stimulus package for the industry to support it in these difficult times. At this juncture, we suggest the following to mitigate the impact of Corona Virus on trade and industry:

- As there is a drastic fall in the business activities vis – a vis lower domestic and international sales, the working capital requirement of the businesses should be automatically increased by 25% and no new application should be required to be filed for this purpose.
- Industry interest rates on loans should be reduced by 1 percentage point to reduce the cost of capital for enhancing business efficiencies and competitiveness. Reduced cost of capital will enhance the competitiveness of exporters in international market and help exporters to grab the opportunity of slowing China's global exports with increased markets share of India.
- MSMEs face various challenges to fulfill their financial requirements, hence, at this juncture, a special category fund of Rs 25,000 crore with no collateral being asked for the MSMEs is required to fund their financial needs. Collateral requirements by the banking sector from the MSMEs against sanctioning loans should be removed in these difficult times.
- There is a need to enhance the consumption expenditure by the Government in the economy as increased domestic demand will help manufacturing sector to grow and maintain the capacity utilization.
- India should build domestic capacities to mitigate the impact on import demand and to fulfill domestic demand with indigenous production. Domestic capacity building at this juncture will not only mitigate the impact of Coronavirus but will also provide an opportunity to increase our presence in global exports particularly towards our top export destinations.
- To benefit from China's decreased manufacturing production due to the Corona virus outbreak, there is a need to build up a well-integrated and competitive supply chain logistics including increase in the number of cargo containers to meet the growing global demand of Indian spices, ceramics, home-ware, fashion and lifestyle goods, textiles, engineering goods and furniture, among others. Going ahead, India should strengthen its supply



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chains to USA, UAE, UK, Germany and Netherlands as it has good exports presence in these economies and China's exports are impacted to these economies due to coronavirus. At this juncture, stimulus and facilitation from the Government is required to enhance the capacity building and strengthen the supply chain.

- The allocation of Rs 102 lakh crore made for the National Infrastructure Pipeline for next five years needs to be implemented for the coming Financial Year, as increased spending in infrastructure will give a multiplier effect and rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy and mitigate the impact of Corona Virus of the growth trajectory of the country.
- It is suggested that no NPAs should be declared by the banks from January 2020 to September 2020 as the industry is facing huge challenges because of Coronavirus.
- The country has sufficient forex reserves of more than USD 480 billion to intervene in the markets. Some of the reserves should be earmarked to fund the exporters in terms of dollar loans at a low rate of interest.
- Interest subvention of 1% to 2% to the most impacted sectors such as tourism and hotel industry, aviation, manufacturing, among others should be provided to rejuvenate and resume businesses in the coming times.

Looking forward for your kind consideration.

Warm Regards,

Dr S P Sharma

Chief Economist

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: spsharma@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

Follow us on



7.1.5 Representation to Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Shri Ajay Tyagi ji
Chairman
Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

23rd March 2020

Respected Sir,

Greetings!

PHD Chamber's submission requesting to declare capital markets as essential services on par with State of Maharashtra: Please refer to State of Maharashtra decision of Hon'ble Chief Minister declaring total lockdown of the State and breaking news shown on TV channels declaring 75 districts across all States Pan India total lockdown.

State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Delhi have extended Janata Curfew upto March 31, 2020. However, there is no explicit guidelines/ notifications issued by each State Governments exempting capital markets/ Stock Brokers' offices from the total lockdown. In Mumbai, clarifications are issued to authorities to allow employees working in exchanges, broking offices from lockdown. No such clarifications /guidelines are being issued by other State Governments.

All financial markets are integrated globally and India is playing a major part standing among the top 7 ranks globally in equity volumes. Hence equity and derivatives markets cannot be shut down while global exchanges / financial markets are active and working around the world.

In this regard, SEBI / Exchanges have permitted vide their circulars trading via terminals from various locations. This relaxation is taking care of front office staff of broking offices to work from home to 50% of potential, however, staff serving back offices/ servers/ operational dependencies cannot be operated working from home. Thus, it is imperative to declare capital markets/ stock broking services as essential Services exempted from Lockdown. If they are not exempted then investors who want to trade in exchanges cannot do the same as brokers offices would be closed resulting in huge losses in view of the current volatility in the market.



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In view of the above, PHD chamber submits to your good offices to immediately issue a clarification to include “Stock Brokers and depository participants” as essential Services and advise all State Governments to issue clarification in this regard. PHD Chamber requests you to take a balanced view and decide on the future course of action.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal

President

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454 (EXT 121/111/131)

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: president@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

**7.1.6 Representation to Hon’ble Chief Minister of Delhi and Hon’ble Deputy
Chief Minister of Delhi**

Shri Arvind Kejriwal

Hon’ble Chief Minister

Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Level – 3, A-wing, Delhi Secretariat,

New Delhi-110002

23rd March 2020

Dear Sir,

Namaskar!

PHD Chamber suggests to immediately issue a clarification to include “Stock Brokers and depository participants” as essential Services and exempt these services from the lock down in the NCT of Delhi: Please refer to State of Maharashtra decision of Hon’ble Chief Minister declaring total lockdown of the State and breaking news shown on TV channels declaring 75 districts across all States Pan India total lockdown.



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State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Delhi have extended Janata Curfew upto March 31, 2020. However, there is no explicit guidelines/ notifications issued by each State Governments exempting capital markets/ Stock Brokers offices from the total lockdown. In Mumbai, clarifications are issued to authorities to allow employees working in exchanges, broking offices from lockdown. No such clarifications /guidelines are being issued by the Delhi Government.

All financial markets are integrated globally and India is playing a major part standing among the top 7 ranks globally in equity volumes. Hence equity and derivatives markets cannot be shut down while global exchanges / financial markets are active and working around the world.

In this regard, SEBI / Exchanges have permitted vide their circulars trading via terminals from various locations. This relaxation is taking care of front office staff of broking offices to work from home to 50% of potential, however, staff serving back offices/ servers/ operational dependencies cannot be operated working from home. Thus, it is imperative to declare capital markets/ stock broking services as essential Services exempted from Lockdown. If they are not exempted then investors who want to trade in exchanges cannot do the same as brokers' offices would be closed resulting in huge losses in view of the current volatility in the market.

In view of the above, PHD chamber submits to your good offices to follow the model of Maharashtra State Government and immediately issue a clarification to include "Stock Brokers and depository participants" as essential Services and exempt these services from the lock down. PHD Chamber requests you to take a balanced view and decide on the future course of action at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal
President
PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area
August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India
Tel: +91 49545454 (EXT 121/111/131)
Fax: +91 11 26855450
Email: president@phdcci.in
Website: www.phdcci.in



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7.1.7 Representation to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

**Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
PMO Office, New Delhi**

24th March 2020

Respected Shri Narendra Modi ji,

Namaskar!

Request to cover all agriculture, agri inputs, agro-chemicals and food items and their raw materials/ ingredients and packaging materials as also their logistics under the scope of Essential Commodities / Services and Exempted from manufacturing and movement restrictions: The Government has undertaken several appreciable steps for the safety of the people in the wake of the spread of COVID 19, which are appreciable. In this hour of difficulty when there is restriction on movement of people and there is complete lockdown in several districts in many states, not only the general public but the agribusiness and processed food industry is also extremely concerned about the uninterrupted continuity of supplies of food items to consumers. While shops selling milk, fruits, vegetables, medicines, take away/ delivery of food items are allowed, it is important to understand that a blanket cover on movement of other items of agriculture origin / for agriculture production – particularly agri inputs, raw materials used in preparation of food items and packaging material – need to be specifically brought under the scope of essential commodities and their movement not restricted.

It is particularly important that there is free movement of all agri inputs – seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, other agro chemicals, irrigation equipment, farm implements that are necessary for preparation of fields for sowing as Kharif season has already started. Farmers need seeds and other inputs in time to start sowing, which if deferred is going to severely affect the agriculture production and nation's food security. So all agri inputs require to be exempted for restriction of manufacturing and movement.

In order to ensure adequate supplies of all consumer food items, perishables and non-perishables alike, we request the relevant departments and ministries to ensure that the movement of agri produce and agri inputs, and related items and workforce working in these units are not restricted to avoid a situation of shortage of these products and unnecessary panic among the consumers.



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We would like to summarize our recommendation as follows-

"Not only transportation and sale of fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and meat but also all agri-produce, agri-inputs including Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, soil testing equipment, irrigation equipment and raw material for processed food and beverage manufacturing and its distribution should be treated as essential commodities and essential service.

Companies and employees involved in manufacture, processing, distribution, logistics of these mentioned items must be kept exempted from any Central or State Declaration of work and movement restrictions. This exemption is also required for ingredients, and packaging materials.

We assure the government that the industry and trade will adopt highest level of precautions in the common interest of all concerned."

We hope you will kindly consider our above request to enable the industry to ensure uninterrupted supply of food and beverages to the consumers in a safe manner.

Yours sincerely,

Dr D K Aggarwal

President

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454 (EXT 121/111/131)

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: president@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

7.1.9 Representation to Hon'ble Finance Minister of India

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Finance Minister

Ministry of Finance

Government of India

North Block, New Delhi

25th March 2020



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Respected Madam,

Namashkar!

Representation seeking help for Shopping Centre (Malls) industry due to pandemic COVID-19- At the outset, we appreciate the Government for continuous efforts to curtail the spread and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The pro-active and preventive measures will go a long way in combating the alarming situation created by COVID 19. We look forward towards a Healthy and Prosperous India.

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on behalf of all Shopping Centres is seeking your help and guidance due to this unprecedented catastrophe which has befallen on the whole Shopping Centre Industry.

As you are aware that as a precautionary measure to arrest the spread of pandemic COVID -19, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has implemented a complete lockdown of the entire Nation for the next 21 days, which implies a complete shut-down of Shopping Centres/Malls, Restaurants, Gyms/Health clubs, Multiplexes/cinema halls etc. until April 14, 2020.

The impact of the shut-down of the Shopping Centres across various cities has been very adverse and immediate and beyond comprehension. The complete lockdown would lead to adverse impacts on its ongoing revenues. On one side we have a situation where all cash flow and income has dried up and on the other side, expenses have remained constant. Their debt serving and interest payment obligation remains. Unlike all other businesses, they do not have any goods or merchandise to sell or reduce inventory holding or other such measures which other industries can take. Their Collections have completely dried up during this period, while they continue to bear a high fixed cost towards Personnel, Utilities and on-going routine expenses.

Along with business and retail houses, the impact has directly affected the on ground work force dependent on the retail industry such as, employees at the shops in the malls, drivers of the vehicles of supply chains, service providers such as maintenance and security staff, employees of the food outlets – all largely are from other states in India and would require relief packages in order to meet the expenses in the long run.

Shopping Centre are very capital-intensive business and large portion of the capital

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is funded thru Banks / Financial Institutions to construct and run their operations, which results in a very large interest and principal outflow on a monthly basis. In fact, this is their largest expense head. This partial/full shut down of Malls has a cascading impact wherein not only the Mall owner, but all other related down the line businesses face the probability of Loans going under default due to prolonged shut-down.

It is also pertinent to note that each large Shopping Centre provides employment to over 3000 people are suddenly faced with dwindling Income and immediate disruption of Cash flows. The Mall owners continue to bear a large fixed overhead towards Manpower Costs (like Security, Housekeeping, Engineering, Mall operations etc.) and other expenses like Property Tax, Electricity, Maintenance etc.

It is relevant to note that even after the SC/ Mall open up in the due course of time – there will be many challenges in the Near term which will include:

- Low footfalls and hence low Sales at the Malls
- Revenue and collections will take time to streamline
- GST and other statutory payments will get impacted as well

In this hour of crisis, it is our humble request to your good self to consider certain financial measure on an immediate basis which will enable the Shopping centres/ Malls to overcome the current challenging environment, hence we request you to consider providing certain reliefs to the sector namely:

Waiver of interest on bank loans, NBFC's for the period the malls are shut. Allow a moratorium period in repayment of bank's principle amount without levy of any penalties /penal interest and without impacting the credit rating.

Provide short-term financing option for a period of 6 to 12 months, at lower interest rates to meet the fixed overhead costs of Malls.

Further, one-time loan restructuring with lower rates of interest may be permitted for shopping centres/ Malls without the exposure being classified as NPA and accordingly no impact on the Credit Rating of entities.

Abatement of all Government payments including Property tax, concession fee, Ground Rent and lease rent payment to Government.



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Grant deferment of payment of GST, Income tax & other statutory dues by a minimum of 6 (six) months without any interest, penalties.

Extension of dates by a minimum of 6 months for filing of statutory returns with various Government departments.

Issue instructions to appropriate authorities for Inclusion of Pandemic in the definition of natural calamity for the purpose of insurance policies for loss of business / profit.

The above sought relief measures will go a long way in helping the shopping centres /malls to overcome the current adverse challenging environment and to ensure long term continuity of business.



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Annexure- 1

Central Helpline Number for corona-virus: - +91-11-23978046

Helpline Numbers of States & Union Territories (UTs)

S. No	Name of the State	Helpline Nos.
1	Andhra Pradesh	0866-2410978
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9436055743
3	Assam	6913347770
4	Bihar	104
5	Chhattisgarh	104
6	Goa	104
7	Gujarat	104
8	Haryana	8558893911
9	Himachal Pradesh	104
10	Jharkhand	104
11	Karnataka	104
12	Kerala	0471-2552056
13	Madhya Pradesh	0755-2527177
14	Maharashtra	020-26127394
15	Manipur	3852411668
16	Meghalaya	108
17	Mizoram	102
18	Nagaland	7005539653
19	Odisha	9439994859
20	Punjab	104
21	Rajasthan	0141-2225624
22	Sikkim	104
23	Tamil Nadu	044-29510500
24	Telangana	104
25	Tripura	0381-2315879
26	Uttarakhand	104
27	Uttar Pradesh	18001805145
28	West Bengal	1800313444222, 03323412600,
S. No	Name of Union Territory (UT)	Helpline Nos.
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03192-232102



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2	Chandigarh	9779558282
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	104
4	Delhi	011-22307145
5	Jammu & Kashmir	01912520982, 0194-2440283
6	Ladakh	01982256462
7	Lakshadweep	104
8	Puducherry	104

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



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Annexure-2

Total Government Laboratories Approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR): 119

Operational Laboratories for COVID19 Testing:
N=104

Laboratories in the process of Operationalization =15

S. No.	Names of States	Names of Medical Colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh (4)	1. Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati 2. Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada 3. Sidhartha Medical College, Vijaywada 4. Govt. Medical College, Ananthpur
2.	Assam (4)	5. Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati 6. Regional Medical Research Center, Dibrugarh 7. Jorhat Medical College, Jorhat 8. Silchar Medical College, Silchar
3.	Bihar (2)	9. Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna 10. Indira Gandhi Institute Medical Sciences, Patna
4.	Chandigarh (2)	11. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh – 239 samples can be tested 12. Govt. Medical College, Chandigarh
5.	Chattisgarh (2)	13. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur 14. Late Baliram Kashyap M Govt. Medical College, Jagdalpur
6.	Delhi (6)	15. All India Institute Medical Sciences 16. Lady Hardinge Medical College 17. National Centre for Disease Control 18. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital 19. Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences 20. Army Hospital Research & Referral
7.	Gujarat (5)	21. BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad 22. MP Shah Govt Medical College, Jamnagar 23. Govt. Medical College, Surat 24. Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar 25. Govt. Medical College, Vadodara
8.	Haryana (2)	26. Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate Inst. of Med. Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana 27. BPS Govt. Medical College, Sonipat
9.	Himachal Pradesh (2)	28. Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla 29. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Govt. Medical College, Tanda



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10.	Jammu & Kashmir (4)	30. Govt. Medical College, Jammu 31. Command Hospital (NC) Udhampur 32. Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar 33. Govt. Medical College, Srinagar
11.	Jharkhand (2)	34. MGM Medical College & Hospital, Jamshedpur 35. Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi
12.	Karnataka (7)	36. Hassan Inst. of Med. Sciences, Hassan 37. Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore 38. Shimoga Instt. of Medical Sciences, Shivamoga Inst. of Med. Sciences, Shivamogga 39. Command Hospital (Air Force) Bengaluru 40. Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru -1400 samples can be tested 41. National Institute of Virology, Bangalore Field Unit, Bengaluru -400 samples can be tested 42. Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Gulbarga -
13.	Kerala (8)	43. National Institute of Virology Field Unit, Allapuzha 44. Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram 45. Govt. Medical College, Kozhikode 46. Govt. Medical College, Thrissur 47. Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram 48. Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram 49. State Public Health Laboratory, Trivandrum 50. Interuniversity, Kottayam
14.	Maharashtra (8)	51. National Institute of Virology, Pune 52. Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai 53. Kasturba Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Mumbai 54. National Institute of Virology Field Unit, Mumbai 55. Armed Forces Medical College, Pune 56. BJ Medical College, Pune 57. Indira Gandhi Govt. Medical College, Nagpur 58. Grant Medical College & Sir JJ Hospital, Mumbai



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15.	Madhya Pradesh (4)	59. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal 60. National Institute for Research on Tribal Health, Jabalpur 61. Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore 62. Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal
16.	Manipur (2)	63. Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Med. Sciences, Imphal- East, Manipur 64. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal
17.	Meghalaya (1)	65. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong, Meghalaya
18.	Odisha (2)	66. Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar 67. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar
19.	Puducherry (1)	68. Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Puducherry
20.	Punjab (2)	69. Govt. Medical College, Amritsar 70. Govt. Medical College, Patiala
21.	Rajasthan (8)	71. Sawai Man Singh Medical College, Jaipur 72. Dr. Sampurnanand Medical College, Jodhpur 73. Jhalawar Medical College, Jhalawar 74. RNT Medical College, Udaipur 75. SP Medical College, Bikaner 76. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur 77. JLN Medical College, Ajmer 78. Govt. Medical College, Kota
22.	Tamil Nadu (7)	79. King Institute of Preventive Medicine & Research, Chennai 80. Madras Medical College, Chennai 81. Govt. Theni Medical College, Theni 82. Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli 83. Govt. Medical College, Thiruvarur 84. Kumar Mangalam Govt. Medical College, Salem 85. Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore
23.	Telangana (4)	86. Gandhi Medical College, Secunderabad 87. Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad 88. Sir Ronald Ross of Tropical & Communicable Diseases, Hyderabad. 89. Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad
24.	Tripura (1)	90. Government Medical College, Agartala



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25.	Uttar Pradesh (8)	91. King George Medical University, Lucknow 92. Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 93. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh 94. Command Hospital, Lucknow 95. Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, Meerut 96. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute, Lucknow 97. Uttar Pradesh RIMS, Saifai 98. Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur
26.	Uttarakhand (1)	99. Govt. Medical College, Haldwani
27.	West Bengal (3)	100. National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata 101. Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Kolkata 102. Midnapore Medical College, Midnapore 103. North Bengal Medical College, Darjeeling
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (1)	104. Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from ICMR. The list of Laboratories is as on 24th March 2020.



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Other Laboratories approved by ICMR: N = 15

S. No.	State	Name of the Medical College	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Guntur Medical College	DHR/ICMR have provided Real Time PCR Machine. State Govt. to provide Biosafety cabinet, microfuge and consumables
2.	Assam	2. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College, Barpeta	Reagents in transit
3.	Bihar	3. Darbhanga Medical College, Darbhanga	Reagents received more than 2 days ago. Still not started.
		4. Patna Medical College, Patna	Real Time PCR machine has been dispatched.
4.	Delhi	5. Maulana Azad Medical College	Reagents in transit
5.	Gujarat	6. GMC, Rajkot	Real time PCR machine from DHR/ICMR received.
		7. Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram	Reagents in transit
		8. Malabar Cancer Center, Thalassery	Reagents in transit
9.	Madhya Pradesh	9. Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre	Reagents yet to be dispatched
11.	Tamil Nadu	10. Govt. Medical College, Trichy	Reagents received on 22/03/2020
		11. Govt. Medical College, Villupuram	Reagents in transit
		12. Madurai Medical College, Madurai	
12.	Telangana	13. Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabad	Reagents in transit
14.	Uttarakhand	14. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh	Reagents yet to be dispatched
15.	West Bengal	15. School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata	Reagents yet to be dispatched

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from ICMR. The list of Laboratories is as on 24th March 2020



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List of Private Laboratories to test COVID-19

S. No.	Names of States	Names of Laboratory and Address
1	Delhi (4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lal Path Labs, Block -E, Sector 18, Rohini, Delhi2. Dr Dangs Lab, C-2/1, Safadarjung Development Area, New- Delhi3. Laboratory Services, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi4. Max Lab, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, New-Delhi
2.	Gujarat (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unipath Specialty laboratory limited, 102, Sanoma Plaza, Opposite Parimal Garden, Besides JMC House, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad2. Supratech Micropath Laboratory & Research Institute Pvt Ltd, Kedar, Ahmedabad3. SN GeneLab Pvt Ltd, President Plaza –A, Near Mahavir Hospital, Nanpura, Surat
3.	Haryana (2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strand Life Sciences, A-17, Sector 34, Gurugram2. SRL Limited, GP26, Sector 18, Gurugram
4.	Karnataka (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Neuberg Anand Reference Laboratory, Anand Tower, #54, Bowring Hospital Road, Bengaluru2. Kasturba Hospital Lab Services, Kasturba Hospital, Madhavanagar, Manipal3. Cancyte Technologies Pvt Ltd, Sri Shankara Research Centre, Bengaluru
5.	Maharashtra (8)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Thyrocare Technologies Limited, D37/1, TTC MIDC, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai2. Suburban Diagnostics (India) Pvt. Ltd., 306, 307/T, 3rd Floor, Sunshine Bld., Andheri (W), Mumbai3. Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, Unit No. 409-416, 4th Floor, Commercial Building-1, Kohinoor Mall, Mumbai4. Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre, Molecular Medicine, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., R-282, TTC Industrial Area, Rabale, Navi Mumbai5. SRL Limited, Prime Square Building, Plot No 1, Gaiwadi Industrial Estate, SV Road, Goregaon, Mumbai6. A.G. Diagnostics Pvt Ltd, Nayantara Building, Pune7. Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital Laboratory, Four Bungalows, Mumbai8. InfeXn Laboratories Private Limited, A/131, Therelek Compound, Road No 23, Wagle Industrial Estate,



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		Thane (W)
6.	Tamil Nadu (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dept. of Clinical Virology, CMC, Vellore2. Department of Laboratory Services, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd, Chennai3. Neuberg Ehrlich Lab Pvt Ltd, 46-48 Masilamani Road, Balaji Nagar, Chennai
7.	Telangana (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Laboratory Services, Apollo Hospitals, 6th Floor, Health Street Building, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad5. Vijaya Diagnostic Centre Pvt Ltd, Street No 19, Himayath Nagar, Hyderabad6. Vimta Labs Ltd, Plot No 142, Phase 2, IDA Cherlapally, Hyderabad

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCL, compiled from ICMR. The list of Laboratories is as on 24th March 2020



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PROJECT TEAM

Dr S P Sharma
Chief Economist

Ms Surbhi Sharma
Associate Economist

Ms Kritika Bhasin
Research Officer

Ms Shivani Mehrotra
Research Associate

Ms Bhawna Kakkar
Research Associate

Ms Preeti Rajput
Research Associate

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PHD Research Bureau

PHD Research Bureau; the research arm of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was constituted in 2010 with the objective to review the economic situation and policy developments at sub-national, national and international levels and comment on them in order to update the members from time to time, to present suitable memoranda to the government as and when required, to prepare State Profiles and to conduct thematic research studies on various socio-economic and business developments.

The Research Bureau has been instrumental in forecasting various lead economic indicators national and sub-national. Many of its research reports have been widely covered by media and leading newspapers. The Research Bureau has undertaken various policy studies for Government of India and State Governments.

Research Activities	Comments on Economic Developments	Newsletters	Consultancy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Economic Developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Affairs Newsletter (EAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade and Investment Facilitation Services (TIFS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's Economic Developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forex and FEMA Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Research and Consultancy: Innovative and customised research solutions for growth of Industry and businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States' Economic Developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Economic Monitor (GEM) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Research Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade & Investment Facilitation Services (TIFS) Newsletter 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Releases on Economic Developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Development Monitor (SDM) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign exchange market 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments in International Trade 		



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Studies Undertaken by PHD Research Bureau

A: Thematic research reports

1. Comparative study on power situation in Northern and Central states of India (September 2011)
2. Economic Analysis of State (October 2011)
3. Growth Prospects of the Indian Economy, Vision 2021 (December 2011)
4. Budget 2012-13: Move Towards Consolidation (March 2012)
5. Emerging Trends in Exchange Rate Volatility (Apr 2012)
6. The Indian Direct Selling Industry Annual Survey 2010-11 (May 2012)
7. Global Economic Challenges: Implications for India (May 2012)
8. India Agronomics: An Agriculture Economy Update (August 2012)
9. Reforms to Push Growth on High Road (September 2012)
10. The Indian Direct Selling Industry Annual Survey 2011-12: Beating Slowdown (March 2013)
11. Budget 2013-14: Moving on reforms (March 2013)
12. India- Africa Promise Diverse Opportunities (November 2013)
13. India- Africa Promise Diverse Opportunities: Suggestions Report (November 2013)
14. Annual survey of Indian Direct Selling Industry-2012-13 (December 2013)
15. Imperatives for Double Digit Growth (December 2013)
16. Women Safety in Delhi: Issues and Challenges to Employment (March 2014)
17. Emerging Contours in the MSME sector of Uttarakhand (April 2014)
18. Roadmap for New Government (May 2014)
19. Youth Economics (May 2014)
20. Economy on the Eve of Union Budget 2014-15 (July 2014)
21. Budget 2014-15: Promise of Progress (July 2014)
22. Agronomics 2014: Impact on economic growth and inflation (August 2014)
23. 100 Days of new Government (September 2014)
24. Make in India: Bolstering Manufacturing Sector (October 2014)
25. The Indian Direct Selling Industry Annual Survey 2013-14 (November 2014)
26. Participated in a survey to audit SEZs in India with CAG Office of India (November 2014)
27. Role of MSMEs in Make in India with reference to Ease of Doing Business in Ghaziabad (Nov 2014)
28. Exploring Prospects for Make in India and Made in India: A Study (January 2015)
29. SEZs in India: Criss-Cross Concerns (February 2015)
30. Socio-Economic Impact of Check Dams in Sikar District of Rajasthan (February 2015)
31. India - USA Economic Relations (February 2015)
32. Economy on the Eve of Union Budget 2015-16 (February 2015)
33. Budget Analysis (2015-16)
34. Druzhba-Dosti: India's Trade Opportunities with Russia (April 2015)
35. Impact of Labour Reforms on Industry in Rajasthan: A survey study (July 2015)
36. Progress of Make in India (September 2015)
37. Grown Diamonds, A Sunrise Industry in India: Prospects for Economic Growth (November 2015)
38. Annual survey of Indian Direct Selling Industry 2014-15 (December 2015)
39. India's Foreign Trade Policy Environment Past, Present and Future (December 2015)
40. Revisiting the emerging economic powers as drivers in promoting global economic growth (February 2016)



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41. Bolstering MSMEs for Make in India with special focus on CSR (March 2016)
42. BREXIT impact on Indian Economy (July 2016)
43. India's Exports Outlook (August 2016)
44. Ease of Doing Business : Suggestive Measures for States (October 2016)
45. Transforming India through Make in India, Skill India and Digital India (November 2016)
46. Impact of Demonetization on Economy, Businesses and People (January 2017)
47. Economy on the eve of Budget 2017-18 (January 2017)
48. Union Budget 2017-18: A budget for all-inclusive development (January 2017)
49. Annual Survey of Indian Direct Selling Industry 2015-16 (February 2017)
50. Worklife Balance and Health Concerns of Women: A Survey (March 2017)
51. Special Economic Zones: Performance, Problems and Opportunities (April 2017)
52. Feasibility Study (socio-Economic Survey) of Ambala and Rohtak Districts in Haryana (March 2017)
53. Goods and Services (GST): So far (July 2017)
54. Reshaping India-Africa Trade: Dynamics and Export Potentiality of Indian Products in Africa (July 2017)
55. Industry Perspective on Bitcoins (July 2017)
56. Senior Housing: A sunrise sector in India (August 2017)
57. Current state of the economy (October 2017)
58. Equitable finance to fulfill funding requirements of Indian Economy (October 2017)
59. The Wall of Protectionism: : Rise and Rise of Protectionist Policies in the Global Arena, (November 2017)
60. India-Israel Relations: Building Bridges of Dynamic Trade(October 2017)
61. Role of Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) in Improving Export Competitiveness (November 2017)
62. India - China Trade Relationship: The Trade Giants of Past, Present and Future (January 2018)
63. Analysis of Trade Pattern between India and ASEAN(January 2018)
64. Union Budget 2018-19 – (February 2018)
65. Ease of Doing Work for Women: A survey of Delhi NCR (February 2018)
66. Restraining Wilful Defaults: Need of the hour for Indian Banking System (March 2018)
67. Impact of GST on Business, Industry and Exporters (April 2018)
68. India – Sri Lanka Bilateral Relations: Reinforcing trade and investment prospects (May 2018)
69. Growth Prospects of the Indian Economy: Road to US \$5 Trillion Economy(May 2018)
70. India's Free Trade Agreements Dynamics and Diagnostics of Trade Prospects(May 2018)
71. India – UK Trade Relations and Societal Links: Way Forward (June 2018)
72. Rural Economy: Road to US \$5 Trillion Economy(September 2018)
73. Indian Economy on the Eve of Union Budget 2019-20 (Interim): Steady...strong...fastest moving economy (January 2019)
74. Interim Budget 2019-2020: A Dynamic, Inclusive & Pragmatic Budget (February 2019)
75. Women Entrepreneurship: Transforming from Domestic Households to Financial Independence (March 2019)
76. Prospects for Exports from India: Five Pronged Strategy to Achieve USD700 Billion Merchandise Exports by 2025 (March 2019)
77. India Towards Shared Prosperity: Economic Agenda for the Next five Years (March 2019)
78. Job Creation: A Pan India Survey of Households (March 2019)
79. India Inc. Speaks Live: Wish List for the Next Five Years (May 2019)



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80. Suggestive Roadmap for Revitalizing Economic Growth (June 2019)
 81. Indian Economy on the Eve of Union Budget 2019-20 (July 2019)
 82. Union Budget 2019-20: Road to US\$ 5 trillion economy (July 2019)
 83. Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs (September 2019)
 84. Report Emerging contours in the defence and homeland security
 85. Framework of University-Industry Linkages in Research DSIR
 86. India's Trade and Investment opportunities with ASEAN Economies (November 2019)
 87. Indian Economy on the Eve of Union Budget 2020-21 (February 2020)
 88. Union Budget 2020-21: Aspirational, Caring and Developmental Budget (February 2020)
 104. Smart Infrastructure Summit 2016- Transforming Uttar Pradesh (August 2016)
 105. Smart Infrastructure Summit 2016- Transforming Uttar Pradesh : Suggestions for the State Government (August 2016)
 106. Rising Jharkhand: An Emerging Investment Hub (February 2017)
 107. Punjab: Roadmap for the New Government Suggestions for the Industrial and Socio-Economic Development – Focus MSMEs ease of doing business (May 2017)
 108. Prospering Himachal Pradesh: A Mountain of Opportunities (August 2017)
 109. Kashmir: The way forward (February 2018)
 110. Analysis of State Budgets for 2018-19: Select Sates (March 2018)
 111. Rising Uttar Pradesh One District One Product Summit (August 2018)
 112. Rajasthan: Steady Strides into the Future- Emerging Growth Dynamics and the Way Forward (September 2018)
 113. Rising Jharkhand: Economic Profile (January 2019)
 114. Rising Jharkhand: Skill Development to Spur Socio-Economic Growth (January 2019)
 115. Progressive Haryana: Economic Profile (February 2019)
 116. Progressive Haryana: The Agricultural Hub of India (February 2019)
- B: State profiles**
89. Rajasthan: The State Profile (April 2011)
 90. Uttarakhand: The State Profile (June 2011)
 91. Punjab: The State Profile (November 2011)
 92. J&K: The State Profile (December 2011)
 93. Uttar Pradesh: The State Profile (December 2011)
 94. Bihar: The State Profile (June 2012)
 95. Himachal Pradesh: The State Profile (June 2012)
 96. Madhya Pradesh: The State Profile (August 2012)
 97. Resurgent Bihar (April 2013)
 98. Life ahead for Uttarakhand (August 2013)
 99. Punjab: The State Profile (February 2014)
 100. Haryana: Bolstering Industrialization (May 2015)
 101. Progressive Uttar Pradesh: Building Uttar Pradesh of Tomorrow (August 2015),
 102. Suggestions for Progressive Uttar Pradesh (August 2015)
 103. State profile of Telangana- The dynamic state of India (April 2016)