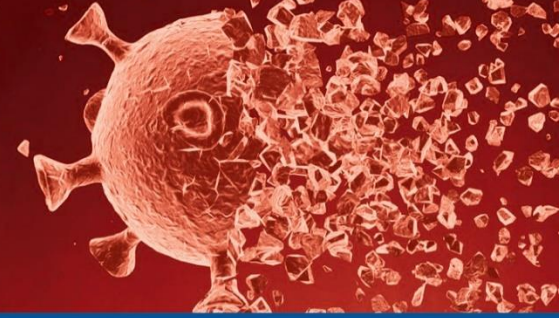


COVID-19 COMMUNIQUE



May 26, 2020

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

South America becomes the new epicenter of COVID-19 : WHO

As the total count of coronavirus infections crosses the 5 million mark, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared South America as the new epicenter of the pandemic as cases rapidly rise in Brazil, Peru and other countries in the region.

Source: Business Standard

Frame human-centric policies for employees returning to work : ILO

International Labour Organization (ILO) issues guidance on framing safe, healthy, return to work policies for employees during COVID-19. The document proposes that each specific work setting, job or group of jobs to be assessed before returning to work and that preventive measures should be implemented to ensure the safety and health of all workers.

Source: Business Standard

Bank of Japan allocates USD 279 billion for loans to small businesses

Bank of Japan (BoJ) unveiled an additional USD 279 billion (Yen 30 trillion) of loan support for small businesses. Under the scheme, the central bank will lend interest free to commercial banks for one year so that they in turn offer loans to companies and for which the BoJ will incentivize the financial institutions by paying 0.1 per cent interest.

Source: Economic Times

China decides not to set GDP growth target for 2020

For the first time since 1990, China has decided not to set goals on the GDP growth in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, it will give priority to stabilizing employment and ensuring living standards, win the battle against poverty, and achieve the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects.

Source: Business Standard

CFO WATCH

SEBI issues advisory on disclosure of material impact of COVID-19 pandemic

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed the listed companies to make disclosures to investors and stakeholders about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on their business. Illustrative list of information to be disclosed includes steps taken to ensure smooth functioning, schedule for restarting operations, ability to maintain operations in factories/offices and estimation of the future impact on company's operations.

Source : [SEBI](#)

Guidance on Key Considerations for Auditor's Reporting amid COVID-19

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has issued guidelines for Auditors to highlight the COVID-19 impact on business operations, revenues, cash flows, events occurring subsequent to year-end etc. as these would have a possible impact on the Auditor's Report with reference to Financial Statements.

Source: [ICAI](#)

India Lockdown 4.0: Relaxation for transportation, air travel and a boost for MSMEs

The government has notified amendments to General Financial Rules ([GFR](#)) to ensure that goods and services contracts valued less than Rs 200 crore are procured from domestic firms. This will help MSMEs and domestic suppliers. Further, to facilitate the movement of the passengers, physical railway counters are set to open and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) announced for airlines.

Source: [ET CFO](#)

REGULATORY RELIEFS

- **Direct Tax**
- **Indirect Tax**
- **Corporate and Allied Laws**

DIRECT TAX

CBDT expedites refund process

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has expedited the process of issuing refunds to minimize liquidity crunch and has issued tax refunds worth Rs. 26,242 crore to 16.84 lakh assesseees since April 1, 2020.

Source : [CBDT](#)

INDIRECT TAX

Extension of validity period of various Export Performance Certificates

In view of the pandemic and the difficulties being faced due to lockdown situation across the globe, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has extended the validity period of various Export Promotion Certificates from March 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Source : [Notification No. 23/2020-Customs dated May 14, 2020](#)

CORPORATE AND ALLIED LAWS

Validity of names reserved for incorporation or change

The names reserved under incorporation process or change of name by proposed or existing company or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and expiring between March 15, 2020 to May 31, 2020 shall now be valid until June 20, 2020.

Source: [MCA](#)

Relaxations by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The timelines allowed for export credit on pre-shipment and post-shipment for disbursements made till July 31, 2020 is relaxed for total fifteen months as against twelve months.

Source: [RBI](#)

- The moratorium in payment of instalments of term loans has been extended by additional three months till August 31, 2020.

Source: [RBI](#)

- Extension has been provided for settlement of specified import payments from six to twelve months for imports made on or before July 31, 2020.

Source: [RBI](#)