

Press Release Coverage
May 2020

No.	Publication/Portal	Headline	Date
1.	The Asian Age	Bharat Forge, Toyota resume operations	6 May 2020
2.	Deccan Chronicle	Bharat Forge, Toyota resume operations	6 May 2020
3.	The Hindu Business Line	Bharat Forge resumes operations	6 May 2020
4.	Financial Express	Over 200 cos resume work in Pune industrial belt	6 May 2020
5.	Financial Express	Resumption blues: Factories grapple with shortage of workers, supply chain hurdles	6 May 2020
6.	Financial Express	DM holds the key to firms opening plant, office lock	6 May 2020
7.	Punyanagri	Bharat Forge to start partial operations at its Baramati plant	6 May 2020
8.	Pudhari	Mercedes, TVS starts graded operations	7 May 2020
9.	Mirror	NASA picks 3 Indian firms to make ventilators	31 May 2020
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Bharat Forge, Toyota resume operations

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, MAY 5

Automotive and defence supplier Bharat Forge, automaker Toyota Kirloskar Motor and leading paints firm Asian Paints on Tuesday said they have commenced operations in a graded manner at their respective factories in the country while Hyundai Motor India said it will resume operations at its Chennai plant on Wednesday.

Bharat Forge, which started production work at its Baramati facility in Maharashtra on Tuesday, said it expects production to commence by the end of the week.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor, which also commenced preparations to resume manufacturing activity, said it would be helpful if the entire value chain, including dealerships, restart operations.

Asian Paints too has partially resumed operations at some of its manufacturing locations, warehouses and offices where lockdown restrictions have been eased.

"We wish to inform that Bharat Forge is gearing up to commence partial operations at its Baramati plant as per the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs after obtaining permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati)," the company said in a filing to the exchanges.

Bharat Forge makes components for the automotive, power, oil & gas, construction & mining, locomotive, marine and



aerospace industries. It has also entered the defence sector making equipment like artillery and transport equipment.

The company's other manufacturing facilities in the country would remain closed till further notice, it said.

Naveen Soni, senior vice president, sales and marketing at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said,

"The preparatory operations are conducted to provide workforce with an adequately safe environment to work in, duly prioritising domains like spare parts supply, as that is an important requirement from the markets where certain customer service activity has already started."

The maker of models like Fortuner and Innova said the first few days will be spent on training workforce on the new guidelines as well as ensuring safe materials and working environment.

Operations at its Bidadi (Karnataka) plant, suspended since March 23, will resume in a phased manner, Soni pointed out.

"In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and various state government authorities, the company has partially resumed operations at some of its manufacturing locations, warehouses, and offices wherein lockdown restrictions have been eased," Asian Paints said.

Bharat Forge, Toyota resume operations

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Bharat Forge resumes operations

New Delhi, May 5

Auto component major Bharat Forge has partially resumed operations at its Baramati facility after obtaining approval from the government. The company plans to commence operations at the facility with immediate effect after obtaining permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati), Bharat Forge said in a statement. The company's other manufacturing facilities in the country would remain closed till further notice, Bharat Forge said. PTI

● CURBS EASE

Over 200 cos resume work in Pune industrial belt

GEETA NAIR
Pune, May 5

OVER 200 COMPANIES in Pune's industrial belt of Chakan, Talegaon, Kurkumb, Baramati and Ranjangaon have resumed operations after restrictions were eased on Monday, even as the lockdown continues.

Bajaj Auto resumed operations at its Chakan plant on Tuesday. Bharat Forge said it will commence partial operations at its Baramati plant. M&M has started pre-production activities at its Chakan plant. Škoda Auto Volkswagen India has resumed work with 300 people at its Chakan plant upgradation programme, which was stopped abruptly, and it will start production by May 17.

RSB Transmission India started operations at its Sanaswadi plant. Zamil Steel India re-opened its plant in Ranjangaon and even made one of its first dispatches post lockdown. Food companies' plants are also restarting operations, and these included Ferrero Rocher's plant in Baramati, Mars International India's plant in Khed, Cargill Foods' plant at Kurkumbh and Coca-Cola's plant in Pirangut.

Alakesh Roy, MD of Zamil Steel, said it was a relief to restart operations and both MIDC and the state government had done well to clear the decks for industry, and because of this many companies had either opened up or were in the process of opening up.

Those companies that are not dependent on a large external supply chain have started but they can operate only one shift, he said. The immediate focus was on maintenance, mapping manpower and new standard operating procedures. By next week, work would gain momentum, Roy said. The government could offer more re-



Companies that are not dependent on a large external supply chain have started but they can operate only one shift

laxation of restrictions and allow more manpower movement to accelerate this process, Roy said. While the labour issue could be tackled, working capital and cash flows would be a challenge, Roy added.

Industry on Monday was allowed by the district collectorate to start operations without any formal process or special passes as long as they were located outside the containment zones. However, employee and worker movement to or from the containment zones has not been permitted. Companies that have their plants located in the containment zone within the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporation limits were not allowed to resume operations.

Tata Motors, Thyssenkrupp Industrial, KSB Pumps, Alfa Laval, Sandvik Asia and Bharat Forge's Pune plant are among those that have not resumed operations. A cluster of automotive MSMEs located in the Bhosari, Pimpri, Chinch-

wad, Dapodi and Kasarwadi areas continue to be under extended lockdown.

Arvind Goel, MD and CEO, Tata AutoComp Systems and chairman of CII Maharashtra, said while there was clarity at the top level of government as far as Maharashtra industries department and MIDC was concerned, but it was not the same at the ground level. Goel said industry is not able to start in right earnest as the local tehsildar and police were interpreting things differently and companies will have to deal with multiple agencies, so restarting would be difficult. Not everybody will start till there is greater clarity as industry does not have the appetite to fight with so many agencies, Goel said.

If companies in the containment zone cannot start, the entire chain cannot be completed, so the state and local governments should look at micro containment clusters rather than the entire zone, Goel sug-

gested. Tata Motors for instance has its plant in the PCMC area of Pimpri and it cannot start operations so their suppliers too cannot start operations, Goel pointed out. So this was not a practical solution and the entire system will have to operate at the same time.

Companies such as Maruti and Hyundai cannot start operations unless supplier companies in Pune start operations, but they will not keep waiting forever for industry to start and will look for alternatives which will mean business would go away, Goel warned. If companies do not start now, many of them will never be able to restart operations and this would be suicidal, he said. People will lose jobs and those with jobs may not get salaries for April if operations does not start in May, Goel said. So it was best for the government to look at micro zones and cordon off only those areas, and not cordon entire industries like this, Goel suggested.

Resumption blues: Factories grapple with shortage of workers, supply chain hurdles

SHUBHRA TANDON
Mumbai, May 5

HOBbled BY A shortage of workers, companies are finding it hard to resume operations at an optimal scale and with migrants moving back home, it could be a while before factories hum with activity. Companies are also grappling with a disruption in the supply chain, unable to source key inputs and components. Indeed, production levels are likely to stay relatively low until there are enough workers and also until retail sales outlets are re-opened.

As Sunil Kataria, CEO (India & SAARC), Godrej Consumer Products, pointed out restrictions on inter-district and interstate movement could continue to hurt the availability of

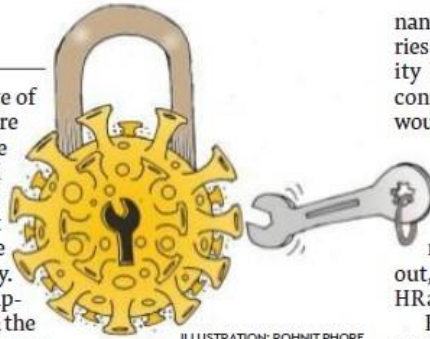


ILLUSTRATION: ROHINIT PHORE

labour. Until workers come back from villages in large numbers — which could take many months — ramping up production looks difficult, according to MS Unnikrishnan, MD and CEO, Thermax, who explained the labour was needed at the construction sites. “Those who go back home will return only after some time,” Unnikrish-

nan said. Thermax’s own factories are running at 50% capacity but unless there’s more contract labour available, it would be hard to raise the level.

At CEAT, workers have found it difficult to go to the factories since the colonies where they are reluctant to let them go out, S Venkatesh, president of HR at RPG Enterprises, told FE.

Rajesh Goel, senior VP (marketing & sales), Honda Cars, said the resumption of operations would depend on the uninterrupted supply of components especially since there are restrictions on movement in hotspots and red zones. Moreover, dealerships needed to be opened, Goel said, adding the initial production levels would likely be low given the limited workforce.

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Factories grapple with shortage of workers, supply chain hurdles

RPG’S VENKATESH SAID the problem was not as severe at KEC International where 25,000 workers are employed during peak operations since they live at or near construction sites.

Bharat Forge Limited said on Tuesday that it is gearing up to start operations at its Bara-mati plant, by the weekend, having obtained the relevant permissions. Several other companies — Toyota Kirloskar, Dabur, Hero Motocorp — too have said they are resuming operations. While manufacturers of consumer goods, two wheelers and passenger vehicles aren’t looking to ramp up production to full capacity just before the festive season sets in, they nonetheless want to operate at 40-50% levels. After zero production in April, makers of auto parts say indications are that production at OEMs could gradually go up to 20-30% by June-July, provided no additional restrictions are imposed. With e-retailers now permitted to deliver non-essential goods, in the green and orange zones, manufacturers of household gadgets, mobile phones and smaller items have got a boost.

● TEDIOUS PROCESS

DM holds the key to firms opening plant, office lock

FE BUREAU
New Delhi/Mumbai/Pune,
May 5

IF THE REOPENING of factories and offices is moving at a snail's pace even in the non-containment areas, despite the government allowing operations from May 4, it's because the process is not automatic. Companies need to seek permission from the local administration — the office of the district magistrate — by submitting a host of information. Apart from the process being tedious and time-consuming, the final decision rests at DM's discretion.

So, a manufacturing plant, say in Gurgaon, has to first fill online a detailed form saying how many people will come to its factory, how many cars will come, what kind of sanitisation it has done at the unit,

NOT SMOOTH

- Companies need to first seek permission from local administration
- They need to provide details of number of employees who will come, from where and how
- Approvals take time as numbers keep increasing
- New fields keep getting added to the online portal leading to hassles
- Final decision to grant approval rests with concerned DMs

from which areas will the workers come, etc. Some get approval fast but some may get stuck for a couple of days.

Continued on Page 2

DM holds the key to firms opening plant, office lock

AND THIS CUMBERSOME process is not only limited to manufacturing units. It even applies for corporate offices in places like Gurgaon. For instance, a small e-commerce unit in the city, which employs around a dozen employees, applied for permission some two days back but is yet to get an approval. On Tuesday, the district administration added some new fields in the online portal for seeking permission, so the firm needs to apply again and wait for the approval to come.

An auto manufacturing unit in Chennai got permission to operate on Monday evening, two days after applying. The company told FE that it is in the process of starting some routine operations from Wednesday but is not sure whether its vendors will be able to get permission.

In Noida and Greater Noida, where also a large number of manufacturing units are located, the process of reopening is no less cumbersome. The district administration on Tuesday unveiled a portal for processing such requests. Once a unit has applied, the request is processed by the respective SDM's office and is forwarded depending on where the unit is located to the Noida Authority or the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) or Yamuna Express-

way Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA). It is also sent to the regional manager of Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) and the respective ADMs for issuing final permissions in their respective zones.

In case of special economic zones (SEZ) and export oriented units (EOU), the development commissioner (government of India) will issue permission after consulting incident commanders (officials entrusted with emergency response measures).

When the MHA's fresh rules came on Friday evening that offices could work with 33% of their staff by following social distancing and other such SOPs, some companies in Mumbai started preparations to restart their corporate offices, but the very next day the state government came out with an order that in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region no offices can function.

Among the ones which have got permission to operate till now are Hero MotoCorp, which said on Monday that it will commence operations in a graded manner at three of its manufacturing plants at -- Gurgaon and Dharuhera in Haryana, Haridwar in Uttarakhand and additionally the Global Parts Centre (GPC) at Neemrana in Rajasthan. It said that its other manufacturing plants have also obtained the necessary permissions to reopen and these will commence operations after most of the supply chain partners of the company get the permissions to operate.

On Tuesday, Toyota Kirloskar Motors said that it has got permission to restart operations but added that it is a challenge for the auto sector to start production, as it is necessary that the entire value chain starts operating. "Our value chain consists not only of our suppliers but our dealers as well who are based in different parts of the country including cities that are still under severe lockdown," the company said.

Meanwhile, around 200-plus companies in Pune's industrial belt of Chakan, Talegaon, Kurkumb, Baramati and Ranjangaon have resumed operations. So, Bajaj Auto resumed operations at its Chakan plant on Tuesday,

while Bharat Forge said it will commence partial operations at its Baramati plant. M&M has started pre-production activities at its Chakan plant. In Pune, units were allowed by the DMs to start operations without any formal process or special passes as long as they were located outside the containment zones. Still, Arvind Goel, MD and CEO, Tata AutoComp Systems and chairman of CII Maharashtra state, said while there was clarity at the top level of government, it was not the same at the ground level as the local tehsildar and police were interpreting things differently making it difficult for units to start production.

भारत फोर्जचा बारामतीतील कारखाना सुरू

। नवी दिल्ली: मोटर वाहनांचे ओतीव सुटे भाग निर्मिती क्षेत्रात देश-विदेशात प्रसिद्ध असेल्या कल्याणी उद्योग समूहाची धुरावाहक कंपनी भारत फोर्ज लिमिटेडच्या बारामती (पुणे) येथील कारखान्यात मंगळवारपासून अंशतः कामकाज सुरू करण्यात आले आहे. संबंधित प्राधिकरणांकडून आवश्यक परवानग्या मिळवल्यानंतर हा कारखाना पुन्हा सुरू करण्यात आला असल्याची माहिती कंपनीच्या प्रसिद्धीपत्रकात देण्यात आली आहे. या आठवडाअखेरपासून या कारखान्यामध्ये प्रत्यक्ष उत्पादन प्रक्रिया सुरू होईल, अशी अपेक्षाही कंपनी व्यवस्थानाने व्यक्त केली आहे. त्याअगोदर कंपनी सुरक्षिततेविषयीच्या अनिवार्य तपासण्या करून घेणार आहे. तसेच कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या आरोग्य संरक्षणासाठी त्यांना सामाजिक अंतर आणि स्वच्छतेबाबत प्रशिक्षणदेखील कंपनीकडून देण्यात येणार आहे.

‘मर्सिडिस बेंझ’च्या चाकण प्रकल्पाचा फर्स्ट गिअर

टोयोटा, टीव्हीएसमध्येही काम सुरू

पुणे : लक्झरी कार उत्पादनातील आघाडीच्या मर्सिडिस बेंझ कंपनीने चाकण येथील कारखान्याची उत्पादन प्रक्रिया आजपासून पुन्हा सुरू केली. वाहन आणि संरक्षण क्षेत्रातील पुरवठादार कंपनी भारत फोर्ज आणि वाहन क्षेत्रातील आणखी एक आघाडीची कंपनी टोयोटा किलोस्कर यांनीही अनुक्रमे त्यांच्या बारामती प्लंट आणि बिडाडी (कर्नाटक) कारखान्यात टप्प्याटप्प्याने उत्पादनाच्या दृष्टीने प्राथमिक काम काजास सुरुवात केली आहे. महाराष्ट्र सरकारने आखून दिलेल्या मार्गदर्शक तत्वानुसार ही प्रक्रिया सुरू केल्याचे मर्सिडिस बेंझने म्हटले आहे.

एकूण परिस्थितीचा वेळोवेळी आढावा घेऊन उत्पादनाचा वेग वाढवण्याचा निर्णय येत्या काही आठवड्यात घेतला जाणार आहे. त्या दृष्टीने कंपनीचे अधिकारी परिस्थितीवर बारकाईने लक्ष ठेवून आहेत. कंपनीचे कर्मचारी, ग्राहक



आणि पुरवठादार यांची सुरक्षितता आणि आरोग्य महत्वाचे असून ती काळजी घेऊनच काम पुन्हा सुरू केल्याचेही मर्सिडिसने स्पष्ट केले. कंपनीच्या काही वितरकांनीही आपले काम सुरक्षेचे सर्व नियम सांभाळून सुरू केले.

भारत फोर्ज आणि टोयोटा किलोस्कर मोटर्स यांनीही काम सुरू करताना आवश्यक सुरक्षा निकषांचे पालन महत्वाचे मानले आहे. भारत फोर्जचे प्रत्यक्ष उत्पादन या आठवडाअखेरीस सुरू होईल. केंद्रीय गृहमंत्रालयाच्या मार्गदर्शक तत्वानुसार आणि एमआयडीसी बारामती यांच्या अधिकाऱ्यांची परवानगी घेऊन अंशतः कामकाज सुरू केल्याचे भारत फोर्जने म्हटले आहे. भारत फोर्ज ऑटोमोटिव्ह, पॉवर, ऑइल, गॅस,

होंडा मोटर्सला कामगार टंचाईची झळ

होंडा कार मोटर्स इंडिया लिमिटेडला उत्पादन सुरू करावयाचे असले तरी त्यांच्या दोन्ही उत्पादन केंद्रासाठी आवश्यक असलेला कामगार आणि कर्मचारी वर्ग उपलब्ध नसल्यामुळे ही प्रक्रिया सुरू करण्यात अडथळे येत आहेत. कंपनीनेच बुधवारी आपली ही अडचण निदर्शनास आणली. मात्र, त्यांच्या देशभरातील वितरकांनी आपले कामकाज सुरू केले आहे. दरम्यान, आपल्या राजस्थान येथील तापुकारा येथील उत्पादन केंद्रातील उत्पादन पुढील आठवड्यात सुरू करण्याचा इरादा असल्याचे कंपनीने म्हटले आहे. या कंपनीचे वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष आणि मार्केटिंग विभागाचे संचालक राजेश गोयल यांनी सांगितले की, अगदी कमीत कमी पातळीवर आणि एका शिफ्टचे उत्पादन सुरू करण्याइतके काही कर्मचारी आणि कामगारवर्ग सध्या उपलब्ध नाही.

कन्स्ट्रक्शन आणि मार्यनिंग, लोकोमोटिव्ह, मरीन आणि एरोस्पेस उद्योग इत्यादीसाठी ही कंपनी सुटे भाग तयार करते. संरक्षण क्षेत्रासाठी आर्टिलरी आणि ट्रान्सपोर्ट शी निगडित काही साधनसामग्री कंपनी तयार करते. मात्र, या कंपनीच्या इतर ठिकाणचे कामकाज सध्या बंद आहे.

टोयोटा किलोस्कर मोटार कंपनीचे वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष नवीन सोनी यांनी दिलेल्या माहितीनुसार कामगार आणि कर्मचारी यांना काम करण्यासाठी

सुरक्षित वातावरण उपलब्ध व्हावे म्हणून प्राथमिक कामकाजास सुरुवात केलेली आहे. रॉयल एन्फिल्ड कंपनीनेही आपल्या दुचाकी उत्पादन प्रक्रियेच्या तयारीला आज प्रारंभ केला. १२० वितरकांनी अंशतः कामकाजाला प्रारंभ केला आहे. टीव्हीएस मोटार या दुचाकी आणि तिचाकी वाहने तयार करणाऱ्या कंपनीनेही त्याच्या होसूर, म्हैसूर आणि नालगड या तिन्ही उत्पादन केंद्रावर कामकाजास सुरुवात केली आहे.

NATION**NASA picks 3 Indian firms to make ventilators**

NASA has selected three Indian companies to make a low-cost ventilator tailored for Covid-19 patients. The three Indian companies are Alpha Design Technologies Pvt Ltd, Bharat Forge Ltd and Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, the US space agency said in a statement on Friday.

The prototype, which was created by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory engineers in just 37 days, received an emergency use authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration on April 30. Called VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally), the high-pressure ventilator was designed to use one-seventh the parts of a traditional ventilator, relying on parts already available in the supply chains.

It offers a simpler, more affordable option for treating critical patients while freeing up traditional ventilators for those with the most severe Covid-19 symptoms. Its flexible design means that it can also be modified for use in field hospitals, NASA said. The Office of Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), which owns the patents and software for VITAL, is offering a free licence for the device. Caltech manages JPL for NASA.

3 Indian cos to make ventilators for NASA

WASHINGTON: NASA has selected three Indian companies, Alpha Design Technologies Pvt Ltd, Bharat Forge Ltd and Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, to make a low-cost ventilator tailored for Covid-19 patients. The prototype, created by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory engineers in just 37 days, received an emergency use authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration on April 30. Called VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally), the high-pressure ventilator was designed to use one-seventh the parts of a traditional ventilator. Its flexible design means that it can also be modified for use in field hospitals, NASA said. NASA has so far selected 21 companies -- eight US companies and 13 international companies (including three from India) -- to make the ventilator developed with inputs from doctors and medical device manufacturers.

तीन भारतीय कंपनियों को नासा से वेंटिलेटर विनिर्माण का लाइसेंस

वाशिंगटन, तीन भारतीय कंपनियों को अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय वैमानिकी एवं अंतरिक्ष प्रशासन (नासा) से कोविड-19 के मरीजों के लिए वेंटिलेटर के विनिर्माण का लाइसेंस मिला है। ये तीन भारतीय कंपनियां...अल्फा डिजाइन टेक्नोलॉजीज प्राइवेट लि., भारत फोर्ज लि. और मेधा सर्वो ड्राइव्स प्राइवेट लि. हैं। नासा की ओर से शुक्रवार को जारी बयान में यह जानकारी दी गई है। तीन भारतीय कंपनियों के अलावा 18 अन्य कंपनियों को भी यह लाइसेंस मिला है। इनमें आठ अमेरिका और तीन ब्राजील की कंपनियां शामिल हैं। नासा अमेरिका की अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान, वैमानिकी और संबंधित कार्यक्रमों की स्वतंत्र एजेंसी है। नासा ने दक्षिण कैलिफोर्निया की जेट प्रॉपल्शन लैब (जेएलपी) में कोरोना वायरस के मरीजों के लिए विशेष रूप से वेंटिलेटर विकसित किया है। जेएलपी के इंजीनियरों ने एक माह से कुछ अधिक समय में इस विशेष वेंटिलेटर 'वाइटल' को डिजाइन किया है। इसे अमेरिका के खाद्य एवं दवा प्रशासन से 30 अप्रैल को 'आपात प्रयोग की अनुमति' मिल चुकी है।

