

# 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.

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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, Thermax, 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 for ever 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 inter-state 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.

Continued on Page 2

## 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 Baramati 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 BUREAUS  
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 प्लॅन्ट आणि बिडाडी (कर्नाटक) कारखान्यात टप्प्याटप्प्याने उत्पादनाच्या हट्टीने प्राथमिक काम काजास सुरुवात केली आहे. महाराष्ट्र सरकारने आखून दिलेल्या मार्गदर्शक तत्त्वानुसार ही प्रक्रिया सुरू केल्याचे मर्सिडिस बेंझने म्हटले आहे.

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



आणि पुरवठादार यांची सुरक्षितता आणि आरोग्य महत्त्वाचे 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 महत्त्वाचे मानले आहे. भारत फोर्जचे प्रत्यक्ष उत्पादन या आठवडाअखेरीस सुरू होईल. केंद्रीय गृहमंत्रालयाच्या मार्गदर्शक तत्त्वानुसार 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 टिकाणचे कामकाज सध्या बंद आहे.

टोयोटा किलोस्कर मोटर्स 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 मोटर्स या दुचाकी आणि तिचाकी वाहने तयार करणाऱ्या कंपनीनेही त्याच्या होसूर, म्हैसूर आणि नालगड या तिन्ही उत्पादन केंद्रावर कामकाजास सुरुवात केली आहे.

Headline: <a href="#">Bharat Forge partially resumes operations at Baramati plant</a>	Domain: Business Standard
Date: May 5, 2020	Journalist: PTI

Auto component major Bharat Forge on Tuesday said it 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.

We expect production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene," it added.

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

Headline: [Pune-based Bharat Forge, Praj Industries to partially resume operations](#)

Domain: The Economic Times

Date: May 5, 2020

Journalist: Nehal Chaliawala

*Production at the facility will commence by the end of this week post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on precautionary measures like physical distancing, the company said in an exchange filing.*

Pune-headquartered leading forging company Bharat Forge on Tuesday said that it has reopened one of its manufacturing located at Baramati near Pune after receiving necessary approvals from local authorities.

Production at the facility will commence by the end of this week post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on precautionary measures like physical distancing, the company said in an exchange filing.

Training of personnel will include mandatory self-declaration of health through the Aarogya Setu app, wearing masks, regular sanitisation of personal items and work-stations, and sanitisation of workplace and bus regularly, the company said.

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.

On Monday, leading engineering firm Praj Industries had informed the exchanges that it had received permissions from authorities to resume operations at two of its units at the Kandla special economic zone from 21 and 22 April.

Headline: <a href="#">Bharat Forge to start partial operations at its Baramati plant</a>	Domain: The Hindu Business Line
Date: May 5, 2020	Journalist: Bureau

Pune-based automotive and defense supplier Bharat Forge on Tuesday said that it is gearing-up to commence partial operations at its Baramati plant as per the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India, after obtaining permission from the local district authority.

“Bharat Forge is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from today and we expect production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene,” the company said in a regulatory filing.

The other manufacturing facilities in India are still closed till further notice, it said.

The company is taking all recommended precautions and preventive measures to ensure safety and well-being of its employees at all times and it will closely monitor the situation and take necessary steps as may be required from time to time, it said.

Headline: [Bharat Forge reopens its Baramati plant](#)

Domain: ET Auto

Date: May 5, 2020

Journalist: Bureau

*Bharat Forge aims to start production by the end of this week at its Baramati plant.*

Pune-based forging company Bharat Forge on Tuesday has announced that it has reopened one of its plants located at Baramati near Pune after obtaining the necessary approvals from local authorities.

The company said that operations at the facility is resuming in a graded manner.

Production at the facility will commence by the end of this week after completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on precautionary measures like social distancing, claimed Bharat Forge in the regulatory filing.

The company also said that training of its employees will include mandatory self-declaration of health through the Aarogya Setu app, wearing masks, regular sanitisation of personal items and work-stations along with sanitisation of workplace and bus regularly.

Bharat Forge closed its Baramati plant on March 23 complying with the government's lockdown measure to contain the virus outbreak.

Headline: [Bharat Forge partially resumes operations at Baramati plant](#)

Domain: MoneyControl.com

Date: May 5, 2020

Journalist: PTI

*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.*

Auto component major Bharat Forge on Tuesday said it 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.

"We expect production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene," it added.

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

Headline: [Bharat Forge jumps 3% on resuming operations at Baramati plant](#)

Domain: MoneyControl.com

Date: May 5, 2020

Journalist: Sandip Das

*Bharat Forge is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from May 5 and we expect production to commence by end of the week, the company said.*

Share price of auto component maker Bharat Forge jumped over 3 percent intraday on May 5 after the company partially resumed manufacturing operations at its Baramati plant.

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

"Bharat Forge is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from May 5 and we expect production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene," it added.

The stock price jumped over 27 percent in the last 1 month and was quoting at Rs 279.35, up Rs 9.50, or 3.52 percent at 13:10 hours.

According to Moneycontrol SWOT Analysis powered by Trendlyne, Bharat Forge has zero promoter pledge with FII/FPI or institutions increasing their shareholding.

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

Headline: <a href="#">Bharat Forge partially resumes operations at Baramati plant</a>	Domain: OutlookIndia.com
Date: May 5, 2020	Journalist: PTI

Auto component major Bharat Forge on Tuesday said it 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.

"We expect production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene," it added.

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

Headline: <a href="#">Bharat Forge to Resume Partial Operations</a>	Domain: Auto Tech Review
Date: May 5, 2020	Journalist: Bureau

*Operations to commence at Baramati plant after a thorough safety check and personnel training for precautionary measures*

Bharat Forge Limited is preparing to resume working in partial capacity by the end of the week after permissions from the local authorities. The company had shut its operations due to COVID-19 crisis. They've just sent out an intimation letter to the Stock Exchange announcing re-opening. Plants functions will resume as sanitization activities are completed to keep the work space safe for employees. Also workers have to be trained to observe precautionary measures so as to stay safe and keep the workplace a healthy environment for everybody. The plant will be adhering to the guidelines set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs and stated permissions from MIDC, Baramati.

Employees have been given some guidelines for safety. They have to mandatorily declare a clean bill of health before resuming work and update on Aarogya Setu App. This will ensure employees entering the facility are healthy and tracked for contagions if any. Also all employees will have to wear face-masks, sanitize their personal items and work place regularly and maintain social distancing for the safety of self and others. Additionally workplaces, busses and other transport vehicles will be sanitized after every trip. The company has a huge base manufacturing components for the automobile, power, oil and gas, construction, mining and a lot more. But all other facilities will be closed until further instructions from the government. Brand officials will keep monitoring the coronavirus crisis situation as it develops and will take needed steps as deemed necessary.

Headline: [Coronavirus Lockdown: Asian Paints, Bharat Forge partially resume operations at some facilities](#)

Domain: FirstPost.com

Date: May 5, 2020

Journalist: Bureau

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

On 23 March, the company had informed bourses about the disruption of operations across the country on account of COVID -19 pandemic.

"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 in a regulatory filing.



The operations at these locations will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by the regulatory authorities, after obtaining permissions wherever required, it added.

Asian Paints further said it has taken all the required measures to ensure the safety of its employees at all locations as per government guidance.

Auto component major Bharat Forge also on Tuesday said it 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.

Headline: <a href="#">Bharat Forge to start Baramati plant</a>	Domain: The Machinist
Date: May 5, 2020	Journalist: Niranjan Mudholkar

Bharat Forge Limited is all set to start partial operations at its Baramati plant. Resumption of operations will be done as per the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India after obtaining permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati).

The company is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from today and it expects production to commence by end of the week, post completion of mandatory safety check and training of personnel on Physical distancing, health & hygiene.

Few key aspects of the training for employees include –

Mandatory self-declaration of good health before joining and daily updates through Aarogya Setu App.

Wearing of face-masks, regular sanitization of personal items, work-stations and maintaining social distancing

Thorough sanitization of all workplaces regularly, buses and other official vehicles after each trip.

The other manufacturing facilities in India are still closed till further notice.

The Company is taking all recommended precautions and preventive measures to ensure safety and well-being of its employees at all times. It will closely monitor the situation and take necessary steps as may be required from time to time.

Headline: [Covid-19: Over 200 companies in Pune industrial belt resume operations after curbs eased](#)

Domain: Financial Express

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Geeta Nair

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.

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 relaxation 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, Thermax, 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, Chinchwad, 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 suggested.

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 for ever 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.

Headline: [Resumption blues post COVID-19 lockdown: Factories grapple with shortage of workers, supply chain hurdles](#)

Domain: Financial Express

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Shubhra Tandon

*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.*

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 inter-state movement could continue to hurt the availability of 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,” Unnikrishnan 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. 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 Baramati 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.

Headline: <a href="#">Firms crawl back to work</a>	Domain: The Telegraph
Date: May 6, 2020	Journalist: Bureau

*However, a traders' body on Tuesday warned that 20 per cent of the country's retailers may have to wind up their businesses*

Companies are resuming operations in a limited manner, with the central and state governments easing the restrictions on lockdown. However, a traders' body on Tuesday warned that 20 per cent of the country's retailers may have to wind up their businesses.

Asian Paints, Phillips Carbon Black, Bharat Forge and Century Textile Mills are some of the companies which have resumed their operations. In a regulatory filing with the bourses, Asian Paints said it had partially resumed operations at some of its manufacturing locations, warehouses, and offices.

In a separate announcement, Phillips Carbon Black said operations at its plant in Durgapur have resumed. Earlier, the operations at Palej and Mundra in Gujarat and at Kochi in Kerala had resumed. "Now all our plants across India are operating partially," the company said.

Century Textiles said its plant at Bharuch in Gujarat has resumed operations.

Pune-based forging firm Bharat Forge is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from Tuesday.

Production will resume by the end of the week once the mandatory safety checks and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene is complete.

### **Automobiles**

The automobiles sector, one of the worst hit by the nationwide lockdown, is also limping back to normalcy with Toyota Kirloskar Motor saying it has started preparations to resume manufacturing at its Karnataka plant.

Hyundai Motor India said it will begin preparations to resume operations at its Chennai plant on May 6.

Apollo Tyres, which had partially resumed operations in Gujarat, Kerala and Hungary last month, said its operations at Chennai had also started. Birla Tyres' Balasore factory has restarted its operations,

### **Trader loss**

Traders body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Tuesday said the country's retail sector comprising around 7 crore players has witnessed a loss of Rs 5.50 lakh crore since March 25 when the lockdown started.

It added that at least 20 per cent of Indian retailers are likely to wind up their businesses in the next few months. The body has now urged the government to award a substantial package to traders to ensure their survival.

Headline: [Auto firms open factory doors after a hiatus of one-and-a-half months](#)

Domain: The New Indian Express

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Arshad Khan

*Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday announced commencing preparatory operations at its manufacturing plant in Bidadi, Karnataka.*

With the government easing lockdown norms, automobile and component manufacturers have started reopening factory doors after nearly one-and-a-half months of zero production and getting their value chain fixed to resume production in the coming days.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday announced commencing preparatory operations at its manufacturing plant in Bidadi, Karnataka. "These preparatory operations are conducted to provide our 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," said Naveen Soni, senior vice-president (sales & services), Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

Toyota will spend the first few days in training members, and resume operations in a phased manner, most importantly keeping in mind the needs of 'social distancing' and sanitisation, he said. Pune-based Bharat Forge has announced reopening of its plant in Baramati, Maharashtra. It said production at the facility will commence by the end of this week after completion of mandatory safety checks and training of personnel. The company's other manufacturing facilities in India will remain closed till further notice.

Korean carmaker Hyundai India (HMIL) is planning to resume operations in the Tamil Nadu factory on May 6, while two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Monday said it is rapidly gearing up to commence production at three of its manufacturing plants — in Haridwar, Gurugram and Dharuhera — from Wednesday.

Auto firms such as Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Auto and Bosch are also expected to resume operations soon as they have already received requisite permissions. According to industry executives, production will resume at 20-30 per cent capacity in the initial weeks because of low demand and uncertainty around opening of showrooms in certain areas. "The challenge that lies ahead of us is the fact that for the auto sector to start production, it is necessary that our 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," Soni of Toyota said.

Headline: [Pune: Large industrial units in rural areas restart operations as DC waives off special pass](#)

Domain: The Indian Express

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Bureau

*Late on Monday, District Collector Naval Kishore Ram asked industries (outside the civic limits of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad) to restart work immediately. The collector said the administration had done away with the requirement of passes for them.*

A majority of large units in rural parts of Pune restarted operations after the district collector's announcement that they will not require any special pass to function.

Sadashiv Survase, Joint Director, Directorate of Industries, said companies were working out logistics on how to transport their employees to offices.

Late on Monday, District Collector Naval Kishore Ram asked industries (outside the civic limits of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad) to restart work immediately. The collector said the administration had done away with the requirement of passes for them.

While employees from containment zones could not travel to work, for others the companies were asked to arrange dedicated transport. This has allowed most of the companies in Chakan, Ranjangaon and Talegaon belt to restart their operations.

Survase said following the orders of the district collector, most of the large units had started their operations laying out norms on how to transport their employees.

He also said issues such as sanitising premises and observation of social distancing norms were also being worked out. On Tuesday, Bharat Forge announced that it will restart operations for its Baramati plant. A press statement from the company said it had received permission from the local MIDC authorities in this regard.

"Bharat Forge is commencing operations in a graded manner with the Baramati facility reopening from today (April 5) and we expect production to commence by end of the week, after completion of mandatory safety checks and training of personnel on physical distancing, health and hygiene," the press release read.

Headline: [Coronavirus impact: Bharat Forge re-opens its Baramati plant](#)

Domain: Overdrive

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Bureau

Bharat Forge has announced that it is gearing up for partial operations at the plant in Baramati while adhering to the guidelines set by Ministry of Home Affairs and also taking permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati).

The company is commencing operation in a phased manner and production can be expected by the end of the week. A complete routine check-up of employees will take place to ensure safety and protection and there will training sessions for the employees to practice physical distancing and hygiene.

The training module includes mandatory self-declaration of good health before joining the work and regular updates through the Aarogya Setu App. All employees must wear face masks and regular sanitisation of personal items is mandatory. The workplace, official workplace and even busses will be sanitised after each trip.

These precautions are taken in the best interest of the employees and protect them from any infection of the deadly Coronavirus. The company will closely monitor the situation and take further steps accordingly. Meanwhile, other manufacturing plants across the country will remain closed until further notice.

Headline: [Coronavirus Lockdown: Bharat Forge To Commence Partial Operations Of Baramati Plant](#)

Domain: Carandbike

Date: May 6, 2020

Journalist: Seshan Vijayraghvan

*Bharat Forge is gearing up to commence partial operations as per the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India after obtaining permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati).*

#### Highlights

- Bharat Forge has received permission from the local district authority
- The operation will begin in a phased manner from today, May 5
- It is training the employees on physical distancing, health and hygiene

Home-grown auto component manufacturer Bharat Forge, a part of the Kalyani Group, has announced receiving permission to start partial operations at its Baramati plant. The company said that it is gearing up to commence partial operations as per the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India after obtaining permission from the local district authority (MIDC, Baramati). As for the company's other manufacturing facilities in India, they will remain closed until further notice. Bharat Forge first announced suspending operations at its plants on March 23, 2020, as part of the nation's collective efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The operation will begin in a phased manner from today, May 5, while the actual production is expected to commence by end of the week. Currently, Bharat Forge is completing all the mandatory safety checks, in addition to training its employees on physical distancing, health and maintaining hygiene. The company has also listed out some of the key measures it will undertake to create a safe work environment.

Firstly, all employees must produce a mandatory self-declaration of good health before joining and daily updates through Aarogya Setu App rolled out by the Government of India. Second, all employees must wear face masks at all times and regularly sanitise their hands and personal items, workstations and maintain social distancing. The company will also ensure thorough sanitisation of all workplaces regularly, buses and other official vehicles after each trip.

Bharat Forge has said that it is taking all recommended precautions and preventive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees at all times. The company has also said that it will closely monitor the situation and take necessary steps as may be required from time to time.