

THE BEACON

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Covid-19 helpdesk to address int'l trade issues

Sudarshani

There has been a delay in international trade due to the second wave of Covid-19 cases in India. The Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has set up a Covid-19 helpdesk to provide relief to affected international businesses, said Mohammed Moin Afaque, Deputy of DGFT in a statement on Monday, April 26.

He said, "the helpdesk would collect and collate trade-related issues concerning other Ministries/Departments/Agencies of Central Government and State Governments and will coordinate to seek their support and provide possible resolution(s)."

The helpdesk will look into matters such as import/export licensing issues, customs clearance delays and complexities, import/export documentation issues, banking matters, etc.

The statement also gave instructions to the Export-Import (EXIM) community to submit their requests on the DGFT website or to email their requests to the DGFT.

Once the complaint is submitted, the status can be tracked under the DGFT Helpdesk services.

Players leave IPL due to Covid second-wave

Vandana Nampoothiri

The 14th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) began on April 9, 2021. The League which will end on May 30th is played in six cities across the country including Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata.

In a recent development, Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday, April 26, announced that players Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson were withdrawing from the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to personal reasons.

"Adam Zampa & Kane Richardson are returning to Australia for personal reasons and will be unavailable for the remainder of IPL2021. Royal



Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson

Twitter/ Royal Challengers Bangalore

Challengers Bangalore management respects their decision and offers them complete support," the team

tweeted on Monday. This is the third time in two days that players are withdrawing from the league.

On Sunday, April 25, Rajasthan Royals announced that AJ Tye will be leaving for Australia.

"I just thought I should try and get on the front foot and get home before I got locked out of the country," said Tye, in a statement given to SEN Radio in Doha.

He further added that he was hundred percent sure that he would contract the disease if he stayed in India.

R Ashwin who was playing for Delhi Capitals tweeted on Sunday, "I would be taking a break from this year's IPL from tomorrow. My family and extended family are putting up a fight against COVID19 and I want to support them during these tough times. I expect to return to play if things go in the right direction."

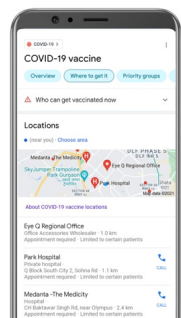
India reported 3,52,991 new covid cases in the last 24 hours.

MNCs extend aid to Covid struck India

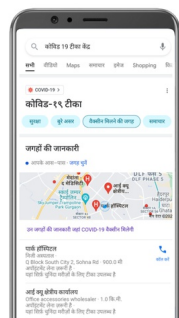
Pavithra Prabhu

Companies are coming together to pledge their help towards the crisis-plagued India by way of donating to the non-profit organisation, GiveIndia and to the United Nations (UN), funds, medical supplies, and oxygen equipment.

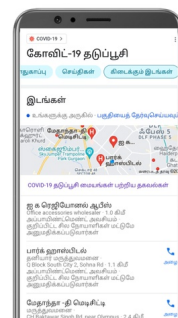
"This includes two grants from Google.org, Google's philanthropic arm, totalling 20 Crore INR (\$2.6 million). The first is to GiveIndia to provide cash assistance to families hit hardest by the



Representational Image



Official Google Blog



crisis to help with their everyday expenses. The second will go to UNICEF to help get urgent medical supplies, including oxygen and testing equipment, to

where it's needed most in India. It also includes donations from our ongoing employee giving campaign — so far more than 900 Googlers have contributed

3.7 Crore INR (\$500,000) for organizations supporting high-risk and marginalized communities," announced Google's Country Head and Vice President Sanjay Gupta. An additional fund of 112 Crore INR (\$15 million) will be added in the form of Ad Grants.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, in a tweet reaffirmed, "I am heartbroken by the situation in India. Microsoft will continue to use its voice, resources, technology to aid relief efforts, and support."

Indian Archers bag gold in Archery World Cup Stage 1

Alwin Benjamin Soji

Indian Archers, Atanu Das, and Deepika Kumari qualified for the 2021 Hyundai Archery World Cup Final by winning the gold medal in the recurve men and women's events respectively at the Archery World Cup stage 1 in Guatemala City on Monday.

Atanu Das defeated Mexican archer Angel Alvarado in the semi-finals and Spanish archer Daniel Castro in the final. After winning the gold medal, Atanu said, "It feels amazing. It's like dreams are coming true. I've worked so hard for so many years, and now it's paying off. It's a big boost for me. The Olympics are this year and I'm working in the right way."

Deepika Kumari defeated Mexican archer Alejandra Valencia in the semi-finals and American archer Mackenzie Brown in the final. "It's been a long time since I shot in the finals. It feels great and, at the same time, I'm happy and nervous. It gives me more confidence and pushes me to provide better performances," said Deepika.

Oscars 2021: Irrfan Khan honoured

Nishitha Rachel

The Oscars ceremony was held on Monday morning, with no host, no audience, nor face masks for nominees attending the 93rd Academy Awards at Los Angeles' Union Station — this year's hub for a show usually broadcast from the Dolby Theatre.

Actor Irrfan Khan was honoured at the Academy Awards this morning, along with actors Chadwick Bozeman and more, who the entertainment industry lost in the past year. Actors Rishi



In Memoriam of Irrfan Khan

Oscars/YouTube

Kapoor and Sushant Singh Rajput were also mentioned on the Academy's website. Chloé Zhao won Best

Director for Nomadland. This made her the first woman of colour and the second woman to win the award.

It is no time to make a profit: Arvind Kejriwal

Akshara DM

BENGALURU: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Monday in a video conference appealed to the Central Government as well as the vaccine manufacturers to reduce the price of Covid vaccine.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader said: "It is time to help humanity, not to make a profit. The central government has capped the prices of various medicines. Both the central and state government have capped the price on various hospital

prices. During such times when the whole nation is fighting the battle of Covid-19, I appeal to the vaccine manufacturers to bring down the vaccine price to Rs.150."

He further pointed out the vaccine manufacturers are already profiting by selling the vaccine at Rs.150. He stated that two manufacturers are selling the vaccine to the state governments at Rs.400 and Rs.600 but at Rs.150 to the central government. He expects that vaccine companies should fix one price for both the central and state governments.