

Steps Undertaken by Regulators in India – updated as on 27.03.2020

I. RBI	
1. March 12 – USD/INR Sell Buy Swaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of intense selling pressures faced by financial markets worldwide, spike in volatility across all asset classes, and several emerging market currencies experiencing downside pressures, RBI decided to- • Undertake 6-month US Dollar sell/buy swaps to provide liquidity to the foreign exchange market. To begin with, an amount of USD 2 billion was offered on March 16, 2020.
2. March 13 – Announcement of Liquidity Operations under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI announced to conduct an additional variable rate repo auction of notified amount of ₹ 25,000 Crores (₹ 250 billion) for tenor of 7 days (date of reversal- March 20, 2020).
3. March 16 – USD/INR Sell Buy Swap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has decided to undertake another 6-month US Dollar sell/buy swap auction of amount USD 2 billion to provide liquidity to the foreign exchange market. The auction date will be March 23, 2020.
4. March 16 – Long Term Repo Operations (LTROs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has decided to conduct additional Long Term Repo Operations (LTROs) for up to a total amount of ₹ 1,00,000 crore (₹ one trillion) at the policy repo rate, with the first LTRO for ₹ 25,000 crore (₹ 250 billion) scheduled on March 18, 2020, with tenor of 3 years.
5. March 18 – Announcement of Open Market Operation (OMO) Purchase of Government of India Dated Securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India has announced to conduct open market operations on March 20, 2020 (Friday) in the form of purchase of government securities of an aggregate amount of ₹10,000 crores (INR 100 billion).
6. March 20 - Announcement of OMO Purchase of Government of India Dated Securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India has announced open market operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of ₹30,000 crores (INR 300 billion) in two tranches of ₹15,000 crores (INR 150 billion) each in the month of March 2020. The auctions would be conducted on March 24, 2020 and March 30, 2020
7. COVID-19- Operational and Business Continuity Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled commercial banks, local area banks, small finance banks, payment banks, urban cooperative banks and NBFCs are advised list of initiatives to be taken as part of their business continuity plan in response to COVID-19. • FIs to assess the impact on their balance sheet, asset quality, liquidity, etc. arising out of potential scenarios such as further spread of COVID-19, and to take immediate contingency measures, based on the assessment, to manage the risks. • A Quick Response Team (QRT) may be constituted for the purpose, which shall provide regular updates to the top management on significant developments and act as a single point of contact with regulators/outside institutions/agencies. <p><i>https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11820&Mode=0</i></p>

<p>8. March 16 - RBI Statement on Availability of Digital Payment Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the context of the efforts to limit the fallout of the corona virus pandemic by avoiding social contact and visit to public places, public can use modes of digital payment (like NEFT, IMPS, UPI and BBPS) from the convenience of their homes through online channels like mobile banking, internet banking, cards, etc. and avoid using cash which may require going to crowded places for sending money or paying bills. <p>https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49521</p>
<p>9. March 27 – Seventh Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth, reduce the policy rate by 75 basis points to 4.4 per cent. the fixed rate reverse repo rate, which sets the floor of the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) corridor, was reduced by 90 basis points to 4.0 per cent
<p>10. March 27 - Developmental and Regulatory policies</p> <p>I. Liquidity Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) - To mitigate the adverse effects on economic activity leading to pressures on cash flows across sectors, the Reserve Bank will conduct auctions of targeted term repos of up to three years tenor of appropriate sizes for a total amount of up to Rs. 1,00,000 crore at a floating rate, linked to the policy repo rate. Liquidity availed under the scheme by banks has to be deployed in investment grade corporate bonds, commercial paper and non-convertible debentures over and above the outstanding level of their investments in these bonds as on March 25, 2020. Cash Reserve Ratio – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks by 100 basis points to 3.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) with effect from the reporting fortnight beginning March 28, 2020 for a period of one year. Reduce the requirement of minimum daily CRR balance maintenance from 90 per cent to 80 per cent, effective from the first day of the reporting fortnight beginning March 28, 2020. This is a one-time dispensation available up to June 26, 2020. Marginal Standing Facility - increase the accommodation under the marginal standing facility (MSF) from 2 per cent of the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) to 3 per cent with immediate effect. This measure will be applicable up to June 30, 2020. <p>These measures will inject a total liquidity of Rs. 3.74 lakh crore to the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widening of the Monetary Policy Rate Corridor - decided to widen the existing policy rate corridor from 50 bps to 65 bps. Under the new corridor, the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) would be 40 bps lower than the policy repo rate, as

II. IRDAI	
11. IRDA of India has issued guidelines on handling of claims reported under Corona Virus. The details of the guidelines can be accessed at-	https://www.irdai.gov.in/ADMINCMS/cms/whatsNew_Layout.aspx?page=PageNo4057&flag=1
III. SEBI	
12. SEBI statement on market movement –	[https://www.sebi.gov.in/web/?file=https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebi_data/attachdocs/mar-2020/1584075694740.pdf#page=1&zoom=page-width,-16,792]
13. March 13 - To make aware of the robust risk management framework in place in the Indian securities market to deal with market movements	<p>Against the background of fall in broader market indices in India in keeping with the global market trends, SEBI issued a statement on market movement on March 13, 2020. It reiterated that SEBI and stock exchanges have a robust risk management framework in place which automatically gets triggered in response to movements in the indices (BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty) as well as individual stocks both in cash and derivatives market. Some of these measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value at Risk (VaR) Margin with initial margin to cover 99% risk of a transaction • Extreme Loss Margin (ELM) to cover the residual risk of a transaction • Collection of mark to market losses on daily basis • Additional surveillance margins based on stress tests • Circuit filters at index levels • Circuit filters at stock levels • Action on the basis of surveillance inputs • Regular follow up by the clearing corporations (central counterparties - CCPs) with the clearing members for collection of margin and pay-in obligations. <p>[https://www.sebi.gov.in/web/?file=https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebi_data/attachdocs/mar-2020/1584075694740.pdf#page=1&zoom=page-width,-16,792]</p>
14. March 11 & 13 - To assess concerns in risk management, clearing and settlement systems and to assess any concerns of unusual events of pledge invocations by participants on account of market volatility.	Meetings with Stock Exchanges and clearing corporations and Depositories wherein they informed SEBI that there was no apparent abnormal activity observed w.r.t. the trading and settlement system in the past fortnight.
15. March 13 - To arrest market volatility during steep fall/rise so that participants	Circuit filters/breakers: On March 13, 2020, there was a steep fall in index value by 10% and the circuit breaker mechanism triggered leading to stoppage of markets for an hour. After the

<p>avoid taking knee jerk reaction based on the fall/rise.</p>	<p>cooling off period, the market re-opened and the index closed 4% higher at the end of trading session. Further, there are price bands in individual stocks to keep the price volatility in control.</p>
<p>16. March 19 - Relaxations from certain continuous listing and compliance requirements to listed entities</p>	<p>SEBI has decided to grant temporary relaxations from certain continuous listing and compliance requirements to listed entities w.r.t. the quarter/ financial year ending March 31, 2020. Listed entities have been provided extension of deadlines for submission of financial results and other reports, in the following manner: Compliance requirement Period of relaxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing of quarterly and annual financial results 45 days/ 1 month • Filing of quarterly shareholding pattern 3 weeks (approx.) • Filing of quarterly corporate governance report 1 month • Submission of annual secretarial compliance report 1 month • Submission of quarterly statement on investor complaints 3 weeks (approx.) • Submission of half-yearly compliance certificate on share transfer facility 1 month <p>Further, as per extant regulatory stipulations, the board of directors and audit committee of a listed entity are required to meet at least 4 times in a year, subject to a maximum time gap of 120 days between any 2 meetings. SEBI has exempted the board of directors and audit committee from observing the maximum stipulated time gap between 2 meetings for the meetings held or proposed to be held between December 01, 2019 and June 30, 2020.</p>
<p>17. March 19 - Internal communications (March 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2020) to ensure Institutional continuity.</p>	<p>SEBI has constituted a committee of senior officials to continuously monitor the situation and take appropriate preventive and proactive actions as and when required on an urgent basis.</p> <p>With a view to prevent any spread of the virus and safeguard the SEBI employees, it has been decided that the officers responsible for discharging critical functions shall attend office in rotation. Around 50% of the strength of each division shall be physically present in office while others work from home. Employees with special needs have been permitted to work from home.</p>

	The employees have been advised to avoid all non-essential travel, meetings and utilize the technological solutions, such as video conferencing, etc.
--	---

Steps taken by the Government of India – Fiscal Policy

Measure (Description)	Authority
<i>Statutory and regulatory compliance matters related to various sectors</i>	
<p>March 24 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Tax – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend last date for income tax returns for (FY 18-19) 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 – 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. 5. For delayed payments of advanced tax, self-assessment tax, regular tax, 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. • GST/Indirect Tax – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those having aggregate annual turnover less than Rs. 5 Crore Last date can file GSTR-3B due in March, April and May 2020 by the last week of June, 2020. No interest, late fee, and penalty to be charged. 	<p>Ministry of Finance</p> <p>https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1607942</p>

2. Others can file returns due in March, April and May 2020 by last week of June 2020 but the same would attract reduced rate of interest @9 % per annum from 15 days after due date (current interest rate is 18 % per annum). 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 FY 18-19, 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
- **Customs –**
 8. 24X7 Custom clearance till end of 30th June, 2020
 9. 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.
 - **Financial Services –**
 1. Relaxations for 3 months
 - Debit cardholders to withdraw cash for free from any other banks' ATM for 3 months
 - Waiver of minimum balance fee
 - Reduced bank charges for digital trade transactions for all trade finance consumers
 - **Corporate Affairs –**
 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

<p>financial burden of companies/ LLPs at large, but also enable long-standing non-compliant companies/ LLPs to make a ‘fresh start’;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	
<p>March 24 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Department of Fisheries</p> <p>https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1607942</p>

<p>4. The verification of documents and grant of NOC for Quarantine would be relaxed from 7 days to 3 days</p>	
<p>March 24 – 1. Extension of timelines for various compliance and procedures will be given. Detailed notifications will be issued by Ministry of Commerce.</p>	<p>Department of Commerce https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1607942</p>
<p><i>Finance Minister announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus</i></p>	
<p>March 26 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker fighting COVID-19 to be provided under Insurance Scheme • 80 crore poor people will to get 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month for the next three months • 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders to get Rs 500 per month for next three months • Under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, gas cylinders, free of cost, would be provided to 8 crore poor families for the next three months • Increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families • An ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled • Government to front-load Rs 2,000 paid to farmers in first week of April under existing PM Kisan Yojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers • Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers • Government proposes to pay 24 percent of monthly wages into their PF accounts for wage-earners below Rs 15,000 per month in businesses having less than 100 workers for next three months. • For 3 crore aged widows and people in Divyang category, Rs 1,000 to be given to tide over difficulties during next three months. • Limit of collateral free lending would be increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakhs for Women organised through 63 lakhs Self Help Groups (SHGs) • Organised Sector - Employees' Provident Fund Regulations will be amended to include Pandemic as the reason to allow non-refundable advance of 75 percent of the amount or three months of the wages, whichever is lower, from their accounts. • The State Government will be asked to utilise the funds available under District Mineral Fund (DMF) for supplementing and augmenting facilities of medical testing, screening and other requirements in connection 	<p>Ministry of Finance https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1608345</p>

with preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic as well as treating the patients affected with this pandemic.	
---	--
