Pulse Survey Results: India Inc's Response To COVID-19

Response | Mitigation

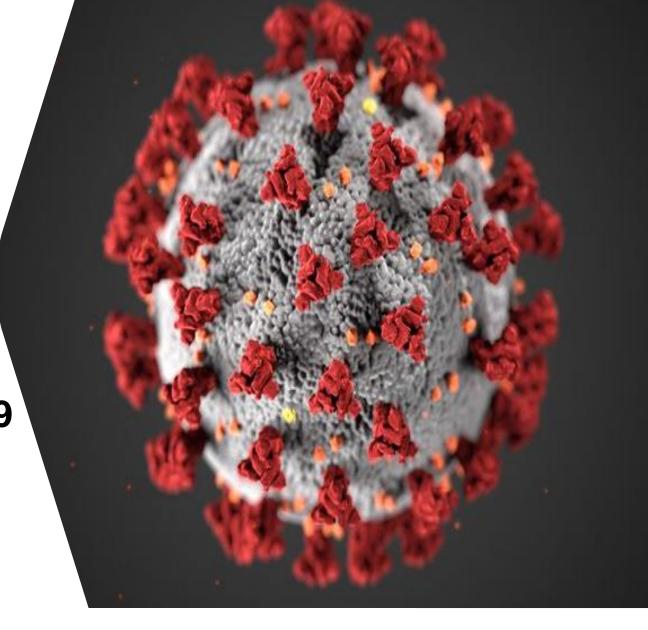




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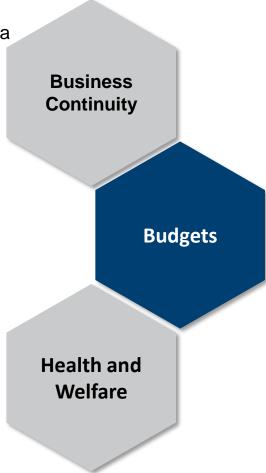
Study Overview

In light of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread HR and Business implications, we created a pulse survey on human resources and compensation measures being put in place by companies in India as they move to keep employees safe and adjust to an increasingly volatile market.

This study includes questions on:

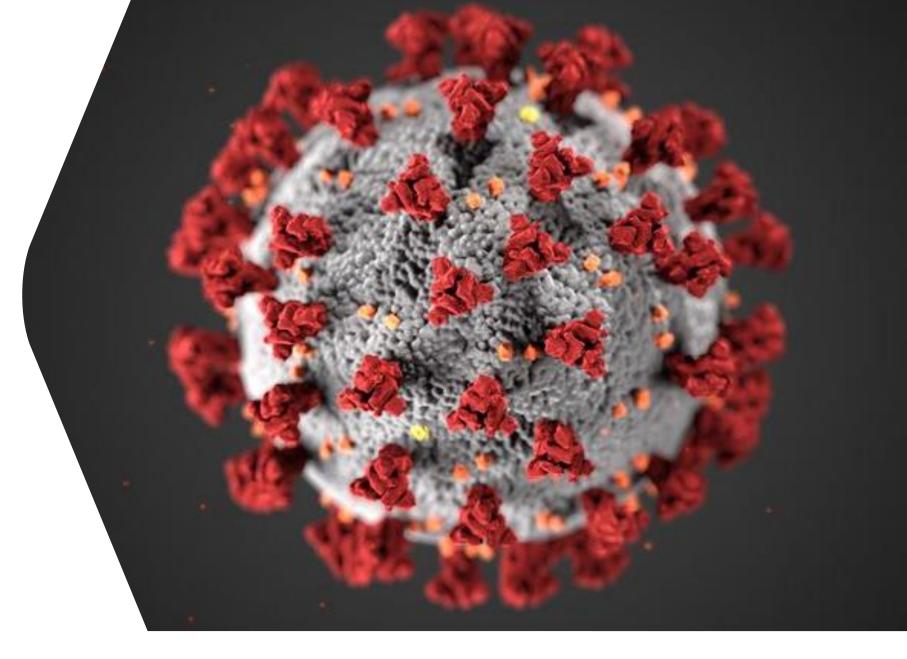
- Compensation increases and Bonus payout actions related to the outbreak
- Employee communication
- Employee Health and Welfare
- Work-from-home and other mobility measures

This study garnered submission from a total of over 400 organizations across industry segments. This report summarizes the results.



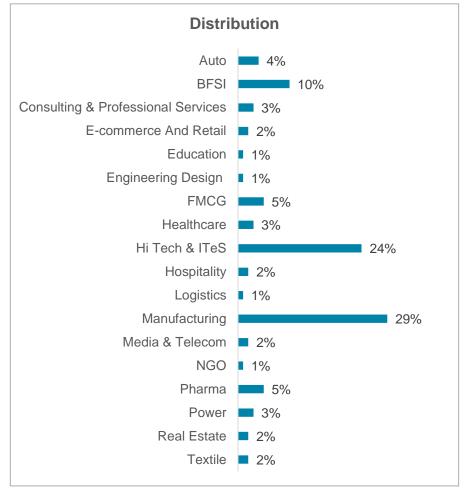


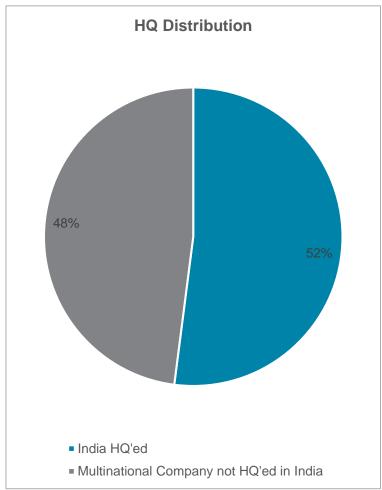
Participant Demographics

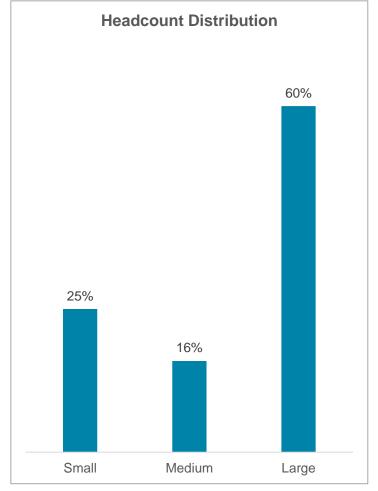




Participant Demographics









Participant Demographics

For the analysis in the study the following sub industries have been classified under two broad categories

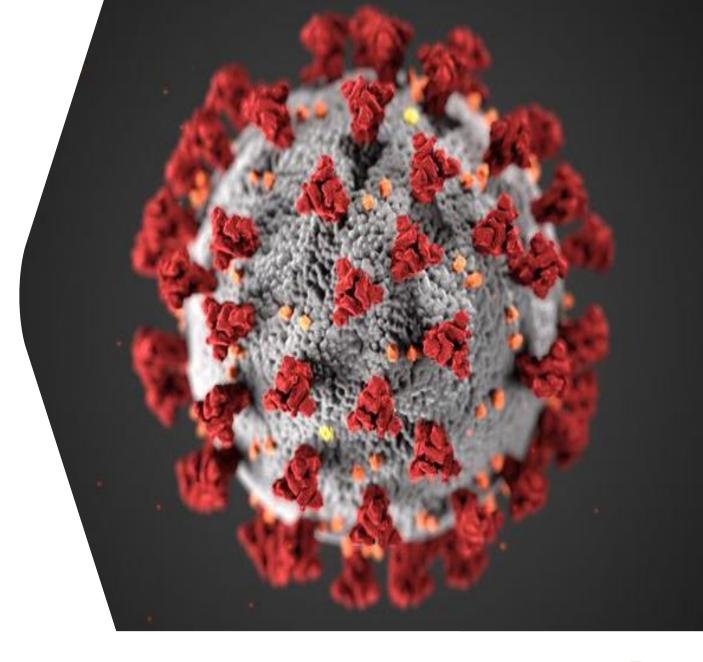
Manufacturing	Services	Services
Auto	Engineering Design	Hi Tech & ITeS
FMCG	BFSI	Logistics
Manufacturing	Consulting & Professional Services	Healthcare
Pharma	Ecommerce & Retail	Education
Power	Hospitality	NGO
Textile	Real Estate	Media & Telecom

For the analysis in the study the following headcount size have been classified under three broad categories

Segment	Headcount	
Small	< 500 Employees	
Medium	500-1000 Employees	
Large	>1000 Employees	



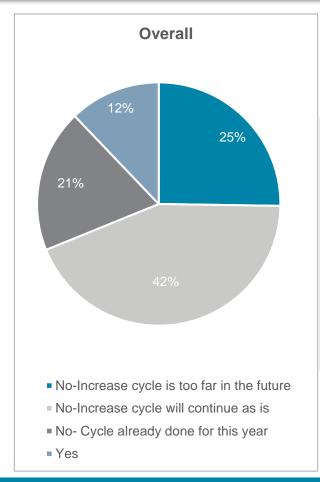
India Inc.'s Response To Compensation And Bonus Decisions

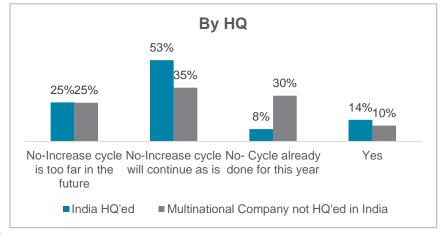


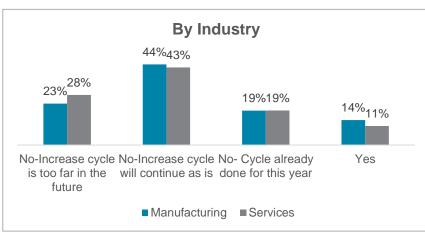


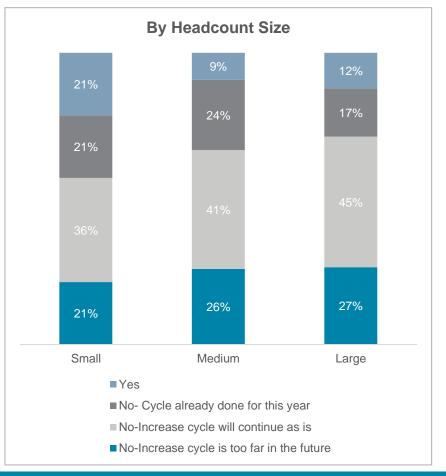
Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you plan to defer the compensation increases for 2019-20?"







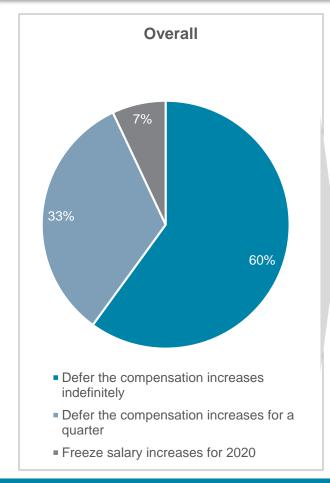


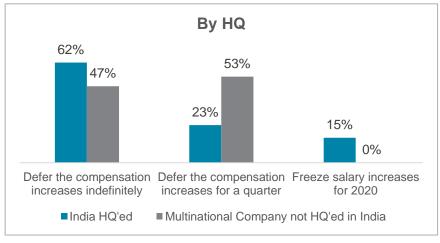
Very few organizations (12%) across sectors are planning to defer their compensation increases, however small sized organizations seem more reactive to future cost constraints as compared to other organizations

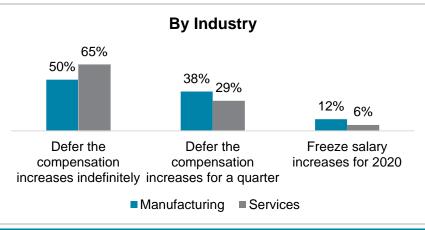


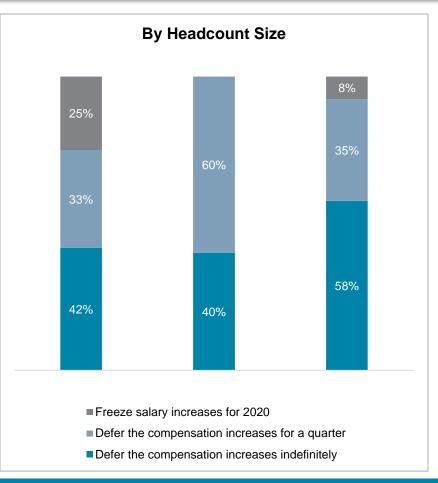
Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc - "How long do you plan to defer the compensation increases for 2019-20?"







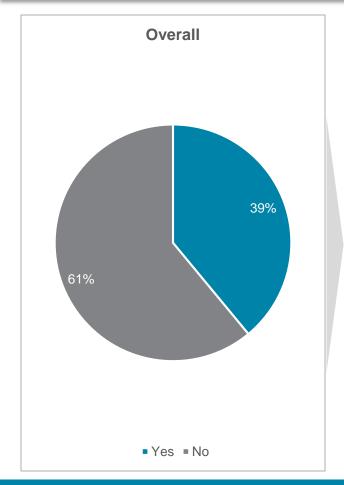


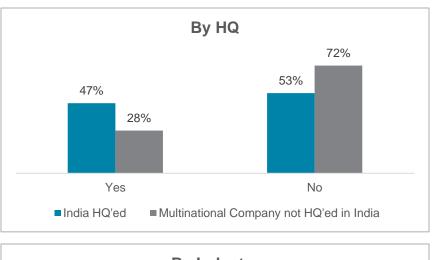
From the 12% of the organizations that are planning to defer their increases, most organizations are waiting to understand the impact of the pandemic

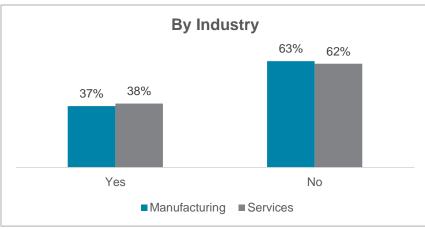


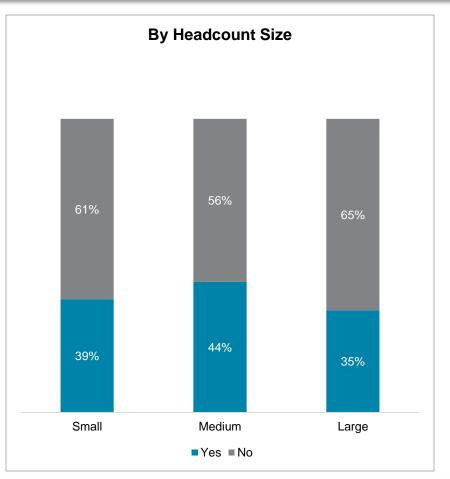
Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you plan to revise your projected increases for 2019-20 in light of the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19?"









Majority of the organizations do not plan to revise the projected increase for 2020, however Indian HQ'ed organizations seem more open to revising their projected increases as compared to other organizations

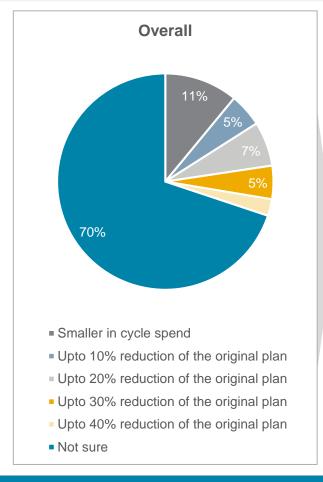
Source: Aon Research & Analysis

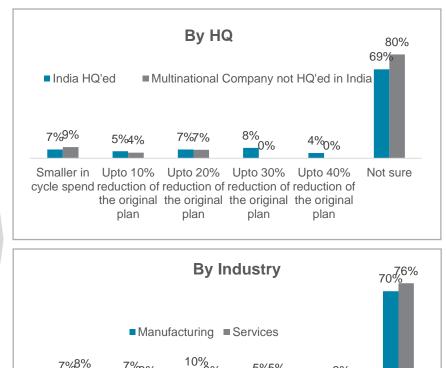
Empower Results

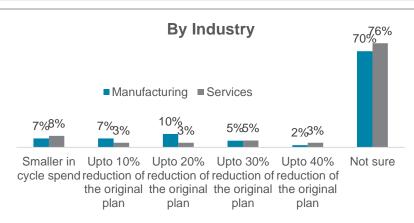
Empower Results

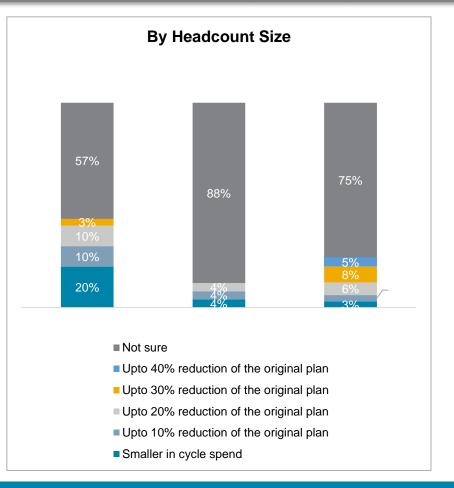
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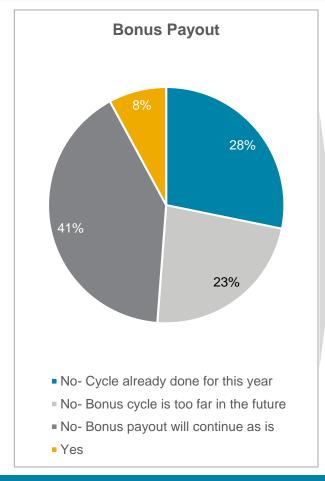


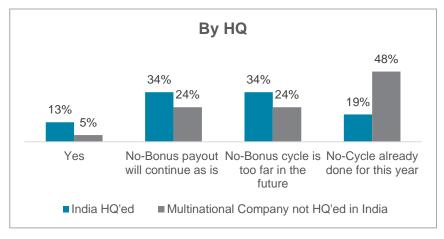
Amongst the 37% of the organizations that are planning to revise their increases, most organizations are waiting to understand the impact of the pandemic

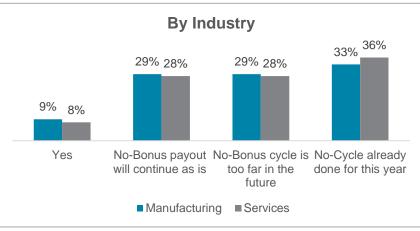


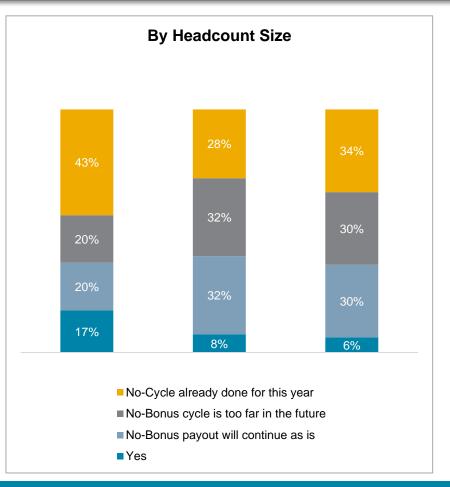
Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you plan to defer bonus payouts for the year 2019-20?"







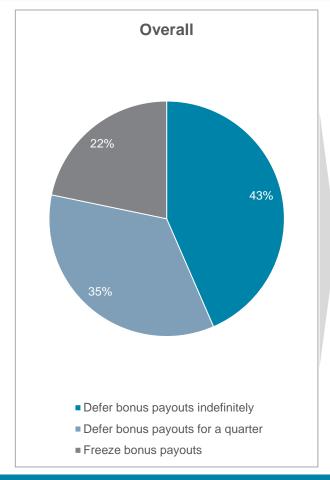


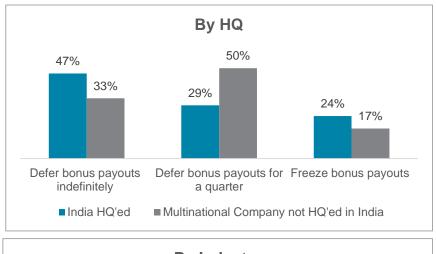
Many organizations across sectors have already completed the bonus cycle for the year. While 28% of organizations do not plan to defer payouts on the premise that bonus is paid for last year's performance and hence already accrued, very few organizations (9%) plan to defer the cycle.

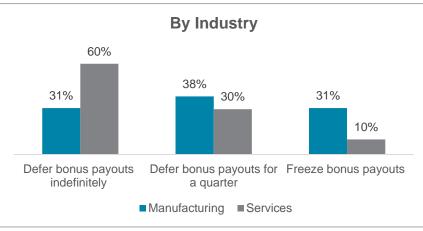


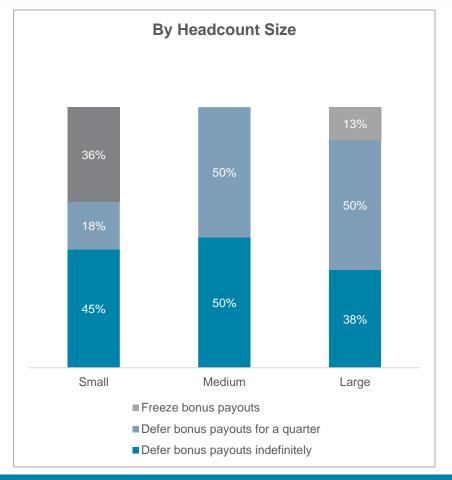
Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"How long do you plan to defer bonus payouts for the year 2019-20?"







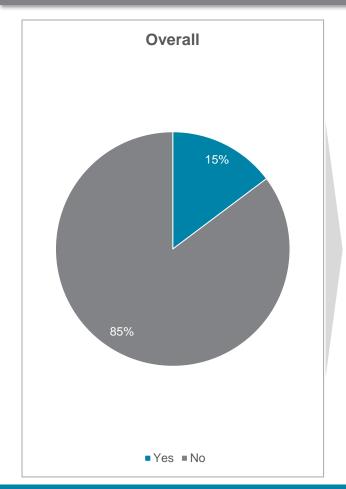


Amongst the 9% of the organizations that are planning to defer bonuses, most organizations are waiting to understand the impact of the pandemic before taking a final decision on payouts.

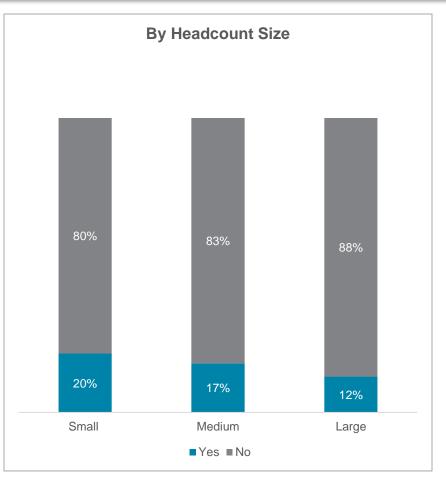


Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you plan to revise bonus payouts for the year 2019-20?"







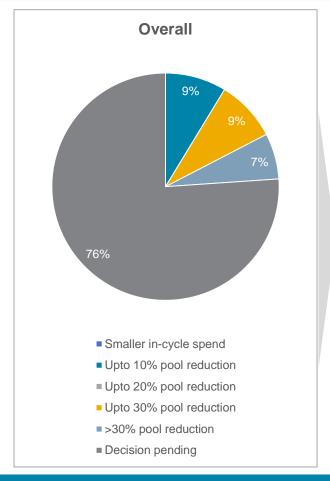
Large majority of organizations across sectors do not plan to revise the bonus pool with MNCs and large firms taking the lead on this decision

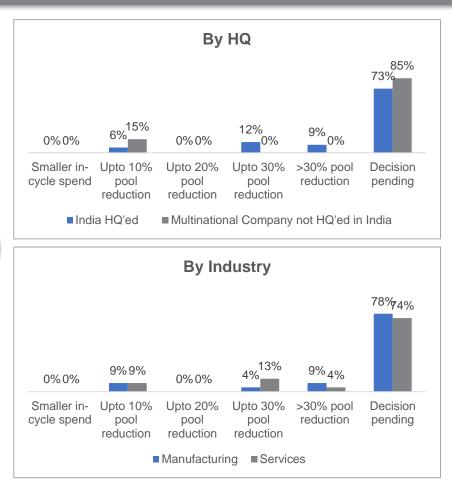


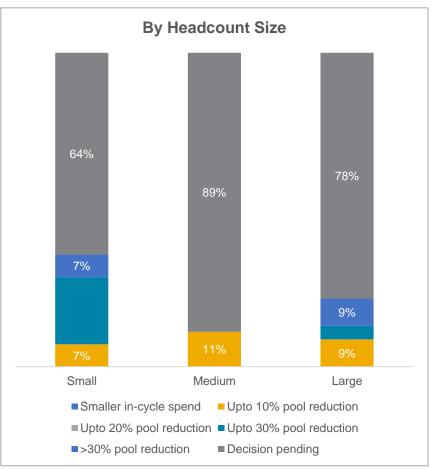
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Is India Inc. preparing to rationalize costs with a recession scenario looming in the horizon?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you plan to revise bonus payouts for the year 2019-20?"



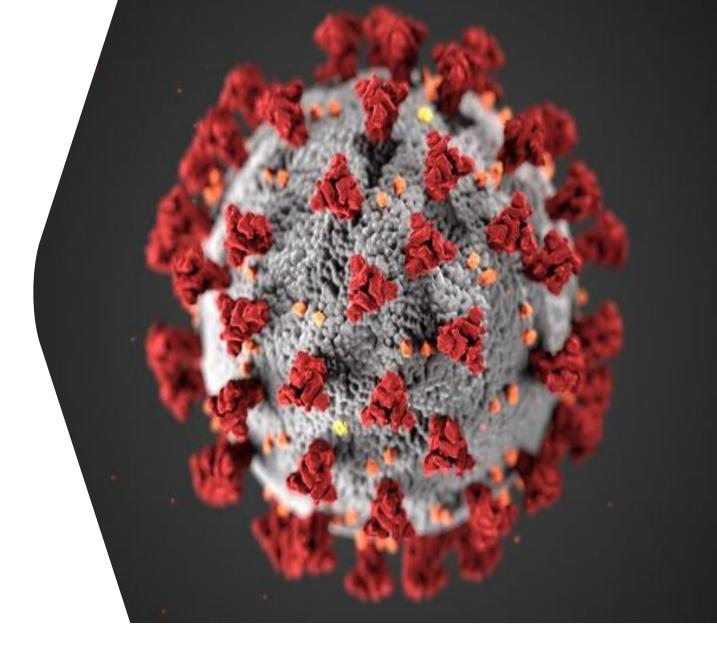




From the 15% of the organizations that are planning to revise bonus pools, majority will finalize the extent of revision once the economic impact of the pandemic is gauged.



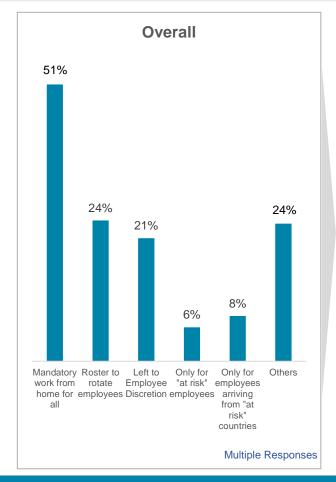
India Inc.'s Response To Business Continuity Measures

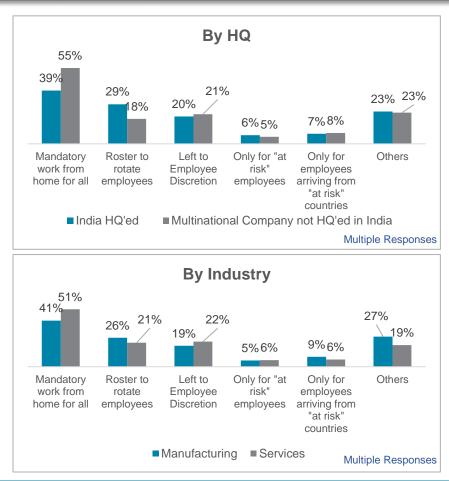


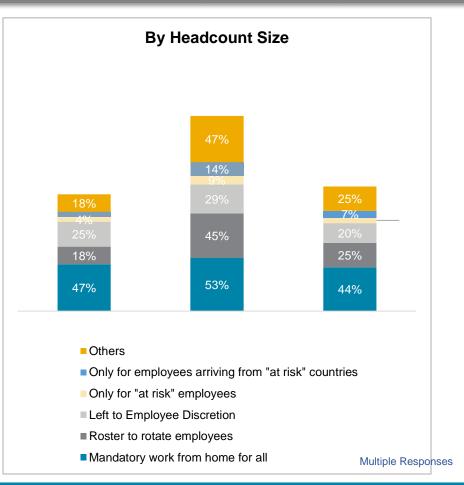


Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety while ensuring BCP?

Aon asked India Inc - "How are you implementing work from home measures to increase social distancing while ensuring BCP?"





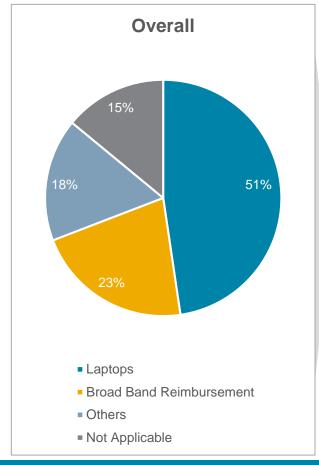


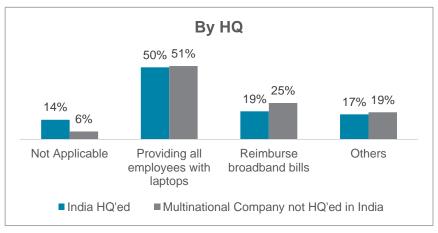
Less than half the organizations had mandated work from home for their employees, rest of the organizations were trying other measures such as asking only employees who had recently travelled abroad to work from home, maintaining skeletal support staff on premises, leaving the decision to manager's discretion.

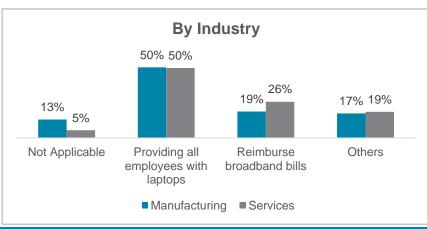


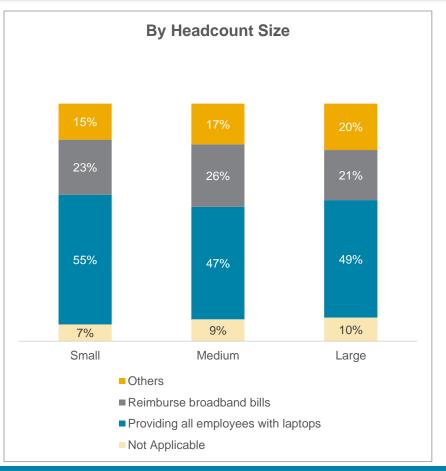
Is India Inc. equipped to handle remote working during BCP?

Aon asked India Inc - "What provisions have been made to enable employees to work from home?"









Organizations across sectors have made infrastructural arrangements for remote working along with provision for reimbursement of telecom spends.

Other provisions include VPN Connectivity, virtual meeting accounts like Go-To-Meeting/ Zoom, enhanced IT helpline support, increase in mobile data allowances, reimbursement of computer peripherals such as keyboard, mouse, headsets, etc.

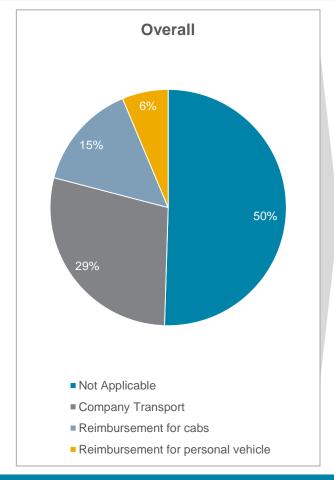
Source: Aon Research & Analysis

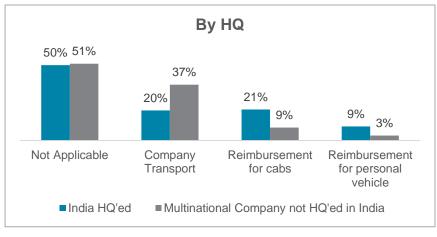
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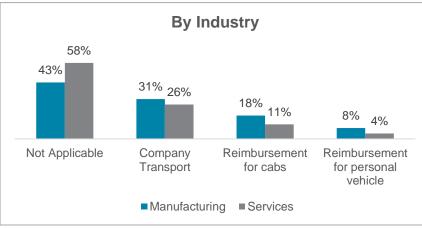
Empower Results

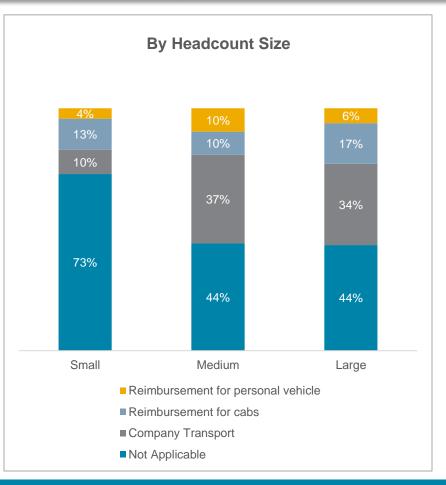
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety while ensuring BCP?

Aon asked India Inc -"What transport assistance is being provided to employees coming to office?"





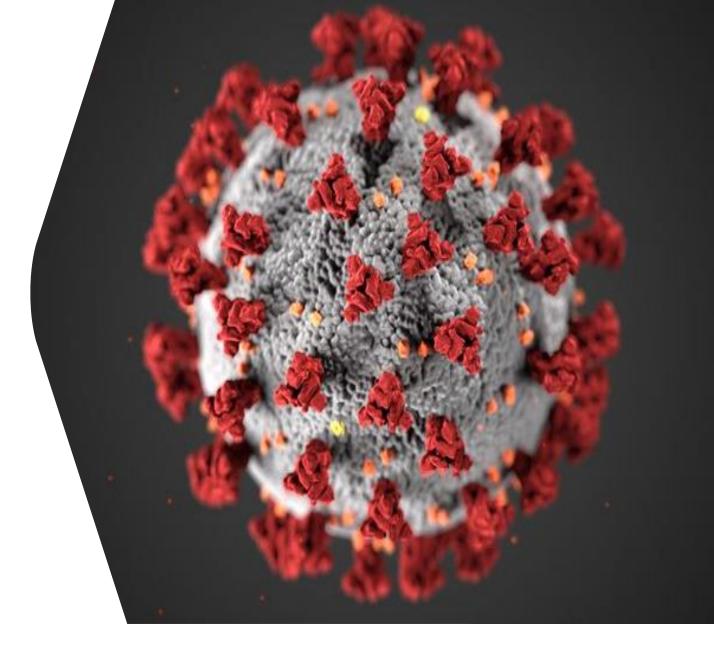




50% of organizations have made travel arrangements ranging from company transport to reimbursement for public transport/ personal vehicles for employees who were required to work from office.



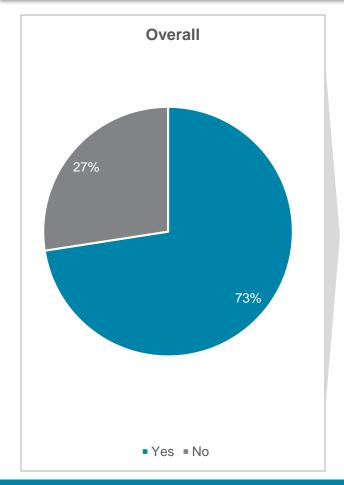
India Inc.'s Response To Employee Health And Welfare Measures

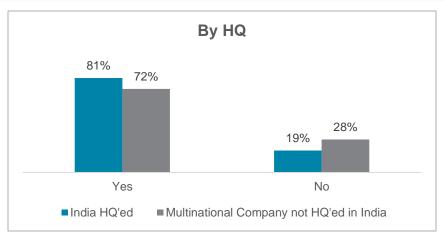


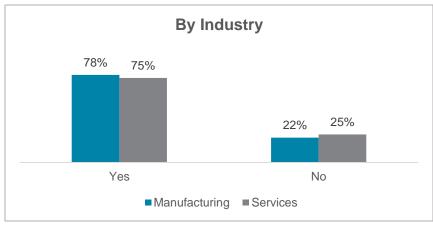


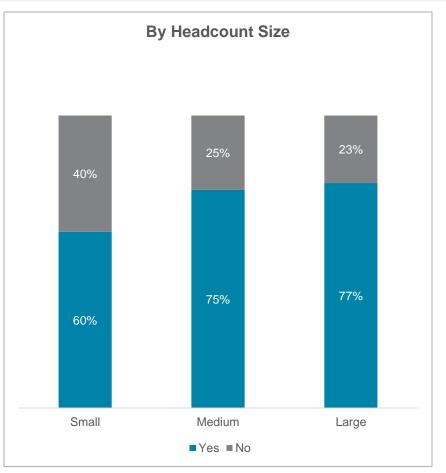
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you have health screening safeguards put in place for all employees who decide to come into office?"







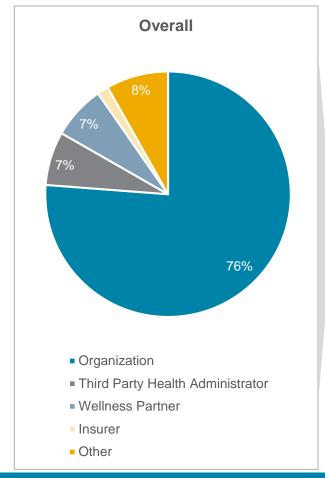


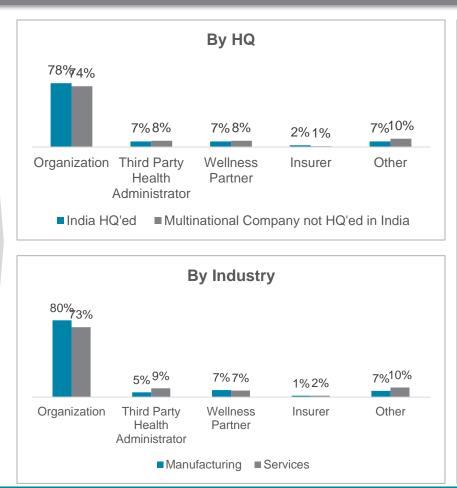
Most organizations have incorporated measures to screen their employees to detect potential infection; though smaller size organizations seem less prepared than rest of the organizations in ensuring employee screening

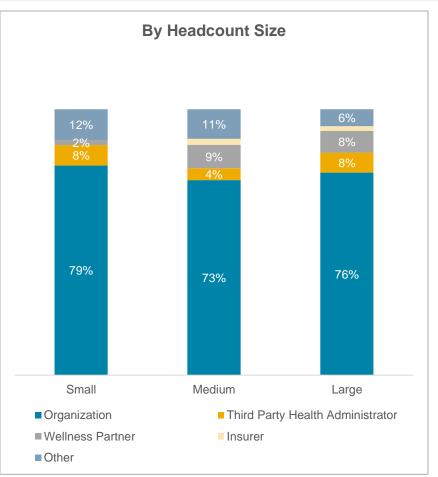


Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc -"Who is implementing the health screening safeguards?"



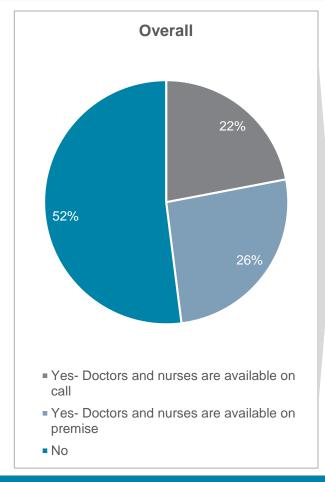


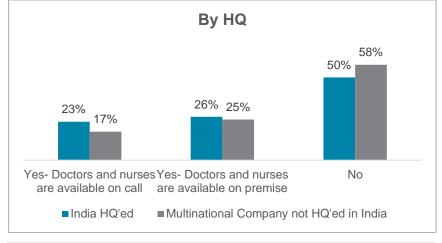


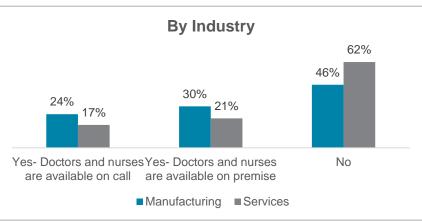
Most organizations are conducting the health screening themselves; few of the other organizations along with rest of the measures have also employed contract workforce for the screening or their building facilities itself conducts the screening

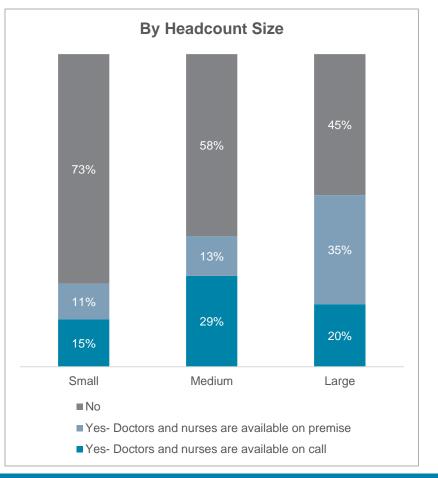
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc -"Do you have trained physicians and nurses to provide assistance to any suspected COVID-19 cases?"







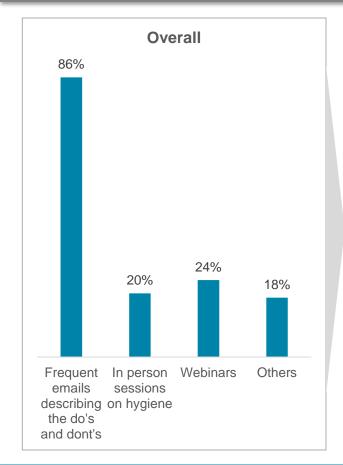


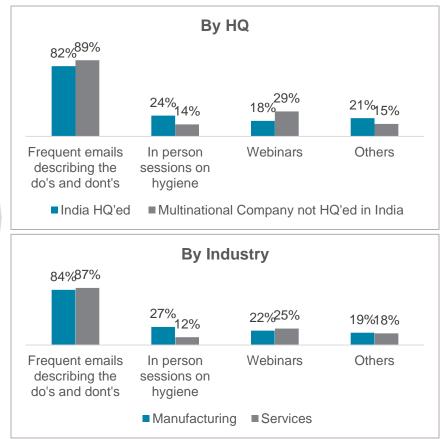
Most organizations irrespective of the industry/ HQ segmentation are ill equipped to provide support to employees for health concerns; despite the scale of the pandemic, organizations have not been proactive in at least having health experts on call

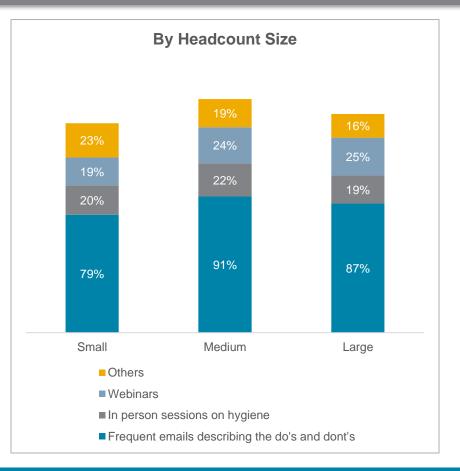


Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc -"How are you driving awareness of methods to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 in your organization?"







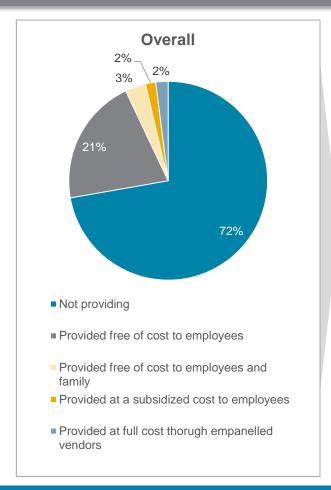
Majority of the organizations are using emails to communicate with their employees; however few organizations have implemented other means of communication like Townhalls/Conferences, dedicated live Micro website containing all details like About, Travel, Self Care Tips, Personal Hygiene etc., employee helpline to answer all employee queries.

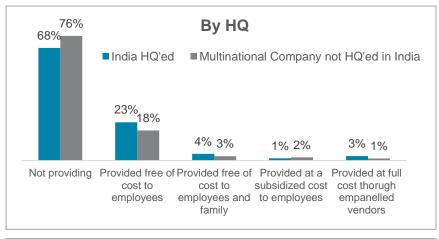
Empower Results®

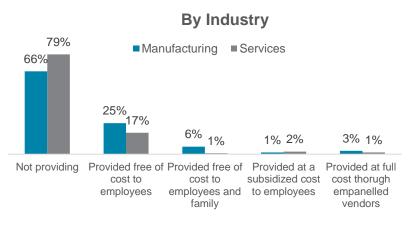
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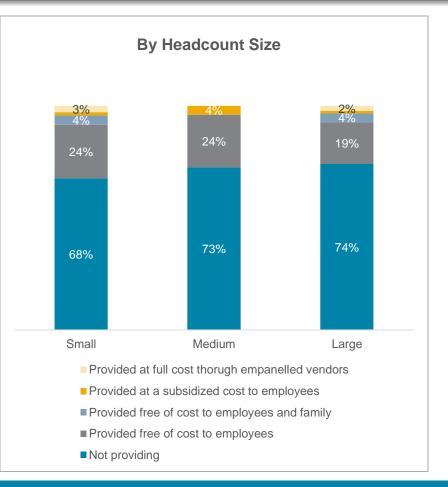
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc - "Are health supplies being provided to employees?"







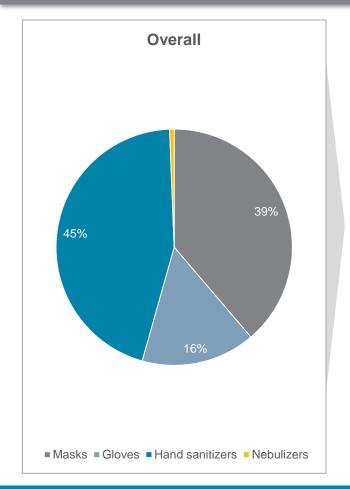


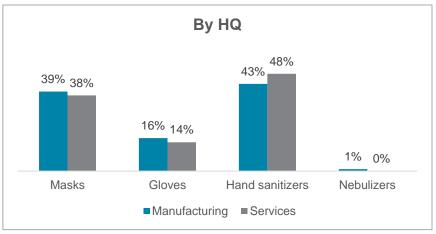
Very few organizations irrespective of size have made provisions for health supplies to employees. Manufacturing sector has been more conscious of employee safety in comparison to service sector organizations.

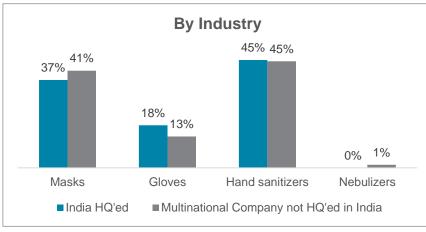


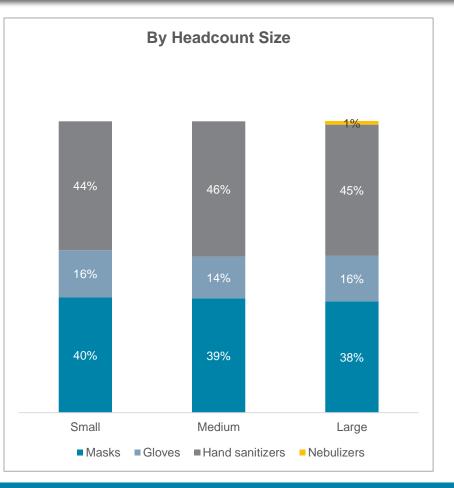
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee safety and risk mitigation?

Aon asked India Inc -"What kind of health supplies are being provided to employees?"







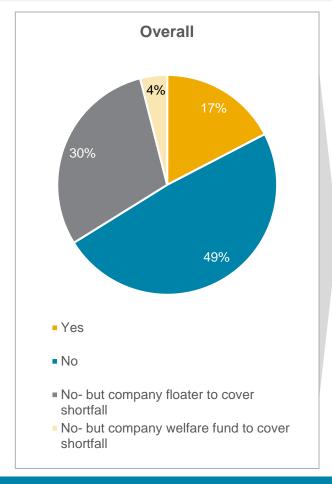


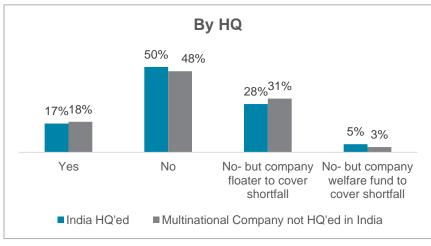
Of the 28% organizations that are providing health supplies, necessities such as hand sanitizers and masks have been prioritized.

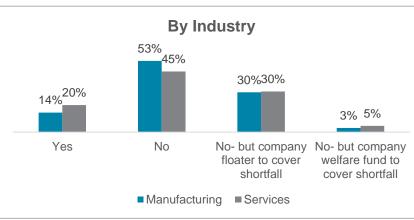


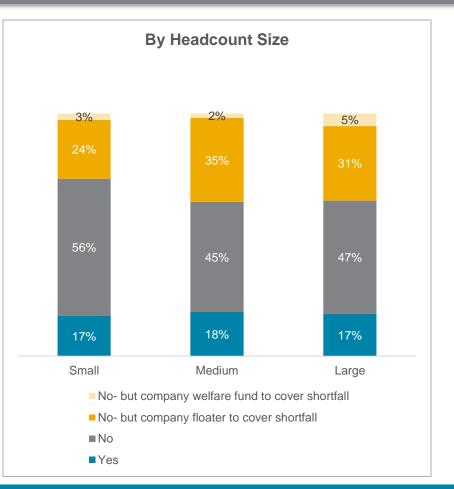
Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee welfare?

Aon asked India Inc - "Have you negotiated with your health insurer to increase the insurance coverage for COVID-19 affected employees?"







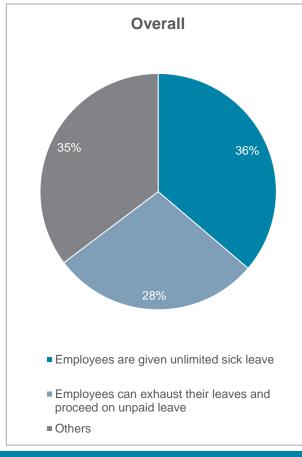


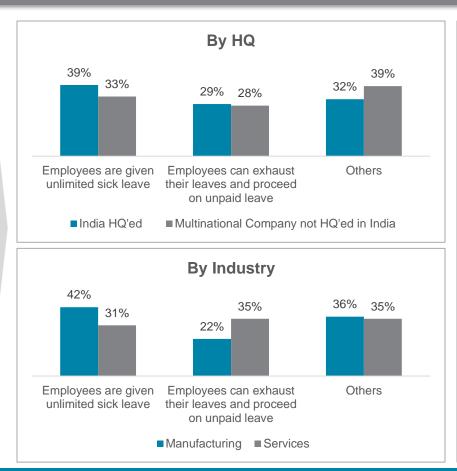
Very few organizations irrespective of size and sector have increased their insurance coverage for COVID-19 affected employees

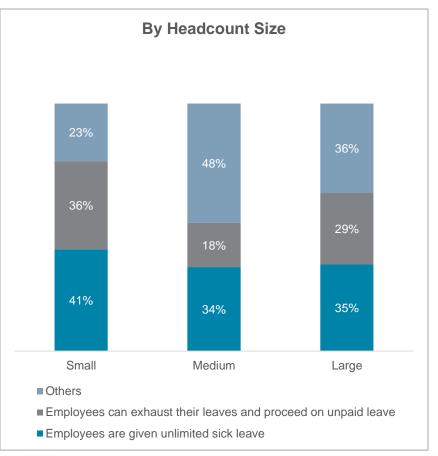


Is India Inc. proactively responding to the need of employee welfare?

Aon asked India Inc - "What actions are you taking on leaves for employees affected by COVID-19?"





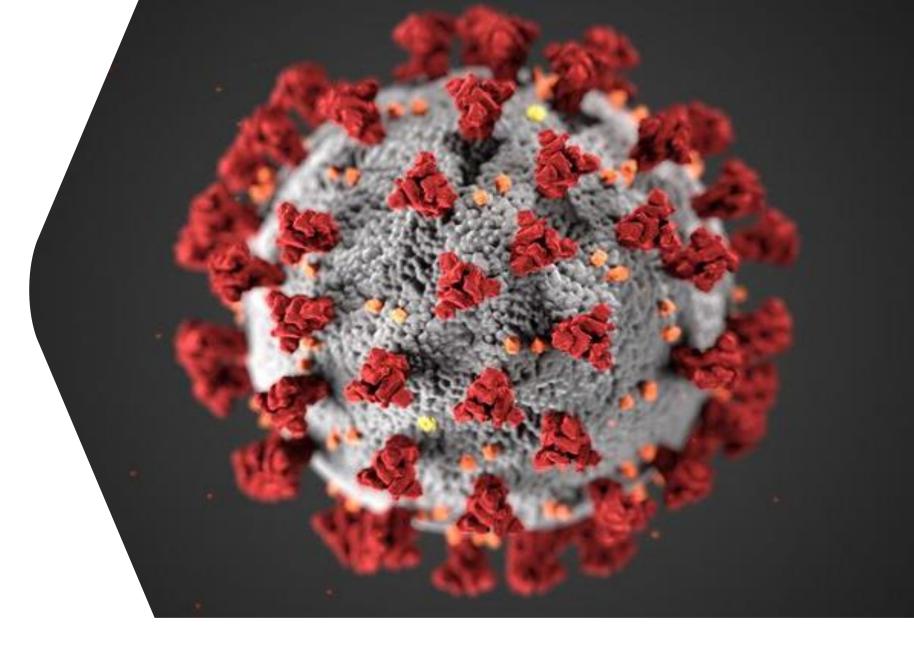


Only 36% of organizations were providing unlimited sick leaves to affected employees; other options under consideration were to sanction 7-28 days' additional paid leaves or adjust leave deficit from next year's balance.

However, the government has now mandated organizations to provide 28 days of paid leave to employees in the event of COVID infection.



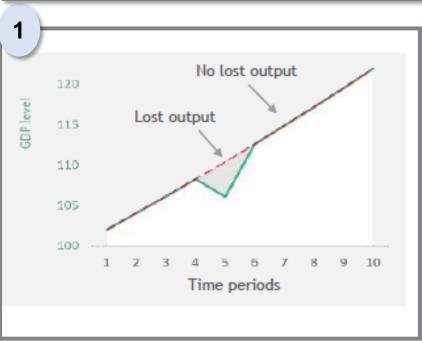
How Should Organizations Respond?

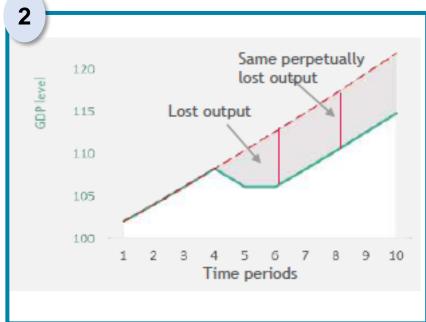


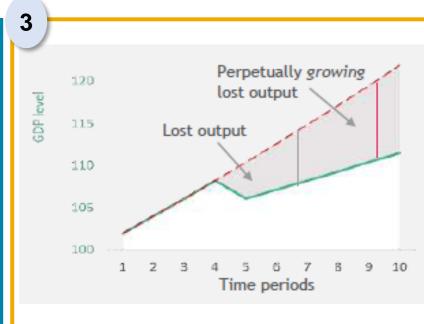


What is the Likely Recovery Path?

Three Macro-Economic Impact Scenarios Emerging Under COVID-19







Where the pandemic seems to be heading currently

Likely scenario if the pandemic continues to grow exponentially

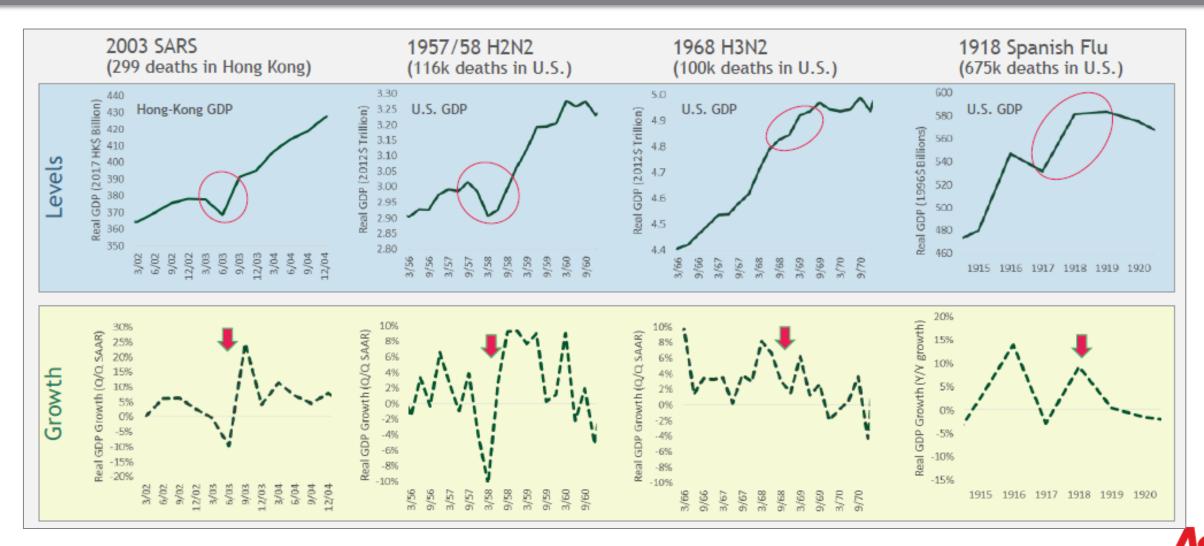
Least likely but possible should we fail to contain the pandemic.



Source: Harvard Business Review 30

What is the Likely Recovery Path?

Interestingly, Every epidemic in past has seen a V-shape recession recovery



Empower Results®

Source: Harvard Business Review 31

Chain of Reaction

How Organizations React in Times of Distress

Chain Of Reaction



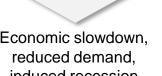
Global crisis such as coronavirus, great recession looming large



Economic slowdown, reduced demand, induced recession



Organizations reacting by laying off employees to contain expense cost







Erosion in brand value and shareholder's confidence

Layoffs put a lingering burden on organization both financially and emotionally. Aon analysis highlights that organizations that do large scale structural layoff have

lower employee perception score



Higher than average top performer attrition

Layoffs dampen the spirit and morale of overall organization. What's left behind reels in constant fear of uncertainty which makes star performers to flee at first best opportunity



Higher future cost to build back muscle

Layoff might help in short term but will result in double the cost in future in terms of rehiring & training when firm is ramping up.

Organizations should look at shedding fat but not at the cost of muscle. 32



Is Headcount Reduction The Only Way To Deal With Recession?

Organizations Should Look at Alternate Ways of Dealing with Uncertainty



How Can Organizations Enable Fat Cutting



Leadership to keep communication transparent and lead by example

Moves such as pay cut go over better when they start at the top. It can help pad the blow if senior management takes the first blow and a bigger cut than the rest of the company. Offering buyouts for employees with longer tenures can also help soften the blow



Community mindset and collaborative culture practices

Bringing in community mindset during decision making ensures greater collaboration and higher morale amongst employees. Leadership should ensure open and transparent communication and display a collaboration. For example, organizations might reduce salaries for their highest paid employees by 10%, midrange salaried employees by 5%, and everyone else above a certain threshold by half of that.



Crowdsource ideas with employees

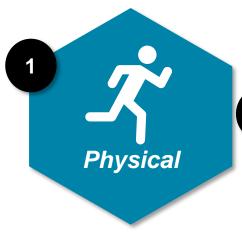
It is critical that organizations ask employees to voice their ideas. By showing them, not just saying, that what they think matters, organizations will have a stronger buy-in for the initiatives they eventually prioritize





Need of The Hour

How HR Needs to Support Employee Wellbeing during Testing Times



- Make online assisted workouts session available
- Use a corporate health app / intranet portal to launch corporate fitness challenges



- Encourage verbal communication and feedback over using emails/messages
- Ensure leadership visibility through regular touchpoints, virtual townhalls, learning sessions etc.



- Suggest setting up the remote work place
- **Encourage switching off** and following a routine for the day.
- Encourage regular breaks and virtual 'watercooler moments'



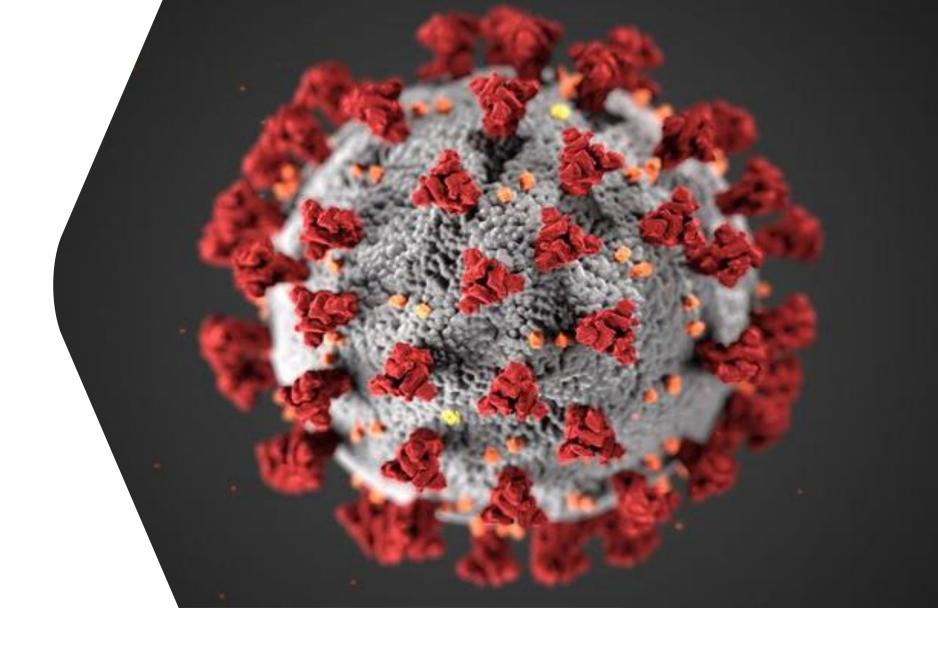
- employees on how to better manage finances during panic times
- Make discounts and offer platforms available



- Provide platforms to support employees with their emotional fitness, such as headspace
- Offer access to independent & confidential counselling services to manage difficult circumstances
- Start a conversation thread on intranet portal / LinkedIn



Additional Information





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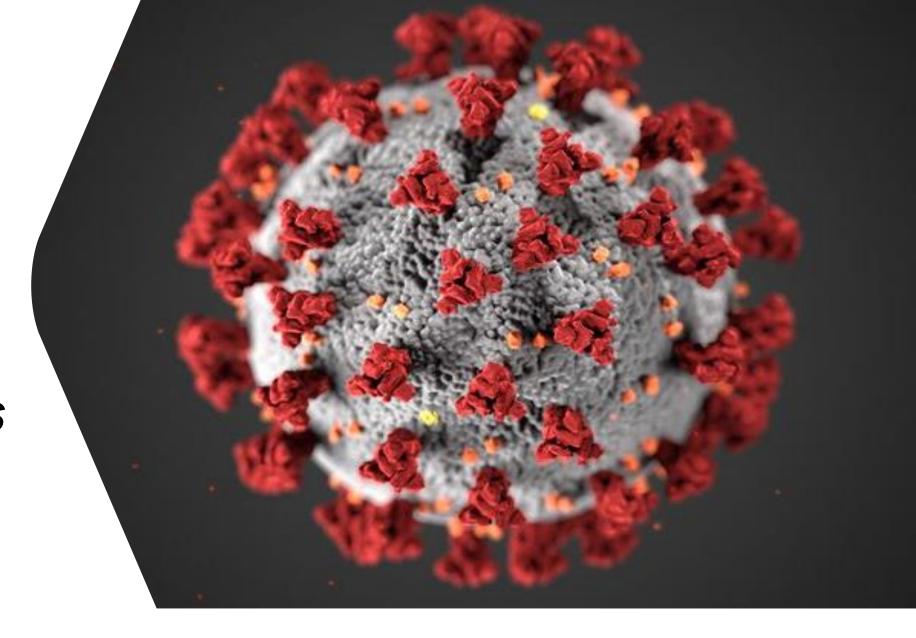
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Study Participants





Auto

- Ashok Leyland Limited
- FiatIndia Automobiles
- Force Motors
- Ford Motor
- Hyundai Motors
- Honda Cars
- · John Deere India
- · Mahindra & Mahindra
- Maruti Suzuki
- MG Motor India
- Roop Automotive
- Royal Enfield
- Spark Minda Group

- Toyota Kirloskar Motors
- Volvo India

BFSI

- · Aditya Birla Finance
- American Express
- Arohan Financial Services
- Bajaj Auto
- · Bharti Axa General Insurance
- BNY Mellon
- Clix Capital
- Godrej Housing Finance
- HDB Financial Services
- HDFC LIFE
- Hero FinCorp

- HSBC
- IDFCFIRST Bank
- IIFL Wealth Management
- JM Financial
- Magma Fincorp
- Mahindra Finance
- Max Life Insurance
- Nomura Services
- RBL Bank
- Reliance Capital
- SBI Card
- Finastra
- First American India
- FIS Global



- Five Star Business Finance
- Gourmet Investments
- Home Credit India Finance
- Swiss Re
- VNS finance Capital Service

Cement

- ACC Limited
- Emami Cement
- J K Cement
- Star Cement

Conglomerate

- Aditya Birla Group
- Bharti Enterprises
- RPG

Consulting and Professional Services

- Agastih Analytics
- Bristlecone
- Cactus Communications
- Clifford Chance
- · Coeus Age
- Edelman
- Egon Zehnder Information & Research Services
- Ethinos
- EY India
- Gartner
- Mercer
- PwC India
- Randstad

- S&P Global
- Vision and Magic Consulting

Engineering Design

- Boston Scientific
- Fives India Engineering & Projects
- Fluor Corporation
- Larsen and Toubro Technology Services
- Quest

E-Commerce & Retail

- Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited
- ANI Technologies
- Cleartrip
- Flipkart
- GO-MMT



- Green Honchos Solutions
- Infiniti Retail
- Lifestyle International
- METRO Cash & Carry
- Myntra
- OYO
- Shop101
- Swiggy
- Tata UniStore
- Treebo

Education

- Ashoka University
- Beinspired Education services
- Institute of Engineering and Management

Khan Academy India

Energy/Power

- GP Petroleums
- Indian Oil
- Indraprastha
- Ather Energy
- Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation
- HPCL Mittal Energy
- Nayara Energy
- NTPC
- Odisha Power Generation Corporation
- Powermech Projects
- Shell
- Tata Power DDL

FMCG

- Britannia Industries
- Colgate Palmolive
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- Haldiram Snacks
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- ITC
- Johnson & Johnson
- NIVEA
- Perfetti Van Melle
- Reckitt Benckiser
- Vista foods



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•	Ortho Clinical Diagnostics	•	Cisco Systems	•	FIS Global
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Hi	Hi Tech		Compucom Systems	•	Flextronics
•	ADInstruments	•	Conduent	•	Flipkart
•	Alliance Data Systems	•	ContractPod Technologies	•	Gaian Solutions
•	ANI Technologies	•	Cypress Semiconductor	•	Games24x7
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•	Mercedes-Benz R&D India	•	Quick Heal Technologies	•	Synopsys

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- FIS Global
- Flatworld Solutions
- Flextronics
- Hays Business Solutions . .
- HCL Technologies



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- Logixhealth Solutions
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- Smith & Nephew

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- Swiss Re
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- Volvo Group India
- Wipro
- Worley Parsons

Logistics

- Agility Logistics
- Ferns N Petals

- Merck Group
- Rivigo Services
- TM International Logistics

Manufacturing

- Aequs
- Agro Tech Foods
- AIS
- Allied Blenders
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- ArisGlobal
- Armacell India
- Asahi India Glass
- Axalta Coating Systems India
- Axis Securities



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•	Khaitan & co
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- Stork Rubber Products
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- Suguna Holdings
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- TATA Steel
- Technip
- Terumo
- United Breweries
- Uno Minda

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- VIP Industries
- Visteon
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- Worley Parsons
- Zest

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- Scoopwhoop Media
- Zee Entertainment Enterprises

NGO

- · Azim Premji Foundation
- National Skill Development Corporation



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- Covance
- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
- Granules India
- GSK
- Indegene . .
- Integrace
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- Novo Nordisk India . .
- Novozymes

- Pfizer Limited
- Reliance Life Sciences
- Syngene International
- · Unichem Laboratories .
- Zydus Hospira

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- Godrej Properties
- Jones Lang Lasalle
- Mahindra Happinest
- Prestige Estates Projects .
- Raymond Realty

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Airtel

- Brightstar Telecommunications India .
- British Telecom
- Digicel
- Tata Communications

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- A T. E. Enterprises
- Bombay Dyeing
- DCM Shriram
- Grasim Industries
- Raymond



Thank You

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