

Chennai 27/4/2020

Dear Clients,

Since my last mail on 23/3, there hasn't really been anything to report about the Covid-19 pandemic in India. However just to keep all our clients in the loop I thought of still writing an update.

The state lock-down which was ordered on March 23 was followed by a national lock-down for three weeks on March 24. This lock-down was subsequently extended and will come to an end on May 3rd unless there are no further extensions. My assessment is that there may be further extensions but those may mainly affect a few states where the number of active cases is still increasing. In other states where there are no longer any active cases or where the number has gone down and are well contained there may be relaxations.

Indeed, some states have already relaxed the strict close-down in certain areas. The Indian government has decided to stop the spread in the country since there would not be sufficient resources to manage a full-scale outbreak. Obviously, there are challenges with this strategy not at least economical and only future will tell if this was a good strategy, but I guess that is true for every country whatever strategy they have chosen.

Since my last mail the number of cases in India has increased, but while it is still increasing, it is not following an exponential curve. In our state Tamil Nadu, the number of active cases has even come down from a peak of close to active cases 1200 and is at present down to 841 and we have only had 24 deaths. Keeping in mind that the state has 72 million citizens the actual frequency is very low (In India as a whole there are 20,575 active cases and 884 deaths on 1.3 billion people which is also low).

Most of the cases in India are concentrated to a few hotspots which are kept locked in with barricades. People inside these "red zones" are provided food at the barricades but are not allowed to go out of these areas and there is as far as we understand no overall spread of the disease in the country. A few states in the north of India now stands for more or less all the growth in number of cases.

While food production, distribution and sale of food, including restaurant take-away/home delivery is still allowed to function (with certain restrictions) most of the society is completely locked down. The IT industry being almost the only segment which is functioning somewhat like normal thanks to that we can and are allowed to work from home. All of our employees are working from our home. Our IT staff have been provided special passes which means they are allowed to go to the office to ensure that the servers are working. However, we have not had any issues since the start of the lock-down. We have taken various initiatives to keep the spirits high but basically it is business as usual for us.

We do believe we can continue to give exactly the same service level as we normally do and we don't foresee any obstacles or hurdles which could change that. Please don't hesitate to contact us and ask for more help or support, for us it is entirely business as usual!

Stay safe!

Mikael Gislén

Managing Director