

BANGALORE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

BCIC – Weekly Digest

Govt proposes ban on mis-selling, fraudulent flash sales on e-commerce platforms; seeks public comments

The Centre on Monday proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 and sought public comments on banning fraudulent flash sales and mis-selling of goods and services on e-commerce platforms, and also on making registration of these entities mandatory with DPIIT.

Ban on misleading users by manipulating search results, and appointment of chief compliance officer and resident grievance officer are some of the other amendments being proposed.

E-commerce entities are also required to provide information not later than 72 hours of the receipt of an order from a government agency for prevention, detection and investigation and prosecution of offences under any law, as per the proposed amendments.

The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 were first notified in July last year. Their violations attract penal action under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Full story: https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/govt-proposes-ban-on-misselling-fraudulent-flash-sales-on-ecommerce-platforms-seeks-public-comments/2106543

2. Provide 'level playing field' for desi goods, govt tells e-tailers

The government intends to mandate a new clause in the e-commerce rules to ensure a "level-playing field" between Indian and overseas products and services.

The draft rules, released for public comment on Monday, have proposed that e-tailers identify goods based on the country of origin at the pre-purchase stage and suggest alternatives to ensure "fair opportunity to domestic goods". They have also been asked to provide ranking parameters in a way that domestic sellers are not discriminated against.

The move has caused some anxiety among e-commerce players but government officials said they only need to provide an explanation on how they rank the products, which consumers can understand easily and there is greater transparency.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/provide-level-playing-field-for-desi-goods-govt-tells-e-tailers/articleshow/83766841.cms

3. E-commerce norms on global lines: Government

The government has drawn upon the evolving global architecture while drafting the proposed ecommerce rules, and said the plan is based on the need to enhance the enforcement powers to catch up with the EU and countries like the US, Australia, Japan and Singapore, which have strict regulations to rein in errant players.

In December 2020, for instance, the European Commission proposed a digital regulation package consisting of the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act, which seek to put curbs on large platforms or "gatekeepers".

Similarly, in the US, apart from existing federal antitrust laws that discourage anti-competitive behaviour by companies, legislations have been proposed to rein in alleged monopolistic behaviour of big tech companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon, government sources said.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/e-commerce-norms-on-global-lines-govt/articleshow/83908764.cms

4. Some states concerned about proposed e-commerce rules, fear negative impact on jobs, MSMEs

Some states, mostly those ruled by non-BJP parties, are apprehensive about the new set of e-commerce rules proposed by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry to check mis-selling and fraudulent discounts, as they fear there could be a negative impact on jobs and market access for MSMEs created by various digital platforms in recent years.

These state governments plan to suggest strong safeguard measures in the proposed rules to ensure that any changes in the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 do not hamper their economic growth engines and revenue collections, officials from those states said. However, it would be kept in mind that their suggestions do not come in way of the proposed rules enhancing the overall consumer protection framework, they asserted.

Declining to be identified, these officials said it is a sensitive matter that needs to be tackled carefully as protecting consumers' interest is as important as safeguarding jobs, MSMEs and lakhs of self-employed individuals including artisans, weavers and those in agriculture and allied sectors who have been benefiting immensely from the growth of the e-commerce sector.

Full story: https://www.livemint.com/industry/retail/some-states-concerned-about-proposed-e-commerce-rules-fear-negative-impact-on-jobs-msmes-11624769338281.html

In relief to taxpayers, govt announces extension of compliance deadlines

In a relief to taxpayers in the country, the union government on Friday announced extension of several tax compliance deadlines including time to invest in residential house for tax deduction, payments under dispute resolution scheme.

The payment deadline for Vivad Se Vishwas direct tax dispute resolution scheme has been extended by two months till August 31. Taxpayers can make payments till October 31 with additional amount of interest.

Further, the last date for PAN-Aadhar linkage too has been extended by another 3 months till September 30.

The deadline for employers to furnish Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) certificate in Form 16 to employees too has been extended till July 31, from July 15, 2021.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/in-relief-to-taxpayers-govt-announces-extension-of-compliance-deadlines-121062501274 1.html

6. Amount paid for employee's COVID-19 treatment, ex-gratia in case of death will be tax exempted: Govt

The expenditure incurred on an employee's COVID-19 treatment, and an ex-gratia paid to the employee's family in case of death will be exempted from tax, Union Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur, said on June 25.

Thakur, while announcing measures related to tax concessions for payments towards COVID-19 treatment and deaths, said, "Amount paid for medical treatment to an employee by employer or to a person by any person on account of COVID for '19-20 and subsequent year won't be taxed in hands of employee/beneficiary," news agency ANI quoted him as saying.

In case of ex-gratia payments, tax exemptions would also be offered to any person who comes to the aid of bereaved family. If the person providing the aid is not the deceased's employer, the tax exemption limit would be restricted to Rs 10 lakh.

Full story: https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/amount-paid-for-employees-covid-19-treatment-ex-gratia-in-case-of-death-will-be-tax-exempted-govt-7088621.html

7. Bengaluru gets innovation award for portal-to-field Covid app

The country's IT capital on Friday won the Covid Innovation Award for developing INDEX Application for Covid Management under the Smart Cities Mission. The ministry of housing and urban affairs gave the award during the mission's sixth anniversary in New Delhi.

According to BBMP officials, the application was designed to access information on Covid-19 positive cases from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) portal, provide user interface to zonal command centres and all field teams for action and implementation of tasks. It reduced monitoring time from 24 hours to near real-time.

BH Anil Kumar, who was BBMP commissioner when the app was developed, said there was a delay in getting information from the ICMR portal and identifying positive patients requiring hospitalisation. The app simplified the system and helped save hundreds of lives, even during the second Covid wave, he said.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/bengaluru-gets-innovation-award-for-portal-to-field-covid-app/articleshow/83862014.cms

8. Social media firms to shut fake a/cs within 24 hours of complaint

In a major decision that is likely to end the menace of impersonation on social media in India, the government has mandated that top companies such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

have to remove accounts with fake profile pictures of known personalities and businesses, and even the general subscriber, within 24 hours of being notified of the same by the user or someone on his/her behalf.

The government has said this mandate comes in as part of the new IT rules and thus social media giants will need to act immediately after receiving a complaint to this effect.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/social-media-companies-to-shut-fake-a/cs-within-24-hours-of-complaint/articleshow/83795819.cms

9. CoWIN allows users to link vaccine certificate to passports

In a major relief for international travellers, the Centre's CoWin portal is now enabling users to link their Covid-19 vaccination certificates to passports.

Sharing the process for updating or correcting passport details in the certificates, the official handle of the Aarogya Setu app tweeted, "Now, you can update your passport number in your vaccination certificate."

The Centre has issued guidelines for updating or correcting passport details in coronavirus vaccination certificates online.

Full story: https://www.livemint.com/news/india/cowin-allows-users-to-add-passport-number-on-covid-vaccine-certificate-how-to-do-it-11624697244674.html

10. Jet Airways 2.0 will fly again by 2021 end, says man handling revival

The grounded Jet Airways will take to the skies in its new avatar by the end of this calendar year. On a day when the company's revival plan was approved by the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT), a top consultant working on the airline also said that its new routes will be decided within the next 90 days.

"Based on discussions I have been having, given the order has been received today, I think it would be a fair estimate to say that by the end of this calendar year we can hope to Jet in the skies again," Ashish Chhawchharia, Head of Restructuring Services at Grant Thornton Advisory, told NDTV.

His company was appointed to oversee the airline's restoration by a consortium of London-based Kalrock Capital and the UAE-based businessmen Murari Lal Jalan which now owns Jet.

Full story: https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/jet-airways-2-0-will-fly-again-by-2021-end-says-man-handling-revival-2470076

11.ED transfers Rs 9,000 crore of Rs 18,000 crore assets seized from Nirav Modi, Mallya and Choksi to banks

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized assets worth Rs 18,170 crore, which is 80% of the total losses incurred by the banks, in cases related to fugitive businessmen Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi. About half of the assets have been transferred to the banks and Centre.

The ED said on Wednesday that not only has the assets been seized, but a significant share, Rs 9,371.17 crore, has been transferred to the public sector banks and the central government.

The total amount defrauded by Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi is Rs 22,585.83 crore out of which properties worth Rs 18,170 crore have been attached by the ED.

As of today, assets worth Rs 8,441 crore have been transferred to the banks and another Rs 800 crore is to be transferred on June 25 as per the court orders. The further realisation of Rs 800 crore by sale of shares is expected by June 25, said the probe agency.

Full story: https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/ed-seizes-rs-18170-crore-assets-mallya-nirav-modi-choksi-1818324-2021-06-23

12. Mukesh Ambani expects to seal RIL-Aramco deal this year

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said that he expects to formalise the oil-to-chemical (O2C) deal with Saudi Aramco this year. He said that the conglomerate's O2C business faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic but that both RIL and Aramco still have a strong relationship.

"Our O2C biz faced unprecedented challenges by severe economic contraction at the beginning of the year. Yet we were probably the only company globally that operated at near full capacity and was profitable in every quarter," he said, further adding, "Continued engagement and resolve from both sides, even during this pandemic, is a testimony of strong relationship between Saudi Aramco and Reliance. I expect our partnership to be formalised in an expeditious manner this year."

"As an important part of this vision of achieving accelerated growth, we look forward to welcoming Saudi Aramco as a strategic partner in our O2C business," said Ambani.

Full story: https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/economy-politics/story/mukesh-ambani-expects-to-seal-ril-aramco-deal-this-year-299556-2021-06-24

13. Mukesh Ambani says no option but to make businesses green

Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani on Monday said there was no option for businesses but to go green and every unit of Reliance Industries will have to pivot as the conglomerate moves towards zero carbon footprint.

"We have no option as a society, as a business but to really adopt a sustainable business model," he said while speaking at the Qatar Economic Forum.

On if this green push will require dialling back on some of Reliance's businesses, Ambani said "it means transforming our businesses and integrating that with the future", without sharing more details.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ril-chief-mukesh-ambani-says-no-option-but-to-make-businesses-green-121062101449
1.html

14. India receives \$64 billion FDI in 2020, fifth largest recipient of inflows in world: UN

India received USD 64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report which said the COVID-19 second wave in the country weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities but its strong fundamentals provide "optimism" for the medium term.

The World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), released Monday, said global FDI flows have been severely hit by the pandemic and they plunged by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion the previous year.

Lockdowns caused by COVID-19 around the world slowed down existing investment projects, and prospects of a recession led multinational enterprises (MNEs) to reassess new projects.

The report said in India, FDI increased 27 per cent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry, making the country the fifth largest FDI recipient in the world.

Full story: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-receives-64-billion-fdi-in-2020-fifth-largest-recipient-of-inflows-in-world-un/articleshow/83708309.cms

15. Centre further liberalises guidelines for BPO industry

To make India a favourable destination for expansion of voice-related Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), the Centre on Wednesday liberalised the guidelines for Other Service Providers (OSPs), removing the distinction between domestic and international OSP.

Informing media about the move, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad said the BPO centre with common telecom resource will now be able to serve customers located worldwide, including India.

"We've issued a guideline today that's very extensively liberalising the other service providers' guidelines. The guideline is revolutionary in nature that'll make India a very favourable destination for expansion of voice-related Business process outsourcing (BPO) centres," the minister said.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-further-liberalises-guidelines-for-bpo-industry-121062301110 1.html

16. Covid shaves off household savings for 2nd straight quarter

With Covid playing havoc, financial savings of households, especially bank deposits and equity investments, are on the decline. The Reserve Bank of India's preliminary estimate of household financial savings is at 8.2 per cent of GDP in the third quarter of 2020-21, exhibiting a sequential moderation for the second consecutive quarter after having spiked in the pandemic-hit first quarter of 2020-21.

Household financial savings were 10.4 per cent of GDP in the second quarter ended September of 2020-21 and 21 per cent in the June quarter. In absolute terms, net financial assets of households fell to Rs 444,583 crore in the December quarter of 2020-21 from Rs 491,906 crore in the September quarter and Rs 815,886 crore in the June quarter, as per RBI.

"The ratio of household (bank) deposits to GDP declined to 3.0 per cent in the December quarter of 2020-21 from 7.7 per cent in the previous quarter," the RBI said. In absolute numbers, household deposits fell from Rs 367,264 crore in September to Rs 173,042 crore in December 2020.

Full story: https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/covid-shaves-off-household-savings-for-2nd-straight-qtr-7372974/

17. I-T portal glitches: FM asks Infosys to address all issues immediately

Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday exhorted Infosys to work on the new income-tax portal to make it more humane and user-friendly and expressed her deep concern on the various problems being faced by the stakeholders.

Chaired by the Union Finance Minister, a meeting was held between senior officials of the Finance Ministry and Infosys earlier during the day on issues in the new e-filing portal.

The tax portal 2.0 of Income Tax department went live on June 7. Since its launch, there were numerous glitches in the functioning. Taking note of the grievances voiced on social media by taxpayers, tax professionals and other stakeholders, the Finance Minister had earlier flagged the issues to Infosys, calling upon them to address these concerns.

Sitharaman further asked Infosys to address all issues without further loss of time, improve their services, redress grievances on priority as it was impacting taxpayers adversely.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/glitches-in-i-t-portal-fm-asks-infosys-to-address-all-issues-immediately-121062201733
https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/glitches-in-i-t-portal-fm-asks-infosys-to-address-all-issues-immediately-121062201733
https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/glitches-in-i-t-portal-fm-asks-infosys-to-address-all-issues-immediately-121062201733">https://www.business-immediately-121062201733
https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/glitches-in-i-t-portal-fm-asks-infosy

18. Airtel ropes in Tatas for 5G tech to counter Jio's march

The fight for India's 5G space and indigenous development is intensifying and Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel — engaged in a competitive battle with Reliance Jio — scored a significant victory as it bagged the Tata Group as a partner for the new-age telecom technology.

Analysts told TOI that the partnership with the Tata Group may well be a "psychological morale booster" for Mittal who has been staving off an onslaught from Jio — and the global partners of its parent Jio Platforms — since the Mukesh Ambani-controlled company launched services in September 2016.

The new partnership is being seen as a result of Airtel's October 2017 deal with the Tata Group where the latter had merged its loss-making consumer mobile business with Mittal's company, though there is no apparent direct connection.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/airtel-ropes-in-tatas-for-5g-tech-to-counter-jios-march/articleshow/83735117.cms

19. EU ignores India, S Africa's patent waiver plea at WTO

The European Union has submitted a draft declaration at the World Trade Organization (WTO), "ignoring" the objectives of intellectual property (IP) waiver jointly sought by India and South Africa on Covid drugs and vaccines. While the waiver proposal is backed by over 100 countries, the EU has resisted it for eight months now.

The EU declaration, which reiterates its position of using existing provisions under the WTO's TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement during the pandemic, is being perceived by public health experts as a diversionary tactic.

This could delay the progress of reaching a consensus on the waiver, which is critical to address the stark inequities in access to Covid vaccines globally, they added. If adopted, the IP waiver is expected to provide countries with critical policy space to address IP barriers to increase collaboration in research and development, manufacturing and scale-up, and hence boost supply of Covid medicines and vaccines.

Full story: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/eu-ignores-india-s-africas-patent-waiver-plea-at-wto/articleshow/83759926.cms

20. After Covid, there'll be home, office & a 'third place' to work from: Tata's Chandrasekaran

The pandemic has changed the nature of work, accelerating the adoption of digital technologies by at least a decade and ushering in a hybrid model where work extends beyond offices and engages more women, Tata Sons Pvt Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said.

While the office remains a critical hub and staff will gradually return, the world won't return to its pre-Covid norm, Chandrasekaran, head of India's biggest private-sector employer, said during the Qatar Economic Forum on Tuesday. The Indian executive, joined by fellow employers such as Iwg Plc Chief Executive Officer Mark Dixon, said workplaces will benefit from allowing staff greater leeway with the help of technology.

When the pandemic hit India in early 2020, the 150-year-old steel-to-airlines conglomerate scrambled to adapt to lockdown restrictions. At Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. — its largest company by employee numbers and profitability — nearly half a million workers began working from home within weeks, continuing to deliver software projects and support to Wall Street banks, retailers and airlines.

Full story: https://theprint.in/india/after-covid-therell-be-home-office-a-third-place-to-work-from-tatas-chandrasekaran/682309/

21. Jamsetji N Tata becomes world's top philanthropist of the last century

With donations worth \$102.4 billion, India's pioneer industrialist and Tata Group founder Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata is the world's biggest philanthropist of the last century, much ahead of Bill and Melinda Gates, who came in second.

Wipro Founder-Chairman Azim Premji, who gifted about \$22 billion for noble causes and ranked 12, is the only other Indian in the list of 50 global philanthropists compiled by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.

Tata, who started his endowments as early as 1892, donated mainly for healthcare and education needs from Tata Sons' income. Jamsetji Tata died in 1904. The total philanthropic value of Tata Group is made up of 66 per cent of Tata Sons, estimated at \$100 billion, solely based on the value of listed entities.

Full story: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/variety/jamsetji-n-tata-becomes-worlds-top-philanthropist/article34923027.ece

22. Windows 11: All you need to know about the new OS

Microsoft has unveiled the first big change to its Windows platform in over five years, and it brings some notable changes for the industry. Mint takes a look at how Windows 11 changes user experience and the PC market.

While Windows 11 does bring some changes to the operating system's user interface (UI), the big new change here is the fact that Windows will now support Android apps, enabled by tie-ups with e-commerce major Amazon and Intel. The Amazon AppStore will bring Android apps to Windows devices, while Intel Bridge is a technology that allows these apps to run on the different processors that Windows laptops are made on.

Full story: https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/windows-11-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-os-11624812562755.html

23. India's total FDI inflow rises 38% year-on-year to \$6.24 billion in April

India had attracted a total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow of \$6.24 billion in April, up by 38 per cent year-on-year, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Wednesday.

Total FDI includes equity capital of unincorporated bodies, reinvest earnings and other capital. FDI equity inflow grew 60 per cent to \$4.44 billion in April.

"Measures taken by the government on the fronts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country," an official statement said.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-total-fdi-inflow-rises-38-on-year-to-6-24-billion-in-april-121062301664 1.html

24. Foreign exchange reserves decline to \$604 billion on slide in gold assets

Sliding from a lifetime high, India's forex reserves declined by \$4.148 billion to reach \$603.933 billion for the week ended June 18 due to a fall in gold and currency assets, RBI data showed on Friday.

The forex kitty had surged by \$3.074 billion to a record high of \$608.081 billion in the previous reporting week.

The foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, declined by \$1.918 billion to \$561.540 billion for the reporting week, as per data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Full story: https://www.ndtv.com/business/foreign-exchange-reserves-decline-to-604-billion-on-slide-in-gold-assets-2472483

25. Wealth of India's super-rich slips 4.4% in 2020 due to rupee fall: report

In spite of Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, the Poonawallas and many other Indians seeing a jump in their net worth in the pandemic-hit 2020, overall wealth of the country's super-rich dipped 4.4 per cent to USD 12.83 trillion in the year due to the rupee's fall, and so did their tally, says a report.

The number of dollar millionaires in India fell from 7,64,000 in 2019 to 6,98,000 solely because of the rupee's fall, while their cumulative wealth stood at USD 12.833 trillion, down USD 594 billion or 4.4 per cent from the previous year, according to the report by Credit Suisse Research Institute.

The country is home to just 1 per cent of the global rich, whose number rose by 5.2 million to 56.1 million in the COVID-hit year.

However, the report expects the number of millionaires in India to soar 81.8 per cent to 1.3 million by 2025.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/wealth-of-india-s-super-rich-slips-4-4-in-2020-due-to-rupee-fall-report-121062201698 1.html

26. No evidence Delta+ will cause possible 3rd wave: Top genome sequencer

Amid worries of a possible third Covid wave, along with the emergence of a Delta Plus variant in parts of the country, one of India's top doctors and genome sequencer has brushed aside concerns of this new mutant fuelling an upsurge in infections. Dr Anurag Agarwal, Director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), also advised caution against lowering the guard on the second wave itself.

"At this point, there is no evidence to suggest that Delta Plus...has anything to do with a possible third wave," Dr Agarwal told NDTV.

"My institute has sequenced more than 3,500 samples from Maharashtra in the month of June, covering samples from April and May. We can see that these (Delta Plus variants) are very much there. But these would constitute less than one per cent," he said.

The IGIB, which he heads, is an institution under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Full story: https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/no-proof-of-covid-delta-plus-causing-third-wave-top-medical-scientist-2470949

27. 3rd Covid wave unlikely to mirror devastating 2nd wave: Top medical body

A potential third wave of Covid infections seems unlikely to be as severe as the second wave, says a modelling study by a team of scientists from the Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Imperial College London, UK. Rapid scale-up of vaccination efforts, says the study, could play an important role in mitigating the present and future waves of the disease.

India's first wave of SARSCoV-2 infection began in late January 2020 with a peak attained in mid-September. This phase was relatively mild compared to the second wave that followed, from mid-February 2021 onwards, exhibiting a more explosive spread across the country.

A major factor driving this second wave is the emergence of more-infectious variants of SARS-CoV-2, principally B.1.1.7 (Alpha variant) and B.1.617.2 (Delta variant), of which the latter has played a dominant role in recent months.

Third waves have emerged in other countries - like the UK and the USA - and are driven by a range of factors, says the study.

28. Coronavirus epidemic hit East Asia 20,000 years ago, was strong enough to alter people's DNA: Study

The word 'coronavirus' has become commonplace for the past 1.5 year, thanks to the devastating impact of the ongoing pandemic world over. The infection caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, a form of coronavirus, has claimed over 3.5 million lives and infected billions.

Now, a new research has revealed that nearly 20,000 years ago, the region today known as East Asia was struck by a coronavirus epidemic. The severity of this epidemic was such that it was strong enough to leave some imprints on the human genome and help it evolve.

The research was published in the scientific journal Current Biology and was carried out by experts from Australia and the United States.

To understand past epidemics and their impact on humans, the researchers studied genomes of nearly 2,500 people from 26 different population groups in the world.

Full story: https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/coronavirus-epidemic-hit-east-asia-20000-years-ago-study-1819790-2021-06-26

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