

Economy Wrap - Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading Newspapers 01 - 07 May 2020 in the state of Kerala

Key Developments

Chief Minister's loan scheme launched

The Chief Minister's Sahaya Hastam (helping hand) loan scheme is under way in the district. Minister for Local Self-government A.C. Moideen gave away the first loan through the Kadakampally Service Cooperative Bank. The government has earmarked Rs. 2,000 crore for the helping hands scheme. Of this, the district has been sanctioned Rs. 220 crore. Neighbourhood group members who follow the stipulations fixed by Kudumbashree are given Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 15,000, and Rs. 20,000 as the helping hands loan. [Read More](#)

3,150 NoRKs to return in first phase

Only 3,150 non-resident Keralites (NoRKs) will be able to return from West Asia and Malaysia in the first phase of the Centre's plan to bring Indians stranded in different parts of the world back home from May 7 to 14. Of the total 64 flights to be operated to 13 cities in the first phase, Kerala has been sanctioned 15, the most to any State. Four of the 10 flights to be operated on May 7 are to the State. [Read More](#)

AIE to operate 14 flights to State

Air India Express (AIE) has been given the mandate to operate 23 flights to bring back stranded non-resident Indians from West Asia, Malaysia, and Singapore from Thursday. Of the 23 flights that will be operated till May 13, 14 will be to the four airports in the State. Kochi has been given nine flights, Kozhikode three, and Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur one each. [Read More](#)

Online system for inter-district travel passes

The online system for obtaining passes for inter-district travel has come into effect. People who require the pass should visit pass.bsaf.kerala.gov.in. Once approval is given, the applicant will receive a link to the pass on his mobile phone. This pass can be produced on demand. [Read More](#)

Industry/Business News

MSMEs for changes in labour laws

The Kerala State Small Industries Association (KSSIA), representing over a lakh micro, small and medium-sized (MSME) industrial units in the State, has called for big changes in the labour environment and laws governing employment. This is to enable, among other things, students to work part time, to create an environment of competition among labourers,

and launch of a labour supply portal along with the conventional employment exchange. [Read More](#)

Health

Pharmacists launch drug information centre

The Doctor of Pharmacy Association (Kerala), in collaboration with the Kerala State Pharmacy Council, has launched a Drug Information Centre that will give individualised drug information to the public and health-care professionals. The service will be available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. as clinical pharmacists from different parts of the State will be available to resolve issues of people. [Read More](#)