

CII suggests reopening of sectors based on red, amber and green zones

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Industry chamber CII on Sunday suggested a “slow and staggered” approach to reopening various sectors based on classification of geographies as red, amber and green, depending upon the incidence of Covid-19 cases.

Textiles and apparels, pharmaceuticals, food processing, minerals and metal, besides e-commerce, automobiles and chemicals are the key sectors that need to restart operations in a calibrated manner, as per a report by CII.

However, prior to the lifting of the lockdown, there has to be adequate notice given to all and also the announcement of an economic package, CII said in a statement.

A calibrated and safe exit from the lockdown, subject to considerations being given to

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the geographical spread of Covid-19 in the country, would be a practical approach, said CII, adding that this is an evolving situation and one has to be flexible in approach.

“Given that the number of cases has rapidly increased and hotspots have emerged in the country over the last few days, and that the opening up across the country would need to be slow and staggered, it would be desirable

to have three classifications of geographies as red, amber and green, based on the incidence of Covid cases,” said CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee.

A more complex point is whether all industries can open in the green zones and which ones should open in the amber zone, assuming that none would be operational in the red zones other than essential and exempt services. All facilities that reopen must have requisite health, sanitation and screening systems in place to protect workers, it said.

Various measures have been suggested, such as thermal check, social distancing, factory sanitisation and so on. Any enterprise which does not comply with this on a self-certification basis should be subject to stringent penalties, the statement said.