



India's COVID-19 Lockdown:

Human Rights Assessment and Compilation of State Relief Measures

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1. Introduction

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created an unprecedented global crisis. As with every calamity, it has disproportionately impacted individuals, groups, and communities who were already living in marginalized and vulnerable situations – both in terms of their heightened risk and in terms of their inability to cope with response measures such as complete lockdowns, forced isolation, and quarantines.

On the evening of 24 March 2020, India announced a 21-day lockdown to curtail the spread of COVID-19, giving the nation a mere four-hour notice. On 14 April 2020, the lockdown was extended for 19 days until 3 May 2020. On 1 May, the lockdown was further extended for two weeks, albeit with some relaxations and more freedoms in ‘green’ and ‘orange’ zones. Given India’s large population living below the poverty line, its lockdown has been declared as one of the world’s harshest. Through its lockdown, India has so far, managed to contain community spread and control the number of fatalities. As of 8:00 a.m. on 5 May 2020, India had recorded 46,433 positive COVID-19 cases (32,138 active cases; 12,726 recoveries; and 1,568 deaths).

2. Human Rights Impacts of the Lockdown

While precautionary measures, including curtailing public mobility and sealing hotspot areas/containment zones, have been critical to controlling the spread of the pandemic, long and stringent lockdowns of the entire population with inadequate planning and insufficient protections in place for the most marginalized, have had serious impacts on the human rights of a large section of society. These include, in particular, contraventions of their rights to food, health, adequate housing, participation, and most importantly, their right to live with dignity. The most severely affected by the lockdown and resultant loss of livelihoods have been daily wage workers, including homeless and landless people, migrant workers, agricultural labourers, fish workers, and others employed in the ‘informal’ sector.

After 40 days of India’s lockdown, life for the urban and rural poor is overridden with loss of income, hunger, ill health, desperation, destitution, and a rise in malnutrition. Other fateful consequences of the lockdown have been a significant increase in domestic violence against women and child sexual abuse, adverse mental health impacts and psychological stress, disruption in children’s education, and loss of life for reasons other than the coronavirus, including *inter alia* starvation, denial of medical aid/inability to access medical assistance, exhaustion, and suicide. As of 4 May 2020, 338 people¹ had lost their lives for reasons related to the lockdown. In the absence of official data and unreported cases, this figure is likely to be an underestimation. This is also because most states do not record/admit starvation deaths. Disruption of immunization services for children and cessation of treatment of serious illnesses such as malaria and tuberculosis (TB), and the non-availability of certain medicines during the lockdown, have also resulted in serious health impacts.

As has been widely reported, migrant workers, on account of their low incomes, insufficient social security and labour protections, and inadequate living conditions, are among the most severely impacted by the sudden and long lockdown. In the absence of social/low-cost housing policies for them, a large majority lived at their work places, including in factories, shops, construction sites, and restaurants, and were thus rendered homeless when the lockdown was announced. On 28 March 2020, states were ordered to seal borders and stop migrants from returning home. Though most states responded by providing free shelter and food to stranded migrant workers and their families, they have had to deal with living in inadequate conditions, overcrowding at food distribution points, heightened risk of infection spread, lack of cash, inability to recharge their phones, loss of

¹ See, ‘Non Virus Deaths in India’ at: <https://thejeshgn.com/projects/covid19-india/non-virus-deaths/>
Last accessed on 5 May 2020.

communication with family members, and increased despair, loneliness, and negative health impacts. While the central government, on 29 April and 1 May, issued orders permitting migrant workers to return home, the orders come with major caveats, including lack of clarity for implementation. Worst of all, people who have had no income for the last 40 days are being made to pay for their return fare, often at inflated rates, as reported in states like Karnataka.

The lockdown has also impacted homeless persons, who already suffer from high morbidity rates and ill health in different ways – increased fear and uncertainty, separation from/inability to communicate with family members, loss of personal belongings while being forcefully relocated to shelters, severe cash crunch, and an increase in non-coronavirus health complaints. In a few cities, they have witnessed police brutality and have been prevented from reaching food distribution centres. Some reports indicate that with most homeless people accommodated in state shelters during the lockdown and receiving free meals, their access to food has improved.

Despite the lockdown and ‘stay at home’ orders, incidents of forced eviction and home demolitions for various reasons were reported in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana, rendering people homeless during this crisis. These evictions were not just inhumane, but also severely violated multiple human rights of affected persons, including rights to health and housing.

Marginalized and vulnerable groups such as displaced persons, children in street situations, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous/tribal and other local communities living in remote areas, single women, transgender persons, and sex workers/prostitutes, while suffering adversely from the lockdown have not benefitted from most relief measures. Reports of attacks on minorities and healthcare providers and workers, in different parts of the country, have been disturbing.

3. Central and State Government Relief Measures

The central and state governments have responded to the extended lockdown with a range of measures, announced piece-meal over the last 40 days, in response to the constantly altering national and regional landscape.

The Government of India’s Rs 1.7 lakh crore (Rs 1.7 trillion/USD 22.6 billion) relief package—which includes the provision of free rice/wheat and pulses for three months to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act 2013—has still not reached all eligible families. Furthermore, it omits a large percentage of the most needy. The central measures also do not propose sufficient cash transfers or unemployment benefits for the majority of those employed in the informal economy, who have been most severely hit by the lockdown. The 500 rupees being provided to women in their ‘Jan Dhan’ accounts is insufficient to provide relief after all the hardship and financial losses incurred. The long-term financial relief measures to be announced by the special Economic Response Task Force are still awaited.

Shelter/Housing

Measures taken by states and Union Territories across India have included setting up temporary shelter facilities and ensuring provision of free food/ration and medical facilities to those in need. Most states arranged for emergency accommodation for migrant/homeless people in vacant schools, community halls, stadiums, and special relief camps. Certain states, however, have been more proactive than others. Kerala, for instance, allowed for meal variations to respect regional diets in relief camps, ensured that phones of workers were recharged free during the lockdown, and created a 24-hour call centre to address concerns of stranded migrant workers. Delhi has taken noteworthy steps to provide emergency shelter, including in 111 schools, stadiums, and community halls, to about 16,000 migrant workers. Following a directive of the central government, a few districts such as Nagpur have conducted livelihood/skill-training sessions for residents of relief camps.

The central government, on 29 March 2020, directed all states to ensure that owners of properties where workers, including migrant workers, live in rented accommodation do not demand rent for one month. The order also made eviction of students and workers, due to non-payment of rent, a punishable offence under the Disaster Management Act 2005. Consequently, several states and Union Territories such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh, issued similar notifications in their states. Maharashtra and Telangana further directed all homeowners not to demand rent for at least three months (March to May).

Provision of Free Ration/Food

While almost all states have announced the provision of additional free ration/food grains during the lockdown for those covered by India's National Food Security Act 2013, a few states like Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, and Chhatisgarh (only free rice) have extended the provision to those who are not covered by the Act and do not have ration cards, while Jharkhand agreed to provide ration for those whose ration card applications are pending. In shelter homes in large cities, several states such as Delhi, Karnataka, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu are providing free cooked meals. For instance, Delhi, has reported catering free lunch and dinner to over 600,000 people every day. Gujarat, through its 'Vadil Vandana' programme, is providing free meals to older persons living alone in the state. Many states are also providing/substituting mid-day meals for children, while government schools are closed, with free ration/'take home ration' (Chhatisgarh, Odisha), payments in lieu of meals (Gujarat), and home-delivered meals (Assam, Delhi, Kerala). Some states are also providing free food under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)/*anganwadi* scheme at shelters/homes of children (Delhi, West Bengal). At the central level, the Ministry of Human Resources and Development approved the provision of mid-day meals during the summer holidays to around 12 crore (120 million) children in 11 lakh (1.1 million) schools across India.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Several states have announced special measures for vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 lockdown, including through the provision of pension and financial assistance, and the creation of dedicated 'helplines' to respond to various issues. These include: helplines for migrant workers (Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala); for food (Delhi, Goa, Karnataka); for domestic violence (Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh); for children (Delhi (by the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights), Jharkhand, Kerala); for older persons (Delhi, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu); for persons with disabilities (Tamil Nadu); for free medical advice (Bihar); for higher secondary students (Haryana); and, for people affected by the lockdown (Nagaland). Psycho-social counselling is also being provided in some states (Jharkhand, Haryana).

With several reports indicating a rise in verbal and physical abuse against women during the lockdown, the National Commission for Women launched an emergency helpline to assist women experiencing domestic violence, in addition to existing help lines and shelter homes. The central Ministry of Women and Child Development also directed all 'One Stop Centres' to be operational during the lockdown in order to provide assistance to women facing any kind of violence and harassment. Karnataka launched a special scheme called 'Santhwana' to provide counselling as well as legal and medical aid for victim-survivors of domestic violence.

While several positive measures have been announced, some of which are being implemented across the country, adequate information on implementation is not easily available.

4. Supportive High Court Orders

Despite the lockdown, the judiciary in some states has been actively monitoring the situation of vulnerable groups and directing the government to provide assistance and relief. Through various

orders, the High Court of Karnataka [W.P. 6435/2020] has directed the state government to provide food, ration, shelter, financial assistance, and other essential facilities to stranded migrant workers, homeless persons, and other vulnerable groups, including transgender persons and sex workers. The Court's orders helped fill gaps in relief during the lockdown and directed the government's attention towards hitherto unnoticed issues. Other courts, such as the Bombay High Court [PIL (L) 20/2020], the High Court of Delhi [W.P. (C) 2161/2017], and the High Court of Himachal Pradesh [C.W.P. 1402/2020] have passed similar orders, monitoring the status of implementation of relief measures announced by state governments for the protection of marginalized groups, including migrant workers and homeless persons. Additionally, several high courts, such as the Bombay High Court [W.P. (L) 900/2020] and the Allahabad High Court, have also directed state authorities not to evict people or demolish homes, due to the pandemic and lockdown.

Civil society organizations, voluntary organizations, religious organizations, and a large number of individuals across the country have also come together and responded to the lockdown in impressive ways, including by facilitating direct relief and food delivery to the most needy.

5. Gaps in Social Protection and Human Rights

While recognizing the unprecedented emergency situation presented by COVID-19 and the difficult circumstances under which states are working, and while acknowledging the positive measures taken by several states to respond to this novel coronavirus, we believe that major gaps exposed by the pandemic in social protection systems, especially with regard to access to public healthcare, social security, adequate housing, need to be addressed in order to derive lessons to move forward. These include, among many others:

1. **Failure to provide adequate housing for low-income groups.** The pandemic has highlighted the importance of adequate housing like never before. India's reality of over 4 million people living in homelessness in urban areas and about 75 million people living in 'informal settlements' without access to essential services, including water and sanitation, has exposed the impossibility of implementing calls to 'stay at home,' practice physical distancing, and engage in frequent hand washing. Housing is also inadequate for a large majority of the rural population. Lockdowns can only work for those who have adequate housing to lock themselves into. High density and poor living conditions, including lack of ventilation, in most Indian homes could result in several adverse health impacts resulting from being forced to stay indoors for over 40 days. If all Indians, including migrant workers, had adequate housing, the nation would not have witnessed such a severe crisis as a result of the pandemic and related lockdown.
2. **Lack of universalization and inadequate implementation of the Public Distribution System,** which has resulted in acute hunger among many, despite progressive announcements, state measures, and the abundance of food grains in the country.
3. **Lack of accurate data and failure to document and protect workers in the informal economy,** especially migrant workers and homeless persons, with housing, food, social security, and health insurance. The **lack of identity documents/government identification documents** has also excluded many workers from receiving state benefits, including during the lockdown, whether from construction boards or other government schemes.
4. **Failure to invest adequately in public healthcare and lack of comprehensive health insurance** for those in need.
5. **Inadequate centre-state coordination,** which has resulted in confusion, uncertainty, poor implementation of certain measures, funding concerns, and delays in response mechanisms.

6. Response of Housing and Land Rights Network

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) has been monitoring state response and the impacts of COVID-19 and the related lockdown on the nation's most marginalized groups and communities, especially homeless/inadequately-housed persons and migrant workers, through a human rights lens.² Since 13 March 2020 (before the lockdown), HLRN has issued [press releases](#); facilitated emergency relief for those in need; arranged the distribution of cooked food, milk, and dry ration to over 40,000 people in Delhi and Chennai; documented and disseminated [positive relief measures](#) announced by the centre and states; and, engaged in regular advocacy with the state and proposed recommendations to the government – at the central and state levels. Several of our recommendations have been adopted by the government. In response to a letter from HLRN to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on the need for comprehensive guidelines to protect homeless persons and others living in inadequate housing during the pandemic, including through a moratorium on evictions, the Ministry has issued a notification to all states to prepare the same.

7. Recommendations from Housing and Land Rights Network

As India moves into the third stage of its national lockdown, **Housing and Land Rights Network would like to propose the following recommendations not just for the duration of the lockdown but beyond, with the aim of developing durable solutions and ensuring institutionalization of social protection and human rights measures:**

1. Ensure an inclusive, safe, and dignified process, including the provision of **safe, free, and secure transportation facilities**, to enable all **migrant workers** to return home. All transportation must be free; states cannot charge migrants for the fare to return home. Develop protocols that respect human rights and do not subject them to discrimination in their villages/home towns. All quarantine centres must provide adequate facilities and an environment conducive to protecting their health and dignity.
2. **Universalize the Public Distribution System** and ensure the provision of free food grains, cooking oil, spices, tea, sugar, and essential food items to all those in need, even those without ration cards across urban and rural India. This should include migrant workers, residents of 'informal settlements,' homeless persons/families living on the streets, and the rural poor who are not registered under state schemes and do not have access to adequate food. Procedures for accessing food should be simplified and should be inclusive. The 'one nation one ration card' being proposed should be adopted to ensure that no one is denied their right to food.
3. Provide **mid-day meals** and **Integrated Child Development Services/anganwadi meals at homes of children** and in **homeless shelters**, and include the distribution of **free milk** for the entire duration that schools/crèches are closed.
4. **Improve facilities and access to services in all shelters** for homeless people and migrant workers, including through the provision of adequate food (three meals a day), healthcare, water, sanitation, clean bedding, fans/coolers, and vector-control measures. Ensure adequate space to prevent overcrowding and risk of infection spread. Increase the number of shelters where required. Ensure regular distribution of **soap, sanitizer, disinfectants, and masks** in shelters, 'informal settlements,' and areas where homeless people live.
5. **Ensure** the provision of **adequate and free water supply** in all settlements and homeless clusters. **Increase** the number of **community toilets** with adequate sanitation facilities across the country; access should be free for the poor.

² See HLRN's web page on COVID-19: <https://www.hlrn.org.in/COVID-19>

6. Impose a **strict national moratorium on home demolitions/forced evictions**, for any reason including ostensible ‘public purpose’ projects, for at least the next six months. People should also not be evicted on account of their inability to pay rent/mortgage on their home loans. States should assist the urban and rural poor with rental vouchers, where required, to reduce the financial burden on them and on low-income families who depend on rent payments for their livelihoods.
7. Develop a **comprehensive housing policy** aimed at providing durable solutions for adequate housing for all. This should include the adoption of a ‘**Housing First**’ approach to prioritize adequate housing for homeless persons and the provision of low-cost housing options along a ‘**housing continuum**,’ including hostels for migrant workers and single homeless people, collective housing arrangements, and social rental housing. In order to develop adequate policy response, states must conduct accurate surveys and collect disaggregated data on the number of migrant workers, homeless people, and others living without adequate housing. Also, states must take steps to institutionalize some of the relief measures to ensure that people do not have to return to living in homelessness after the lockdown.
8. Develop a **policy to address the specific concerns of homeless children/children in street situations** living on their own. Conduct comprehensive surveys in each state to document the number of children in street situations. Ensure protection from violence and access to education, shelter, and basic services for homeless children.
9. Arrange for immediate **direct cash disbursements to the urban and rural poor**, including homeless people, destitute persons, migrant workers, agricultural labourers, small farmers, and all others working in the informal sector, irrespective of their registration status. Work towards developing **stronger social security for the working poor**, including through the provision of unemployment benefits and a **universal basic income** scheme for the entire country. Introduce a national **urban employment guarantee law**, similar to the rural employment guarantee act, to provide job and income security for workers in urban areas.
10. **Ensure adequate social protection measures**, including adequate housing, **for excluded vulnerable groups**, including displaced persons, refugees, trans persons, and sex workers, who are often inadequately-housed and are suffering disproportionately from the lockdown.
11. **Improve access to healthcare for the urban and rural poor**, including through regular visits of mobile health vans in all settlements and homeless clusters, with the availability of free medicines and testing facilities. Provide **universal health insurance**. **Increase budgetary allocations for the health sector**.
12. **Ensure adequate social and physical protection**, including through the provision of proper personal protection equipment, for all **healthcare providers and workers**, including sanitation workers and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers who play an integral role in healthcare delivery.
13. **Develop comprehensive protocols and facilities for isolation and quarantining** of the urban and rural poor, including homeless people, migrant workers, and those living without adequate housing across the country. Comprehensive and sensitive guidelines for quarantining need to be developed and conveyed to all district, city, town, and village-level officials, to ensure that people living in isolation/quarantine are treated with respect, have access to basic facilities and adequate protection, and do not face discrimination. Adequate information on the coronavirus pandemic, including on precautionary measures and isolation protocols, needs to be provided to all in local languages and through various mediums.
14. Ensure **improved coordination between the central and state governments**, as well as improved inter-ministerial collaboration, including for financial issues. Ensure **proper**

implementation and monitoring of all central and state governments' relief and recovery measures and publish regular updates on the same.

15. **Extend the provision of relief measures** related to food, shelter, financial assistance, and protection of vulnerable groups, **for at least six months after the lockdown ends**, in all zones across the country: red, orange, and green.
16. Ensure that **economic recovery measures provide adequate relief for workers in the informal sector** and not only for business enterprises. Also create employment opportunities and provide job security for all migrant workers returning to their domicile states by ensuring employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005.
17. **Increase investments in social protection and welfare schemes.** Given the acute state revenue losses, in order to strengthen social protection and human rights measures across the country, budgetary reallocations will be required for the next financial year. The Economic Response Task Force should prioritize and authorize the same on an urgent basis.
18. Ensure that all **information related to public funds for COVID-19 relief and recovery**, including from the PM Cares fund **is made public** and that people are regularly provided updates on utilization of funds.
19. **Protect the rights to privacy, security, and information** of all citizens. Ensure that surveillance applications are not forcefully imposed on everyone under the guise of health protection and that data security protocols are observed.
20. Integrate a **strong human rights approach**, ensuring **non-discrimination and gender equality**, in all state policy and practice, including in COVID-19 response and recovery measures. Furthermore, promote public participation and include people in decisions related to the long-term recovery process to ensure the functioning of a participatory democracy.

Given the acute magnitude of this health, human rights, social, and economic crisis, HLRN calls on the Government of India, at all levels, to ensure the adoption of a **human rights approach** in its response to the coronavirus pandemic, as also emphasized by the United Nations (UN), including the UN [Secretary General](#), the UN [High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), [Special Procedures](#), and other UN human rights mechanisms. This requires prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable, and ensuring that all human rights are respected and protected in all state response and recovery initiatives related to this pandemic. State response to COVID-19 cannot, under any circumstances, justify the violation of human rights, including the right to privacy, or impose restrictions on civil liberties and curtail civic space.

In an attempt to promote the dissemination of positive practices in these challenging times, Housing and Land Rights Network has compiled positive relief measures being implemented by the central and state governments in India. While appreciating such measures, we urge all governments to ensure they are implemented adequately and in a manner that ensures non-discrimination, gender equality, and respect for human rights. All vulnerable and marginalized groups, including those facing historic and widespread discrimination such as Scheduled Castes/Dalits, indigenous/tribal communities, transgender persons, and sexual and religious minorities, must be able to benefit from these provisions and should be included in the development and design of recovery processes.

The government, at all levels, should use the COVID-19 pandemic to recognize failures and to develop durable solutions aimed at ensuring that everyone in the country has access to adequate housing, food, water, healthcare, and social security. It is only the human right approach that can help ensure a successful recovery and transition towards an improved society.

ANNEXURE



State Relief Measures During the COVID-19 Lockdown

Compilation by Housing and Land Rights Network: 5 May 2020

STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	PROVISIONS (AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION, WHERE AVAILABLE) ³
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary shelters, with food, to be provided to poor and needy people. • Contractors directed to provide basic necessities to migrant workers stranded in rented accommodation/labour camps/other areas. • Landlords of properties where workers, including migrants/inter-island workers, and students, are living in rented accommodation, not to demand rent for 1 month. Any landlord who evicts students or migrants/labourers liable to action under the Disaster Management Act 2005. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrant workers and inter-island workers employed by government or private industries, shops, and commercial establishments not to be retrenched during the lockdown and not to have their wages deducted. • Employers in shops, industries, and commercial establishments directed to pay wages to workers during the lockdown, without deduction and on time.
Andhra Pradesh	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter to be provided to all homeless persons, ‘beggars,’ and migrant workers. Adequate provisions to be made for food, cleanliness, and hygiene in shelters. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free ration, which includes 5 kilogrammes (kg) rice and 1 kg Bengal gram (lentils), to be delivered to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) households three times – on 29 March, 15 April, and 29 April. [In the first phase, 1,712,506 people received free ration. In the second phase, 18 lakh⁴ (1.8 million) families benefitted, of which 3 lakh families received ration at their door steps.] • ‘Take home ration’ to be provided to all children covered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)/<i>anganwadi</i> scheme and to pregnant women and lactating mothers. • Free rice and red gram <i>dal</i> (pulses/lentil) to be provided to non-government organizations (NGO) running homes for senior citizens and children.

³ The status of implementation of the measure, where information is available, has been included in brown text.

⁴ A lakh is a unit of measurement, which is equivalent to 100,000.

<p>Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 to be paid to daily wage earners to address loss of livelihoods. Rs 1,000 to be paid to 1.3 crore⁵ (13 million) BPL families. [On 2 April 2020, the Revenue Department sanctioned Rs 1,300 crore, and on 16 April, sanctioned Rs 43.29 crore as ‘scale of assistance to all BPL families affected by the lockdown.’] Rs 5,000, as a one-time special grant, to be made to religious service providers.
<p>Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter, with food, to be provided to all homeless persons and migrant workers. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 2,000 to be provided to all construction workers, per month, in April and May. Rs 3,500 to be provided to state residents stranded outside the state. Rs 1,000 to be provided to each farmer registered on the PM KISAN portal. [As of 16 April, 71,685 beneficiaries had received this payment.] <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpline created for labourers/stranded migrant workers.
<p>Assam</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free rice to be provided to 58 lakh BPL families for the month of April. Mid-day meals to be provided to 40 lakh students at their homes. 1 kg free <i>masoor dal</i> to each family covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA) for 3 months (April to June). <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000, as a one-time payment, to be made to 278,000 construction workers. Rs 1,000, as a one-time payment, to all households with no ration cards. Rs 2,000, as one-time grant, to workers from Assam stranded in other states. [As of 20 April, 86,000 workers had received the payment.]
<p>Bihar</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Emergency Relief Centres” to be set up in Patna and other urban areas in the state where labourers would be provided shelter and food. “Emergency Border Relief Camps” to provide shelter, food, and medical facilities to migrant workers from other areas in the state. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 kg free rice, in addition to ration allotted under NFSA, to all ration card holders. Control room to register and resolve complaints related to distribution of free ration. Free ration also to persons without ration card (such auto-drivers, rickshaw pullers, cart pullers, in urban areas). Food distribution centres (10) in Delhi for stranded migrant workers from Bihar. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 to be paid through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to all ration card holders. Persons who are eligible but do not have ration cards also to be provided this assistance. [7.7 lakh beneficiaries without ration cards have been identified. As of 3 April, Rs 184 crore transferred from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund into the accounts of 18 lakh ration card holders in the state]. 3 months’ advance pension to be deposited directly to beneficiaries under existing pension schemes for older persons, persons with disabilities, and widows. [As of 19 April, over 10 lakh persons with disabilities and 18 lakh older persons had received their pension.] Scholarships to students of government schools (Classes 1 to 12) by 31 March 2020. [As of 19 April, Rs 1,884 crore was paid to 1.52 crore students in the state.] Rs 1,000 to be paid to 13 lakh registered construction workers in the state.

⁵ A crore is also a unit of measurement, equivalent to 10 million or 100 lakh.

<p>Bihar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000, as one-time financial assistance, to migrant workers from Bihar stranded in other states under the 'Mukhya Mantri Vishesh Sahayata Yojana.' [As of 19 April, around 9.8 lakh workers received the amount in their accounts.] Job cards, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), to be issued to migrant workers who have returned to the state. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpline created to provide free medical advice to residents in the state.
<p>Chandigarh</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food packets to be distributed to the poor and needy. [As of 23 April, 2.15 lakh cooked food packets had been distributed.] <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 3,000, as special relief, to 6,670 registered construction workers, in addition to Rs 3,000 already sanctioned from the Construction Labour Welfare Fund.
<p>Chhattisgarh</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Temporary Relief Camps" to be set up for homeless and migrant workers, with adequate provisions for food, water, and other facilities. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice, salt, and sugar to be distributed in April and May to all ration card holders through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Priority to be given to 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' and Annapurna card holders. 56 lakh BPL families to be provided free ration for 2 months. [As per government sources, as of 9 April, 40 lakh families had received ration.] Free rice to also be distributed to ration card holders for the month of June (in addition to the months of April and May). 1 kg free <i>dal</i> to be distributed to all ration card holders (except APL card holders) for 3 months (April to June). Free rice (up to 5 kg per person) to be distributed to eligible persons without ration card. Mid-day meals, consisting of dry ration, including <i>dal</i> and rice, to be provided to children for 40 days. Primary school students to be given 4 kg rice and 800 grammes (gm) <i>dal</i> and Higher Secondary school students to be given 6 kg rice and 1,200 gm <i>dal</i>. [As of 19 April, 24 lakh beneficiaries, including women and children had been provided 'nutritious food' at their door steps by <i>anganwadi</i> workers.] To ensure food security of "moderate and severely malnourished children between the age of 3 and 6 years" under the ICDS/<i>anganwadi</i> scheme, 750 gm ration to be home-delivered under the 'Mukhya Mantri Suposhan Abhiyaan.' [As of 19 April, 3.34 lakh beneficiaries across the state had received dry ration for the month of March.] Essential commodities, including lentils, rice, and vegetables to be distributed to indigenous peoples/tribals/<i>adivasis</i> in a few districts in the state. Food packets to be distributed to destitute and homeless persons by the district administration. [Cooked food, reportedly, is being delivered to more than 20,000 people every day.] <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the 'Social Assistance Relief Program' to provide relief during the lockdown, 19.85 lakh beneficiaries were paid pension for March. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special e-passes to be issued to persons with disabilities, who need regular medical treatment, to ease their movement during the lockdown.
<p>Delhi</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency shelters to be set up across the city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ District Administration to ensure food and other essential amenities. ✓ Regular sanitation and cleaning to be carried out by the Municipal Corporation.

Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Water supply and electricity to be ensured by the Delhi Jal Board and DISCOMS (Electricity Distribution Companies). ✓ Mobile toilet vans wherever required, on a priority basis. ✓ State Health Department to ensure medical facilities. ✓ Social Welfare Department to assess and provide long term rehabilitation/ counselling to homeless persons in need of the same, on a priority basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords of properties where labourers or migrants are living in rented accommodation, not to demand rent for 1 month. Any landlord who evicts students or migrants/labourers would be liable to action under the Disaster Management Act 2005. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free lunch and dinner to be provided at all homeless shelters and other ‘hunger relief centres’ – a total of 2,000 distribution points set up across Delhi to provide food to over 6.5 lakh people. • Free ration, with more than 50 per cent increase in quantity, to be provided to over 18 lakh families across Delhi, including to 30 lakh ‘poor people’/non-ration card holders. [As of 22 April, as per government records, 71 lakh people had received free ration.] • ‘Hunger helpline’ created for all districts of Delhi. • Meals to be delivered to homes of children enrolled under the ICDS/<i>anganwadi</i> scheme. • Mid-day meals to be delivered to the homes of children as long as government schools remain closed. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubling of pension provided under schemes of the Government of Delhi. These include the Old Age Assistance, Financial Assistance to Persons with Special Needs, and the Delhi Pension Scheme to Women in Distress (Widows, Divorced, Separated, Destitute, and Abandoned Women). • Pensions of Rs 4,000–5,000 to be paid to 8.5 lakh beneficiaries by 7 April 2020. [As of 3 April, Rs 5,000 had been transferred to 8 lakh beneficiaries, including 5 lakh older persons, 2 lakh widows, and 1 lakh persons with disabilities.] • Rs 5,000 to be paid to all construction workers. [As of 3 April, 35,000 construction workers had received the financial assistance; 9,000 workers whose applications are pending with the labour welfare board to receive assistance at a cost of Rs 16.18 crore.] • Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) in the state to be given 2,000 ‘food coupons’ to be distributed amongst the ‘poor.’ Each coupon entitles beneficiaries to 5 kg free ration. • Ration kits consisting of items including soap, oil, chickpeas, and salt to be distributed along with food grains for the month of May, by 29 April 2020. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling sessions to be conducted for homeless persons and migrant workers in 350 shelters across the city. • Dedicated 24-hour helpline for resolving citizen complaints related to the lockdown. • Helpline set up by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights to counsel children and their parents during the coronavirus outbreak. • Helpline set up to assist older persons/senior citizens during the lockdown.
Goa	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State government to move all homeless persons to shelters. • ‘Shelter homes’ to be set up for migrant workers in each <i>taluk</i> in the state, with provisions for adequate food. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All families, including beneficiaries of ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’ (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) to be connected with NFSA and to be given additional free 5 kg ration per person, per month for 3 months (April to June 2020). • Food Security Allowance, including cost of cooking, to be provided to every eligible child through DBT to the parent/guardian of the child till the schools are closed, under the mid-

	<p>day meal scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food helpline set up to ensure homeless persons in the city have access to food.
<p>Gujarat</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relief package of Rs 2,260 crore announced to address the needs of the poor. • Free ration to be provided to 65 lakh BPL families consisting of 3.25 crore people holding either priority ration cards or Antyodaya ration cards, from 1 April 2020. Each person to get 3.5 kg wheat and 1.5 kg rice. Each family to get 1 kg sugar, <i>dal</i>, and salt. • Free food grain distribution to 60 lakh middle class families with APL-1 cards, from 13 April 2020. Each family to get 10 kg wheat, 3 kg rice, 1 kg <i>dal</i>, and 1 kg sugar. [As of 18 April, 45 lakh families with APL-1 cards had received the free ration.] • Food grains to be distributed to homeless and destitute persons under the <i>Anna Brahm Yojana</i> from 4 April 2020. • Cost of cooking mid-day meals to be paid to families of primary school children during the lockdown. • ‘Take home ration’ to be provided to children under the age of 6, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers till the end of the lockdown. • ‘Vadil Vandana’ programme to provide free meals to older persons living alone in metropolitan cities of the state. [Over 80 lakh food packets have been distributed to older persons living alone and other needy people in cities across the state.] <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance pension for April to be paid through DBT to 13.66 lakh beneficiaries. • Rs 1,000 to be transferred into bank accounts of 66 lakh ration card-holding families covered under NFSA in the state, under the <i>Gujarat Corona Sahayata Yojana</i>.
<p>Haryana</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief camps (467) with a capacity of 70,000 people set up for migrant workers and homeless persons, with provision of adequate food and other facilities. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry rations to be distributed to beneficiaries of ICDS/<i>anganwadi</i> centres at their doorsteps. • Free ration for the month of April to be provided to all BPL families. • Yellow and pink ration card holders to be given 2 litres mustard oil, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg pulses, and 10 kg wheat per member; khakhi ration card holders to be given 10 kg wheat per member and 1 kg pulses. • APL cardholders who are distressed and in need of ration and poor people who do not have a BPL card but have applied for it, to get 3-months free ration till 30 June 2020, from ration shops. Online portals to issue ‘Distress Ration Tokens.’ • Dry ration to be given to all government school children and those enrolled in <i>anganwadis</i> for the period that schools and <i>anganwadis</i> stay closed. • Packed ration to be distributed to poor persons or migrant workers who do not have ration cards. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 1,000 per week to be disbursed to families who have land holdings of less than 5 acres and annual income of less than Rs 180,00, and are not covered under any government scheme or getting any financial assistance under any other category. • A Haryana Corona Relief Fund to be set up to mitigate hardships of those affected by the spread of COVID-19. • Rs 4,500 per month to be paid, through DBT, on a weekly basis beginning March 30, to all those registered with the Haryana Board of Construction Workers but not registered under the <i>Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi</i> (Chief Minister’s Family Welfare) scheme. • Special financial assistance to be provided to BPL and low-income groups like daily wagers, labourers, street vendors, and construction workers. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling for migrants living in relief camps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 24-hour helpline set up for students of higher education, particularly for those belonging to Middle Income Groups (MIG)/Lower Income Groups (LIG) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) families, to cope with stress and other mental health issues related to the COVID-19 crisis. • Mobile phone application 'HelpMe' to provide necessary services, including telemedicine, movement passes, assistance in procurement, delivery of dry ration and cooked food, educational material, among other items, in a single application.
Himachal Pradesh	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters, with adequate provisions for food, to be set up for the poor, needy, and migrant workers. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ration, including flour and rice, to be given to targeted PDS/ration card holders for 2 months. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Rs 500-crore relief package to be provided to the poor and needy, and Rs 30 crore to be provided to construction workers, who are likely to face financial troubles due to the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown. • Rs 160.2 crore, as first quarter pension, to be released to social security pension holders in the first week of April. Rs 3,000, as first quarter pension, to be provided within a fortnight to about 534,000 social security pension holders, including about 125,000 widows and disabled persons. • Rs 2,000 to be provided, as a one-time relief, to about 105,000 workers registered with the Building and Construction Workers' Board.
Jammu and Kashmir	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free dry ration to be provided to the "poor" till the national lockdown is lifted. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance instalments of old age, disability, and family pension to be disbursed. • Rs 1,000 each to be provided to 3.5 lakh construction workers registered with the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board for purchase of ration. • Relief, including in the form of wages, to be provided to 2.26 lakh workers under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme. • Rs 1 crore allocated as financial assistance to lawyers affected by the lockdown.
Jharkhand	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All poor and homeless persons to be taken to 28 state-run shelters across the state, with arrangements to be made for the provision of adequate food. • Home-owners directed not to seek rent for 1 month and not to evict any tenant during the lockdown due to non-payment of rent or discrimination due to COVID-19, profession, religion, caste, and other reasons. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community kitchens/<i>khichdi/dal bhaat</i> (meal of rice, lentils, and vegetables) kitchens to be set up across the state to provide meals to the poor. • Hunger helpline for the delivery of cooked food and dry ration to persons in need and to report issues related to PDS delivery. • Subsidized ration, for 2 months, to be provided in advance to all ration card holders. • 10 kg rice at 1 rupee per kg to be provided to 690,000 families with pending applications for ration cards. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance (up to Rs 2,000) to be provided, through a mobile phone application, to migrant workers from Jharkhand stranded in other states. [As of 25 April, Rs 1,000 each had been transferred to 111,568 migrant workers, of the 210,464 verified labourers.]

<p>Jharkhand</p>	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief support outreach to provide ration, cooking gas cylinders, physical and mental health support and other assistance to sex workers, transgender persons, and persons suffering from HIV/AIDS. • Helpline to assist older persons during the lockdown. • Helpline to provide legal aid and counselling to persons facing domestic violence. • Child abuse helpline to register a complaint or seek counselling or legal aid. • Mental health helpline to provide counselling and support during the lockdown.
<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community halls, wedding halls, and boarding schools to be used to accommodate homeless persons and migrant workers in the state. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free ration (2 months' quota in advance) to be provided to each member of BPL families (10 kg rice and 2 kg wheat) and <i>Antyodaya</i> card holders. • 'Food helpline' set up to address issues of food security among homeless persons, migrant workers, and daily wage labourers. • Free milk to be distributed to the 'urban poor.' • All students in government and aided schools to receive food grains during the lockdown. • 'Dry ration kits' to be distributed to all migrant and building construction workers by the State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. [As of 10 April, 60,000 workers had received the kit.] • Cooked food packets to be provided to migrant and construction workers who are not in a position to cook. [As of 2 May, 30 lakh packets had been distributed.] <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social security payments for 2 months to be paid in advance. • Rs 1,000 each to be paid to 21 lakh construction workers. The relief amount was increased by Rs 1,000, to be paid by the Karnataka Labour Department. [As of 4 May, 11.7 lakh workers had received the assistance.] • Loans amounting to Rs 13,200 crore provided to street vendors under the <i>Badavara Bandhu</i> (Welfare for the Poor) scheme waived. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Santhwana' scheme introduced to address the increase in domestic violence during the lockdown and provide 'counselling, legal and medical aid for victims.' [As of 27 April, 193 'Santhwana Centres' were functional across taluks and districts, and 315 calls were received and attended to by counsellors.]
<p>Kerala</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief camps to be set up. Food, masks, soaps, sanitizer to be made available at all relief camps. [4,603 relief camps set up for 144,145 migrant workers and 35 camps for 1,545 homeless and destitute people. As of 25 April, over 94,000 'destitute and homeless' people had been 'rehabilitated' across the state.] <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community kitchens to be set up across the state. [As of 3 May, 911 community kitchens were functioning and 6,796,213 free meals were served.] • 10 kg free ration to be distributed to all families (below and above the poverty line); Rs 100 crore to be set aside for the purpose. • Delivery of mid-day meals to children at home. • 1,000 low-cost hotels, providing food at Rs 20, to be opened across the state in April. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 1,000 to be given to all BPL and 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' families, who do not receive social security pension, and to 48,454 state-run lottery sellers, who are mostly differently-abled people/persons with disabilities. • Special arrangements to provide essential items to indigenous peoples/tribals/<i>adivasis</i> in a

<p style="text-align: center;">Kerala</p>	<p>few districts in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social security pension of Rs 1,320 crore, which was to be given in April, to be distributed in March. • Loans worth Rs 2,000 crore to be made available to needy families through the all-women’s network 'Kudumbashree' during the months of April and May. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 24-hour Call Centre to be established at the Labour Commissionerate to address requests/complaints related to migrant workers. • Psycho-social support calls to persons with mental illness, children with special needs, labourers from other states stranded in Kerala, and older persons living alone. [As of 4 May, 707,930 tele-counselling calls were recorded, for all such categories, including for persons in quarantine/isolation and for personnel involved in control of the coronavirus outbreak]. • A 24-hour helpline set up by the Directorate of Women and Child Development for women facing domestic violence during the lockdown.
<p style="text-align: center;">Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 month free ration to be provided to all BPL families. • Free ration to 32 lakh beneficiaries of Samagra Samajik Suraksha, who do not have eligibility slips under the National Food Security Scheme. Such people will be provided 1 month’s free fair price ration (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice per person) from the quota of the state government. Food packets to be provided for daily wage workers. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 2,000 to be provided to each Scheduled Tribe family in the state, including Saharia, Baiga, and Bharia families. • An advance amount of Rs 1,200, for 2 months, to be provided to all beneficiaries of Social Security Pensions for Senior Citizens, Widows, and Persons with Disabilities. • Rs 1,000, as a one-time payment, to be provided to all labourers in the state through the State Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Board.
<p style="text-align: center;">Maharashtra</p>	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless persons and migrant workers to be provided shelter and food in community halls, marriage halls, and schools: 262 relief camps already set up across the state for migrant workers and homeless persons. • All home-owners directed to postpone recovery of house rent for at least 3 months and no tenant to be evicted due to non-payment of rent on time or due to rent arrears. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 month free ration to be provided. • In addition to ration provided under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana’ (Prime Minister’s Welfare Scheme for the Poor), 5 kg of ration to be provided for all ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’ and Priority Households in the state. • Subsidized ration for saffron card holders for May and June - 3 kg wheat at Rs 8 per kg, 2 kg rice at Rs 12 per kg. [As of 25 April, distribution of 4.5 lakh metric tonnes of ration had commenced, to benefit around 3 crore people across the state.] • Subsidized ration to around 3.08 crore APL cardholders, not covered under NFSA. Per person, 3 kg wheat at Rs 8 per kg and 2 kg rice at Rs 12 per kg to be provided. • 201 canteens set up across the state under the ‘Shiv Bhojan’ scheme to serve subsidized meals at Rs 5 to the urban poor for 3 months (April to June 2020). The scheme has been extended to the <i>taluk</i> level. • Cash to be deposited in the account of students in lieu of the mid-day meal. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 16.75 lakh to be disbursed from the Maharashtra Juvenile Justice Board to various government and voluntary organizations working for the care of children under the Department of Women and Child Development, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maharashtra Labour Commissioner advised Worker Boards and Labour Departments to issue advisories to employers/owners within their jurisdiction to ensure workers, contractual or casual, are not terminated and wages are not reduced.
Manipur	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More shelter homes to be set up to protect people suffering from drug addiction during the lockdown. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free ration to be distributed to beneficiaries under PDS and to migrant workers, children's homes, old age homes, and rehabilitation centres. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 2,000 to be paid, through DBT, to migrant workers from Manipur stranded in other states.
Meghalaya	<p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 per week to be paid to workers registered with the Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, from 30 March 2020 to 12 April 2020, on submission of required documents. Financial assistance to adult daily wage earners (who are not entitled under MNREGA and other schemes/categories).
Mizoram	<p>Shelter and Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter and food to be provided to all migrant workers. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 3,000 as financial assistance to construction workers, under the Mizoram Building and Other Constructions Workers Welfare Board. [As of 26 April, 49,000 construction workers in the state had been provided this financial assistance.]
Nagaland	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community kitchens to provide meals to stranded labourers, migrant workers, daily wage earners, and others in need. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 2,000, as one-time financial assistance, to be paid, through DBT, to 24,457 construction workers registered under the Nagaland Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. Special package for distressed/stranded citizens outside Nagaland (Rs 3,000 to stranded students, Rs 4,000 to stranded working persons/professionals). [As of 26 April, the state government had distributed Rs 1.63 crore to stranded Nagaland residents across the country.] <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packages of essential commodities to be provided to daily wage earners. Free counselling to be provided to persons affected by the pandemic and the lockdown.
Odisha	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief camps to be set up for migrants in the state, with provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adequate food and shelter. ✓ Psychosocial counselling. ✓ Safety of women and girls. ✓ Medical facilities through mobile medical units. ✓ Proper sanitation, especially in toilets. ✓ Soaps, masks, sanitizers, mosquito nets, sanitary napkins through NGOs/CSR. ✓ Social distancing. ✓ Special care for children in the camps, supply of food, biscuits, and medical check-ups. ✓ In cases where migrant workers prefer dry ration, the same to be provided.

<p style="text-align: center;">Odisha</p>	<p>[As of 26 April, food, accommodation, and healthcare facilities had been provided to over 8,700 migrant workers in 2,610 camps].</p> <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free cooked meals/food packets to be distributed to the homeless and needy in urban and rural areas. [Distribution, reportedly, has been regular. On 3 May, over 3.37 lakh people in 5,326 Gram Panchayats were provided food and 39,858 people were given food by 114 Urban Local Body Authorities.] 5 kg rice at 1 rupee per kg to be provided to 500,000 additional poor/deprived people. Provision of food for needy in rural areas at Rs 60 per adult per day and Rs 45 per child per day. [As of 13 April, more than 41.85 lakh people in rural areas had been provided cooked food through self-help groups]. Advance ration for 3 months to be distributed between 1 April and 15 May 2020. 'Take home ration' in the form of <i>chhatua</i> (dry roasted and powdered cereal), <i>ladoos</i> and other food, to be provided to children (6 months to 3 years) and pregnant and nursing women, in their households, by <i>anganwadi</i> workers and helpers. [As of 28 April, 41 lakh beneficiaries, including 7 lakh pregnant women and nursing mothers and pre-school children had received the ration]. Dry ration, in lieu of morning snacks/hot cooked meals to be provided to pre-school children (3 to 6 years) at their homes. Eggs to be distributed, on a weekly basis. Dry ration to be given to students of Classes I to VIII of government and government-aided schools for the 90 days. Primary students (Classes I to V) to be provided 3 kg rice per month and upper primary students (Classes VI to VIII) to be given 4.5 kg rice per month, through Fair Price Shops/PDS outlets. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of old-age pension for 4 months (April to July), in advance, to ensure availability of cash. A Rs 2,200 crore package announced to help the poor and needy, including Rs 940 crore to be disbursed to all PDS beneficiaries in the form of Rs 1,000 each. [As of 13 April, 51 lakh beneficiaries had received the cash relief of Rs 1,000 and 5.65 lakh tonnes of food grains, including wheat and rice, had been released by the state Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department.] Rs 1,500 to be given to 22 lakh construction workers in the state at a cost of Rs 330 crore. [As of 28 April, over 16 lakh workers had been provided this assistance; Rs 241 crore disbursed.] Rs 3,000 to be disbursed to 65,000 registered street vendors.
<p style="text-align: center;">Punjab</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free food, shelter, and medicines to be provided to the poor. Rs 20 crore sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for free food and medicines for those in need. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-day meal food grains to be delivered, in sealed packets, to beneficiaries at their homes along with cooking costs (primary students to be given 100 gm wheat and rice and Rs 4.48 as cooking cost per day, and upper primary students to be given 150 gm of food grains and Rs 6.71 as cooking cost per day). <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pensions amounting to Rs 150 crore to be disbursed to all eligible beneficiaries. Registered construction workers to be paid Rs 3,000 each. Payments of electricity, water, and sewerage bills to be deferred, to reduce the economic burden on families.
<p style="text-align: center;">Rajasthan</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free food packets to be provided for 2 months to those who live in urban areas, and are not on the NFSA list, from 1 April. This includes street vendors, daily workers, the urban poor, and other needy people. Free wheat to be provided for 3 months to families under NFSA. In areas under curfew,

<p style="text-align: center;">Rajasthan</p>	<p>wheat flour to be distributed instead of whole wheat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free 1 kg <i>chana dal</i> to be provided for 3 months to families under NFSA. • Distribution of free ‘take home ration’ through <i>anganwadis</i> (for children aged 6 months to 6 years: 2 kg wheat <i>dalia</i> (porridge) and 1 kg pulses; for children aged 6 months to 6 years who are malnourished: 3 kg wheat <i>dalia</i> and 2 kg pulses; for girls aged 11 to 14 years who do not attend school and for pregnant women: 3 kg wheat <i>dalia</i> and 1 kg pulses. • Free ration to be distributed to families displaced from Pakistan and living in the state. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 2,500 each (in 2 instalments of Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500) to be given to 36 lakh BPL/ ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’ families and to 25 lakh construction workers and registered street vendors not covered by social security schemes. [As of 22 April, 1.4 crore families had received the financial assistance at a cost of Rs 800 crore.] • Pensions under all social security schemes to be paid by the first week of April. [As of 11 April, pension had been paid to 78 lakh beneficiaries in the state for 2 months, at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore.] • Daily wages of MGNREGA workers to be increased from Rs 199 to Rs 220. Daily wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers to be increased from Rs 213 to Rs 235. • Interest free loans (amounting to a total of Rs 16,000 crore) to be provided to 25 lakh farmers for the financial year 2020–21. • A core group to visit deprived and poor sections of society to check on their needs during the lockdown period. • Financial assistance to be provided to selected folk artists from rural areas. • Payments of electricity and water bills to be deferred, to reduce the economic burden on families.
<p style="text-align: center;">Sikkim</p>	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free ration to be provided to needy families in rural areas (over and above their PDS entitlement), subject to the family not having any member working in the government/public sector including temporary, muster roll, or ad hoc employees. (Families with 3 or more members: 20 kg rice, 5 kg dal, 5 litres cooking oil, 7 kg potatoes, 2 kg onions; families with 2 or less members: 10 kg rice, 2 kg dal, 2 litres cooking oil, 5 kg potatoes, and 1 kg onions.) • In urban areas, packets containing 10 kg rice, 2 kg dal, 2 litres cooking oil, 5 kg potatoes, and 1 kg onions to be provided to all needy families covered by the above category. • Daily wagger workers, migrant, casual or construction site workers, hawkers, and others stranded and in need of immediate succour, whether in bazaar areas or rural areas, to be provided packets containing 10 kg rice, 2 kg dal, 2 litres cooking oil, 5 kg potato, and 1 kg onions. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 2000, as a one-time grant, to 7,836 registered building and other construction workers in the state. • Additional wages of Rs 13 per day to be paid to MGNREGA workers from 1 April 2020. • Rs 500 to beneficiaries of widow, old age, and disability pension. • Women members of self-help groups to be provided Rs 1,500 in 3 instalments of Rs 500 from 1 April 2020. • Additional incentive wage of Rs 300 per day for workers in tea plantations, working during the lockdown period. • Deferral of payment of electricity bills till 30 April 2020.
<p style="text-align: center;">Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community halls to be used as shelters for homeless persons and migrants. • Shelter premises to be disinfected regularly to ensure cleanliness. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 1,000 and free ration, including rice, <i>dal</i>, cooking oil, and sugar to be provided to all PDS/ration card holders in the state. [As of 23 April, over 1.91 crore families who are

<p>Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>PDS/ration card holders had received ration for the month of April.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 and 15 kg rice, 1 kg dal, and 1 litre cooking oil to be provided to construction workers and auto rickshaw drivers, who are members of the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board. 15 kg rice, 1 kg dal, and 1 litre cooking oil to be provided to migrant workers and their families in the state who are unable to return to their homes on account of the lockdown, after identification and verification. Food to be supplied through 'Amma Canteens' till 3 May 2020. Common kitchens to be set up to cook and distribute food to the destitute. Special provisions to be made for older persons dependent on food in <i>anganwadis</i>; arrangements to be made to distribute food to them at their homes. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance 'Maintenance Allowance' payment of Rs 1,500 to be given to all 'differently-abled' beneficiaries in the state for 2 months. A relief package of Rs 3,280 crore to be provided to those engaged in the informal sector, including construction workers, daily wage labourers, agricultural labourers, auto rickshaw drivers, and, older persons, amongst others. Rs 1,000, as ex-gratia payment to 8.6 lakh members of 14 welfare boards of people engaged in the unorganized sector, including trans persons, fisher people, tribals/indigenous persons/<i>adivasis</i>, and manual scavengers amongst other groups. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpline set up for women facing domestic violence during the lockdown. 24-hour helpline set up for older persons and persons with disabilities during the lockdown.
<p>Telangana</p>	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary shelter, with basic facilities and medical care, to be provided to homeless people and migrant workers. Owners of permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary properties directed not to demand rent for 3 months and not to evict or coerce tenants to leave. Eviction, coercion, and harassment of tenants punishable under the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 and Disaster Management Act 2005. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BPL families to be provided 12 kg rice, free of cost, immediately. [As of 14 April, 66 lakh families received the rice.] Universal PDS system adopted in the state. Free ration (12 kg rice/wheat flour) to migrant workers and those in need. Children and pregnant women/lactating mothers to be provided 'take home ration' by 31 March 2020. Cooked food to be provided to migrant workers who are not in a position to cook. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A relief package of Rs 233 crore announced to address needs of the poor. Rs 500 to be provided to 335,669 migrant workers in the state. Cash assistance of Rs 1,500 to be provided to each family towards purchase of other food items. [As of 14 April, 74 lakh families had received the payment.]
<p>Tripura</p>	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary shelters, with provision of food etc. for the poor and needy people, including stranded migrant labourers. Home-owners directed not to demand rent from workers and migrants living in rented accommodation. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooked food packets to be distributed to homeless persons in the state twice a day. Free ration to be provided to all street vendors.

<p style="text-align: center;">Tripura</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free ration consisting of rice, soya bean, eggs, mustard oil, spices, potatoes, and onions, amongst other items, to be provided to 1,500 urban homeless and destitute people for 7 days (from 2 April 2020). Free ration for 1 month to be provided to 5.79 lakh BPL families and 1.09 lakh families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana; also includes 50,000 people living just above the poverty line (APL). ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’ beneficiaries to get 35 kg free rice. 200,000 APL families and 25 lakh BPL and Priority Household category families to also be provided free ration at a cost of Rs 7.22 crore. Primary and secondary school students to be given ‘take-home food’ under the mid-day meal scheme, and pregnant and lactating mothers to be provided with free food. All employers, in industry, shops, or commercial establishments, directed to pay wages to their workers, at their work places, on the due date, without any deduction, during the lockdown. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000, as a one-time grant, to be provided to each of the 4,600 homeless people across the state. Rs 500, as a one-time grant, to be provided to 92,892 poor indigenous families living in 12 “aspiration blocks” across the state. Rs 1,000 to be paid to 40,000 construction workers per month, through DBT, for 3 months (April to June). Rs 1,000 to be provided to all street vendors. [8,666 street vendors have received this amount from the Tripura Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.]
<p style="text-align: center;">Uttarakhand</p>	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief camps for migrant workers with provisions for psychiatric counselling. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 to be paid to each registered labourer.
<p style="text-align: center;">Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>Shelter/Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelters to be set up for migrant workers from other states, across all districts, with provisions for adequate food. Shelters to be geo-tagged, along the lines of community kitchens. Landlords of properties where labourers or migrants are living in rented accommodation, not to demand rent for 1 month. Any landlord who evicts students or migrants/labourers would be liable to action under the Disaster Management Act 2005. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food to be made available to the urban and rural poor. [As of 28 March, 527 community kitchens had been set up across the state and 1.37 lakh food packets had been distributed to the ‘needy’.] Free ration to be provided to BPL ration card holders. [Ration distribution has been regular. As of 15 April, 2.77 lakh new ration cards had been issued while 6.5 lakh metric tonnes rice had been distributed among 3 crore families. On 17 April, over 3 crore people (7.62 lakh families) received ration, which, reportedly, was the highest single-day distribution in the country.] Beneficiaries of ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’, workers bearing MNREGA cards, as well as construction workers and small wage earners to be given 1 month’s stock of free food grains. Food grains to be provided by about 80,000 PDS stores will include 20 kg wheat and 15 kg rice. [As of 28 March, 1.94 crore ration card holders in the state and 35,843 beneficiaries under the Antyodaya scheme had received ration.] <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Age, Disability, and Widow Pension to be paid for 2 months to 83 lakh beneficiaries. [As of 19 April, pension had been provided to over 26 lakh widows, 53 lakh older persons, and over 10 lakh persons with disabilities.] Rs 1,000 each to be provided to 35 lakh labourers as financial aid to address loss of

	<p>livelihoods. These include 15 lakh daily wage labourers, including rickshaw-pullers, hand-cart pullers, and 20.37 lakh construction workers in the state.</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpline set up by the Uttar Pradesh Police for women facing domestic violence during the lockdown.
West Bengal	<p>Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 shelters with arrangement for food, to be opened in Kolkata to accommodate all homeless, poor, and needy people, and stranded migrant workers. • Employers directed to arrange food and shelter for stranded migrant workers, with regular payment of wages. <p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free 5 kg rice/wheat to be provided to 8 crore people till September 2020. • Packets of 2 kg rice and 2 kg potatoes to be provided at the homes of children enrolled under the ICDS/<i>anganwadi</i> scheme. <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 1,000, as one-time payment, to be made to labourers in the unorganized sector. • Rs 1,000, as one-time payment, to be made to migrant workers from West Bengal stranded in other states under the 'Sneher Paras' scheme.

Measures Announced by the Central Government at the National Level

1. Shelter

- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Home Affairs directed all States and Union Territories to set up “Relief Camps” along highways for all migrant workers returning to their domicile state during the period of the lockdown (till 14 April 2020). Provisions to be made to ensure social distancing, quarantine facilities to be set up if needed, and adequate health care, including medical check-ups to be conducted in these camps. [As of 12 April 2020, 14.3 lakh people have been provided shelter in 37,978 Relief Camps set up across the country.]
- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Home Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to take immediate steps to provide adequate support, including shelter and food to migrant workers, including agricultural workers, industrial workers, and other workers employed in the unorganized sector. In addition, the Ministry of Home Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to explore options, including relief shelters identified in disaster management plans, to provide shelter to homeless persons and migrant labourers immediately. Adequate facilities are to be provided, including ‘drinking water, sanitation, common kitchens, storage’ in all shelters. State Governments permitted to use State Disaster Relief Funds for providing food and shelter to homeless people including migrant labourers, who are stranded due to lockdown measures.
- **29 March 2020:** State/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory Authorities directed to ensure:
 - Adequate arrangements of temporary shelters, and provision of food etc. for the poor and needy people, including migrant labourers, stranded due to lockdown measures, in their respective areas.
 - All employers, be it in industry or shops and commercial establishments, work places, shall make payment of wages to their workers, on the due date, without any deduction, for the period their establishments are under closure during the lockdown.
 - Where ever workers, including migrants, are living in rented accommodation, the owners of those properties shall not demand payment of rent for a period of 1 month. If any owner forces

labourers and students to vacate their premises, they will be liable for action under the Disaster Management Act 2005.

2. Food

- **26 March 2020:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment directed Municipal Corporations across 10 cities, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, and Patna to open 'Feeding Centres' for beggars till 15 April 2020. [As of 15 April, the aforementioned Municipal Corporations had provided meals to more than 1.27 crore 'destitute/beggars/homeless persons'.]
- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to provide 3 meals a day to all homeless persons living in shelters constructed under the scheme of Shelters for the Urban Homeless under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission. Cleanliness, personal hygiene, provision of sanitizers, hand wash facilities, and masks to be ensured and maintained in the shelters.
- **16 April 2020:** The Cabinet Secretary directed all states and Union Territories to effectively implement all detailed guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure the "safety, shelter and food security of migrant labourers." All districts "may undertake a comprehensive enumeration of migrant labourers and stranded persons and make all necessary arrangements for providing food and shelter for them." Psycho-social counselling to also be provided as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **19 April 2020:** Ministry of Home Affairs issued a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) to Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/ Union Territory Authorities for the movement of stranded labour within the State/Union Territories. For migrant labourers currently residing in relief/shelter camps, "skill mapping" to be carried out.
- **29 April 2020:** The Ministry of Human Resources and Development approved the provision of mid-day meals to be provided during the summer holidays to around 12 crore children in 11 lakh schools across the country.

3. Financial Assistance

- **24 March 2020:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued an advisory to states and Union Territories across India to transfer funds (Rs 52,000 crore) into the accounts of about 3.5 crore registered construction workers through the Direct Benefit Transfer mode from cess fund. The fund is collected by Labour Welfare Boards under Building and Other Construction Workers' Cess Act. [As of 23 April, 2.17 crore building and construction workers had received financial support amounting to Rs 3,497 crore.]
- **26 March 2020:** The Government of India announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana' (Prime Minister's Welfare Scheme for the Poor) with a budget of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, including food and cash transfer to address the concerns of 80 crore "poor, migrant workers, and those who need help." [As of 23 April, more than 33 crore 'poor' people had received financial assistance amounting to Rs 31,235 crore under this scheme.]

The scheme includes the following measures:

- Free 5 kg wheat/rice along with 1 kg pulses for the next 3 months to be provided to the "poor and needy", in addition to the ration received by them under the National Food Security Act. [As of 9 April 2020, 12.1 million tonnes of food grains had been allocated to be supplied to 81 crore people across the country. As of 23 April, 39.27 crore beneficiaries had received 109,227 million tonnes of pulses under the scheme.]

- Rs 1,000, as a one-time ex-gratia payment, to be made to 3 crore beneficiaries of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under the National Social Assistance Program. [As of 23 April, Rs 1,405 crore had been paid to around 2.82 crore beneficiaries, including older persons, widows, and persons with disabilities.]
- An ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month, for 3 months, to be made to about 20 crore women who have Jan Dhan bank accounts. [As of 23 April, Rs 10,025 crore had been disbursed to 20.05 crore women with 'Jan Dhan Accounts.']
- Free Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders to be provided to 8.3 crore BPL families across the country for the next 3 months. [As of 23 April, 2.66 crore LPG cylinders had been distributed.]
- An advance payment of Rs 2,000 to be made to 7.3 crore farmers across India in April 2020 under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' (PM-KISAN) scheme. [As of 29 April, Rs 71,000 crore had been transferred into the accounts of 9.31 crore farmers.]

4. Healthcare

- **1 April 2020:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare directed all states and Union Territories to provide adequate medical facilities in "Relief Camps"/shelter homes in addition to providing food, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities. As a means to ensure "strong social protection", trained counsellors and/or community leaders belonging to all faiths could also be directed to these camps and shelters to address "immediate, psychosocial issues, anxiety and fears" of all persons residing in the camps.

5. Other Measures

- **23 March 2020:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development sent a circular to all states and Union Territories directing them to ensure that "Childline (1098) - the 24x7 phone emergency outreach for supporting children in distress" is continually functioning as an emergency service. [As of 8 April 2020, of the 3.07 lakh calls received by the national Childline (1098) helpline, 92,000 (30 per cent) were related to protection against violence and abuse of children.]
- **25 March 2020:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development sent a circular to all states and Union Territories directing them to ensure that all state-run 'One Stop Centres' and helplines remain operational during the lockdown.
- **29 March 2020:** The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories to address the needs of "vulnerable children who are currently without family or out of any institutional care," including street children, children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs), children in conflict with the law, and, "children of families involved in seasonal labour," amongst others.
- **10 April 2020:** Emergency helpline by the National Commission for Women (NCW) set up to provide assistance to women facing domestic violence during the lockdown. [As of 2 May 2020, NCW reported receiving 800 complaints since the commencement of the lockdown, 315 of which pertained to domestic violence.]
- **29 April 2020:** Migrant workers, tourists, and students stranded at different places to be allowed to move with the consultation of state governments and while following stipulated norms.
- **1 May 2020:** Movement of migrant workers, tourists, students, and other persons, stranded at different places, to be allowed in special trains to be operated by the Ministry of Railways.

- **3 May 2020:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued an order raising the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) of 49 items to support tribals/indigenous persons/*adivasis* during the pandemic.
- **4 May 2020:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued an order to all states to take “immediate measures for livelihood and security of tribals/indigenous persons/*adivasis* gatherers and artisans in the backdrop of the situation arising out of COVID-19.” The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is to procure unsold product stocks from tribal artisans and also provide ration kits to tribal families across the country. “Each ration kit includes: 5 kg wheat flour, 2 kg dal, 3 kg rice, 500 ml oil, 100 gm turmeric powder, 100 gm red chilly powder, 100 gm cumin seeds, 100 gm black mustard seeds, 100 gm curry masala, and 2 soaps.

Note: This is a **working document** with a focus on compiling relief measures specifically related to shelter/housing, food, financial assistance, and other support for vulnerable/marginalized groups, including homeless persons and migrant workers. **This compilation is dated 5 May 2020.**

Earlier Compilations of State Relief Measures and Recommendations by HLRN:

7 April 2020:

https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_COVID19_State_Response_India_7_April_2020.pdf

30 March 2020: https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_COVID19_State_Response_India_30_March.pdf

Links to Other Compilations of Relief Measures and Government Notifications Related to COVID-19 and India’s Lockdown:

- 1) PRS Legislative Research, **Compilation of Government Notifications**
<https://prsindia.org/covid-19/notifications>
 - 2) Dvara Research
<https://www.dvara.com/research/resources/notes/interventions-of-states-in-response-to-covid-19-outbreak/>
 - 3) COVID-19 Database
<https://covid-india.in/>
 - 4) BehanBox
<http://covid19indiaresponse.behanbox.com/#>
 - 5) Centre for Social Justice
<https://centreforsocialjustice.net>
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