



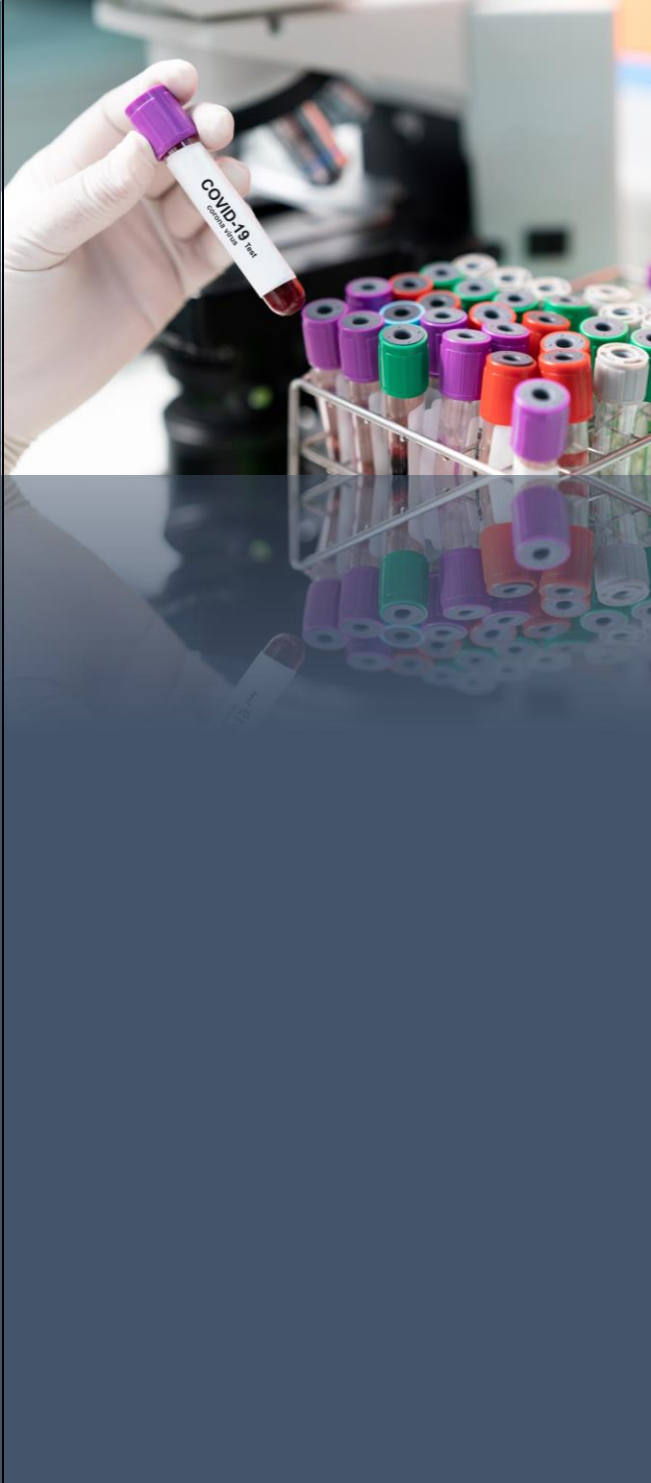
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# COVID 19

## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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AN17, 03 April 2020



### [Prime Minister of India addresses the Nation.](#)

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India addressed the nation on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the lockdown and complimented the people for the discipline and spirit displayed by the citizens during this period. He added that Government, administration and the public at large, have together made great efforts to manage the situation as best as possible.

### [Armed Forces working together with civilian authorities in fight against COVID-19](#)

Armed Forces have been working round-the-clock to provide medical and logistics support to the needy to contain COVID-19 pandemic. Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has deployed its resources to aid the civilian authorities at this crucial time. Armed Forces are running six quarantine facilities at Mumbai, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Hindon, Manesar and Chennai.

### [Direct cash transfer to women PMJDY account holders under PM Garib Kalyan Package for the month of April 2020 in the light of COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The Ministry of Rural Development is releasing an amount of Rs. 500/- per woman to Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accountholders (as per number of such accounts intimated by banks), for April 2020, and the same have been credited to the designated accounts of individual banks on 2nd April 2020.

**CORONAVIRUS- RESEARCH TRACKER : Update as on 03 April 2020:****• Bharat Biotech set to develop and test vaccine for COVID-19:**

Bharat Biotech is getting into development and testing of a vaccine against COVID-19 called CoroFlu as part of an international collaboration of virologists and vaccine makers. CoroFlu is a one drop COVID-19 nasal vaccine built on a flu vaccine “backbone” that has been shown to be safe and well-tolerated in humans, in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials.

**• COVID-19 vaccine candidate shows promise in first peer-reviewed research**

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine scientists today announced a potential vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus causing the COVID-19 pandemic. When tested in mice, the vaccine, delivered through a fingertip-sized patch, produces antibodies specific to SARS-CoV-2 at quantities thought to be sufficient for neutralizing the virus.

**• Researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) have studied the **impact of COVID-19 outbreak on daily commute**, during the transition phase between pre-lockdown and lockdown period.****• IIT Roorkee has developed a low-cost portable ventilator** that can be useful for COVID-19 patients. Named ‘Prana-Vayu,’ the closed-loop ventilator is developed in collaboration with AIIMS, Rishikesh, and is equipped with state-of-the-art features.**• IIT Bombay Students Prepare Masks From Household Items**

Faculty members at IIT-Bombay have designed face masks using household items to help people when medical stores are running out of supplies. Another team of three professors have designed a portable ultra-violet sanitiser that can help clean surfaces as a precautionary measure against the spread of Covid-19. The unit can help sanitise wallets, purses and other small items.

**• India's first paper-strip test for Covid-19, CSIR lab makes a breakthrough**

The test uses the cutting-edge gene-editing tool- Crispr-Cas9 to target and identify the genomic sequences of the novel coronavirus in the samples of suspected individuals.

**• Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday approved laboratories under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to conduct the**



COVID-19 testing. However, DBT, DST, CSIR and DAE laboratories have been asked to strictly follow the ICMR guidelines before initiation of COVID-19 testing.

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in its interim advisory has recommended the use of the rapid antibody test in the country's coronavirus hotspots. The decision for the recommendation was taken at an emergency meeting of the National Task Force, formed to deal with the health crisis, held on Thursday.
- Bhopal-based 3B BlackBio Biotech, a subsidiary of Kilpest India Ltd, has received approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for real-time PCR detection kits for SARS Covid-19 manufactured by it. With this, Kilpest India Ltd has become the second company in India to receive approval for its testing kits, after My Labs.

- **Govt asks researchers to develop mathematical models on Covid-19 spread**

Science & technology ministry move follows series of notifications from its different departments asking researchers to submit study proposals to fight coronavirus pandemic. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has invited scientists to develop mathematical models to study how Covid-19 spreads in a population, and make data-driven forecasts of coronavirus infections.

- **DST approves 5 technology projects to combat COVID-19**

In view of increasing spread of COVID-19 infections in India, the Department of Science and Technology, Science and Engineering Board (DST-SERB), has announced several special research projects to urgently ramp up national R&D efforts against the epidemic. The first set of 5 projects have been selected after peer-review and assessment by a Special Expert Committee for COVID-19 projects.

- **FDA Provides Updated Guidance to Address the Urgent Need for Blood During the Pandemic:**

The agency issued guidance for immediate implementation to address the urgent and immediate need for blood and blood components. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives.

- A drug already tested against lung disease could potentially inhibit COVID-19 by reducing the coronavirus load that enters the lungs and other organs. According to a study in human cell cultures and organoids by researchers at Karolinska Institute in Sweden and the University of British



Columbia (UBC) in Canada, published in the journal *Cell*. The results could be promising for the treatment of COVID-19 patients who are in the early stages of infection, according to the researchers.

- Australia's science agency announced on Thursday it has begun trials on ferrets to produce a vaccine against the novel coronavirus. A statement released by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), the country's national science agency, said that scientists have commenced the first stage of testing for potential vaccines. The testing is expected to take three months, adding that the process was underway at the CSIRO's high-containment biosecurity facility in Geelong, Victoria.

### [Indian Potash Limited donates 5 crore rupees to PM-CARES fund taking Fertiliser PSUs contribution to Rs 32 crore](#)

Indian Potash Limited(IPL), a PSU under the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers , has donated 5 crore rupees to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) fund to support Government in its efforts to fight COVID-19 pandemic . This takes contribution of Fertiliser CPSUs to Rs 32 crore.

### [Indian Railways gears up its entire machinery in a big way to take comprehensive measures on prevention of COVID-19 virus infection](#)

Indian Railways has geared up its entire machinery in a big way to take comprehensive measures on prevention of COVID-19 virus infection. The preparedness levels are being reviewed by Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State for Railways along with Chairman Railway Board since 5th March 2020. Interactions involving General Managers (GMs) and key officials of Railway Board are being held every day.

### [Morocco: New Financing Program to Boost Production of Medical Equipment](#)

Morocco's National Agency for the Promotion of Small and Mid-Sized Enterprises (Maroc PME) is set to invest in a series of projects to manufacture products that are in high demand due to the novel coronavirus crisis. The program aims to help Moroccan industries meet the country's demand for masks, ventilators, and other critical products rather than increasing imports.

### [Morocco: Operation SALAMA to Protect Vulnerable Women and Child Safeguarding](#)

#### [Action Plan Amid COVID-19 Crisis](#)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched the initiative "Operation SALAMA" in collaboration with Moroccan government institutions and NGOs to effectively support vulnerable populations in



several Moroccan regions, particularly women, against the risk of COVID-19 infection, as the public health crisis grows. The humanitarian operation aims to distribute medical and hygiene kits as a preventive measure against the spread of the virus.

### [NATO tasks top commander to speed up medical aid in response to COVID-19 pandemic](#)

NATO foreign Minister tasked Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) for coordinating the air transport of medical equipment and personnel to fight the “invisible enemy” of the coronavirus and coordinate the necessary military support to combat the crisis.

### [North Eastern Region's international border has been effectively closed to enforce lockdown](#)

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh had a meeting over Video Conference with the Officers of Ministry of DoNER, North Eastern Council (NEC) and NEDFI to review the measures being taken to fight the same in the NE Region in view of outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic.

### [Power & RE sector PSUs contributing Rs. 925 Crores to PM CARES fund](#)

The Central Public Enterprise ( CPSEs) under Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy have decided to contribute Rs. 925 Crore to ‘Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund’ (PM CARES Fund)’ which has been created by PMO to provide relief to victims of coronavirus ( COVID-19) pandemic.

### [New study finds at least 10 patients in Singapore caught virus from those without symptoms](#)

At least 10 people in Singapore got the coronavirus from those without symptoms, according to a new study of such patients in the country. The risk that such transmission poses has been a source of great concern in the current outbreak.

### [Ministry of Human Resource Development launches MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal](#)

In view of the outbreak of COVID19 and National lockdown since March 25th, some students have been facing difficulties due to closure of colleges and hostels. Hence in order to provide help and support to such students, AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) has come out with a unique MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal to address the issues. The portal was launched by the Union HRD Minister.



### [Indian Air Force continues its support towards fight against Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Indian Air Force continues its support to contain the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. The medical supplies are being transported to equip the State Governments and supporting agencies to combat the contagion effectively and efficiently.

### [Income Tax Appellate Tribunal begins regular interactive sessions](#)

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has commenced today a series of Video Conferences involving regular interactive sessions to productively utilise the time available during the 21-day lockdown. The topics of the seven interactive sessions, include domain as well as non-domain subjects and will have different sessions at the National and Zonal levels, including amongst Members of bigger multiple Bench stations. Domain topics include Income Tax and allied laws, while non-domain subjects relate to better living viz., health, meditation, holistic wellness etc.

### [Steps being taken by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare for smooth harvesting of Rabi Crop and sowing of summer crop](#)

For ensuring that the farmers do not suffer from any adverse fall out during the lockdown period, the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is taking several measures for smooth harvesting of Rabi Crop and sowing of summer crop. Video conference has been conducted with all States and Insurance companies to review the payment of claims, status of Conduct of CCEs for Rabi 2019-20 crops, crop loss survey and implementation of Smart Sampling Technique.

### [Italy economic activities during COVID-19](#)

With the aim to reduce the spread of the virus, the Italian Government decided to suspend the industrial and commercial activities except for the activities considered essential and its supply chain. All the enterprises have to guarantee the safety of its workers (i.e. distancing of at least one meter between the workers and use of PPEs.) The list of activities mentions the Industry sectors to be operational and economic activities that which will be functional.

### [The World Bank Approves \\$26.9 Million for Mongolia's COVID-19 Emergency Response](#)

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved \$26.9 million for the Mongolia COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Project to meet emergency needs in the face of the pandemic and to better prepare for future health crises. The project will address the immediate needs in response to COVID-19 such as training for emergency care doctors, nurses and paramedical staff; purchase of medical and laboratory equipment and supplies as well as build COVID-19 diagnostic capacity in Ulaanbaatar and all provinces.





### [Global companies extend a hand with 1 million Covid-19 test kit](#)

At least four multinational manufacturers of Covid-19 test kits are gearing up to supply more than a million diagnostic kits to India, as the country looks to ramp up testing for the novel coronavirus.

### [IIT-Roorkee, AIIMS-Rishikesh develop low-cost portable ventilator](#)

The ventilator, Prana Vayu, will cost ₹25,000 per unit, much less than the products available in the market. The prototype does not require compressed air and can be useful when open areas are converted into ICUs

### [PM Lee's address on enhanced measures to deal with COVID-19 situation in Singapore](#)

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong addressed the nation on Friday giving an update on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore and announced enhanced measures to limit the spread of the disease.

### [Bengaluru-based Bione launches India's first at-home testing kit for Covid-19](#)

With the world putting forward all measures to fight the coronavirus pandemic, genetic and microbiome testing firm Bione launched India's first Rapid Covid-19 at-home screening test kit. The easy-to-use kit, approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research, displays accurate results within minutes.

### [ICJ moves UNHRC against China for Covid-19 reparations](#)

The International Council of Jurists (ICJ), headquartered in London, has moved the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) seeking unspecified amount as reparations from China for having caused "serious physical, psychological, economic and social harm" to member-nations by unleashing Covid-19 on the world.

### [Aggressive tests, tracing infected people key to stopping Covid-19: South Korean envoy](#)

South Korean ambassador Shin Bong-kil has said that aggressive testing, tracing people infected by the virus and quarantining them is key to preventing the spread of Covid-19. In an interview, he also said the Indian government must take speedy steps after the end of the current lockdown to assist Korean companies that have heavily invested in the country to resume normal operations.

### [Med Tech Zone to make ventilators; 25,000 COVID testing kits in a week](#)

The task of manufacturing ventilators, which are crucial for treating critical cases of coronavirus, has been assigned to Vizag Med Tech Zone by the Andhra Pradesh Industries and Commerce Minister. As many as 3,000 ventilators and 25,000 COVID testing kits will be made available within 10 days. He said that steps were being taken for manufacturing another 6,000 ventilators to meet the demand



in future. They were also requested to coordinate with the textile industries in Krishna, Guntur, Chittoor and Anantapur districts for manufacturing disposable bed sheets.

### [UP govt clears decks for Noida firm, Maruti to supply 10,000 ventilators](#)

The Uttar Pradesh government has said that it has removed hurdles for a Noida-based firm to manufacture and supply 10,000 ventilators in collaboration with Maruti Suzuki in order to prevent deaths in severe cases of coronavirus. The joint venture will supply the ventilators to the Central Government in a month, the Government added.

## Central Advisories and Notifications

### [TRIFED writes to States/UTs regarding combating impact of COVID-19 on NTFP Trade and Tribal Interests](#)

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**), under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has written to the Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories and all State Level Nodal Agencies regarding combating the impact of Pandemic Covid-19 on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Trade and Tribal interests.

### [Vice President urges Governors/ Lt. Governors to advise religious leaders to not hold any congregations/ functions](#)

The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu called upon the Governors and Lt. Governors of States and Union Territories to motivate spiritual and religious leaders to advise their followers to not hold any congregations and observe social distancing norms to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. He also asked them to focus on the arrangements made to ensure harvesting, storage and procurement of the agriculture produce in their respective States.

### [Ministry of Finance implements various measures announced by the Government for providing relief to the taxpayers in view of spread of Novel Corona Virus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Government has issued following notifications in order to provide relief to the taxpayers:

- Notification No. 30/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020 - Seeks to Amend GST Rules in order to allow opting composition scheme for F 2020-21 till 30.06.2020 and to allow cumulative application of condition in rule 36(4)
- Notification No. 31/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020- Seeks to provide relief by conditional lowering of interest rate for tax period of February 2020 to April, 2020





- Notification No. 32/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020- Seeks to provide relief by conditional waiver of late fee for delay in furnishing returns in FORM GSTR-3B for tax periods of February, 2020 to April, 2020
- Notification No. 33/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020- Seeks to provide relief by conditional waiver of late fee for delay in furnishing outward statement in FORM GSTR -1 for tax periods of February 2020 to April, 2020
- Notification No. 34/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020- Seeks to extend due date of furnishing FORM GST CMP-08 for the quarter ending March, 2020 till 07.07.2020 and filing FORM GSTR-4 for FY 2020-21 till 15.07.2020.
- Notification No. 35/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020- Seeks to extend due date of compliance which falls during the period from 20.03.2020 to 29.06.2020 till 30.06.2020 and to extend validity of e-way bills
- Notification No. 36/ 2020 – Central Tax dt. 03.04.2020 -Seeks to extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-3B for supply made in the month of May 2020

### **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) clarifies on ground level issues being faced by States in ensuring smooth flow of supply chain of Essential Items during National Lockdown to fight COVID-19**

Union Home Secretary, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written to all State Chief Secretaries clarifying on the ground level issues being faced by States in ensuring smooth flow of supply chain of essential items during national lockdown to fight COVID-19. The communication deals in detail with different categories of essential items exempt from the lockdown restrictions.

### **Ministry of Home Affairs issues an Addendum to exempt Shops of Agricultural machinery, spare parts & repair; Truck repair shops and Tea industry from Lockdown Restrictions to fight COVID-19**

The addendum exempts from lockdown restrictions the shops of agricultural machinery, its spare parts (including its supply chain) and repair; truck repair shops on highways, preferably at fuel pumps; and Tea industry, including plantations with maximum of 50% workers.

### **Ministry of Home Affairs writes to States to ensure Smooth Harvesting and Sowing Operations, while maintaining Social Distancing, during 21-day Lockdown to fight COVID-19**

In order to re-emphasize the exceptions, Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written to all State Chief Secretaries to ensure that exceptions w.r.t. farming operations, allowed under 21-day lockdown, be communicated to all field agencies. Smooth harvesting and sowing operations, while maintaining Social Distancing, need to be ensured, the advisory states.



### [On directions of the Prime Minister, Home Ministry approves release of Rs 11,092 crores under State Disaster Risk Management Fund to All States](#)

Ministry of Home Affairs has approved release of Rs 11,092 crores under State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) to all States. The Central Government has released in advance its share of first instalment of SDRMF for the year 2020-21, amounting to Rs. 11,092 crores, with a view to augment funds available with the State Governments.

## **State Advisories and Notifications**

### [Bangalore: Appointment of Nodal Officers for Bengaluru Customs Zone amidst COVID-19](#)

The office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru has appointed Nodal Officer for Bengaluru Customs Zone for facilitating Customs clearances if import cargo amidst COVID-19.

### [Government of Goa: Deployment of coastal police for banning fishery related activities.](#)

The Department of Fisheries, Goa issued a notification stating that no fisheries related activities will be allowed from 2 April 2020 except for providing ration and other material required for safety of the crew.

### [Goa: Healthcare Teleconsultations Services launched](#)

The Government of Goa in association with Clinikk Healthcare launched a Teleconsultation service for citizens of the State who seek medical advice. This one of a kind service will prove to be of utmost importance when the State is bracing tough times with COVID -19.

### [Karnataka State Pollution Control Board \(KSPCB\): Extension of storage period of Hazardous Waste beyond 90 days](#)

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in its office order has permitted the occupier to store the Hazardous Waste, beyond 90 days. However, the occupier shall ensure that the hazardous waste is not allowed to store beyond 15 days after lifting of lockdown.

### [Government of Punjab: Corona Virus Alert \(COVA\) mobile application](#)

The State Government has issued orders to all Telecom Service Providers, Social Media Networks, Applications to mandatorily push messages, notifications, to their customers to download the COVA app. The app provides real time dashboard of the COVID-19 suspected/ confirmed cases, list of hospitals and other awareness information.



### [Government of Punjab: Constitution of District COVID-19 Management Committees for the Isolation facilities.](#)

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Punjab has issued memo stating that all the administrative control of Hospital/ Isolation facilities will remain with the concerned SMO. The Isolation Facility Management Committee which has been formulated will provide all the logistics support to SMO and the medical fraternity to operate the facility efficiently and effectively.

### [Government of Karnataka: Closure of Industries- Exemption to certain industries](#)

The Govt. of Karnataka in its circular has exempted certain category of industries as “Continuous Process Industrial Units” to carry on their manufacturing activities keeping in view the importance of maintaining supply chain of essential commodities during lock down.

### [Government of Kerala: Exemption from payment of rent for three months for MSME](#)

In the context of COVID-19, Government has ordered all MSME Units who have rented their units in the buildings / premises owned by the Government, Semi- Government, Public Sector Undertakings and Local Self Governments are exempted from the payment of rent for three months from March 2020.

### [Government of West Bengal: List of facilities in private hospitals.](#)

Government of West Bengal has shared list of Isolation Beds and Ventilation facilities in private Hospitals in Kolkata.

### [Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission: Mitigating impact of COVID-19 on electricity consumers](#)

To mitigate the difficulties being faced by the power consumers of Maharashtra and in its effort to contain the spread of Corona Pandemic, the Commission has put a moratorium on payment of fixed charges of the electricity bill by consumers under Industrial and Commercial category for next three billing cycles beginning from the lockdown date of 25/3/2020.

### [Government of Telangana: Certain austerity measures](#)

The State Government has ordered for payment of full eligible salary to the employees of the Medical & Health and Police Departments.



### [Government of Maharashtra issues clarification on exemption of industries to operate](#)

Government of Maharashtra has issued a clarification stating that all Industrial activities falling under 8 (a) and 8 (b) do not require any permission to operate. Uninterrupted supply chain of raw material for all essential industrial units should be allowed along with the packaging units. The raw material supplier must ensure that it is on the list of suppliers of the concerned manufactured unit.

## **International Advisories and Notifications**

### [Ministry of Health, Singapore: Circuit Breaker to minimize further spread of COVID-19](#)

Ministry of Health, Singapore in its press release has stated that the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will be implementing an elevated set of safe distancing measures, as a circuit breaker to pre-empt the trend of increasing local transmission of COVID-19. There will be significant reduction in movements and interactions in public and private places, full home-based learning for schools and closure of most physical workplace premises, except for those providing essential services and in selected economic sectors which are critical for local and the global supply chains.

### [Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini: Guidelines for all Industries](#)

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade has released guidelines for all industries in the country, in consultation with the business community, has recommended that industries as advised by World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health guidelines shall continue to operate.

### [South Africa: Government Gazette with change in regulations in Schedule of Disaster Management Act, 2002.](#)

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa has declared a national state of disaster in the nation in view of COVID-19 crisis and have made the regulations in the Schedule of the Disaster Management Act, 2002.

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