

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 13, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- Senior AIADMK Leader and former Minister C. Ponnaiyan - assumed office as the Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission.



- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam were present when he assumed office in Chennai on March 12.
- ✓ The vice-chairman will have the status of a Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ C Ponnaiyan is one of the founding members of Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and is a four-time member of the Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly from Tiruchengode constituency
- ✓ He has served as Minister of Finance, Education, Industry, Agriculture, Cooperation, Highways, Transport, Law and IT in the Cabinets headed by former Chief Ministers Late M.G. Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.
- ✓ The Chief Minister is the chairman of the State Planning Commission.
- ✓ The State Planning Commission was constituted in Tamil Nadu on May 25, 1971
- ✓ The commission functions as an advisory body and makes its recommendations to the government on various subjects pertaining to the development of the State.

- ✓ The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department and the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department are ex-officio Members of the Commission.
- ✓ The Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, is in charge of the administration of the Commission.
- ✓ Earlier in March 2017, the Tamil Nadu government had announced that it would replace the State Planning Commission with the State Development Policy Council, but it hasn't taken effect since.

## STATES

- **The novel coronavirus - was declared an epidemic by the Delhi government on March 12.**
- ✓ The decision was announced after the World Health Organisation declared coronavirus as 'pandemic'.
- ✓ The Delhi Government has invoked Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
- ✓ All cinemas, schools and colleges, except those where examinations are going on, will remain closed till March 31
- ✓ The disinfection of all public and private places has also been made compulsory
- ✓ As a related measure, the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi will remain closed for exploratory tour visits from March 13 till further notice.
- ✓ The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 confers powers to the centre and state governments to take special measures and form regulations to stop the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases.
- ✓ The act was invoked to control the plague epidemic in the 1890s.
- ✓ Any person found violating the regulations of the act is liable to be faced with penalty including six month imprisonment and fine worth Rs 1000 or both

## NATIONAL

- **The Rajya Sabha passed two Bills — the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on March 12.**
- ✓ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill aims to provide immunity to successful bidders of insolvent companies from the risk of criminal proceedings for offences committed by previous promoters
- ✓ It was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 6.
- ✓ The Bill replaces an ordinance.
- ✓ The IBC, which came into force in 2016, has already been amended thrice.
- ✓ Introducing the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Bill was an exact replica of the ordinance
- ✓ The Minerals Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 aims to promote the Indian coal and mining sector, especially with respect to the ease of doing business.

- ✓ The amended bill has provisions for companies to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks even if they don't have prior experience of coal mining in India.
  - ✓ The Bill provides for licensing of coal mining leases (PL-and-ML) which will increase the availability of coal and lignite blocks
  - ✓ Henceforth, as per the bill, the auction of the lease of mines can be started before the end of the lease term
  - ✓ The environmental and forest clearances will be automatically transferred to the new owners of the mineral blocks along with other clearances for two years.
- **The Government – introduces Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha**
- ✓ The Bill seeks to provide autonomy to major ports to improve efficiency and competitiveness
  - ✓ It was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya
  - ✓ The idea behind the Bill is to privatise the 12 major ports and to give them more powers to take decisions.
- **A 76-year-old man from Kalaburagi in north Karnataka - is the country's first Covid-19 fatality**
- ✓ The man had recently travelled to Saudi Arabia and died while being brought from a Hyderabad hospital to Kalaburagi on March 10
  - ✓ The man from Kalaburagi, 570 km north of Bengaluru, had left for Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on pilgrimage on January 29
  - ✓ He arrived from Saudi Arabia on February 29 at Hyderabad airport
  - ✓ On his arrival, he showed no symptoms of Covid-19 after screening, and proceeded to Kalaburagi, about 230 km away.
  - ✓ By March 5, he developed complications and was taken to the hospital in Kalaburagi and got admitted.
  - ✓ As on March 12, the Union Health Ministry announced that the number of patients in the country has risen to 74
  - ✓ The rise in the number comes a day after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.
- **The Government – is planning to provide a unique disability ID (UDID) to over three lakh persons with disabilities by the end of March.**
- ✓ The new ID cards will help them avail benefits from various central and state government schemes.
  - ✓ The Department for the welfare of differently-abled has roped in 100 medical officers from every district primary health centre to facilitate this process.
  - ✓ To make the application process easier, the Department is also planning to launch a mobile App soon

- ✓ Using the mobile App, the beneficiaries can upload all documents and get the ID without going to the district offices.
  - ✓ This project was launched by the Centre in 2017
  - ✓ It aims to create a national database for disabled, who are falling under all 21 categories mentioned in the Persons with Disabilities Act.
  - ✓ It is meant to ensure transparency, help beneficiaries avail all schemes and government benefits and streamline the tracking of the physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at all levels.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu currently has around 13 lakh persons with disabilities.
- **The Government - has notified the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020**
- ✓ The new rules are meant to enable implementation of recent amendments to the Act
  - ✓ The Act has made punishment provisions more stringent
  - ✓ It has defined the term 'child pornography' for the first time and provides guidelines for crackdown on possession of pornographic material involving children.
  - ✓ The Pocso rules became effective from March 9
  - ✓ As per the rules, state governments must formulate a child protection policy based on the principle of zero tolerance to violence against children
  - ✓ The policy shall be adopted by all institutions, organisations, or any other agency working with children.
  - ✓ It has laid out the detailed modalities for reporting of pornographic material involving a child to the special juvenile police unit (SJPU) or local police, or the cyber-crime portal
  - ✓ Those who are reporting such material should hand over all necessary evidences, including the source from which such material may have originated, to the police authorities.
  - ✓ The report will have to include details of the device in which such pornographic content was noticed and the suspected device from which such content was received, including the platform on which the content was displayed.
  - ✓ The rules urge the Centre and state governments to create widespread awareness about the procedures of making such reports from time to time.
  - ✓ The rules mandate the state governments to prepare age-appropriate educational material and curriculum for children, informing them about various aspects of personal safety, including measures to protect their physical and virtual identity.
  - ✓ It has been stipulated that any institution housing children or coming in regular contact with children, including schools, creches, sports academies or any other facility, must ensure a police verification and background check of every staff member on periodic basis.

- ✓ Such institutions should also hold periodic sensitization programmes on child safety.
- **The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) - is setting up four more quarantine camps for Covid-19 suspects following the rising number of coronavirus cases.**



- ✓ The new camps will come up at existing training facilities of the paramilitary force in Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ They will be able to collectively house about 1300 people
  - ✓ This is in addition to the ITBP camp already functioning in Delhi's Chhawala that has 112 people evacuated from China's Wuhan in February.
  - ✓ The country has already suspended visas — with a handful of exceptions — until April 15
  - ✓ The Delhi Government has shut down schools, colleges and cinema halls.
  - ✓ Army is already running a quarantine camp in Haryana's Manesar
  - ✓ While the ITBP facility in Chandigarh can accommodate 580 people, Sivaganga (Tamil Nadu) will house 300, and Kimin (Arunachal Pradesh) and Karera (Madhya Pradesh) can offer shelter to 210 and 180 people respectively.
  - ✓ Each facility is being fumigated and a dozen buses are on stand-by to transport people.
- **The central government - has released a comic series for Covid-19 awareness 'Kids, Vaayu & Corona: Who wins the fights?' to spread awareness among children in the age group of 9-12 years.**
  - ✓ The book is conceived by the faculty of PGIMER-Chandigarh and Panjab university-Chandigarh to educate children about coronavirus.
  - ✓ The book is authored by Dr Ravindra Khaiwal, additional professor, environment of health, PGIMER, and Dr Suman Mor, chairperson, department of environment studies, Panjab university with the technical support from National Centre For Disease Control (NCDC).
  - ✓ Vaayu is a superhero who lives at the foothills of Himalayas, working for better health and environment.
  - ✓ He has been called to fight against global threat of coronavirus and to protect children from sudden panic and fear.

- ✓ As per the advisory in the comic, one does not need to wear mask if they don't have cold or respiratory symptoms.



- ✓ It advises kids to greet people with salutation words like 'As-salaamalaikum, namastey, hello, or sat sriakalji' instead of the traditional handshake.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **President Donald Trump - suspended travel from Europe to the U.S. for 30 days in an effort to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- ✓ The ban will not include travellers from the U.K., which recently left the EU
- ✓ About 4,500 people have died so far worldwide.
- ✓ As of March 11, there were more than 1,100 confirmed infections in the U.S. and 32 deaths
- ✓ Meanwhile, Italy's death toll passed 1,000 on March 12
- ✓ It had reported 189 new fatalities, taking its toll in just over two weeks to 1,016, second behind China

## SPORTS

- **Tiger Woods - will be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in its class of 2021**
- ✓ The 44-year-old Woods will be eligible for the Hall of Fame in December 2020, after the age of entry was lowered from 50 to 45
- ✓ Woods has bagged 15 Majors and has a joint record 82 titles on the PGA Tour



- ✓ Only those players who have secured at least 15 wins on approved PGA tours are eligible to be inducted in the Hall of Fame.
- ✓ Tiger Woods is an American professional golfer, who is regarded widely as the most successful golfer of all time, with phenomenal achievements.

# CORONAVIRUS IMPACT – AN UPDATE

## ITALY TOLL JUMPS TO 1,000, CASES CROSS 15,000

The WHO described the coronavirus outbreak as a pandemic and said Italy and Iran were on the frontline of the disease and other countries would soon join them

**130,500+**  
people infected globally

**4,900+**  
people have died

**122**  
countries outside China have reported infections

**First Deaths** recorded in Bulgaria, Indonesia, Ireland, Poland, Sweden and Greece

**1,500+**  
Deaths outside China

**First Cases** recorded in Cuba, Honduras and Ivory Coast

### Countries/regions that have reported 10 or more deaths

	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
China	80,932	3,172
Italy	15,113	1,016
Iran	10,075	429
S Korea	7,869	66
Spain	2,277	55
France	2,284	48
US	1,319	38
Japan	1,316	21



**PRE-CORONA**

Colosseum, Rome



**POST-CORONA**



Barcelona, Spain

### HOW COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO FIGHT IT

**US:** European travel to US suspended for 30 days; Democrat presidential candidates cancel political rallies

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** Bans travellers from 15 countries

**AUSTRIA:** Entries from Italy barred; indoor events of

more than 100 people banned; schools to be closed from next week until April

**SWEDEN:** Public gatherings of more than 500 people banned

**DENMARK:** 10-fold increase in cases; schools & universities closed, all public

sector employees with non-critical jobs to be sent home

**UKRAINE:** Mass events restricted, schools & universities closed in capital Kiev

**GUATEMALA:** Citizens of European countries, Iran, China, S Korea and N Korea banned