

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 16, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu – announced series of measures to contain the Covid-19 outbreak on March 15**
- ✓ The Government has announced holiday for KG and primary schools, closure of theatres and malls, and shutting down of tourist locations till March 31
- ✓ Similarly, the Puducherry government has also announced holiday for students till further orders.
- ✓ Theatres and malls in border taluks of Theni, Kanyakumari, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Tiruvallur, Tirupattur, Vellore, Ranipet, Erode, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar districts shall remain shut till March 31
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K. Palanisamy, advised people to avoid travel outside the state and not attend any ‘mass’ public gatherings for the next 15 days.
- ✓ The state has also issued TN Covid-19 Regulations 2020 on March 15.
- ✓ The new regulations authorize district collectors to seal an area, bar entry/exit of population, close schools, ban vehicle movement, initiate surveillance of patients and designate buildings to isolate patients if there is a spread in geographical areas like villages, towns, city and wards.
- ✓ The Government Order warns that no private laboratory should take or test samples for Covid-19
- ✓ As per the GO, people with symptoms should be forcefully admitted to hospitals if they refuse to cooperate
- ✓ The regulations, issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, mandate every hospital to maintain wards exclusively for examining COVID-19 suspect persons.
- ✓ It also mandates persons with a travel history to countries affected by COVID-19 to inform officials and self-quarantine themselves at home for 14 days, even if there are no symptoms.

- ✓ The State has decided to adopt a multi-pronged approach, aimed at tightening vigil at the borders, preventing the spread of the virus, improving health facilities and creating awareness on sanitation and hygiene
  - ✓ The CM also announced a 60 crore fund for tackling the virus spread in the state through various government departments.
  - ✓ The State CM has also instructed authorities to intensify cleanliness drives in temples, mosques and churches where people gather in large numbers and directed district collectors to supervise the anti-virus measures.
- **The excavation works at archaeological sites at Adichannallur and Sivakalai in Tuticorin district and Kodumanal in Erode district - will commence in the next week**
- ✓ This was announced by minister for Tamil culture and archeology, Ma Foi K Pandiarajan on March 15.



- ✓ The sixth phase of excavation had already begun in Agaram, Kondhagai and Keeladi villages on February 19, while it will start soon in Manalur.
  - ✓ As per the evidences, Agaram and Manalur were found to be habitation sites, while Keeladi was an industrial site and Kondhagai a burial site.
  - ✓ So far, six complete urns have been excavated from these sites since the work started last month
  - ✓ The work on the on-site museum in Kondhagai, planned at a budget of 12.2 crore, will commence soon.
  - ✓ It has been planned to complete the work by January 2021.
  - ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami will inaugurate the construction work either with an official visit or through video-conferencing soon.
  - ✓ The three-storey museum will accommodate 15,000 artefacts, including around 8,000 relics belonging to the Archeological Survey of India.
- **The concluding function of the birth centenary of E.V.R. Maniammai - would be celebrated at Periyar Thidal on March 16, 2020**
- ✓ E.V.R. Maniammai succeeded 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy as president of Dravidar Kazhagam



- ✓ After serving as his personal assistant since 1943, Maniammai married Periyar in 1949.
- ✓ Following his demise in 1973, Maniammai led the Dravidar Kazhagam till her death in 1978.

## STATES

- **The UP government - decided to set up a tribunal for the recovery of property losses during anti-CAA protests from the concerned accused persons**
- ✓ The State government notified the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Ordinance, 2020, promulgated by Governor Anandiben Patil, on March 15.
- ✓ The state government declared its immediate promulgation
- ✓ As per the Ordinance, henceforth, all the cases of the damage and loss of the property during mob violence would be referred to the tribunal.
- ✓ The chairperson of the Claims Tribunal would be a retired district judge, while its members would be of the rank of additional commissioner.
- ✓ The Claims Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court for the purpose of taking evidence on oath and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the discovery and production of documents and material objects
- ✓ As per the ordinance, the tribunal can instruct the authorities to publish names, pictures and addresses of the persons it has found guilty of destruction.
- ✓ So far, the State government has named 57 persons for allegedly damaging properties during anti-CAA protests
- ✓ As soon as the order of recovery for damage is passed, the property of the respondent will be attached
- ✓ Then, the authorities shall be directed to publish the name, address along with photograph with a warning for public at large not to purchase property attached
- ✓ On March 13, the UP cabinet cleared a proposal to promulgate the 'recovery ordinance', based on a 2009 order of the Supreme Court to set up a tribunal for the recovery of compensation.
- ✓ As per the rules of the ordinance, the state government is empowered to set up one or more compensation claims tribunal
- ✓ According to the new law, any private person /individual can file a petition before the tribunal for claiming the compensation, provided he/she had not claimed it from the insurance company or any other such agency.

## NATIONAL

- **The government - has issued a discharge policy for Covid-19 cases on March 15**
- ✓ As per the policy, a positive case shall be managed as per protocol and discharged only after two samples test negative within 24 hours and there's evidence of chest radiographic clearance and viral clearance in respiratory samples.

- ✓ The cases of suspected coronavirus, who test negative in the first instance, can be discharged on doctor's advice but will be monitored for 14 days after their last contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case
  - ✓ The policy was announced against the backdrop of increase in coronavirus cases in the country to 115
  - ✓ The health ministry confirmed 107 cases, out of which 95 are active cases, as on March 15
  - ✓ Maharashtra has the maximum number of cases with 34, followed by Kerala with 24 and Uttar Pradesh with 13.
  - ✓ Of the 23 new cases detected since March 14, seventeen are from Maharashtra, two from Telangana, one from Rajasthan and three from Kerala.
  - ✓ So far, India has reported two deaths related to Covid-19, both senior citizens with co-morbidities.
  - ✓ The government has arranged adequate testing capacity with the presence of 52 testing labs and 56 collection centres.
  - ✓ NIV Pune can test around 2,500 samples every day, whereas around 6,700 samples have been tested from across the country so far.
  - ✓ The government currently has 1 lakh testing kits and has ordered an additional 2 lakh kits.
  - ✓ The meeting, chaired by health minister Harsh Vardhan, was attended by senior officials from the health ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research, AIIMS and National Centre for Disease Control.
  - ✓ The meeting reviewed actions taken by states and their preparedness to prevent, contain and manage cases.
  - ✓ It had decided to take further measures for strengthening capacities of states, mass awareness among people for prevention through social distancing, work-from-home, etc
- **The Government – has released the draft of a new anti-trafficking bill, focusing on organised trafficking syndicates targeting minors**
- ✓ It was prepared after consultations within the women and child development ministry
  - ✓ The draft will now be sent for consideration of a group of ministers chaired by home minister Amit Shah.
  - ✓ The revised anti-trafficking bill proposes steep penalties and “mandatory reporting” of trafficking crimes
  - ✓ It considers a bystander as an ‘offender’, especially if a person has knowledge of the offence but does not disclose it to the authorities.
  - ✓ The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, was passed by Lok Sabha in 2018
  - ✓ It was not moved to Rajya Sabha and lapsed when the BJP government's first term ended in 2019.

- ✓ In the new bill, a national database on trafficking offences and victims is also proposed.
- ✓ The new bill also proposes to specify that if a public servant and those working in child care institutions and rehabilitation homes are found to be involved in crimes, they will face prosecution for “aggravated crimes”.
- ✓ The “aggravated offences” category was introduced in the 2018 bill
- ✓ It lists a series of offences and the jail terms and fines for these offences and inclusion of public servants under this category will be a significant step in increasing deterrence.
- ✓ There is an emphasis in including possible sources of abuse like forced labour and employment agencies involved in exploitation of migrants, offences involving children (gender neutral) and those with disabilities in the “aggravated offences” category.
- ✓ The government is also considering steep penalties in the range of ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh on traffickers, particularly those involved in running organised syndicates targeting minors.

## ECONOMY

- **The full bank services of Yes Bank - will resume from 6 pm on March 18, 2020**
- ✓ From March 18, the customers will also be able to access their digital platforms and services from the day
- ✓ Earlier, the Union Finance Ministry issued a notification on Yes Bank’s reconstruction scheme on March 13
- ✓ The plan involves SBI and other investors including ICICI, HDFC, Axis and Kotak Mahindra investing in Yes Bank with at least 49% stake in the bank.
- ✓ Under Yes Bank’s rescue plan, the authorized capital of the reconstructed bank will be altered to Rs 6200 crore
- ✓ Prashant Kumar, a former CFO/ Deputy MD of SBI will be the new CEO and MD of Yes Bank.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had placed YES Bank under a moratorium on March 5, 2020
- ✓ The apex bank then set a withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 per account per person.

## SPORTS

- Sharath Kamal – clinched his first tour title after 10 years at the Oman Open in Muscat on March 15.



- ✓ World No. 38, Sharath defeated World No. 26 Portuguese top seed Marcos Freitas in the summit clash
- ✓ The paddler’s last title win was in 2010 at the Egypt Open.

- ✓ Since then, Sharath has made two semifinal appearances at Morocco Open in 2011 and India Open in 2017
- ✓ World No. 86 Harmeet Desai lost in the semifinals to Freitas to end with a bronze.

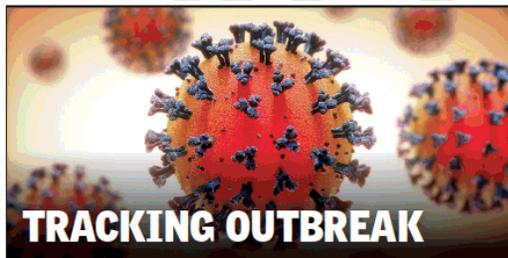
## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Consumer Rights Day – March 15



- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about a consumer's needs and rights and ensure that they are not subjected to social injustice or market abuse
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'The Sustainable Consumer'
- ✓ Sustainable consumption is aimed at protecting the planet and its resources in order to sustain them for current and future generations.
- ✓ The World Consumer Rights Day was first observed on March 15, 1983.
- ✓ On this day in 1962, former US President John F Kennedy delivered a special message to the US Congress, when he had formally addressed the issue of consumer rights.
- ✓ He was the first world leader to touch upon the topic.

## COVID 19 – AN UPDATE AS ON MARCH 15



Countries	Infected	Death	
Mainland China	80,844	3,199	<b>131</b> COUNTRIES AFFECTED
Italy	24,747	1,809	
Iran	12,729	611	<b>156,800+</b> PEOPLE INFECTED GLOBALLY
South Korea	8,086	72	
Spain	7,753	288	<b>5,762+</b> PEOPLE HAVE DIED (2,563 OUTSIDE CHINA)
France	4,499	91	
Germany	3,795	8	
United States	2,808	62	
Japan	1,485	28	
Switzerland	1,359	13	

