

### EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 28, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- On March 27, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that Koyambedu wholesale vegetable market, vegetable shops and grocery outlets will remain open between 6am and 2.30pm to control movement of people on the roads.
- ✓ Also, the vehicles carrying goods to Koyambedu market from other parts of the state and other states will be allowed to unload only between 6pm and 6am
- ✓ Similarly, fuel pumps across the state will remain open between 6am and 2.30pm.

C Suresh Kumar

#### PM TO CM: ENFORCE GAG ORDER



As people stay off, cows have a field day at Koyambedu market

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting Sunday, grocery shops, vegetable markets and petrol pumps shall be open only from <b>6am to 2.30pm</b></li> <li>➤ Trucks should offload vegetables and fruits between <b>6pm and 6am</b> at wholesale markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Food delivery aggregators like Swiggy, Zomato and Uber Eats will be allowed deliver food between <b>7am and 9.30am, between noon and 2.30pm and from 6pm to 9pm</b></li> <li>➤ Only 20 people can take part in funerals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pharmacies, restaurants will be open through the day. <b>But eateries can offer only takeaways</b></li> <li>➤ About <b>3,024 FIRs have been filed; 1,924 vehicles seized</b> for violating prohibitory order</li> </ul>
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- ✓ However, exclusive fuel pumps for government vehicles and 108 ambulance services will be operated throughout the day.

- ✓ The pharmacies and restaurants, where only takeaway is allowed, can operate through the day.
- ✓ The government has allowed food delivery platforms like Swiggy, Zomato and Uber Eats to supply between 7am and 9.30am, 12 noon to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9pm as a special case to help out elderly citizens and those who are unable to cook
- **The state - has reported 9 more people tested positive for the Covid-19 on March 27, taking the total number of cases to 38.**
- ✓ Of the nine, six patients had come in contact with previously positive patients.
- ✓ A 25-year-old resident of Chennai, who worked for a (Pheonix) mall in Velachery, tested positive for the infection and admitted to Government Hospital at Ariyalur
- ✓ Another patient, a 73-year-old woman from Pammal admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and a 39-year-old PG Naturopathy student from Anna Nagar admitted at Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, also tested positive for the infection
- ✓ Two contacts of Thai nationals — a 42-year-old man and 46-year-old man —and another 61-year-old contact of Indonesian nationals also tested positive.
  - ✓ They are being treated at IRT Perundurai Medical College Hospital and Salem Medical College Hospital
- ✓ Two family members of the 54-year-old man who died in Madurai GRH were also found positive for the viral infection.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that the first exclusive government hospital for the SARS-CoV-2 patients in Tamil Nadu at Block B of Government Medical College Hospital at Omandurar will have 500 beds with all modern facilities, instead of the planned 350.
- ✓ The chief minister announced that the state has increased the number of isolation beds to 15,000.
- ✓ The Government has also appointed 530 doctors, 1000 nurses and 1508 lab technicians through the Medical Recruitment Board.

**COVID-19 in T.N.** | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has impacted the State so far

	Until March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	Total
Cases reported	3	3	3	3	6	8	3	9	38
Recovered and discharged	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Deceased	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Monitoring*		Capacity*		Testing*	
Persons screened at airports	2,09,284	Beds in isolation wards	12,955	Samples collected	1,243
Persons in isolation wards in hospitals	277	Ventilators	3,018	Tested positive	38
Persons in quarantine facilities	112			Tested negative	1,157
				Under process	48

\*Status as on date

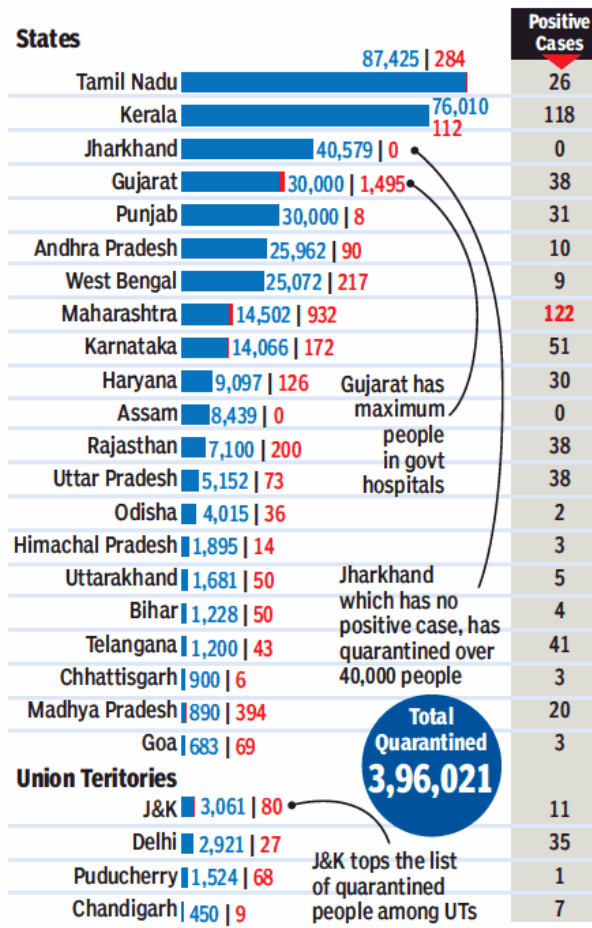
- ✓ As on March 27, 277 persons were admitted to isolation wards of hospitals across the State.

- ✓ Another 112 asymptomatic high-risk passengers, who had travelled from highly affected countries, were kept in government quarantine facilities.

## TAMIL NADU TOPS IN HOME QUARANTINE

Maharashtra has the highest number of reported cases, but ranks No. 8 among states in home quarantine. On the other hand, Jharkhand, which had zero cases, had quarantined over 40,000 people in their homes. Of course, one needs to remember that quarantine is a preventive measure and numbers could be high if more people had flown into the state from affected countries. Delhi, which sees the highest number of international travellers has less than 3,000 in home quarantine

Quarantined At ■ Home ■ Govt. Hospital



\*All figures till morning of March 26; Assam figures till March 23; Punjab hospital quarantine figure till March 18

- ✓ In the last two days, the number of persons under home quarantine in Chennai has gone up from 3,000 to nearly 24,000.
- **State Chief secretary K Shanmugam - convened a meeting of nine special committees headed by senior bureaucrats to ensure uninterrupted supply of all essential commodities following the lockdown in the states**
- ✓ The function of nine committees constituted by the Government includes –

1. Overall coordination at the state level and with Centre/other states, master control room,
  2. State-level coordination for essential manufacturing and intra-state/interstate
  3. To ensure essential supplies at state and district level
  4. Media coordination and creation of awareness
  5. To coordinate with private hospitals
  6. Transportation.
  7. For contact tracing, quarantine, isolation and material management
  8. Disinfection and health infrastructure
  9. Relief coordination, CSR funding, including attending to distress families under quarantine, old age sick and needy people.
- ✓ The State is under lockdown from 6 p.m. on March 24 till April 14.

## STATES

- **The daily count of new Covid-19 infections in the country - zoomed past 100 for the first time on March 27, with a rush of cases reported from Kerala.**
- ✓ Overall, 124 fresh cases were reported from states, 39 from Kerala alone, taking the total number to 850 so far.
- ✓ The previous highest single-day count of cases from states was 99, reported on March 23

### 2 MORE DEATHS, TOLL NOW 22

Name of State / UT	Cases on Friday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Kerala	39	176	12	
Maharashtra	17	147	8	5
Karnataka	9	64	5	3
Telangana	11	59	1	
Uttar Pradesh	7	50	14	
Rajasthan	7	50	5	2
Gujarat	3	47		3
Delhi	1	40	6	1
Rest of India	30	221	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>22</b>

- ✓ Kerala's Kasaragod district reported 34 of the new cases, emerging as one of the top coronavirus hotspots.
- ✓ Kerala also became the first state to report Covid-19 cases from each district.
- ✓ Till March 27, 724 positive cases of Covid-19 were reported by the health ministry with 75 new cases and 4 deaths reported in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ Of this, 640 were active cases, whereas 66 have recovered and one migrated.
- ✓ The total number of deaths stood at 77.

## NATIONAL

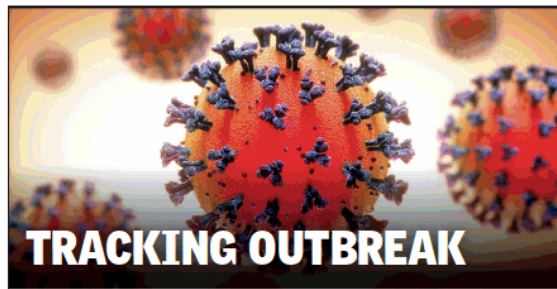
- **The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Under Graduate (NEET UG) 2020, scheduled for May 3 - has been postponed to the last week of May**
- ✓ The Joint Entrance Examination (Main) will also be rescheduled as the national lockdown will continue till April 15.
- ✓ The new dates are likely to be announced only after the lockdown period is over and subsequent review of the Covid-19 outbreak
  
- **India - is soon likely to participate in the WHO's multi-country "solidarity trial" for developing potential treatments and new drugs for Covid-19**
- ✓ The solidarity trial will test four different drugs or combinations — Remdesivir, a combination of two drugs, Lopinavir and Ritonavir, the two drugs plus Interferon Beta and Chloroquine — and will compare their effectiveness
- ✓ The country has stayed away so far from this multi-country trial "due to its small sample size"
- ✓ The Indian council of medical research (ICMR) is currently focusing on developing drugs using repurposed molecules than with new molecules, because new molecule research tends to take longer time.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On March 27, the Supreme Court - allowed sale of BS-IV compliant vehicles beyond the March 31 deadline**
- ✓ A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta permitted dealers to sell their inventory ten days beyond the lockdown period, providing a big relief to automobile dealers.
- ✓ The court, however, made it clear that dealers will be allowed to sell only 10% of their existing BS-IV stocks and those vehicles will not be sold in Delhi.
- ✓ The apex court had earlier refused to extend the March 31 deadline and rejected dealers' plea for more time

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The United States - registered the most coronavirus infections in the world on March 27 with the number of cases nearing 1,00,000 in the country**
- ✓ It has exceeded the number of cases in China, where the virus Covid-19 originated, or Italy, as the worldwide fatalities now report more than 2,000 deaths per day.
- ✓ Overall, the US has reported 94,238 confirmed cases and 1,438 deaths
- ✓ Meanwhile, US Congress approved the country's largest economic stimulus package of \$2.2 trillion in modern American history on March 27



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	94,238	<b>1,438</b>	<b>176</b> countries/ regions hit
Italy	86,498	<b>9,134</b>	
China	81,897	<b>3,296</b>	<b>576,859+</b> infected globally
Spain	64,059	<b>4,934</b>	
Germany	49,344	<b>304</b>	<b>26,455+</b> have died
Iran	32,332	<b>2,378</b>	
France	29,591	<b>1,698</b>	<b>128,377+</b> have recovered
United Kingdom	14,735	<b>761</b>	
Switzerland	12,928	<b>231</b>	
South Korea	9,332	<b>139</b>	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ The package is designed to tackle the coronavirus spread and deliver direct payments and jobless benefits for individuals, money for states and a huge bailout fund for businesses affected by the crisis.
  - ✓ The legislation would send direct payments of \$1,200 to millions of Americans.
  - ✓ It would substantially expand jobless aid, providing an additional 13 weeks and a four month enhancement of benefits to the affected people
  - ✓ For the first time, it has announced the extension of the payments to freelancers and gig workers.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, New York State, the epicentre of the U.S. outbreak, reported 100 more deaths in one day, accounting for almost 30% of the 1,300 fatalities nationwide.
- **British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson – became the first leader of a major country to test positive for the coronavirus**



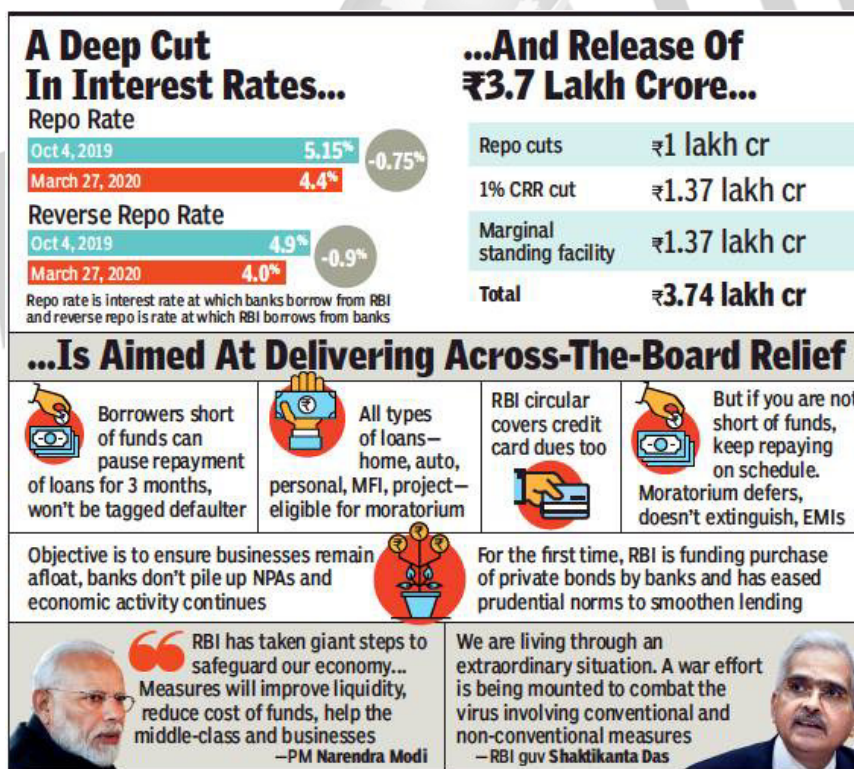
- ✓ Earlier this week Britain's Prince Charles announced that he had tested positive.
- ✓ Till now, Britain has reported 14,735 cases and 761 people dead.
- ✓ German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been in self-quarantine since her doctor tested positive for the virus, even though her first two tests have been negative.
- ✓ Italy recorded its single biggest rise in deaths on March 27, with 969 more victims, to bring its total number of deaths to 9,134.
- ✓ The country now has 86,498 cases, overtaking China to become the second-most infected country in the world, behind the US.
- ✓ Spain's health ministry reported another 7,800 infections overnight for a total of 64,059.
- ✓ The deaths in Spain increased by 769 to 4,858 — the world's second-highest total after Italy's 8,214 fatalities
- ✓ In China, where the virus first started, the National Health Commission reported 55 new cases on March 27, with 54 of them being imported infections

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The United States Space Force - began its first national security mission on March 26, 2020 by launching a hyper-secure Military communications satellite into orbit.**
- ✓ The Lockheed Martin Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite was launched on the Atlas V551 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida
- ✓ The satellite is expected to function as the lifeline of US military force in nuclear warfare.
- ✓ It intends to provide a global, communicable, protected communications capability for tactical, command and tactical warfare operating on the ground, maritime and aerial platforms.
- ✓ In December 2019, the White House announced the creation of the Space Force, which will be a new division of the US Army
- ✓ This will be the sixth service after the Army, Navy, Naval Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force.
- ✓ According to the plan, the Space Force would consist of three units –
  - ✓ The Space Command,
  - ✓ The Space Development Agency and
  - ✓ The Space Operations Force
- ✓ The space command will oversee combat operations, while the space development agency will identify and develop new technologies.
- ✓ The space operations force was created based on the expertise of leaders and fighters.
- ✓ The main aim of establishing space forces is to prove US dominance in the space, in the midst of forces of China and Russia.

# ECONOMY

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - announced a Regulatory Package on COVID-19 on March 27, 2020 to tackle the impact of deadly Coronavirus on Indian Economy**
- ✓ As part of the measures, the apex bank has announced the cut in interest rates by 75 basis points (bps)—the sharpest in over a decade
- ✓ The repo rate was reduced by 75 bps to 4.4% while the reverse repo rate was cut by 90 bps point to 4%.
- ✓ The meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which was scheduled for March 31, April 1 and 3 was advanced to March 27 due to the current extraordinary crisis situation
- ✓ Four of the six members of the monetary policy committee voted in favour of a 75 bps rate cut.
- ✓ The package also infused ₹3.74 lakh crore of additional liquidity, amounting to 3.2% of the country's GDP, to banks and allowed almost all borrowers to postpone loan repayments by three months.



- ✓ Besides the conventional rate cut, RBI took an unconventional step of providing ₹1 lakh crore to banks through targeted long-term repo (lending) operations.
- ✓ Another ₹1.37 lakh crore was made available to banks by reducing the cash reserve ratio (CRR)—a portion of deposits that are impounded by RBI
- ✓ Another ₹1 lakh crore was released through a marginal standing facility (MSF) for emergency loans.



- ✓ In order to promote lending by the banks, RBI reduced its reverse repo rate—the rate it offers banks for their surplus funds—by 90 bps to 4%
- ✓ RBI has also allowed banks to defer payment of EMIs on home, car, personal loans and credit card dues for 3 months till May 31.
- ✓ The measures come following the announcement by the finance minister of a
  - 1.7 lakh crore relief package for the poor through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on March 27.
- **Moody's Investors Service - has slashed the GDP growth forecast for India to 2.5% in 2020, consequent to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown**
  - ✓ It had earlier predicted a growth of 5.3% for the year 2020.
  - ✓ However, the ratings agency expects the country's economy to recover in 2021, estimating a growth rate of 5.8% in 2021
  - ✓ India grew at 5% in 2019
  - ✓ Globally, the world economy and the G20 countries were likely to see an overall reduction of GDP by 0.5%
  - ✓ These details were released by Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2020-21, unveiled on March 27.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **B.P. Kanungo, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - was given a one-year extension of service by the Centre on March 27.**



- ✓ His extension will be effective from April 2, 2020, when his three year tenure comes to an end.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Kanungo's term
- ✓ Kanungo was executive director of the RBI before being elevated to the post of Deputy Governor in April 2017.
- ✓ Kanungo joined the Reserve Bank of India in September 1982.
- ✓ Besides Kanungo, the other three Deputy Governors of the RBI include NS Vishwanathan, M.K. Jain and Michael Patra.

# SPORTS

- **The IOC and 32 international sports federations – have decided to respect the qualification process for the athletes, in a teleconference held on March 26**
- ✓ It means that the athletes who had already qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will retain their places when sport's showpiece event is held in 2021.
- ✓ Around 57% of the 11,000 scheduled participants for Tokyo had already qualified for their respective events
- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to postpone the Games to 2021 due to the threat of coronavirus on March 24.
- ✓ Following the telephone discussions between Bach and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a historic joint decision was taken for the first postponement of an Olympics
- ✓ However, there is no definite date yet for the rescheduled Games
- ✓ Earlier, the 2020 Tokyo Games were scheduled for July 24-August 9

## List of Indian sportspersons qualified to the Olympics

Qualified: **74** | Individuals: **38**  
Those part of qualified teams: **36**

### **Boxing (Total 9 individual)**

**Men (5): Amit Panghal (52kg) | Manish Kaushik (63kg) | Vikas Krishan Yadav (69kg) | Ashish Kumar (75kg) | Satish Kumar (+91kg); Women (4): Mary Kom (51kg) | Simranjit Kaur (60kg) | Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) | Pooja Rani (75kg)**

**Archery (4): Tarundeep Rai (Men's recurve, individual and team) | Atanu Das (Men's recurve, individual and team) | Pravin Jadhav (Men's recurve, individual and team) | Deepika Kumari (Women's recurve, individual)**

### **Athletics (5 individual + 4 team)**

**Avinash Sable (Men's 3000m steeplechase) | KT Irfan (Men's 20km walk) | Bhawna Jat (Women's 20km walk) | Neeraj Chopra, Shivpal Singh (Men's javelin throw) | 4x400m mixed team relay (likely team Muhammed Anas, VK Vismaya, Krishna Mathew and Noah Nirmal)**

### **Equestrian (1 individual)**

**Fouaad Mirza (Eventing Individual)**

### **Hockey (16 + 16 all team)**

**Indian men (Likely squad strength: 16) | Indian women (Likely squad strength: 16)**

### **Shooting (15 individual and team) (8 men and 7 women)**

**Anjum Moudgil (Women's 10m air rifle and 10m air rifle mixed team) | Apurvi Chandela (Women's 10m air rifle and 10m air rifle mixed team) | Saurabh Chaudhary (Men's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team) | Abhishek Verma (Men's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team) | Divyansh Singh Panwar (Men's 10m air rifle 10m air rifle mixed team) | Deepak Kumar (Men's 10m air rifle and 10m air rifle mixed team) | Sanjeev Rajput (Men's 50m rifle 3 position) | Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (Men's 50m rifle 3 position) | Angad Veer Singh Bajwa (Men's skeet) | Mairaj Ahmad Khan (Men's skeet) | Rahi Sarnobat (Women's 25m air pistol) | Chinki Yadav (Women's 25m air pistol) | Manu Bhaker (Women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team) | Yashaswini Singh Deswal (Women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team) | Tejaswini Sawant (Women's 50m rifle 3 position)**

### **Wrestling (4 individual)**

**Bajrang Punia (Men's 65kg freestyle) | Ravi Dahiya (Men's 57kg freestyle) | Deepak Punia (Men's 86kg freestyle) | Vinesh Phogat (Women's 53kg freestyle)**