

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 23, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – has reported three more people ‘positive’ for Covid-19 on March 22**
- ✓ The three new cases — one each in Chennai, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli — will take the total number of infected people in the state to nine.

9 CASES IN TN

● March 22 ● March 21

	March 22	March 21
TN cases in home quarantine	9,424	8,950
Cases in isolation wards	54	54
Govt quarantine	198	221
Samples drawn	443	412
Samples negative	352	339
Samples in process	84	67

- ✓ The three had flown in from the USA, the UAE and Spain.
- ✓ The first patient who tested positive was a 25-year-old Indian student, who arrived in Coimbatore from Spain
- ✓ She is being treated at the ESIC hospital in Coimbatore
- ✓ Two more cases tested ‘positive’ — a 64-year-old who travelled from California and a 43-year-old who returned from Dubai – were undergoing treatment at government medical colleges.
- ✓ While the patient from California is being treated in Chennai’s Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital, the patient from Dubai is at Government Tirunelveli Medical College and Hospital.
- ✓ The 43-year-old patient from Tirunelveli is the first positive case in southern Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ Meanwhile, the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami is expected to convene a meeting on March 23 to decide on locking down Chennai, Kancheepuram and Erode
- ✓ These districts are among the 82 districts identified by the Centre for a complete shutdown to restrict the spread of the disease.
- ✓ The CM has already ordered suspension of metro rail services in Chennai and interstate bus services, both public and private, until March 31 midnight.
- ✓ On March 22, the Centre had advised state governments to issue appropriate orders to allow only essential services to operate in the 80 districts which reported confirmed cases or fatalities related to Covid-19.
- ✓ After a day of near total shutdown as part of the 'Janata curfew', the Tamil Nadu government extended the curfew till 5.00 am on March 23.
- ✓ It also decided not to operate interstate buses – both private and public — till March 31

NATIONAL

- The centre – announces the complete shutdown of at least 82 districts in 23 states of the country till March 31

ALL LONG-DISTANCE TRAINS, MUMBAI LOCALS SHUT

➤ Centre and state authorities impose a lockdown in 82 districts in 23 states and UTs till March 31 to contain the spread of Covid-19. Most states have suspended all inter-state bus services till March 31

➤ A home ministry official says states will issue orders allowing only essential services to operate in these 82 districts with confirmed Covid-19 cases or casualties

➤ Railways on Sunday announces suspension of all its passenger train services and local train services in Mumbai till March 31 midnight and says only goods trains will run during the period. Centre also decides to suspend all metro train services across the country till March 31

➤ All airports open for domestic flights but restrictions on public and private transport could lead to commuting troubles for both passengers



The clover-leaf flyover near AIIMS in Delhi, usually a traffic hub

and airline/airport staff

➤ Immediately after the janata curfew ended, Mumbai Police prohibited presence or movement of any person in public places within the limits of Mumbai city till 5am Monday

➤ Centre issues fresh advisory saying heads of all departments will be required

to draw a roster of staff who will render essential services within each department between March 23 & 31

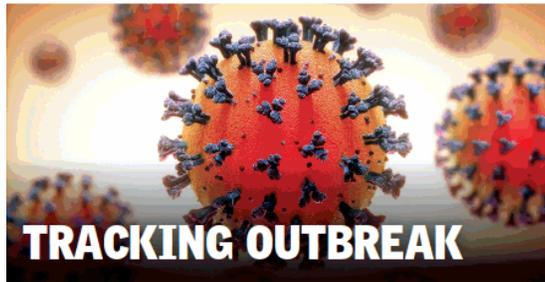
➤ LIC has extended insurance policy deadline up to April 15 to help policyholders who are unable to pay their insurance premia on time due to the outbreak

- ✓ The railways have also announced cancellation of all local trains on Central and Western Railway, while Section 144 of CrPC was imposed in all urban areas of these districts.
- ✓ However, essential services like hospitals, telecom, pharmacies, grocery, milk and vegetables will remain open.

- ✓ The Railways announced suspension of all passenger services until March 31, including suburban services.
 - ✓ Only goods trains will run during the period
 - ✓ Most of the state governments have extended total public transport shutdown and other restrictions for varying periods to fight the spread of Covid-19.
 - ✓ The Covid-19 infection claimed three more lives in the country on March 22
 - ✓ With this, the total toll from the disease has increased to seven in the country
 - ✓ The states have reported a high number of cases, which stood at 396.
 - ✓ On March 22, 68 new cases were reported by 14 states in all, the second highest for a single day after 77 cases reported on March 21.
 - ✓ According to the Union Health Ministry, Maharashtra continues with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases at 67, followed by Kerala with 52 and Delhi, 29.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh had 27 cases, Karnataka has 26, Rajasthan 24, Telangana 22 and Haryana 21.
 - ✓ Currently, 111 public labs are testing Covid-19 suspects, whereas 60 private labs have applied to ICMR for approval.
- **The SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Disaster Management Center - has launched a website to provide information about COVID-19 pandemic in the region.**
- ✓ This website is - www.covid19-sdmc.org.
 - ✓ The website shows the number of Coronavirus patients in member countries, which will be updated regularly
 - ✓ Recently the SAARC leaders held a video conference to contain the spread of Corona Virus
 - ✓ During the Conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Funds
 - ✓ Earlier, PM Modi had announced to contribute USD 10 million as of early contribution from India in SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund
 - ✓ Also, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives have contributed to the funds as well.
 - ✓ SAARC has eight member countries - India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.
 - ✓ The organization, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, was formed on December 8, 1985, with an aim to achieve peace and progress in South Asia by mutual cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Globally, more than 3,28,000 people have been infected and over 14,300 have died – due to the spread of the Covid-19**
- ✓ About 169 countries and regions now have confirmed cases, and deaths have been reported in more than 30 American states.

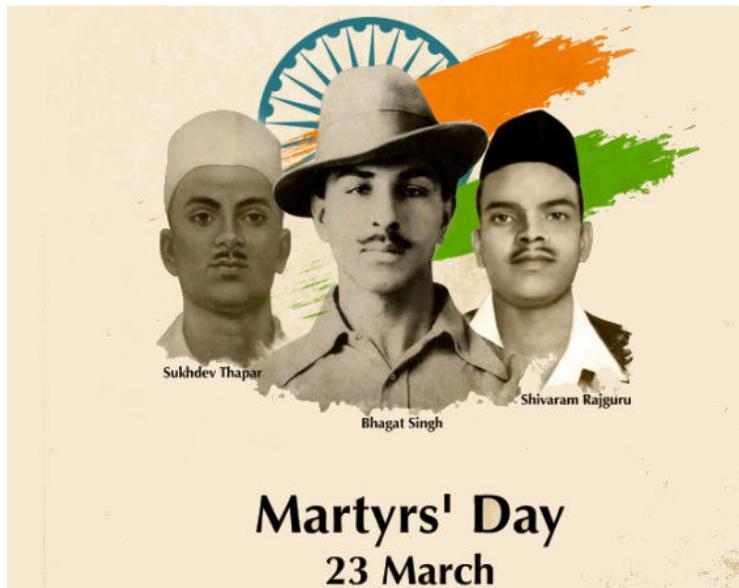


Countries	Infected	Death	
China	81,397	3,265	169 COUNTRIES\ REGIONS HIT
Italy	59,138	5,476	
United States	31,057	390	328,275+ PEOPLE INFECTED GLOBALLY
Spain	28,603	1,756	
Germany	23,974	92	14,366+ PEOPLE HAVE DIED
Iran	21,638	1,685	
France	14,485	562	Source: Johns Hopkins University, CDC, WHO
South Korea	8,897	104	
Switzerland	7,104	80	
United Kingdom	5,071	234	

- ✓ Italy's world-topping toll from the coronavirus pandemic approached 5,500 on March 22
- ✓ It had reported another 651 deaths on March 22.
- ✓ The latest daily toll was lesser than March 21st record of 793 fatalities but still the second-highest registered during Italy's month-long crisis.
- ✓ Italy now has 59,138 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 5,476 deaths — more than all of China, where the virus first emerged late last year.
- ✓ In U.S, there were 31,057 cases and 390 deaths as it overtook Germany and Spain as the country with the third-highest number of cases
- ✓ In a related development, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first rapid coronavirus diagnostic test, with a detection time of about 45 minutes
- ✓ The test's developer, California-based molecular diagnostics company Cepheid, announced an emergency use authorisation from the FDA for the test, which will be used primarily in hospitals and emergency rooms.
- ✓ The company plans to begin shipping it to hospitals next week
- ✓ Meanwhile, China reported its first domestic coronavirus case after a gap of three day
- ✓ It saw an increase in imported infections with 45 new cases and initiated stricter measures to avert Covid-19 to resurface and create a second wave of infections

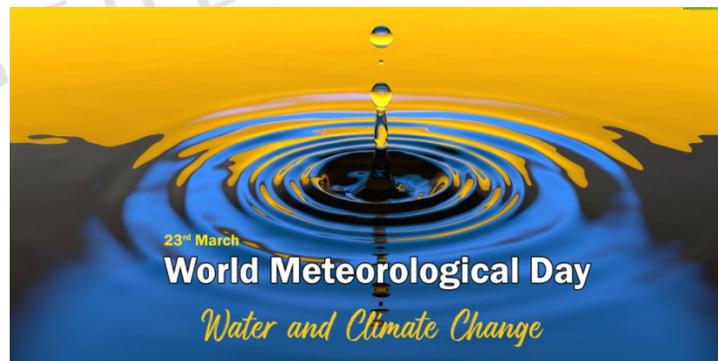
NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Shaheed Diwas (Martyr's Day) – March 23**



- ✓ The day intends to remember the sacrifice of great freedom fighters of India - Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev
- ✓ On this day in 1931, three great revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged in the 'Lahore Conspiracy' case
- ✓ Bhagat Singh along with Rajguru killed British officer Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Police in Lahore on 17 December 1928
- ✓ Bhagat Singh has given a famous phrase 'Inquilab Zindabad'
- ✓ On January 30, India also observes Martyrs Day to mark the assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

➤ **World Meteorological Day - March 23**



- ✓ The day marks the foundation day of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) which was established on 23rd March 1950.
- ✓ Theme 2020 – Climate and water
- ✓ This year, the theme is aligned with the World Water Day, that is being celebrated on March 22
- ✓ The Slogan of this year World Meteorological Day is “Count Every Drop, Every Drop Counts”

- ✓ The day aims to highlight the contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services on behalf of all the 193 member countries
- ✓ On this day, the WMO annually awards International Meteorological Organization Prize.
- ✓ The prize was first conferred in 1971 and aims to highlight the outstanding contribution to the field of meteorology as well as operational hydrology.
- ✓ The WMO currently operates under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- ✓ The organization has its headquarters located at Geneva, Switzerland

