

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 26, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The state – announced that eight more patients, including four Indonesians, were tested ‘positive’ for the coronavirus on March 25**
- ✓ Out of the eight patients, five are under treatment at the Government Medical College, Salem.
- ✓ With this, the total number of positive cases in Tamil Nadu now stands at 26.
- ✓ **On March 25, a 54 year old Covid-19 patient, who was on life support , died at a government hospital in Madurai, marking the first such death in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ Four Indonesian nationals, who were tested positive, and their Chennai-based guide were on quarantine from March 22 and are now being treated at the Salem Medical College Hospital
- ✓ They had visited the two Thai nationals who tested positive a few days ago at a mosque in Erode
- ✓ Another patient, a 66-year-old man who tested positive, had also been in contact with the Thai nationals and is currently admitted to IRT, Perundurai
- ✓ Another 63-year-old patient from Dubai admitted to Walajah GH also tested positive
- ✓ The number of people admitted to hospitals with symptoms went up to 211 from 116 on March 24
- ✓ Nearly 200 more people were added to home quarantine on March 25 taking the list to 15,492.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has written to the PM Narendra Modi to extend special assistance of ₹4,000 crore expeditiously to the state to fight coronavirus
- ✓ On March 25, the CM announced all-pass for students in Classes I to IX as the situation is not conducive to conduct exams

- ✓ The state has also decided not to allow fishermen to venture into the sea on trawlers and fishing boats till March 31 as a Covid-19 prevention measure.
- **The Tiruvallur Police – have launched an app called ‘CoBuddy’ to provide a platform between people on home quarantine for Covid-19 and the state government.**
- ✓ Presently, it’s not available for public use.
- ✓ The app will send interactive voice response (IVR) alerts to those in quarantine
- ✓ Using the app, those on home quarantine can send messages to others who can access the app, in case they need any personalised services such as purchase of vegetables, fruits and medicines.

WHAT IT DOES

- Can monitor location of home-quarantined people
- Police can interact with patients, get their health updates
- Those in quarantine can send messages to police
- Patients can request for medicines, food, vegetables

- ✓ If the quarantined person don’t respond, the app will send an alert to the police and the respective police station can be informed to check the presence of the resident
- ✓ Apart from this, the police can send individual and group messages using the app.
- ✓ They can also send WHO-issued questionnaire to those on home quarantine to check their temperature and update it in the app.
- ✓ An SOS button has been provided using which they can seek help anytime.
- **Tamil Nadu - will soon get three new biomedical waste processing facilities, which are planned on the outskirts of Chennai, Krishnagiri and Cuddalore.**
- ✓ These units will be set up in Virudhachalam in Cuddalore, Bargur in Krishnagiri and Gummidipoondi in Chengalpet

NEED OF THE HOUR

Biomedical waste processing facilities in TN

In operation	8
Closed recently	3
Upcoming	3
Waste handled per day 	60 tonnes
Facilities operational in Maharashtra	38
Karnataka	25

WASTE TREATED INCLUDES

- Surgical waste, pathological and microbiological waste from testing labs, blood samples and blood bags, used syringes, gloves and other one-use medical equipment, dressings, cotton swabs



Number of health care facilities in TN | **22,000**

- ✓ At present, eight centres handle around 60 tonnes of biomedical waste generated by the 22,000 hospitals, laboratories, clinics and other health care facilities (HCFs) across the entire state.
- ✓ These serve around 3,500 HCFs, which generate about 25% of the total biomedical waste in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) closed three centres in Nilgiris, Virudhunagar and Coimbatore recently after they were found violating Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016
- ✓ After these centres were sealed, other operational units became overloaded.

STATES

- **The Covid-19 epidemic – has reached northeast India with Manipur and Mizoram registering one case each on March 25**
- ✓ On March 25, 19 states and UTs reported 86 fresh infections — the second highest for a single day after 99 cases reported on March 23.
- ✓ As on March 25, two more deaths, one of an 85-year-old woman in Ahmedabad and another in Tamil Nadu, were reported taking the national casualties due to the virus to 13.

37% CASES FROM MAHA, KERALA

Name of State / UT	Cases on Wednesday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	15	122	8	3
Kerala	9	118	12	3
Karnataka	9	51	3	1
Telangana	2	41	1	
Uttar Pradesh	1	38	11	
Gujarat	2	38		2
Rajasthan	6	38	3	
Delhi	5	35	6	1
Rest of India	42	172	12	3
Total	91	653	56	13

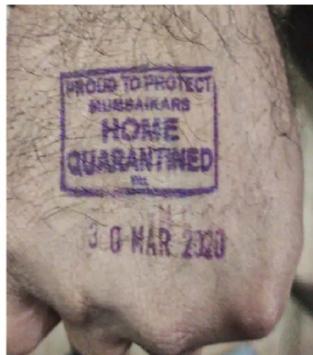
Manipur, Mizoram become 1st NE states to report cases (1 each)

- ✓ The confirmed Covid-19 cases in India increased to 653, with states confirming 83 new cases on March 25.
- ✓ On the brighter side, a total of 56 patients were said to have recovered.
- ✓ The health ministry has confirmed 606 cases and 10 deaths so far.
- ✓ With 15 new cases on March 25, Maharashtra again overtook Kerala as the worst coronavirus-hit state.
- ✓ Maharashtra has confirmed 122 cases so far while Kerala has reported 118 (nine new).
- ✓ Karnataka (51), Telangana (41), UP, Gujarat and Rajasthan (38 each) are next in the list.

- ✓ In a related move, the Railways have announced the cancellation of all passenger trains, mail, express, suburban trains and trains of the metro rail up to April 14

NATIONAL

- **The Health ministry - issued telemedicine guidelines on March 25**
- ✓ The new guidelines were designed to help doctors to write prescriptions based on telephone conversations that reduce risks of transmission for medical professionals as well as patients.
- ✓ The move is aimed at decongesting healthcare facilities following the spread of Covid-19
- ✓ It will also make healthcare accessible to remote areas in general and make faster intervention possible, as visiting hospital and clinic becomes increasingly difficult under the current lockdown conditions.
- ✓ The guidelines provides information on various aspects of telemedicine including information on technology platforms and tools available to medical practitioners and the integration of these technologies to provide healthcare delivery.
- ✓ It also explains how technology and transmission of voice, data, images and information should be used along with other clinical standards, protocols, policies and procedures to provide care.
- ✓ The guidelines recommend telemedicine practice, as it prevents the transmission of infectious diseases risks to both healthcare workers and patients by minimizing unnecessary and avoidable exposure
- **The Election Commission (EC) - allowed usage of indelible ink for stamping persons for home quarantine by the health authorities**
- ✓ The indelible ink was used exclusively by the EC to mark the finger of a voter after he has voted
- ✓ It can only be sourced and used by EC as per conduct of election rules



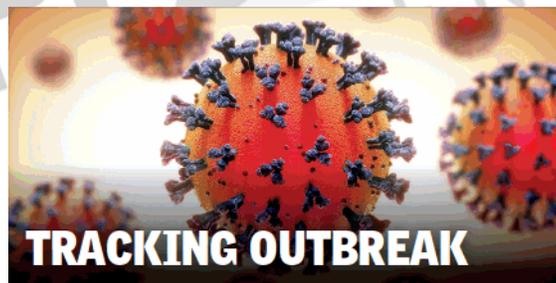
- ✓ Now, it was allowed to be used by the EC for stamping people for home quarantine subject to certain conditions.

- ✓ Firstly, the commission has asked the authorities not to use the indelible ink on any finger of the person's left hand, since an elector's left index finger will be marked as per election rules.
- ✓ Secondly, the government has been asked to standardise the mark and the location on the body, so that it does not overlap with conduct of elections anywhere in the country.
- ✓ The authorities should maintain the record of persons to whom indelible ink is applied and also ensure that it is not used for any other purpose.
- ✓ The commission pointed out that the indelible ink mark is normally expected to last for 3 days when applied on the skin but lasts for a few weeks on the fingernail till the nail grows out.
- ✓ In general, Indelible Ink is applied to the voter's finger after voting to prevent fake voting.
- ✓ The ink was first developed by the Maharaja Nalvadi Krishnaraj Wadiyar of Mysore in the Mysore Lack and Paints Limited Company, which was established in 1937.
- ✓ But it was first used in the election process during the third general elections in 1962.
- ✓ Now this company is known as Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited.
- ✓ This Karnataka government company still makes ink for every election in the country and also exports it.
- **The Centre - has asked state governments to set up 24x7 control rooms, state and district-level help lines to tackle the spread of coronavirus**
- ✓ It had also asked the states to appoint nodal officers to ensure unhindered and seamless availability of essential items and services for the general public during the 21-day lockdown period to contain Covid-19.
- ✓ The home ministry asked each state and UT to set up a 24x7 control room/office with help lines at the state and district level
- ✓ These control rooms are meant to address any grievance or undue problems faced by the providers of goods/services including during their inter-state movement.
- ✓ The ministry also asked to appoint a nodal officer in a state to coordinate with the district administration/police in this matter.
- ✓ The ministry also wanted to develop a standard operating protocol (SOP) for continuous operation of essential services/establishments and commodities
- ✓ The SOP should include the guidelines for appointment of nodal officers at inter-state borders, issue of vehicular passes etc.
- **The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) - has approved three other centres, alongside the National Institute of Virology (NIV), as agencies for approving diagnostic kits.**

- ✓ These are the National AIDS Research Institute, Pune; the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata; and the National Institute of Pathology, New Delhi
- ✓ Till last week, the rules required that only kits approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European CE be allowed for testing
- ✓ However, this is no longer mandatory and Indian diagnostic kit manufacturers were permitted now, so long as their product was approved by the NIV.
- ✓ Mylab, a diagnostic kit maker in Pune, was the first such indigenous maker of kits to be validated on March 23.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The death toll in Spain from the coronavirus - increased by more than 700 on March 25, surpassing China**
- ✓ It is now second only to Italy as the pandemic spreads rapidly in Europe
- ✓ Spain recorded a record daily increase of 738 deaths, pushing it to 3,434 overall and past China's 3,285
- ✓ The country's infections rose by 20% to 47,610, and more than 5,000 have recovered.
- ✓ The coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 20,000 people worldwide and infected over 4,51,355 people.
- ✓ Overall, more than 112,000 have recovered.



Countries	Infected	Death	
China	81,661	3,285	172 countries/ regions hit
Italy	74,386	7,503	
United States	61,116	827	4,54,398+ infected globally
Spain	47,610	3,434	
Germany	37,006	181	20,499+ have died
Iran	27,017	2,077	
France	22,654	1,102	1,13,045 have recovered
Switzerland	10,537	153	
South Korea	9,137	126	
United Kingdom	8,365	434	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ Italy has been the hardest hit nation in Europe with more than 74,386 infections and 7,503 deaths

- ✓ In China's Hubei province, where the outbreak was first identified late last year, started lifting its lockdown
- ✓ A similar easing in the hard-hit epicenter of Wuhan is also planned for April 8.
- ✓ The 71 year old Prince Charles, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and heir to the British throne, has contracted the coronavirus, as per the statement released by Buckingham Palace
- ✓ His wife, Camilla, 72, tested negative.
- ✓ Queen Elizabeth II, who is currently at Windsor Castle, is following the advice of doctors for her welfare and in good health.
- ✓ So far, the United Kingdom has reported over 8000 confirmed cases of deadly Coronavirus with over 420 deaths
- ✓ Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg said that while self-isolating after recent travels in Europe she probably infected with Covid-19

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first G-20 virtual summit - will be held on March 26, 2020 under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud through a video conference**
- ✓ The summit will bring together the world's 20 major economies, including India, to discuss measures and guidelines in addressing the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is the current chair of G-20, which took the decision of conducting a virtual summit.
- ✓ During the summit, a common action plan is expected to be formed to tackle the rapid spread of coronavirus in the world
- ✓ The member countries may discuss and announce an economic package to deal with the COVID-19 situation
- ✓ Apart from 19 of the biggest economies of the world, G20 also includes the European Union.
- ✓ For 2020, Spain, Jordan, Singapore and Switzerland are the invited countries.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in the 'Extraordinary Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit' on coronavirus pandemic
- ✓ For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this will be the second virtual leadership summit after the video meet of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which he initiated on March 15 and led to the creation of the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

