

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 27, 2020**

**TAMIL NADU**

- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - held a review meeting with district collectors via video conferencing on the preventive measures taken to tackle the spread of coronavirus on March 26**
- ✓ During the meeting, the CM instructed the district collectors to ensure that government staff hand over ₹ 1,000 to each rice cardholder at their doorstep from April 2
- ✓ The government warned private banks, small financial institutions and self-help groups of legal action if they don't stop, until further orders, the daily/weekly/monthly collection of interest and principal towards loan dues.

**BANKS CAN'T COLLECT DUES**



Firefighters spray disinfectant over a TNHB quarters in Chennai

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Grocers/coops can supply essential commodities at doorstep of consumers</li> <li>➤ No time restriction for hotels/grocery outlets</li> <li>➤ Vegetable, fruit shops can be set up in plots, playgrounds</li> <li>➤ 3ft gap of social distancing should be followed at stores</li> <li>➤ Pvt banks, SHGs must stop collection of interest, principal</li> <li>➤ Free medicines for two months to pregnant women and people suffering from blood pressure, diabetes, TB</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and HIV-infected patients</li> <li>➤ TN Medical Service Corporation, deans, joint directors of medical and rural health services to certify medical supplies</li> <li>➤ Collectorates to provide identity cards to private vehicles engaged in supplying essential commodities for public and private staff</li> <li>➤ Small caterers should paste stickers of 'essential service'</li> <li>➤ Senior citizens, sick, pregnant women and isolated families can call 108 for help</li> </ul> |
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- ✓ The Government also announced that senior citizens, sick, pregnant women, isolated families and those who wish to do dialysis can reach helpline 108 in case of any emergency.
  - ✓ The district administration officials were asked to disinfect periodically densely populated slum clearance board tenements, religious places, markets and large streets
  - ✓ The state invoked provisions of the Disaster Management Act superseding its previous notification under the Epidemic Act and issued a notification for the on-going 21-day lockdown announced by the Centre.
  - ✓ As per the DM Act, those who refuse to comply with any government direction will be slapped with a jail term of one year or fine, or both.
  - ✓ Further, if the refusal to comply with directions leads to loss of life, violators can be penalized with two-year jail term
  - ✓ Earlier, the chief minister announced the setting up of nine committees led by senior bureaucrats to ensure uninterrupted supply of essentials and resolve disruptions.
- **The State – has reported 3 more ‘positive’ cases for coronavirus spread on March 26, bringing the total number of people to 29.**
- ✓ Of the three, two patients from Chennai — a 24-year-old man who returned from London and his contact, a 65-year-old woman — were admitted to the isolation ward of the Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital.
  - ✓ The other patient, a 24-year-old man who returned from Dubai, is at K.A.P.V. Medical College Hospital in Tiruchi.
  - ✓ Besides this, 15,492 passengers who arrived from Covid-19 affected countries are placed under home quarantine by the state government.
  - ✓ The number of persons in isolation wards has also increased from 211 to 284 as on March 26.
  - ✓ Of the 1,039 samples taken till now, 933 have returned negative for COVID-19.
  - ✓ The public health department has been asked to track down 86,644 passengers who had landed from abroad in the last one month.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the State has been approved of a fourth lab in the private sector for testing of COVID-19.
  - ✓ After Christian Medical College, Vellore, Apollo Hospitals and Neuberg Ehrlich, the Indian Council of Medical Research has approved Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Porur, for testing of samples.
  - ✓ In a related move, the State Governor Banwarilal Purohit has announced that he will be contributing his one month's salary to the “Chief Minister’s Public Relief Fund” meant for containment measures of COVID-19.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - tested drones, provided by Anna University, for spraying disinfectant on March 26.**



- ✓ The testing of the drone was done at Ripon Buildings, the headquarters of the civic body.
- ✓ Four such drones would be used to spray disinfectants in areas like markets and crowded localities like slum tenements to prevent spread of Covid-19.
- ✓ Each drone is capable of spraying disinfectants in a 50,000-square-foot area
- ✓ The drone experts are from the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT)'s Centre for Aerospace Research.

## STATES

- **The country – has reported seven deaths from Covid-19 infections across the country on March 26**
- ✓ It is the highest single day count reported so far, taking the toll from the disease to 20
- ✓ The total number of coronavirus cases thus far in India rose to 727, as states registered 71 new cases

### NEW PATIENTS SURGE IN KERALA

Name of State / UT	Cases on Thursday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Kerala	19	137	12	
Maharashtra	8	130	8	5
Karnataka	4	55	3	2
Telangana	4	45	1	
Gujarat	6	44		3
Uttar Pradesh	5	43	11	
Rajasthan	5	43	3	1
Delhi	4	39	6	1
Rest of India	16	191	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>

- ✓ As per the figures of the Health Ministry, 88 new cases were reported, the highest official single-day count so far, taking the total to 694 across the entire country.

- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, a 65-year-old trader and preacher from Sopore became the Valley's first Covid-19 casualty
  - ✓ Kerala has reported the highest number of new cases so far, 19, on March 26.
  - **Uttar Pradesh Government - banned the manufacture and sale of pan masala in the state on March 26, 2020**
  - ✓ The decision to ban pan masala was taken to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in the state
  - ✓ During the announcement of the decision, the state food security commissioner also mentioned the ban on gutkha done by Uttar Pradesh Government on April 1, 2013.
  - ✓ The order was pronounced following the information that spitting pan masala will assist in spreading COVID-19.
  - **The Kerala state government - has suspended the sale of liquor done by state-owned Beverage Corporation (Bevco) outlets till 14 April and brought the state under total prohibition.**
  - ✓ The sale has been suspended as the liquor was not included in the essential services by the center.
  - ✓ In Kerala, Bevco manages 265 outlets and consumerfed manages another 26 outlets.
- NATIONAL**
- ✓ **The government - announced a ₹1.7 lakh crore package named 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana' on March 26**
  - ✓ It aims to provide relief to the poor from the impact of the coronavirus lockdown and economic disruption caused by the disease.
  - ✓ The package was announced by finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman
  - ✓ In brief, the package offers emergency cash transfers into bank accounts of the poor, along with providing free foodgrains, pulses and cooking gas
  - ✓ The package had been announced within 36 hours of the lockdown to address the needs of poor and migrant workers, farmers, women, pensioners, widows and the disabled
  - ✓ Two days ago, the Government has announced an extension in compliance deadlines relating to GST and income tax filings.
  - ✓ With most elements of the package in place for three months, the government seems to expect that the coronavirus crisis will stabilise by end-June.
  - ✓ The current package adds up to around 0.76% of the GDP estimate for the next financial year.

## Key features of the PMGKY

60% POPN TO GET 5KG WHEAT OR RICE	
<p><b>FARMERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Each farmer to get ₹2,000 in April</li> <li>➤ To benefit nearly 9cr farmers and cost about ₹17,000 cr</li> </ul>	<p>earning less than ₹15,000 a month in businesses of up to 100 workers for 3 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Amount to be transferred to the PF accounts and prevent the threat of job loss</li> </ul>
<p><b>FOOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 80cr individuals, about 60% of population, to get 5 kg wheat or rice for 3 months</li> <li>➤ This is in addition to the 5 kg they already get</li> <li>➤ 1 kg pulses per family for 3 months</li> </ul>	<p><b>SR CITIZENS, WIDOWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Govt to provide ₹1,000 for next 3 months to senior citizens</li> </ul>
<p><b>CASH TRANSFERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 20.4cr women Jan Dhan account holders to get ₹500 p.m. for 3 months</li> </ul>	<p><b>SELF HELP GROUPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Limit of collateral-free lending to be raised from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh</li> </ul>
<p><b>GAS CYLINDERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Free gas cylinders to 8cr poor families for 3 months</li> <li>➤ Max 3 gas cylinders</li> </ul>	<p><b>INSURANCE FOR HEALTH WORKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ₹50 lakh for health professionals who meet with accident while treating Covid-19 patients</li> <li>➤ Govt health centres, wellness centres and hospitals covered</li> <li>➤ About 22 lakh health workers to benefit</li> </ul>
<p><b>MNREGA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wages to be increased by ₹20 per day from April 1, to benefit about 13.6 crore families</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONSTRUCTION WORKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ States asked to utilise welfare fund created under a central Act</li> <li>➤ 3.5cr workers registered under the fund</li> </ul>
<p><b>PF BENEFITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-recoverable advance of 75% of the outstanding amount or three months wages (whichever is lower) allowed from EPF</li> <li>➤ To benefit 4cr workers under EPF</li> <li>➤ Govt to pay 24% of monthly wages of those</li> </ul>	<p><b>DISTRICT MINERAL FUND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ States asked to use fund for medical testing, screening and other requirements to prevent spread of Covid -19</li> </ul>
Total estimated cost: ₹1,70,000 cr (₹73,000 cr additional +₹97,000 cr already budgeted*)	

- ✓ The Government has announced a special insurance scheme for the medical professionals, recognising their contribution in the current crisis
- ✓ As per the scheme, doctors, nurses, other health workers, sanitary staff and Asha workers dealing with Coronavirus cases will be insured with a ₹50 lakh cover in case they meet with an accident.
- ✓ A one-time non-refundable advance for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscribers was also part of the package
  - ✓ The move will enable the EPFO subscribers to withdraw up to 75% of their corpus money or three months wages, whichever is lower.
  - ✓ Besides, for those earning under ₹15,000 and working in companies that have less than 100 employees, the government has decided to take over the employee and employer's EPF contribution – which adds up to 24% of the salary.
- ✓ Over the next three months, each person who is covered under the National Food Security Act would get an additional 5 kg wheat or rice for free
  - ✓ This would be in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised food grain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
  - ✓ Apart from this, one kg of pulses would also be provided for free to the households.
  - ✓ The move is expected to benefit 80 crore poor people

- ✓ About 20.4 crore women Jan Dhan account holders will be provided ₹500 a month into their bank accounts for three months.
  - ✓ Similarly, seniors, poor widows and the physically challenged will get a one-time transfer of ₹1,000 each for the next three months
  - ✓ The Centre's use of the 'JAM Trinity' — Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and mobile phones — may be ranked among the largest cash transfer experiments around the world.
  - ✓ As part of the package, the first instalment of ₹2,000 under PM-Kisan will be given immediately in the first week of April, benefiting around 8.69 crore farmers
  - ✓ The wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act are being increased by ₹20 a day, from Rs 182 to Rs 202.
  - ✓ As per the package, free gas cylinder will also be given to all those BPL families who have been availing benefits of Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana for next three months, till June 2020.
- **The government - has created a 'MyGov Corona Helpdesk' in collaboration with WhatsApp to provide authenticated and correct information about coronavirus to the general public.**

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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**MYGOV CORONA HELPDESK**

ADD WHATSAPP NUMBER  
**+91 9013151515**

Please click to directly interact with MyGov Coronavirus Helpdesk  
<https://wa.me/919013151515>

**PREPARE, DON'T PANIC**

#IndiaFightsCorona

**24x7 Medical Help:**  
Phone: +91-11-23978046  
Toll Free Number: 1075  
Email: [ncov2019@gov.in](mailto:ncov2019@gov.in)

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NeGD  
National e-Governance Division

- ✓ The centre has launched the WhatsApp chatbot to answer all queries related to the COVID-19 virus.
- ✓ The MyGov Corona Helpdesk aims to eliminate all misinformation, fake news and rumours being spread through WhatsApp
- ✓ People can type 'Namaste' in Hindi or English and send to WhatsApp number '9013151515' to get an instant reply regarding their queries.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed about the helpdesk during his live television interaction with the people of Varanasi on March 25, 2020
- ✓ Besides the helpdesk, the Government has also set up a toll free helpline '1075' for the updates and news regarding the coronavirus
- ✓ India announced a 21-day lockdown on March 24, 2020 to combat the spread of the virus
- ✓ The total number of coronavirus cases rose to 649 in India on March 26 including 593 active cases, 13 deaths and 42 recoveries.
- ✓ The PM had also announced a healthcare package worth Rs 15000 crore to combat coronavirus in India on March 24, 2020.

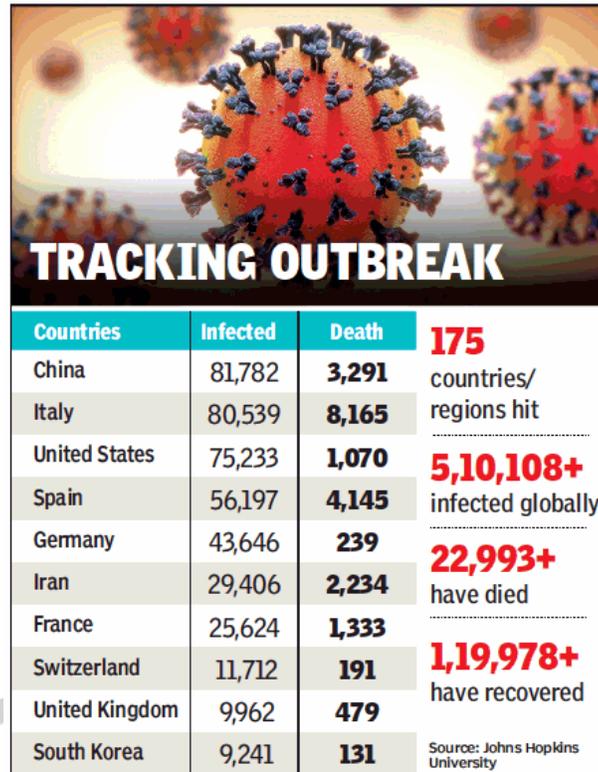
## COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras high court – has announced the extension of all its interim orders as on March 20, till April 30 across the board**
- ✓ This was announced by a division bench consisting of Justice M Sathyanarayanan and Justice Abdul Quddhose on March 26.
- ✓ It has decided to extend all orders of eviction, dispossession or demolition which have not been executed till date on the orders of the high court, district courts or the civil courts till April 30
- ✓ Similarly, the bench has also extended all orders passed by the courts regarding granting bail, anticipatory bail or parole for a limited period till April 30
- ✓ The order has been passed in view of complete lockdown across the country.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The number of coronavirus infections across the world - crossed half-million as on March 26, with both Italy and the US expected to surpass China**
- ✓ The deadly virus has already killed more than 22,000 people and infected over 5,10,000
- ✓ Spain has become the latest country in Europe where the outbreak is spreading the fastest.
- ✓ On March 26, Spain reported nearly 8,600 new infections and 655 deaths, bringing the total cases to over 56,000 and more than 4,000 fatalities — second only to Italy's death toll of about 7,500.
- ✓ Italy reported its biggest rise in infections in the last five days.
- ✓ It had announced 6,153 new cases on March 26, compared with 5,210 a day earlier.
- ✓ The death toll in the US from the coronavirus pandemic crossed 1,000 on March 26

- ✓ The US House is expected to approve a massive \$2.2 trillion rescue bill — which contributes to around 10% of US GDP or 75% of India’s GDP — to tide over the situation to some extent.



- ✓ New York is the current epicentre of the outbreak in the U.S., accounting for more than 30,000 cases and more than 300 deaths, most of them in New York City.
- ✓ France launched “Operation Resilience”, a military backed response.
- ✓ It had begun evacuating infected citizens from the hotspot of Alsace using a special high-speed train.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) largest economies held a video conference to discuss measures to tackle the outbreak of coronavirus
- ✓ The G20 countries committed to inject more than \$5 trillion into the global economy and contribute to the COVID-19 solidarity response fund led by the WHO
- ✓ In a related incident, Kosovo lawmakers have removed PM Albin Kurti from the office, thus becoming the first nation in Europe to vote out a government over the way it handled the coronavirus outbreak.
- ✓ Kurti ordered a curfew and banned public gatherings to contain the spread, defying President Hashim Thaci, who wanted to declare national emergency
- ✓ More than 70 people have been infected with the virus in the landlocked nation of Kosovo with a population of 1.8 million.

# SPORTS

- **Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri - is among 28 other football stars chosen for FIFA's COVID-19 campaign**



- ✓ The World Governing body FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association or International Federation of Association Football) has initiated the campaign to create an awareness on measures in combating the disease
- ✓ The FIFA has joined hands with the World Health Organization to launch the awareness campaign
- ✓ The campaign is called “Pass the message to kick out Corona Virus”.
- ✓ It aims to spread five key steps, as per WHO guidance, among people to stop the spread of the disease
  - ✓ The five steps includes hand washing, not touching the face, coughing etiquette, physical distance and staying home
- ✓ Apart from Sunil Chhetri, the campaign also includes other leading football players such as Argentine Lionel Messi and other world cup winners Casillas, Philip Lahm and Cales Puyol.
- ✓ The campaign is to be conducted in video format in 13 different languages.

