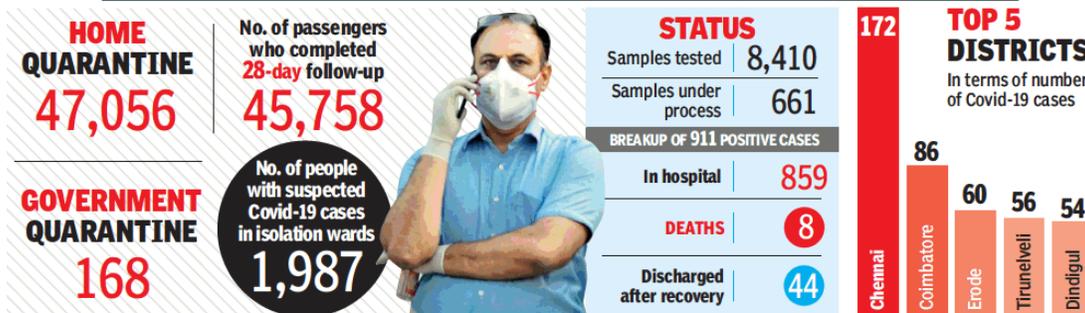
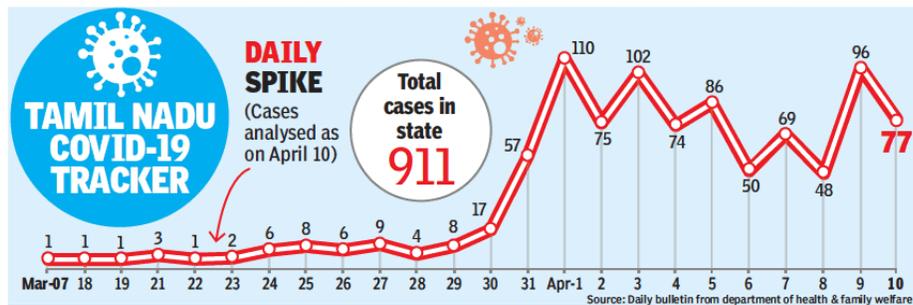


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 11, 2020

TAMIL NADU

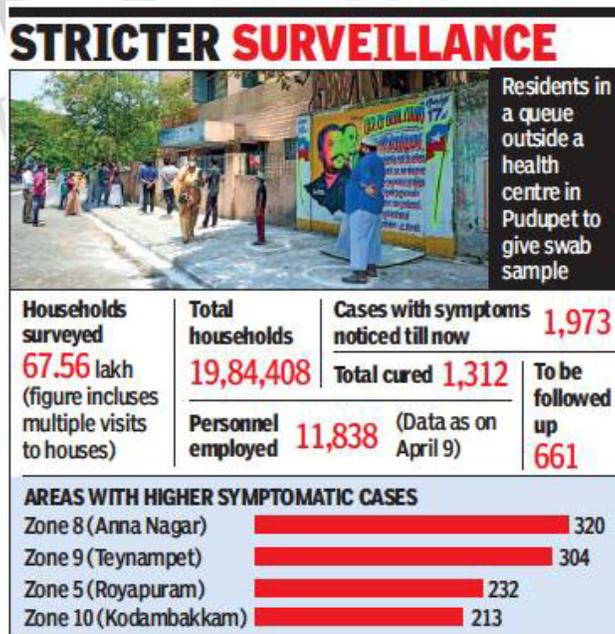
- The total number of Covid-19 cases in the state – jumped to 911, after 77 more people tested positive for the virus on April 10
- ✓ A 70-year-old woman, who was tested positive for Covid-19, died at the Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital, taking the number of fatalities to eight.



- ✓ Till date, 44 persons who tested positive have been discharged from the hospitals.
- ✓ Out of the 77 patients tested positive, five had a travel history and the remaining were contacts of those with a travel history.
- ✓ All 77 were from areas that were already under containment.
- ✓ Of the fresh cases, 70 were connected to a “single source event” (TJ cluster)
- ✓ Coimbatore reported the highest number of cases with 26 persons being tested positive.
- ✓ Among others tested positive, 12 persons were from Chengalpattu, 9 persons each in Chennai and Ranipet, 8 from Dindigul, 3 each from the Nilgiris and

Villupuram, 2 each from Erode and Tuticorin, and one each from Cuddalore, Kanniyakumari and Tiruvannamalai.

- ✓ Meanwhile, a 19-member medical expert committee that met on April 10 recommended to the State Chief Minister that prohibitory orders be extended by two more weeks.
 - ✓ The CM had received inputs from the 12 coordination committees on April 9 and views of various experts
 - ✓ The CM will take part in a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 11.
 - ✓ He is expected later to hold a cabinet meet before making a formal announcement on the extension.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will consult with State Chief Ministers on April 11 to discuss the Covid-19 situation in the country
 - ✓ The meeting is scheduled in the midst of expectations that a decision will be taken by the Government to extend the national lockdown beyond April 14
- ✓ The four lakh rapid testing kits ordered by the state, which were to reach India on April 9, have been delayed
 - ✓ These testing kits give the results in 30 minutes against the five hours taken by PCR
- ✓ On the field, Greater Chennai corporation have started taking swabs of people living in areas marked as 'micro-containment clusters' by the civic body to reduce testing load on government hospitals



- ✓ These are areas where two or more Covid-19 positive cases have been found with some of the streets being barricaded to restrict outsiders
- ✓ Around 70 such clusters have been identified across the city

- ✓ In a related move, the government has decided to give a grocery kit of Rs 500 through PDS and/or cooperative stores, following the complaints of shortage of essential commodities in various localities
 - ✓ It is estimated to sell 10 lakh kits from next week onwards
 - ✓ Earlier, the government has engaged mobile shops to sell vegetables and groceries in the localities.
- ✓ In another move, the state government has decided to issue movement passes for caregivers of differently-abled people with high support needs.
- **The state government - has released a new set of guidelines to be followed by those kept under home quarantine.**
 - ✓ The government has advised them to stay in separate rooms with toilet facilities and proper ventilation.
 - ✓ Other members residing in the house were advised to wear masks
 - ✓ One family member should be in touch with the quarantined person to take care of their needs.
 - ✓ The guidelines urges pregnant women, senior citizens and those with low immunity not to come in contact with isolated people or objects used by them
 - ✓ The clothes and bed covers of the quarantined person should not be waggled and instead should be soaked in soap water before washing and drying.
 - ✓ In case any of the quarantined people develops cough, cold, fever or other symptoms, they can must inform officials by calling 104 or 1800 120 555 550 for assistance and remain isolated for at least 28 days.
 - ✓ The guidelines also recommend cleaning such houses with disinfectants at least thrice a day.
 - ✓ Nearly 60,000 people, who returned from other states and countries, are under home quarantine in Tamil Nadu.
- **Tamil Nadu - has received just ₹312.64 crore as 'Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package' under National Rural Health Mission, a centrally-sponsored scheme.**
 - ✓ The Centre allocated ₹510 crore a week ago to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
 - ✓ At present, Tamil Nadu stands second in number of Covid-19 infections in the country
 - ✓ The state had requested the Centre ₹3,000 crore for strengthening its health infrastructure and another ₹9,000 crore as grant.
 - ✓ The ₹312.64-crore tranche is part of a scheme to be implemented in three phases between 2020 and 2024 for emergency response measures.
 - ✓ The rest of the fund, whose full quantum has not been disclosed, will be provided under a mission-mode approach staggered over a period of four years.
 - ✓ The fund will be utilised for strengthening state healthcare system to support prevention and preparedness for Covid-19, procurement of essential medical

equipment, consumables and drugs and strengthening of surveillance activities, including setting up of laboratories.

- ✓ The ₹510 crore allocation to the SDRF was a routine budgetary allocation done based on the 15th finance commission's recommendation done a few weeks ahead of schedule.
- ✓ However, the state had already sanctioned ₹650 crore from the SDRF towards Covid-19 response efforts.

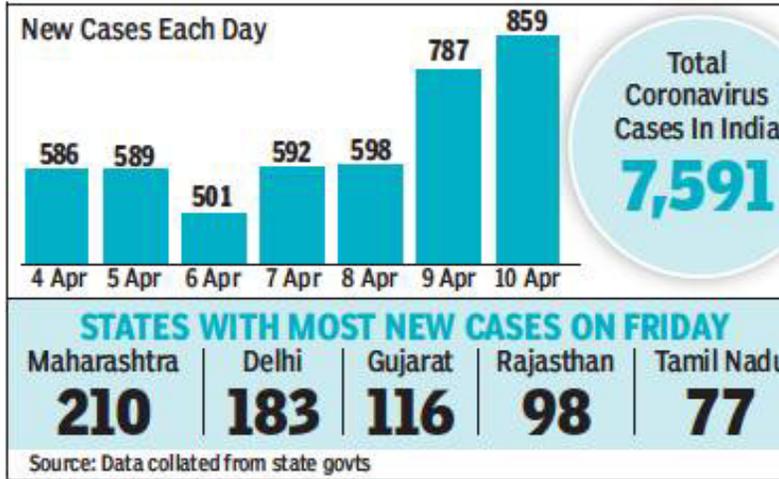
STATES

- **On April 10, Punjab - became the second state to extend the lockdown, till May 1.**
 - ✓ On the previous day, Odisha extended the lockdown till April 30.
 - ✓ The Punjab CM also announced that the state government would keep the harvesting season out of the purview of the lockdown.
 - ✓ Currently, there are 101 positive COVID-19 cases in Punjab
- **The Telangana government - made it mandatory for people to wear a face mask while stepping out to combat the spread of novel coronavirus.**
 - ✓ However, Telangana has not imposed fines on offenders unlike Odisha and Delhi, which have decided to penalise people for violating the rule
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, Mumbai, Leh and Odisha have already made it mandatory for all to wear face masks in public.
 - ✓ Not wearing a mask while stepping out of house in Delhi would land one in jail for up to six months and violators may also have to cough up fines between ₹200 and ₹1,000.

NATIONAL

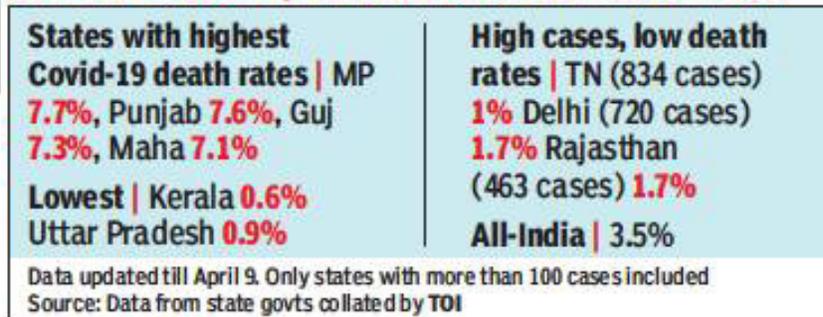
- **The country's overall coronavirus count - topped 7,500, while the death toll rose to 258, with 26 casualties reported from various states on April 10**
 - ✓ On April 10, as many as 859 fresh cases were confirmed by states beating a record high of 787 cases registered a day before
 - ✓ Mumbai became the first Indian city to record 1,000 Covid-19 cases.
 - ✓ On the day, Delhi reported 183 new infections, as well as surging numbers in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ With 132 new cases and 10 deaths reported on April 10, Mumbai's overall case tally stood at 1,008 and casualties to 64.
 - ✓ The city accounts for 64% of cases in Maharashtra, which reported over 200 fresh infections for the second day in a row.
 - ✓ Delhi saw a doubling of new cases as compared to the previous highest of 93 recorded on April 8

SPURT IN LAST TWO DAYS



- ✓ Gujarat (116) and Rajasthan (98) also saw their highest single-day count of Covid cases.
- ✓ Kerala which was the first state to report Covid-19 on January 30 in the country maintained its downward trend in cases, recording only seven on April 10, taking the state's total count to 364.
- ✓ As per the available data, there is wide variation in fatality rates (deaths as percentage of cases) among Covid-19 patients between states, pointing to the importance of testing more cases

MP HIGHEST, MAHARASHTRA NO.4



- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (7.7%) was at the top end and Kerala, which recorded the first Covid-19 case in India, had reported just 0.6% of deaths.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu and Delhi, despite having the second and third highest number of cases, have among the lowest mortality rates of 0.96% and 1.67% respectively.
- ✓ The government has reiterated that it has found no evidence yet of any community transmission in India and that the rate of infection remains low with only 2% of 16,002 samples tested being positive
 - ✓ It also, once again, gave an assurance that the public would be informed if the viral outbreak reaches Stage 3 spread.

'RATE OF INFECTION ONLY 2%'

ICMR STUDY SAYS

➤ Out of 102 Severe Acute Respiratory Illness patients who tested Covid-19 positive, 40 out of 43 for whom data was available had no history

of international travel or contact with a Covid-19 positive patient

➤ Data indicates community spread as per World Health Organisation's norms, suggest experts

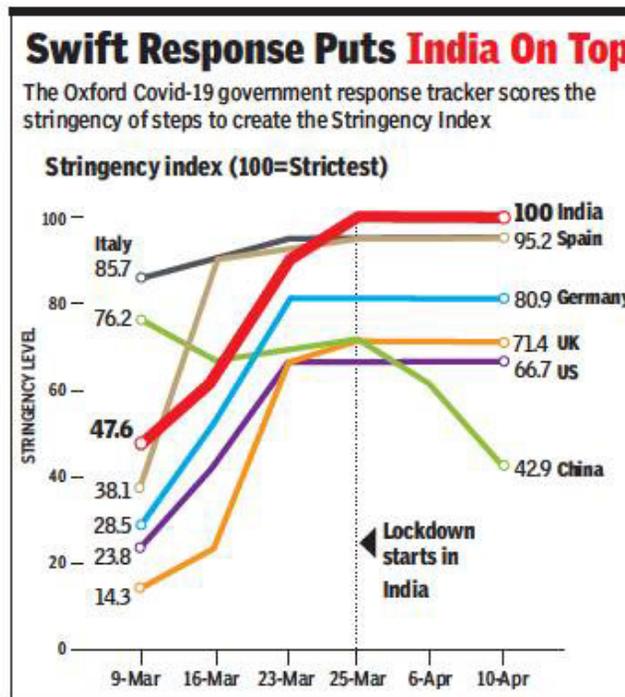
HEALTH MINISTRY REACTS

➤ Rate of infection still low with only 320, or about 2%, of 16,002 samples testing positive on Thursday

➤ **Public will be intimated** if the outbreak reaches Stage 3

- ✓ The Centre has cautioned all states and Union Territories against allowing any social or religious gathering or procession during upcoming festivals like Easter, Baisakhi, Bohag Bihu, Vishu, etc. Easter falls on Sunday, Baisakhi on April 13 and Bohag Bihu/Vishu on April 14.
- ✓ The Clause 9 of the consolidated guidelines on the lockdown measures notified by home ministry on March 24 and modified further, bars all religious congregations and social/cultural/ religious functions/gatherings without any exception.
- ✓ It asked law enforcement agencies to take action against any violation of the lockdown under relevant penal provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and IPC.
- **The government - has expanded its RT-PCR testing to cover all symptomatic people in hotspots, clusters, large migration gatherings and evacuee centres within seven days of reporting sick.**
- ✓ The symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose and difficulty in breathing.
- ✓ The RT-PCR testing is considered as the validating test in confirming Covid-19
- ✓ As per the protocol, after a week of symptoms, an antibody test can be done followed by a confirmatory RT-PCR, if the results are negative.
- ✓ The move is intended to increase the sample size, thereby helping to reduce mortality and rule out community transmission
- ✓ Last week, the government issued an advisory to launch rapid antibody blood test for Covid-19 among symptomatic people with influenza like illnesses in cluster containment zones and in large migration gatherings and evacuee centres.
- ✓ Till now, RT-PCR was approved for testing of all symptomatic people with international travel history in last 14 days, symptomatic contacts of Covid-19 positive cases, symptomatic healthcare workers and all hospitalised patients with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI).
- ✓ Also, the government had decided to conduct RT-PCR test on asymptomatic direct and high risk contacts of a confirmed case between day 5 and 14 of such contact.

- **India - performs better in comparison to other developed countries such as the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Korea and Britain in the 'Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker' (OxCGRT)**



- ✓ OxCGRT provides a systematic cross-national, cross temporal measure to analyse the response of governments over the full period of the disease's spread.
 - ✓ The project tracks governments' policies and interventions across a standardized series of indicators
 - ✓ After monitoring, it develops a composite index to measure the stringency of these responses.
 - ✓ The data are collected and updated on 13 indicators in 'real time' by a team of dozens of students and staff at Oxford University
 - ✓ According to the data on the Oxford Covid-19 tracker, India has consistently been on the Top zone of the index, suggesting that the response was quick while other countries struggled in unveiling quick measures.
- **The government - announced payment of ex-gratia or monetary compensation in the range of ₹10 lakh to ₹35 lakh for employees and contractual labourers of Food Corporation of India (FCI), in case of any death due to coronavirus infection.**
 - ✓ The compensation will be provided for corona-related fatalities during duty, which could occur till September 23
 - ✓ It covers six month time period from March 24 when lockdown came into effect
 - ✓ The government will be soon launching a portal for registration of drivers and helpers for the purpose and to verify their credentials.
 - ✓ Nationwide, at least 80,000 labourers are working 24x7 to supply foodgrains amidst the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

- ✓ The monetary compensation has been announced under six categories -
 - ✓ There will be ₹35 lakh compensation for about 600 employees, ₹30 lakh for 6,000 employees and ₹25 lakh for nearly 16,000 employees.
 - ✓ Similarly, there will be ₹15 lakh compensation for other FCI employees including watch and ward and cleaning staff.
 - ✓ The compensation for contract labourers has been fixed at ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ The announcement will cover around 1.09 lakh workers and officers.
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) – has launched a revised and upgraded version of Swachhata App recently**

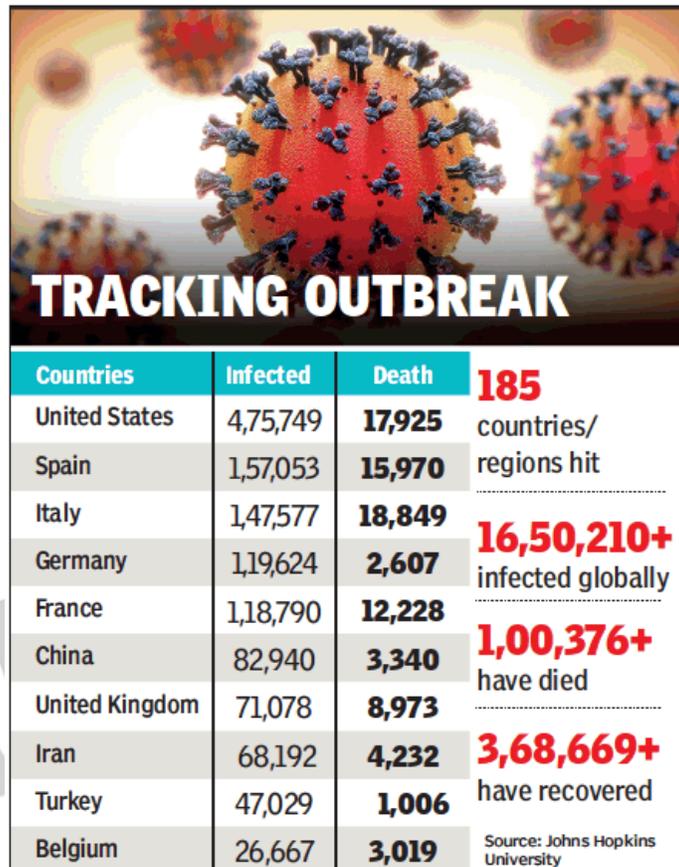


- ✓ The revised version will respond to the queries specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The additional 9 categories for the complaints specific to COVID-19 on the app has been added.
- ✓ Swachhata app is a digital platform for complaints by the citizens related to the sanitation and cleanliness of the area they are living in.
- ✓ It is an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission in association with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The worldwide death toll from the coronavirus - crossed 1,00,000 on April 10**
- ✓ The State of New York, the current epicenter of the outbreak, reported 777 deaths from the coronavirus in the past 24 hours
 - ✓ It had reported 799 deaths on the previous day.
 - ✓ The total number of deaths in NY State stands at 7,844, since the outbreak began.
 - ✓ Overall, at least 17,925 people have died of coronavirus in the US — nearly half of them in New York state.
 - ✓ Out of the total confirmed cases of around 4,75,749 nationwide, about 1,62,000 are in New York state alone.
 - ✓ That means it has more reported cases than any country in the world.

- ✓ Europe remains the hardest-hit continent in terms of cases, with 826,389 and 67,247 deaths.
- ✓ Italy has the highest death toll at 18,279 followed by Spain with 15,843.
- ✓ After a two-week suspension on all non-essential economic activity, Spain decided to allow factories and construction sites to resume work on April 13, while schools, most shops and offices will remain closed.



- ✓ The 605 new deaths announced in Spain were the lowest in more than two weeks.
- ✓ The virus has claimed over 15,900 lives in Spain, though the rates of contagion and deaths are dropping.
- ✓ Italy reported 570 additional deaths for a cumulative total of more than 18,800 — the highest of any country — but the number of hospital admissions is falling.
- ✓ UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was moved out of intensive care on April 9.
- ✓ The 55-year-old remained hospitalised in London.
- ✓ The UK virus toll has risen by 980 to 8,973, its biggest daily rise to date.
- ✓ The toll exceeded the deadliest day reported by Italy on March 28, the country worst hit by the virus.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Covid-19 pandemic - has stalled the 15-month advanced training of four IAF personnel in Russia for the Gaganyaan mission.**

- ✓ The mission was supposed to be launched in 2022
- ✓ The training of the four astronauts started at Yuri Gagarin Training Centre in February and was scheduled to be over in May next year.
- ✓ After the completion of training in Russia, the four Gagannaut probables will further be trained in India

ECONOMY

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB) – announced that it was planning to provide a \$2.2 billion immediate assistance for the upgradation of health sector in the country.**
- ✓ The ADP president Masatsugu Asakawa assured finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman of the agency's support to India in its fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic
- ✓ This is one of the largest ever assistance from a multilateral agency for the country's health sector
- ✓ The move is expected to significantly support the government's efforts to accelerate its fight against the virus outbreak.
- ✓ The government has already taken several visionary steps to accelerate testing, ready quarantine zones and help for the frontline healthcare workers
- ✓ In this direction, the availability of funds will further strengthen the efforts and help revamp the country's health care sector.

