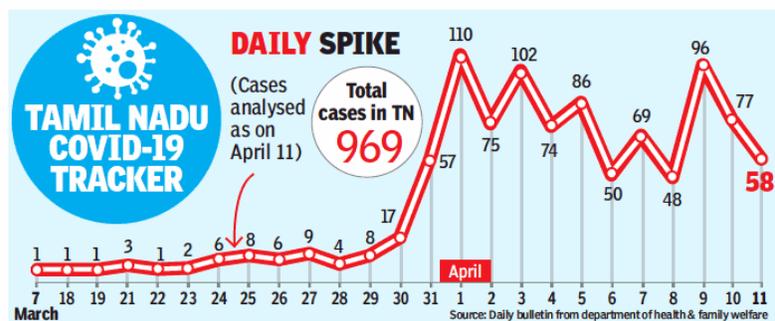


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 12, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The number of positive Covid-19 cases reported in the State – increased by another 58 to reach a total of 969, the third highest in the country after Maharashtra and Delhi
- ✓ The state’s official Covid-19 toll touched double figures (10) with a death reported overnight
- ✓ One patient died in Erode taking the State’s COVID-19 toll to 10



 ISOLATION BEDS AVAILABLE 29,074 NO. OF VENTILATORS AVAILABLE 3,371	HOME QUARANTINE 51,996 GOVERNMENT QUARANTINE 165	No. of passengers who completed 28-day follow-up 49,963 No. of people with suspected Covid-19 cases in isolation wards 1,884	STATUS Samples tested 9,842 Samples under process 1,094 BREAKUP OF 969 POSITIVE CASES In hospital 915 DEATHS 10 Discharged after recovery 44	TOP 5 DISTRICTS In terms of number of Covid-19 cases 	
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- ✓ Out of the 10 deaths reported by the State so far, five people were below the age of 60, and almost all the dead had co-morbidities like either diabetes or hypertension.
- ✓ This shows pre-existing health problem, more than the age, make patients more vulnerable.

- ✓ One in eight people (13%) in Tamil Nadu is above the age of 60, second only to Kerala where nearly 16% of the population are over 60 years.

STORY SO FAR

Covid-19 positive patients in TN who have died till April 11

DEATHS REPORTED

M-Male | F-Female

DATE	AGE
Mar-25	M 54
Apr-02	M 71
Apr-04	M 51
Apr-04	F 53
Apr-05	M 60
Apr-06	F 57
Apr-06	F 64
Apr-07	M 45
Apr-10	F 71
Apr-11	M 62

* Most common co-morbidities **diabetes, hypertension**

* Patients also had **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (lung), asthma and cardiac diseases

- ✓ Studies have shown that elderly people with co-morbidities have higher risk of heart attacks even after recovery
- ✓ Across the country, nearly 63% of the deaths were among people above the age of 60.
- ✓ While Chennai is topping the list with 182 cases, Coimbatore is ranked next with 92, and Erode had 60 cases.
- ✓ Two other districts -- Tirunelveli and Dindigul – had more than 50 cases.
- ✓ A total of 1,884 persons were admitted to isolation wards of hospitals across the State.
- ✓ A total of 51,996 persons were under home quarantine, and 165 in government quarantine facilities.
- ✓ Another 49,963 persons have completed the 28-day quarantine period.
- ✓ At present, the State had 12 government facilities and 7 private labs for COVID testing
- ✓ Apart from them, on April 10, Dharmapuri government medical college had also been given permission by the Central authorities
- ✓ The Centre's approval was awaited for government medical colleges in Kanniyakumari, Thanjavur and Vellore.
- ✓ On April 11, the state government said that it favoured a two-week extension of the lockdown, but would wait for the final decision from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- ✓ Meanwhile, the state has categorized 17 districts that have more 25 positive cases as red zones, nine districts with between 10 and 25 cases as orange zones, and eight other districts with less than 10 cases as yellow zones.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation – has proposed to issue travel passes in red, blue and green colours to commuters in the city in the next few days**
- ✓ The general public will get green colour passes, while it will be blue for government staff and red for private employees.
- ✓ General public will get travel passes only for three reasons - Fixed wedding, funeral and emergency medical reasons
- ✓ Deputy Commissioner (works) in the GCC will be the authorized entity to issue these passes in the city.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the GCC has also requested residents under home quarantine to handover used masks, gloves and other waste to sanitary workers in a yellow bag on a daily basis.
- ✓ The bags would be provided by GCC
- ✓ The corporation had also advised the public to disinfect the used masks, gloves and other waste by using ordinary bleach solution (5%) or sodium hypochlorite solution (1%) and kept in yellow bags exclusively in a closed bin before being handed over to conservancy staff.
- ✓ As per official data released on April 11, GCC has screened 86.74 lakh households in the city as on April 10 under its door-to-door fever survey.
- ✓ At least 2,488 people with symptoms have been identified of which 1,746 have been cured.
- ✓ On April 11, the Greater Chennai Corporation started collecting samples of people at walk-in collection kiosks, which were set up in Pudukpet and Periamet.
- ✓ Twenty more such kiosks will start functioning in two days.



- ✓ The kiosks at Pudukpet and Periamet fall under Royapuram Zone, which has recorded the most number of Covid-19 positive cases (51, as on April 11) in the city.

- **The Health Department of the State - has sought the approval of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the trial of plasma therapy in Covid-19 patients with severe symptoms**
- ✓ In this regard, the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital has sought the Union health ministry's permission to derive convalescent plasma – part of the blood containing antibodies – from people cured of Covid-19.
- ✓ According to the doctors, the antibodies will help boost the immune system
- ✓ Antibodies are the proteins made by the immune system
- ✓ They were earlier used to treat Ebola and influenza and are now being used to treat Covid-19.
- ✓ But this is currently the experimental stage and not a gold standard therapy
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State has released the advanced treatment regimen, including steroids and antiviral drugs.
- ✓ Like in all other flu's and H1N1, Covid-19 patients are classified as A, B and C.
 - ✓ Category A (mild) patients may only require medication such as paracetamol
 - ✓ Category B (moderate) patients should be admitted to a ward and given anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine and antibiotic azithromycin
 - ✓ Category C (severe) patients should be given more antibiotics, steroids and anti-viral drugs, besides hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin
- ✓ As of April 10, the State has 911 patients with COVID-19.
- ✓ Of this, 44 persons were discharged after treatment and 10 have died.
- **In a surprise development, the Andhra Pradesh government - appointed a retired Madras High Court judge V. Kanagaraj as the State Election Commissioner (SEC)**
- ✓ He replaces N. Ramesh Kumar, who was expelled by the Government through an overnight ordinance.



- ✓ Justice Kanagaraj served as a Madras High Court judge for a period of nine years
- ✓ He has delivered several landmark judgments, particularly in cases related to the education sector and women and children's safety.
- ✓ Ramesh Kumar took charge as the SEC in April 2016.

- ✓ He was in odds with the Government since his postponement of the local body elections, reportedly due to the coronavirus scare, and for requesting the Union Home Ministry to give him protection by Central police forces.

STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh government - has decided to adopt 'group testing or pooled sample testing', which is being used in Germany and Israel at present to contain the virus spread.**
- ✓ The move is intended to speed up Covid-19 tests in the state
- ✓ Maharashtra has also sought permission from the Centre and the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to allow 'pool' testing
- ✓ ICMR is currently working on a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the group or pool testing method.
- ✓ The method involves mixing of several samples to create a large or super sample and putting them up for test in one go instead of testing every single sample one at a time.
- ✓ This method is not new and was used widely by the US to screen patients of syphilis during the World War II.
- ✓ The technique now has been validated for coronavirus testing of a super sample of up to 60 swabs by researchers in Israel.
- ✓ The State of Uttar Pradesh are in the final stages of rolling out the method
- ✓ Once the method is approved, the State will be able to test 100 persons from a pool of two or three districts every day
 - ✓ If the result is negative, then all persons in the group would be declared negative to coronavirus.
 - ✓ But if the sample tests positive, every single person in the batch will be tested separately.
- ✓ The method saves much time and effort in testing the samples.

NATIONAL

- **As per reports from states, 825 new Covid-19 cases – were reported in the country on April 11, which was the second-highest after 863 reported on April 10.**
- ✓ These reports from states put the total number of cases in the country at 8426, and the death toll at 290, with 32 reported on April 11.
- ✓ On April 11, the health ministry said that India's Covid-19 count had for the first time seen an increase of more than 1,000 cases in 24 hours.
- ✓ As per the ministry, a total of 1,035 fresh Covid-19 cases and 40 deaths due to the disease were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the official number of cases to 7,447 and the number of deaths to 239 nationwide.

DELHI JUMPS TO NO.2 SPOT

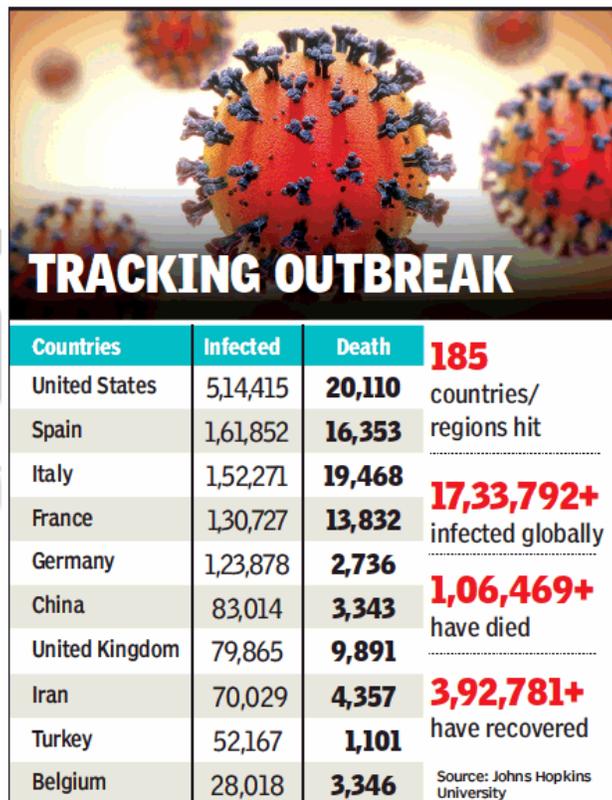
Name of State/UT	Cases on Saturday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	187	1,761	79	127
Delhi	166	1,069	25	19
Tamil Nadu	58	969	21	10
Rajasthan	139	700	60	9
Madhya Pradesh	55	529	38	40
Telangana	25	503	45	14
Rest of India	195	2,895	324	72
Total	825	8,426	592	291

- ✓ The difference between the Centre's figures and States data is due to the time lag in collating and releasing the data
- ✓ Delhi has so far recorded 1,069 cases, the second city after Mumbai to cross the four-figure mark.
- ✓ Maharashtra continues to report the maximum number of cases, 187 on April 11
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded 17 Covid-19 deaths on April 11, taking the toll in the state to 127, by far the highest in the country.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded 58 new cases on Covid-19, taking its tally to 969, the third in the country.
- ✓ Kerala, which recorded India's first Covid-19 case on January 30 and remained among the most affected states for nearly two months, continued to show a sharp decline in fresh cases.
- ✓ On April 11, the coastal state recorded only 10 new infections.
- ✓ To combat the spread of virus, the States of Punjab, Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka have already declared an extension of Lockdown till the end of the month
- ✓ Meanwhile, the health ministry said that there was a "statistical rate of growth based analysis" that without the lockdown and containment measures, Covid-19 cases could be projected to spiral to 8.2 lakh by April 15, registering a 41% cumulative growth rate.
- ✓ In a related move, India is planning to send a rapid response team comprising doctors to Kuwait to help the local government in testing and treatment of coronavirus patients.
- ✓ The medical team was sent at the request of the Kuwaiti government and will remain there for two weeks.
- **The government - is planning to move an ordinance to suspend fresh insolvency action against companies by lenders or other creditors for six months due to the coronavirus pandemic.**
- ✓ The Centre is looking at amendments to Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) through the ordinance

- ✓ The new move will mean that financial creditors, including home buyers in residential projects, cannot initiate insolvency action, for six months under Section 7 of IBC.
- ✓ Similarly, Section 9 empowers operational creditors like vendors to seek action.
- ✓ Section 10 allows a defaulting company to approach the National Company Law Tribunal to declare it insolvent, providing protection from creditors.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The United States - became the first country in the world to record more than 2,000 deaths in a 24-hour period.**
- ✓ With 18,883 fatalities (2,108 fresh deaths), it seemed all set to surpass Italy (18,849) as the country with the most deaths worldwide
- ✓ However, Italy reported 619 more deaths on the day and its toll has now shot up to 19,468.



- ✓ New York State makes up nearly half of the US toll with 7,844 dead.
- ✓ The State has announced that school buildings in New York City, the US epicentre of the pandemic, will remain closed till September
 - ✓ They have been closed since March 16
- ✓ Overall, the US crossed half a million cases, the most in any country, and five times as much as China's count
- ✓ Meanwhile among other countries, the Japanese government appealed to the public nationwide to avoid bars, clubs and restaurants, broadening a measure announced earlier for seven urban areas, including Tokyo

- ✓ Spain recorded its smallest day-to-day increase in deaths in nearly three weeks, at 510 casualties on the day
 - ✓ It was the third consecutive daily decline in the number of people dying.
- ✓ Italy continued to include all nonessential manufacturing in an extension of its national lockdown until May 3.
 - ✓ Italy has around 19,000 deaths and 150,000 cases of the coronavirus, as on date
- ✓ On April 11, Britain reported 917 more deaths, down from the peak of 980 recorded a day earlier.
 - ✓ The country's overall death toll neared 10,000.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is down with Covid-19, continued to recover at a London hospital.
- ✓ On the day, China reported a rise in new cases, mostly those arriving from abroad
 - ✓ About 46 new cases were reported on April 10, including 42 from other countries, up from 42 a day earlier.
- ✓ France has deployed some 1,60,000 police, including officers on horseback who patrolled beaches and parks, to check public gatherings on Easter
 - ✓ The country's coronavirus death toll rose by 635 to 13,832 on April 11
- ✓ Meanwhile, South Korea said that it plans to strap tracking wristbands on those who violate self-quarantine orders

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Union science and technology ministry – has decided to fund a Pune-based firm to develop a vaccine for Covid-19, which is expected to enter phase-1 trial in 18-20 months.**
 - ✓ Seagull Biosolutions will become the first company backed financially by the government for coronavirus vaccine.
 - ✓ The company will also produce at-home test kits for Covid-19 that can detect even asymptomatic infections
 - ✓ For both purposes, Seagull will use its existing Active Virosome Technology (AVT) which can develop novel Active Virosome agents to induce antibodies.
 - ✓ The firm is developing two kinds of agents to produce 19 types of neutralising antibodies.
 - ✓ While the first agent will express the S protein — which mediates attachment of the virus to the host cell surface receptors — the other will express structural proteins of Covid-19.
 - ✓ The company will conduct tests on wild mice to check efficacy of the two AV agents.
 - ✓ The next round of tests would be on mice models of SARS disease and later on monkeys or any another small animal

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day of Human Space Flight - April 12

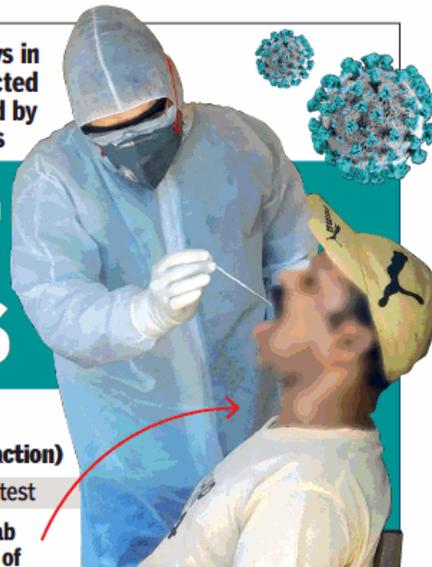


- ✓ The day intends to celebrate the contribution of space science and technology to the mankind and to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.
- ✓ The 65th session of United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on April 7, 2011, had declared April 12 to be celebrated as International Day of Human Space Flight.
- ✓ On April 12, 1961, the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen, who became the first person to journey into outer space.
- ✓ The International Day of Human Space Flight was first observed in 2011.
- ✓ The events of United Nations to celebrate the day are organized by UNOOSA
- ✓ The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the agency that promotes international cooperation for peaceful uses in outer space.
- ✓ The day is celebrated as Cosmonautics Day in Soviet Union.
- ✓ The United States is celebrating the day as “World Space Party”, since 2001
- ✓ The other achievements of human in outer space includes –
 - ✓ The first man-made Earth satellite Sputnik I launched into outer space - October 5, 1957
 - ✓ Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to orbit the Earth - June 16, 1963
 - ✓ Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot upon the surface of the moon - July 20, 1969
 - ✓ Apollo and Soyuz were launched as the first joint US-Russian space flight, becoming the first international human mission in space - July 17, 1975

COVID-19 TESTS – A REPORT

Here are the two ways in which it can be detected if a person is infected by the novel coronavirus

SPOTTING THE VIRUS



PCR TEST (Polymerase Chain Reaction)

also known as RT-PCR test

HOW IT IS DONE | A swab from the nose or throat of the patient is taken, stored in a viral transport medium and sent for processing

HOW IT WORKS | The virus that causes Covid-19 - SARS-COV2 - is a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus and the PCR test detects its presence in the swab during the actual phase of the infection



LIMITATIONS | Doctors say it is more accurate but the test takes time to yield results and is labour intensive. In Chennai, it takes up to half a day to get the result. A screening and a confirmatory test are done to enhance accuracy

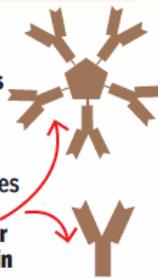


RAPID TEST (Antibody)

also known as serological or card test

HOW IT IS DONE | A blood sample of the patient is processed

HOW IT WORKS | The immune system generates antibodies when a virus enters the body. The test checks for the presence of antibodies usually released - Immunoglobulin M or Immunoglobulin G - in the blood stream



LIMITATIONS | This is a quick test, yields results within 30 minutes. Can be an indication of how many people could be affected by the virus in a particular area/ community, show herd immunity



Compiled by Siddharth Prabhakar | Graphic: Norbert Rosario