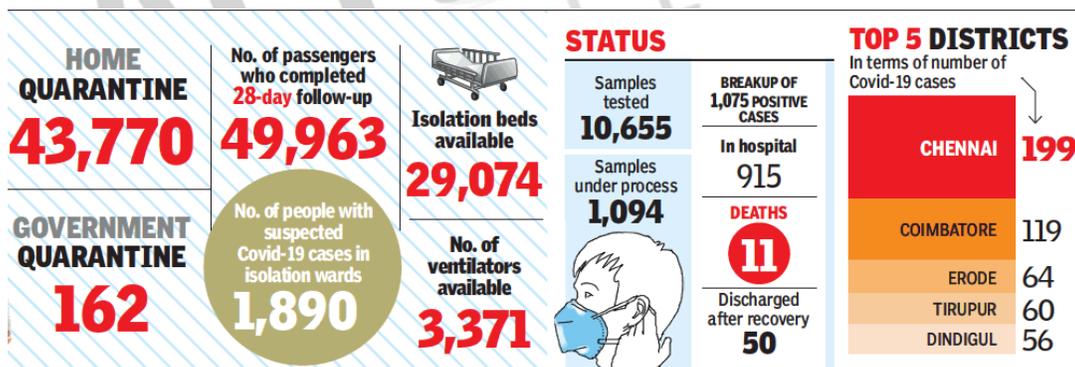


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 13, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu's Covid-19 positive count - crossed 1,000 on April 12, following the reporting of 106 more people, taking the total to 1,075
- ✓ The toll in the state went up to 11, with a 45-year-old woman dying of the coronavirus infection in Chennai
- ✓ The woman who died in Chennai was undergoing treatment at Omandurar Multispeciality Hospital in Chennai since April 5
- ✓ Among those who tested positive on April 12, 16 had travel history and 90 had contact history



- ✓ Meanwhile, the State government has decided to test anyone showing flu-like symptoms for the virus.
- ✓ The revised protocol will allow testing not just for those with contract/travel history, but for anyone with cough, fever or breathlessness.
- ✓ Moreover, the state will continue to screen patients admitted to hospitals with severe acute respiratory illness.
- ✓ The state has so far tested 10,655 samples in 14 labs in government sector and 9 in private sector

## TESTING CENTRES

**GOVT LABS | Chennai** | King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Madras Medical College, Stanley Medical College

**Districts** | Theni Medical College, Tirunelveli Medical College, Tiruvarur Medical College, Salem Medical College, Coimbatore Medical College, ESIC Medical College (Coimbatore), Villupuram Medical College, Madurai Medical College, Trichy Medical College, Erode (Perundurai) Medical College, Dharmapuri Medical College

**PRIVATE LABS | Chennai** | Neuberg Ehrlich Laboratories, Apollo Hospitals, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Medical Sciences, YRG Care, Hitech Laboratories, Miot Hospitals, Madras Medical Mission

**Districts** | CMC (Vellore), Microbiology lab in Coimbatore

- ✓ The state has announced the launch of a new IVRS facility to help patients identify their risk.
  - ✓ To avail the facility, people can dial 949-991-2345 to find out if they are low or high risk.
- ✓ The Chennai Corporation will start collecting at least 1,000 samples a day for COVID-19 testing from residents from April 15
- ✓ So far, it has only collected data on symptoms of COVID-19 and has been monitoring the residents on a daily basis
- ✓ As per the data provided, as many as 3,036 residents have reported symptoms in the 15 zones of the city.
- ✓ The civic body has already covered 18.63 lakh households in its door-to-door survey, which is being carried on a daily basis.

## STATES

- **Haryana and Gujarat - made wearing of masks 'mandatory' to check the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in their states.**
  - ✓ Haryana made the announcement just after the Union Territory of Chandigarh and Punjab announced the same move.
  - ✓ As per the Government of Haryana, non-compliance by those stepping outside their homes would attract punishment and authorised cops to impose fine on such offenders
  - ✓ In Gujarat, those violating the notification would be fined ₹1,000 for the first offence and the repeat offence would attract a fine of ₹5,000
- **Maharashtra government - is planning to give hydroxychloroquine sulphate (HCQS) tablets as a "preventive medicine" to slum residents having highest risk of the infection.**

- ✓ The suspected patients kept in quarantine centres in Dharavi are likely to be the first to receive HCQS, due to the 'high' possibility of risk of infection there
- ✓ HCQS is primarily an anti-malarial drug, which is also routinely prescribed to patients with diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus
- ✓ US president Donald Trump wanted India to supply HCQS to the US as he thought it could turn out to be a "game-changer" as a preventive medicine in the fight against Covid-19
- ✓ At present, the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) approves HCQS as a preventive medicine for healthcare workers only.
- ✓ If Maharashtra's plan is approved, it could be the first time that HCQS is used as a Covid-19 prophylaxis at the community level.

## NATIONAL

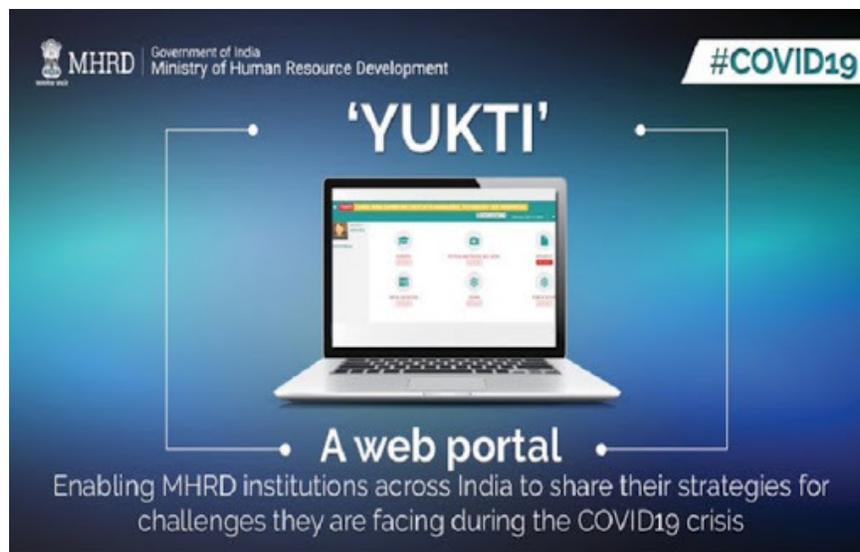
- **India's count of coronavirus cases - crossed 9,000 on April 12 with the reporting of 763 fresh cases, taking the toll to 9,188**
- ✓ The death toll went past 300 on a day when as many as 39 deaths were reported from states, taking the final death toll to 329

### 763 FRESH CASES

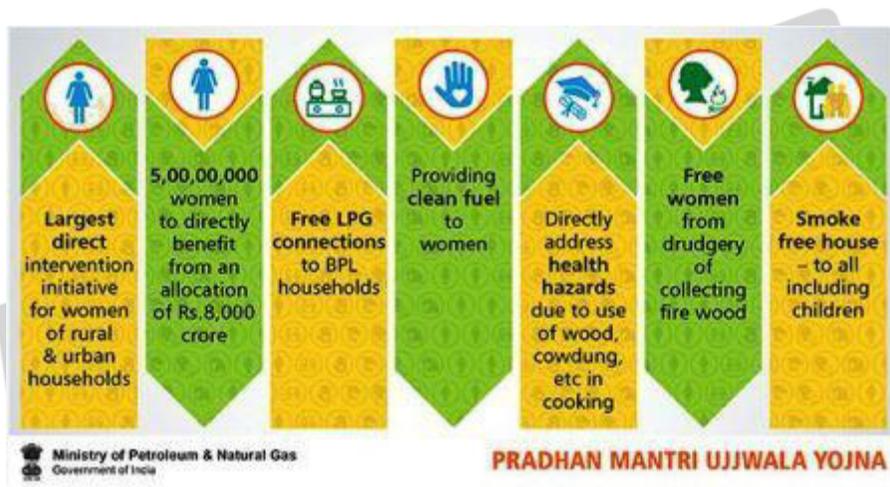
- 9,188 corona cases in India, as on Sunday night
- Death toll at 329, with 39 reported on Sunday – 22 in Maharashtra alone
- Most new cases on Sunday from Maharashtra (221), Tamil Nadu (106), Rajasthan (104), Delhi (85)

- ✓ Overall, the Covid-19 outbreak has now spread to more than 350 districts, covering almost 50% of the country
- ✓ Cases in the country have doubled in the past six days since around 4,700 were reported on April 6, though it showed a slight slowing of the doubling rate, from 4.2 days reported earlier
- ✓ Maharashtra reported 221 fresh cases and 22 deaths, both second-highest single-day figures for the state (or any other state in India).
  - ✓ The state has so far recorded 1982 Covid-19 cases and 149 deaths.
- ✓ On April 12, Delhi confirmed 85 new cases, taking its tally of cases to 1,154 – the second highest in the country after Maharashtra.
  - ✓ The five deaths reported in the capital took the total toll to 24.
- ✓ The Covid-19 outlook remained gloomy in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan too, which recorded 106 and 104 new cases, taking their total tally to 1,075 and 804, respectively.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh recorded a total of 491 cases as on April 12
- ✓ Gujarat recorded 48 new cases, taking the state's tally to 516

- ✓ Karnataka reported 17 new Covid-19 cases — its biggest single-day jump yet — taking the total count of the infected to 232.
  - ✓ Telangana's overall coronavirus tally rose to 531 on April 12.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported a toll of two, as on date, with a total of 420 people have been confirmed positive for Covid-19 in the state.
    - ✓ In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders prohibiting spitting in public places.
    - ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to distribute 16 crore masks in the State to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the health ministry announced that it has arranged over one lakh beds in 601 hospitals across the country, even as estimates showed only 1,671 beds are required in tertiary care,
  - ✓ While positive cases have increased from 917 on March 29 to 8,346 on April 12, only 20% of these cases would need ICU support and critical care
- **The government - plans to expand testing in 'clusters' chosen in 'cold spots' or areas, where there are no cases reported as of now.**
- ✓ The move is aimed to expand the testing and ensure that no significant number of Covid-19 cases are being left out
  - ✓ This becomes significant as the focus will now be applied outside the hotspot areas in around 133 districts where there is a high incidence of the disease.
  - ✓ The districts that will be taken up for sampling are being identified and a combination of 'pool' and 'rapid' testing will be adopted to check for the presence of Covid-19.
  - ✓ While the pool testing is a RT-PCR process, which is a definitive means of detecting the disease, the rapid test option is intended to test for antibodies.
- **Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal - launched a new e-portal ' YUKTI' on April 12, 2020**



- ✓ YUKTI is the abbreviation for 'Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation'
  - ✓ The portal will highlight different initiatives and efforts taken by academic institutions related to COVID-19
  - ✓ It will also cover various social initiatives and measures taken for the betterment of students' well-being by the institutions
  - ✓ The portal will provide a platform for the education institutions to share their strategies for various challenges that have arisen due to the COVID-19 outbreak and other future initiatives.
  - ✓ It will also monitor and help the HRD Ministry to effectively plan its activities in the upcoming six months.
- **The Centre - has so far transferred Rs 5,000 crores to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

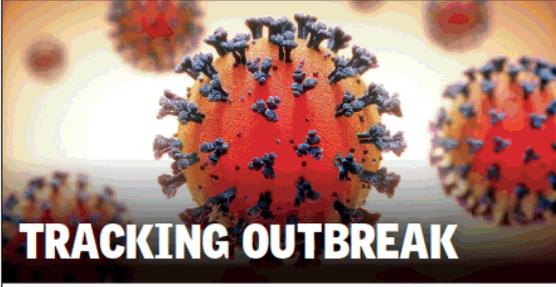


- ✓ The money transferred will be used to provide free LPG cylinders to PMUY beneficiaries.
- ✓ Earlier, the Government, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package, had announced free delivery of LPG cylinders for a period of 3 months to the Ujjwala beneficiaries.
- ✓ Under this initiative, 1.26 crore cylinders were booked and 85 lakhs have been delivered so far.
- ✓ There are 27.87 crore LPG consumers in the country, out of which the PMUY beneficiaries are 8 crores.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in 2016.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide 'free' LPG connections to families below poverty line.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The death toll from Covid-19 infections in the US - crossed 21,000 on April 12, the highest among all countries**
- ✓ Infections across the US continued to rise beyond half a million

- ✓ For the first time in American history, all 50 states were declared disaster zones eligible for federal help



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	5,42,023	<b>21,418</b>	<b>185</b> countries/ regions hit
Spain	1,66,019	<b>16,972</b>	
Italy	1,56,363	<b>19,899</b>	<b>1,827,284+</b> infected globally
France	1,33,667	<b>14,393</b>	
Germany	1,26,656	<b>2,908</b>	<b>1,13,031+</b> have died
United Kingdom	85,175	<b>10,612</b>	
China	83,134	<b>3,343</b>	<b>4,16,620+</b> have recovered
Iran	71,686	<b>4,474</b>	
Turkey	56,956	<b>1,198</b>	
Belgium	29,647	<b>3,600</b>	

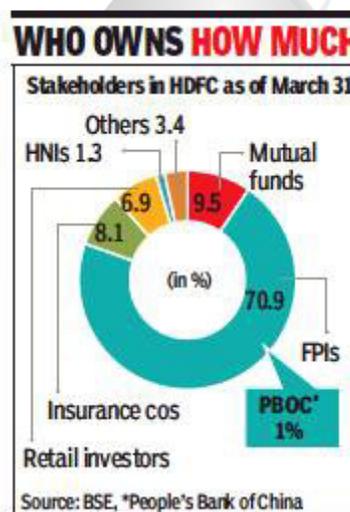
Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ In the State of New York, which has become the epicentre of the outbreak in the country, deaths topped 700 for a sixth straight day pushing the toll to more than 9,000
- ✓ Meanwhile, British PM Boris Johnson left hospital on April 12, as the national death toll passed 10,000.
  - ✓ Britain reported hospital deaths of more than 900 for two days in a row
  - ✓ The death toll of 980, reported on April 10, surpassed the highest daily total recorded in Italy, the hardest-hit country in Europe so far.
  - ✓ The cumulative casualty in hospitals across the UK stood at 10,612 on April 11, with an increase of 737 over a 24-hour period
  - ✓ That was lower than the daily increases of 980 and 917 reported on April 10 and April 11.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Spain reported its lowest daily increase in confirmed coronavirus infections in three weeks
  - ✓ It has reported 4,167 confirmed new cases over the past 24 hours, taking the country's total to 166,019.
  - ✓ Deaths in Spain have reached a total of 16,972, with 619 new fatalities confirmed since April 11.
- ✓ Italy also reported its lowest coronavirus death toll in more than three weeks on April 11
  - ✓ The 431 new deaths reported by the Government were the lowest since March 19.

- ✓ Italy's death total now stands at 19,899.
- ✓ France and Germany also reported a slowdown in new cases on April 12
- ✓ However, Russia reported 2,186 new coronavirus cases, the largest daily increase since the start of the outbreak on April 12, bringing the national tally of confirmed cases to 15,770.
  - ✓ The number of Covid-19-related deaths rose by 24 to 130
- ✓ Meanwhile, new daily confirmed cases in mainland China reached 99 on April 11, almost doubling from 46 the previous day to a one-month high.
  - ✓ Out of 53 identified cases, 51 cases involved people travelling from abroad, many of them Chinese nationals returning from Russia.

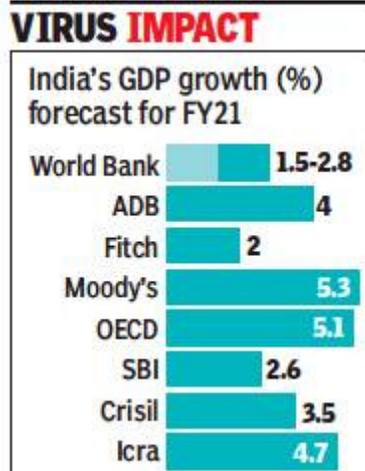
## ECONOMY

- **China's central bank - has acquired a 1% stake in the country's largest mortgage company, HDFC.**
- ✓ As per HDFC, People's Bank of China (PBoC) has bought nearly 1.75 crore shares in HDFC, currently worth nearly ₹3,000 crore.



- ✓ The Chinese bank had acquired some stake in HDFC prior to the January-March quarter, but the disclosure was made only now since the shareholding crossed 1% during the fourth quarter of 2019-20.
- ✓ As of March 2019, it had a 0.8% stake in India's housing finance pioneer.
- ✓ According to listing rules, companies are supposed to disclose the names of only those of its shareholders who hold 1% or more in the company.
- ✓ Recently, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has increased its holding in HDFC from 4.21% in December quarter to 4.67%.
- ✓ HDFC itself owns 52.7% in HDFC Asset Management Company, 19.43% stake in HDFC bank, and 51.45% in HDFC Life Insurance Company.

- **The World Bank - estimates India's GDP growth to drop to 1.5-2.8% in 2020-21 due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic in its recently released 'South Asia Economic Focus' report**



- ✓ The estimate implies a per-capita GDP growth of 0.5-1.8% in the country.
- ✓ The earlier estimated growth for India was 4.8% to 5% in 2019-20 FY that ended on March 30.
- ✓ The report also forecasts a regional growth of South Asia to fall to a range between 1.8 and 2.8% in 2020, down from 6.3% projected six months ago.

