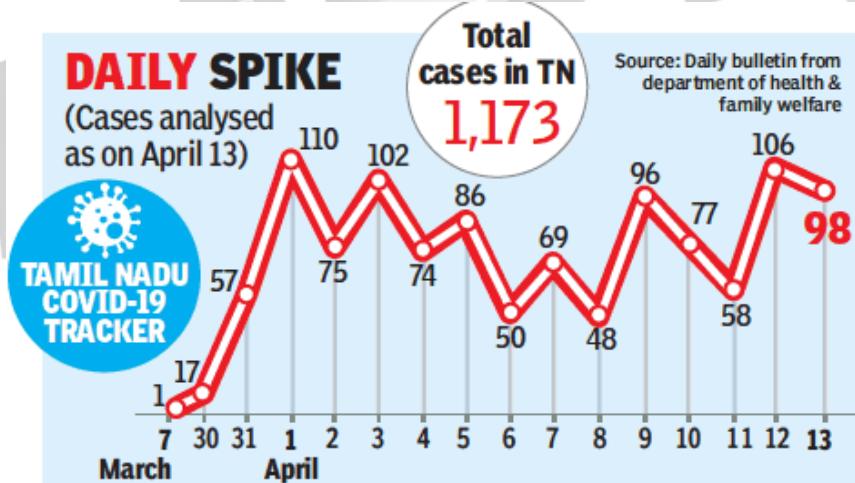


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 14, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu - has reported 98 more positive cases on April 13, taking the total cases to 1,173
- ✓ Till now, it had registered 11 deaths
- ✓ On April 13, 2,091 more samples were tested, taking the total number of samples tested to 12,746.



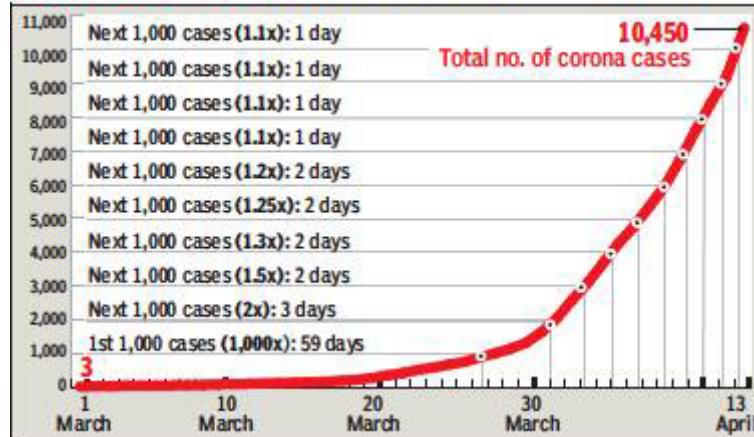
- ✓ Among the 98 cases who tested positive on the day, 91 were from the same source, referring to the participants or contacts of Tablighi Jamaat event in Delhi
- ✓ Another four were contacts of a person who had tested positive for COVID-19 earlier, and three were doctors
- ✓ The total number of patients in Chennai increased to 205 on April 13, followed by Coimbatore, with 126.
- ✓ As of now, the State has a total of 25 testing facilities in the government sector and 9 in the private sector.
 - ✓ Two new laboratories had been approved — at the Government Vellore Medical College Hospital and the State Public Health Laboratory in Chennai
- ✓ A total of 1,984 persons were in isolation facilities at hospitals across the state

- ✓ A total of 43,278 persons were kept under home quarantine and 162 were kept in government quarantine facilities in the state
- **Tamil Nadu - has announced the extension of the lockdown till April 30 in the state, which was originally scheduled to end on April 14.**
- ✓ State Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the lockdown extension on April 13
- ✓ The Chief Minister said the decision followed discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi through videoconference and with medical experts.
- ✓ During the announcement, the Chief Minister said PDS rice card holders will get a kg of sugar, tur dal, edible oil and rice free of cost for the month of May.
- ✓ The move is expected to provide a big relief to thousands of unorganised workers and their families in the state, who were struggling to access essentials
 - ✓ The families of unorganised workers, including construction labourers, will also get cash support of ₹1,000 each for the second time.
 - ✓ Also, the CM announced that guest workers will get 15kg of rice, a kg of tur dal and a kg of edible oil 'free of cost'.
- ✓ In a related move, the state government announced a tie-up with private manufacturers to produce at least one lakh testing kits, rapid and PCR, by April-end and at least 1,000 ventilators by mid-May.
- ✓ On April 13, Greater Chennai Corporation ordered that anyone moving outside their homes should compulsorily wear masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
 - ✓ The order is with immediate effect.
- ✓ Later in the day, health minister C Vijayabaskar launched a toll-free number (18001212172) for home delivery of scheduled drugs in Chennai.
 - ✓ People can order drugs for chronic ailments such as diabetes and hypertension after furnishing details of doctors who have prescribed the medications.
- ✓ In Chennai, the Government announced that residents can avail telemedicine services from doctors registered with the Telemedicine Society of India.

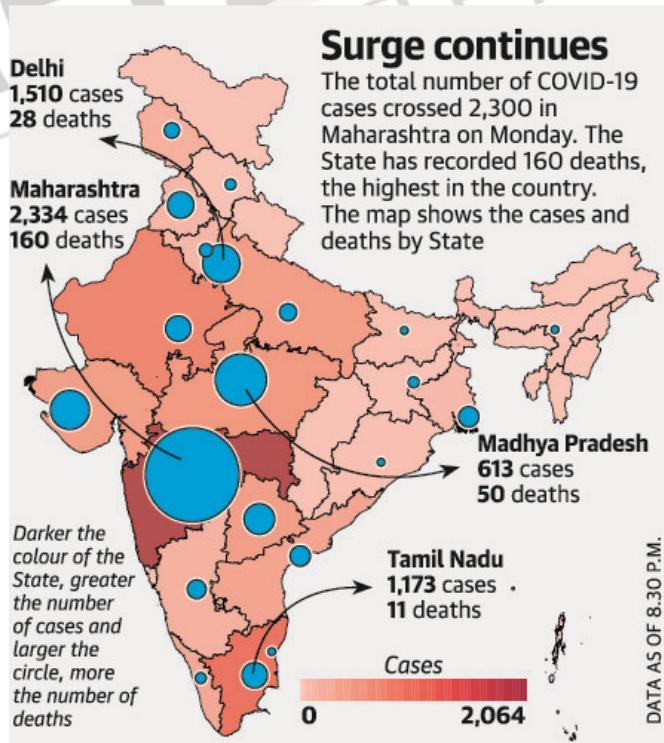
NATIONAL

- **On April 13, the number of Covid-19 infections in the country - increased by 1,276 new cases**
- ✓ It is the highest so far by a big margin and a sharp 67% rise from the number reported a day before (763)
- ✓ Delhi and Maharashtra witnessed a big surge in Covid-19 cases on the day with the capital recording 356 new cases and the western state 352, their highest single day tallies
- ✓ Together, these two states account for 37% of India's Covid-19 count which crossed the 10k mark at 10,450.
- ✓ India is the 22nd country to register 10,000 Covid-19 cases

10,000 CASES: HOW THE VIRUS SPREAD



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh too recorded a big spike in cases, adding 112 to take its count of cases to 589.
- ✓ The death toll due to the disease has been recorded at 358, with 29 added on the day.
- ✓ Maharashtra and Delhi again account for 188 (160 Maharashtra and 28 Delhi) of the total deaths.
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded 11 fresh Covid-19 deaths, taking the state's death toll to 160.
- ✓ It has reported maximum 2,334 Covid-19 cases, followed by Delhi (1,510), Tamil Nadu (1,173) and Rajasthan (897).



- ✓ Karnataka Covid-19 tally rose to 247, with 15 new cases confirmed on the day.
- ✓ In Telangana, one person died and 61 new coronavirus cases were reported.

- ✓ Kerala has been reporting fresh cases of the novel coronavirus in single digits for the past few days
- ✓ From one infection on January 30 to 378 on April 13 and just two deaths so far, the state has seen 198 people recover.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the health ministry announced that 25 districts which had Covid-19 cases did not report any for the past 14 days.
- ✓ The disease has been reported from 380 of India's 732 districts so far.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on April 14 spelling out details of the next phase of the national lockdown to combat the Covid-19 pandemic

4 STATES, 1 UT EXTEND LOCKDOWN

<p>► Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Puducherry on Monday extended lockdown till April 30</p> <p>► 25 districts across 15 states where Covid-19 infections were detected earlier have reported no new cases in the last 14 days, says health ministry. Over 360 (more than half) of India's 718 districts have reported cases</p>	<p>► 74 people have been cured in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cured people to 716, according to the ministry</p> <p>► Minuscule proportion of medical professionals contracted Covid-19 while treating patients. Most infections of doctors linked to foreign travel and contact with persons with a travel history, says the health ministry</p>
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- ✓ At least seven States — Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana — have already announced extension of the lockdown till April 30.
- ✓ Meanwhile, following the concerns over depleting stock of essential items, the government has decided to track the prices of 22 essential food items across 114 cities and other centres more closely and immediately step in where cost goes up by over 15%.
- ✓ In a related move, the chief election commissioner (Sunil Arora) and the two election commissioners (Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra) have decided to take a voluntary 30% cut in their basic salary for one year from April 1, 2020 to assist the government's efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **India – has announced that it is taking part in the global ‘solidarity trials’ for Remdesivir, the drug developed for use against Ebola**
- ✓ The ‘solidarity trial’, being led by the WHO, is analysing the efficacy of Remdesivir and other drugs for Covid-19 management.
- ✓ The drug has shown encouraging results in serious Covid-19 patients needing enhanced oxygen or ventilator support
- ✓ However, it is still not approved by WHO for clinical use

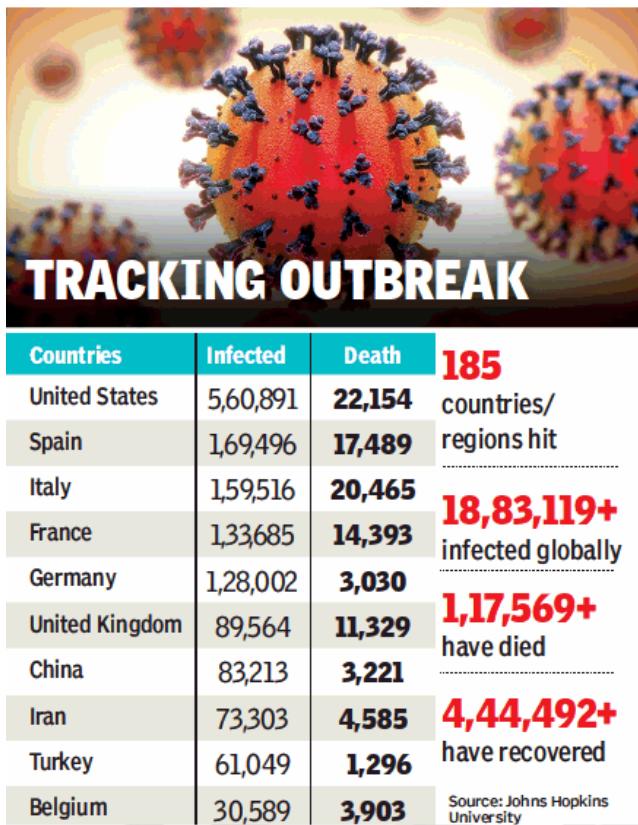
- ✓ Tests carried out with Remdesivir showed significant benefits for two-thirds patients with severe symptoms during use on a set of patients in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan
 - ✓ Remdesivir was developed for use against Ebola, which was a viral illness that took several lives in central Africa in 2014
 - ✓ The drug was able to help about two-thirds of the patients to get off oxygen and ventilator support
 - ✓ WHO has already launched four mega trials of the drug
- **The government - is set to announce an “alternative academic calendar” — a subject-wise activity planner besides health and fitness plan —for students to deal with the unprecedented situation arising out of lockdown.**
- ✓ The idea is to engage students meaningfully so that they don't suffer from anxiety for staying indoors for long
 - ✓ The move assumes significance as schools are expected to remain closed for a longer period in view of the coronavirus outbreak
 - ✓ The HRD ministry is likely to announce the activity calendar, initially for a month, in a couple of days for students of Class I to V.
 - ✓ A similar calendar for senior students is under preparation
 - ✓ The national council of educational research and training (NCERT) has prepared the draft which is likely to receive the government's nod.
 - ✓ These activities will supplement the online classes the schools have initiated during the lockdown period.
 - ✓ The calendar will be divided into four weeks of daily activities for the children
 - ✓ The activities involve using available resources at homes under the guidance of teachers via various digital platforms
 - ✓ As per the home activity calendar, activities for Classes I and II will be based on Mathematics, English, Hindi and Urdu syllabus, while for the rest of the classes there will be an addition of environmental studies.
- **The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh - has set up India's first remote health monitoring system, in association with BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited)**
- ✓ The system is the first remote sensing monitoring system set up in India.
 - ✓ The set up is to be widely used in the state of Uttarakhand to monitor COVID-19 patients
 - ✓ The remote health monitoring system allows the doctors at AIIMS to monitor body temperature and oxygen of patients remotely, using a dedicated App and a website created by the agencies

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- On April 13, the Supreme Court - clarified that its earlier direction to provide free Covid-19 testing by private facilities will be applicable to economically weaker sections and people who can afford will have to pay the cost of ₹4,500 as fixed.
- ✓ However, the testing in government hospitals will continue to be free for all.
- ✓ The altered order is expected to increase testing by 67 private labs, which have more than 15,000 collection centres across the country
- ✓ The order would pave way for increasing the number of testing from the current level of 15,000 per day to about one lakh patients.
- ✓ The government has already announced that the financially weaker sections covered under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana were entitled to get free testing in private labs and hospitals under the scheme.
- ✓ The move would benefit about 10.7 crore poor and vulnerable families or approximately 50 crore beneficiaries, who are covered under the scheme
- ✓ They can avail the benefit of free of cost for Covid-19 test even in private labs, as per the earlier Government announcement
- ✓ In general, around 87% testing is done by 157 government labs that are free for everyone.
- ✓ A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and S Ravindra Bhat agreed with the submission of the Centre and thereafter, clarified its earlier directions passed on April 8

INTERNATIONAL

- New York City's coronavirus death toll - hit the grim milestone of 10,000 on April 13
- ✓ On April 12, 671 people had died, pushing the number of virus fatalities to 10,056.
- ✓ The total cases in the State of New York surpassed the 100,000 mark with a total of 6,898 deaths, taking the total infections and fatalities in US to 560,891 and 22,154, respectively.
- ✓ On April 13, Spain reported its lowest daily growth in cases in three weeks.
- ✓ Spain, one of the hardest-hit countries in the coronavirus pandemic, suffered 17,489 deaths and reported 169,496 infections, second only to the US'560,891 infections.
- ✓ Italy's day-to-day increase in new cases was also one of the lowest in weeks, indicating a generally downward trend.
- ✓ The day-to-day death toll, 566, however, was up, from the 431 new deaths registered on April 12.
- ✓ Russia has recorded more than 18,000 coronavirus cases and 148 deaths, as on date.



- ✓ Japan, the world's third-biggest economy, has seen new infections climb rapidly and now has 7,255 cases
- ✓ The death toll in Britain has risen to 11,329, with an increase of 717 on the previous day's figures
- ✓ China, where authorities appeared to have the virus under control last week, reported 108 new symptomatic cases on the day, the highest number of confirmed infections in a single day in over a month.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Chinese scientists have started the second phase of a clinical trial of a vaccine for coronavirus at the country's epicenter, Wuhan
 - ✓ China only recently lifted the lockdown on the city of Wuhan, where the virus first emerged in December.
 - ✓ The first phase of the clinical trial focused on its safety, while the second weighs more on its efficacy.
 - ✓ The Phase I trial was conducted in March
 - ✓ The vaccine is being developed by the Institute of Biotechnology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences of China
- ✓ In a related announcement, the WHO said that the novel coronavirus is 10 times more deadly than swine flu, which caused a global pandemic in 2009
- ✓ Around 18,500 people died of "swine flu" but the toll of coronavirus is expected to be between 151,700 and 575,400, as per the Lancet medical estimates.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Siachen Day – April 13



- ✓ The Day honours Siachen Warriors who served the country successfully from the enemy.
- ✓ The day is observed by Indian Army to commemorate the courage of its soldiers under 'Operation Meghdoot'
- ✓ The Operation Meghdoot was launched on April 13, 1984.
- ✓ Under the operation, the Indian troops successfully gained control of entire Siachen glacier.
- ✓ The Operation was led by Lieutenant General Prem Nath Hoon
- ✓ It was carried out against Pakistan to control the authority over Siachen glacier
- ✓ The Karachi Agreement that was signed in July 1949 did not specify who had authority over Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ Hence, both the Governments were exercising control over the glacier
- ✓ India made its first air landing on the glacier in 1978.
- ✓ Pakistan allowed Japanese expedition to scale Rimo I (an important peak in the region) in 1984.
- ✓ Hence, the Operation was launched by Indian Army, which emerged victorious over the control of the Glacier.

