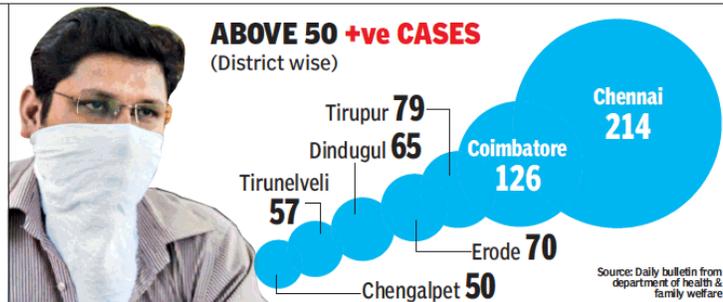
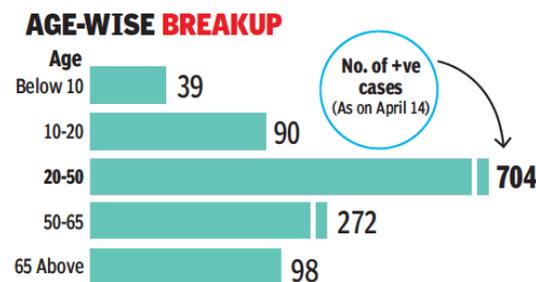
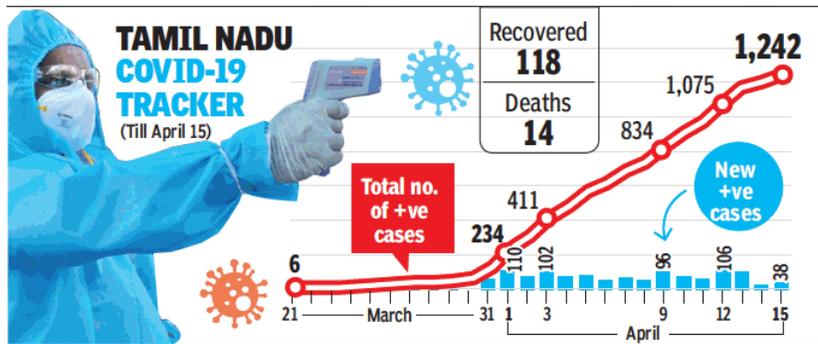


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 16, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On April 15, two people died of Covid-19 in Chennai hospitals and 38 more were tested positive for the viral infection - taking the total positive cases in the state to 1,242 and the death toll to 14.



- ✓ Since March 31, this is the second consecutive day the state has reported less than 40
- ✓ A 47-year-old patient admitted to the Stanley Medical College Hospital with severe acute respiratory infection died of Covid and another 59-year-old died at the Apollo Hospitals in Vanagaram.
- ✓ Among those who tested positive on the day was a postgraduate student of the Madras Medical College.
- ✓ Three other people had contact history and 34 others were from the 'single source event' (Tablighi Jamaat event in Delhi)

- ✓ With this, the total number positive cases from the cluster in TN have gone up to 1,113.
 - ✓ The State has got approval for one more testing facility at PSG, Coimbatore.
 - ✓ With this, it now has 26 testing facilities — 16 of them in the government sector.
 - ✓ While each state lab can test 230 samples a day, private labs can test up to 100
 - ✓ On April 15, the state tested 2,739 samples taking the total number of individuals tested to 17,835
 - ✓ So far, the corporation has collected 2,545 samples from its 25 Covid-19 walk-in swab sample collection centres set up across the city
 - ✓ Of the 2,545 samples, 45% (1,150) are from Royapuram and 327 from Teynampet zones.
 - ✓ The first kiosks started functioning from Corporation's properties in Pudupet and Periamet since April 11
 - ✓ Of the 25 kiosks, five are at Royapuram Zone (Zone 5) which has the maximum number of Covid-19 positive cases (63) in the city.
 - ✓ As on April 14, six samples collected at these kiosks are found positive
 - ✓ The priority for testing would be the immediate relatives or those in close contact of the Covid-19 positive patients.
 - ✓ As on date, 37 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, including an 83-year-old from Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and two of her kin, taking the total number of people discharged to 118.
 - ✓ On April 15, the Greater Chennai Corporation announced that a fine of ₹100 would be levied on those stepping out without wearing masks.
 - ✓ The Corporation has invoked the provisions under Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, to make wearing of masks mandatory.
- **Tamil Nadu - is all set to commence work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) on April 16.**
- ✓ The start of work comes four days ahead of the date stipulated by the Central government.
 - ✓ All work under the scheme was suspended on March 25 following the lockdown announced due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
 - ✓ Against the normal average number of 12 lakh workers a day, two-five lakh persons are expected to report for work every day in the coming days.
 - ✓ The overall figure of active workers in the State is around 84 lakh
 - ✓ The State government has fixed the wage for the current year, which began on April 1, at ₹256 per day, a hike of ₹27 from the previous year.
 - ✓ The central government had allocated Rs 60,000 crore for MGNREGA for the financial year 2020-21.
 - ✓ MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is the biggest source of employment generation in the country.
 - ✓ It provides work to more than 50 to 60 million households annually.

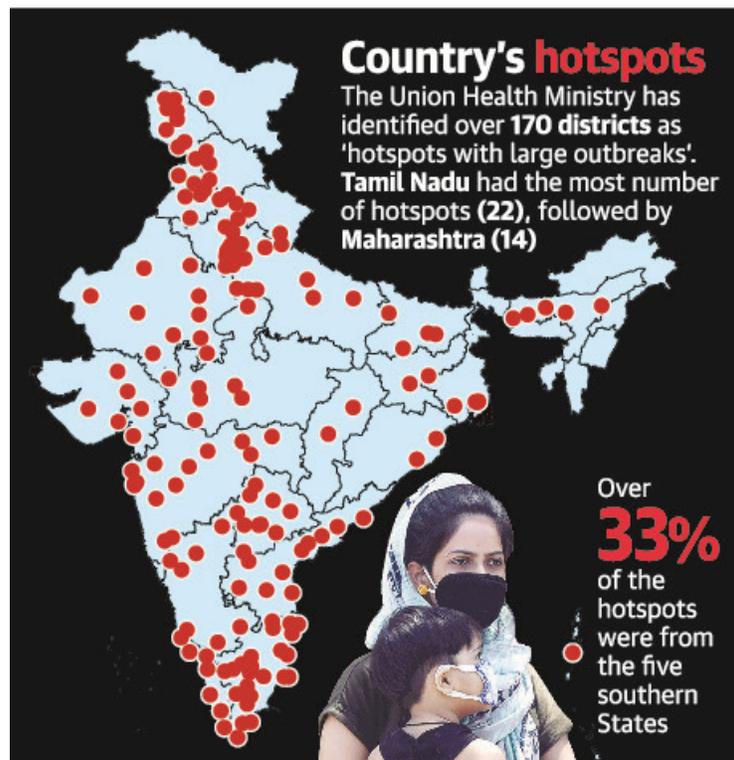
NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) – issued new directives in a fresh order for Lock down 2.0, which intends to reopen economy post April 20**
- ✓ The second lock down, also called the smart lock down, aims to consolidate the gains achieved by the first lock down.
- ✓ Under the smart lock down, the public transport services, cinema halls, shopping complexes, educational institutions will remain closed.
- ✓ Under Lock down 2.0, the Centre plans limited resumption of economic activity outside Covid-19 containment zones, particularly in industrial zones and rural areas
- ✓ The norms also prescribe strict workplace ethics and regulations to be followed by businesses to commence operations from April 20.
- ✓ The Ministry has issued these instructions under the Disaster Management Act
- ✓ The Government is permitting the “additional activities” based on strict compliance of existing guidelines on lockdown measures
- ✓ The extended lockdown is to be reviewed to allow areas where hotspots have been contained or have been prevented from emerging after a week on April 20

WHAT WILL OPEN*			
 <p>All facilities in supply of essential goods, shops dealing in food and groceries</p>	<p>All goods traffic to be allowed, both essential and non-essential; highway dhabas & repair shops can open</p> 	<p>Industries outside city limits; units in SEZs, industrial estates and townships and EOUs</p> 	<p>Construction of roads, buildings, irrigation projects</p>
 <p>Courier; services by self-employed such as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, IT repair</p>	 <p>Farming: Harvesting, procurement, mandis, inter-state movement of agri machinery</p>	<p>IT and IT-enabled services at 50% capacity, IT and hardware manufacturing</p> 	
 <p>Food processing outside municipal limits, production of packaging material, jute industry, brick kilns</p>	 <p>MNREGA works, with priority to irrigation and water conservation</p>		<p>*Only outside containment zones</p>
<p>CLOSED</p>			
<p>Religious places</p> 	<p>Educational institutions, but online teaching allowed</p>	 <p>Restaurants, bars, hotels, malls, cinema halls, gyms, cigarette & liquor shops</p>	 <p>Air, rail, metro, cab bus travel</p>
<p>PROTOCOL Open Businesses Must Follow</p>			
<p>Temperature screening mandatory</p> 	<p>1-hour gap between shifts, staggered lunch breaks</p>	 <p>Discourage meetings with more than 10 people, keep 6-ft distance</p>	 <p>Max 2-4 people in a lift; medical insurance for workers</p>

- ✓ The new norms also facilitate the restarting of government’s flagship job scheme, MNREGA, with relatively lower degree of curbs in rural areas, which are largely unaffected or have low incidence of Covid-19
- ✓ It had kept all agri-related activities under exempted categories during the lockdown period and expanded them to include inland fisheries after allowing marine fishery operations to resume recently.

- ✓ All industries operating in rural areas will also be allowed to reopen from April 20 if they follow social distancing norms and other safeguards
 - ✓ Similarly, sale of fruits and vegetables, opening of dairy and milk booths, sale of poultry, meat and fish, animal feed and fodder would be allowed ensuring strict social distancing.
 - ✓ However, wearing of face masks or face covers shall be compulsory in all public spaces and workplaces, sale of liquor and tobacco will be strictly banned and spitting in public spaces shall be punishable with fine during the extended lockdown.
 - ✓ No organisation or manager of a public space shall allow a gathering of five or more people and all those in charge of public places, workplaces and transport shall ensure social distancing as per health ministry guidelines.
 - ✓ Any gatherings such as marriages and funerals shall remain regulated by district magistrates.
 - ✓ In workspaces where activities are allowed to resume from April 20, temperature screening and sanitisers were to be provided
 - ✓ Also, workplaces should maintain an hour's gap between shifts and ensure that lunch breaks of staff are staggered with even limits on people attending a meeting or getting into a lift, to maintain social distancing.
 - ✓ No mass transport, including inter-district, is allowed and public spaces or educational institutions will remain closed.
 - ✓ Two drivers and a helper will be allowed in each truck after April 20 so that more drivers can reach stranded trucks, against the present norm of one driver and a helper.
 - ✓ This relaxation is done to ensure adequate supply of essential items to stores.
 - ✓ The guidelines also allow a large number of manufacturing in factories located in special economic zones, industrial estates and outside municipal limits, while also allowing IT units and BPOs to operate at half capacity.
 - ✓ People violating quarantine will be punished under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, which prescribes six months imprisonment, if convicted.
 - ✓ The Government urged states and Union territories to ensure guidelines are not diluted during the revised Lockdown, though stricter measures can be enforced as per requirement in specific areas.
 - ✓ The additional activities allowed in non-hotspot areas may not be permitted in containment zones
- **The Government – has announced its classification of every district in the country into a hotspot, potential hotspot or a green zone.**
- ✓ It has identified 170 districts with Covid-19 hotspots or 'red zone' areas, including in all six metros — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
 - ✓ Other large cities such as Bhopal, Agra, Gurugram, Noida and Faridabad also have hotspots.



- ✓ Besides, 207 districts have been classified as 'non-hotspots' or 'white zones', where the rate of doubling is currently low but which can be potential hotspots.
- ✓ Also, there are 'green zone' districts with no new confirmed case in the last 28 days.
- ✓ The hotspots are those districts where large number of COVID-19 case are being reported and the reported cases are growing day by day
- ✓ The Hotspots are to be given the highest priority by enforcing cluster outbreak containment strategy, large outbreak protocol, delineation of buffer zones, parameter mapping etc.,
- ✓ The figures released by the health ministry add up to 337 of India's 732 districts where the disease has been reported.
- ✓ Districts with hotspots usually have several such areas which are 'clusters' of local transmission but which do not amount to community transmission as yet.
- ✓ The total number of Covid-19 cases in India has risen to 12,282 with 867 fresh cases reported in the last 24 hours while the death toll stands at 424
- ✓ 31 more deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours across the country, taking the toll to 422.
- ✓ While Delhi recorded just 17 new cases, its lowest single-day tally in April, Maharashtra reported 232 — the lowest figure in the last six days
- ✓ Nine new Covid-19 deaths were reported in Maharashtra and two in Delhi in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ No new casualties were reported from Madhya Pradesh, the worst affected state in the country after Maharashtra in terms of deaths.

- ✓ Elsewhere in the country, five deaths each were reported from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, two each from Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka and one each from Rajasthan and Meghalaya.
- ✓ Kerala has the highest COVID-19 recovery rate in the country, with 218 out of 387 patients so far recovering from the disease.
 - ✓ On April 15, there was just one positive case, while the number of patients who recovered was seven from the State

LEAST NEW CASES FOR MAHA IN 6 DAYS				
Name of State/UT	Cases On April 15	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	232	2,916	164	187
Delhi	17	1,578	25	32
Tamil Nadu	38	1,242	118	14
Rajasthan	71	1,076	147	12
Madhya Pradesh	197	938	64	53
Rest of India	312	4,532	589	125
Total	867	12,282	1,107	424

Source: State govts

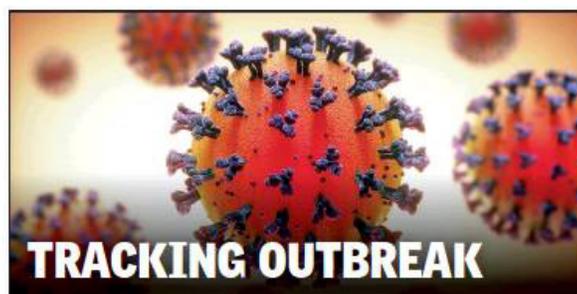
- ✓ After much delay, India will get soon the first consignment of rapid testing kits from China, with 3,00,000 kits being cleared by customs in Guangzhou.
 - ✓ The kits would reach Delhi on April 16
 - ✓ The rapid testing kits are to be used in hotspot areas where infection rates are high and cases are doubling at a fast rate.
 - ✓ The kits will also be used in testing persons with ILI (influenza like illness) symptoms in “cold spots” or areas with low prevalence of the disease
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) announced that the coronavirus found in bats in India was not capable of affecting humans as it is very rarely that it gets transmitted to humans.
- **On April 15, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) - predicted a ‘normal’ summer monsoon for the country during the June-September period and released new reference dates for its onset or arrival and withdrawal in various cities.**
- ✓ The country is likely to witness ‘above normal’ rain in August and September, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD)
 - ✓ The IMD issues a two-stage forecast - the first in April, followed by a more detailed one in the last week of May, which will also indicate how the monsoon will spread over the country.
 - ✓ The June-September rainfall accounts for 75% of the country’s annual rainfall.

FORECAST FOR 2020	New dates for onset of monsoon		
	City	Old date	New date
<p>➤ Southwest monsoon rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be normal (96-104% of the Long Period Average)</p> <p>➤ The LPA of the season (June-September) rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm</p>	Chennai	June 1	June 4
	Pune	June 9	June 10
	Mumbai	June 10	June 11
	Kolkata	June 10	June 11
	Lucknow	June 20	June 23
	Delhi	June 23	June 27
	Chandigarh	July 1	June 26

- ✓ The new dates indicate whether the monsoon would be longer or shorter by a few days or even a week across the Indian cities and states
- ✓ As per the report, the rainfall is likely to be 100% of the long period average (LPA), with a plus-minus error of 5%.
- ✓ The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm
- ✓ The onset over Kerala, which marks the arrival of the monsoon into mainland India, will continue to be June 1.
- ✓ However, the onset date in Mumbai — historically June 10 — will now be June 11.
- ✓ The onset over Chennai has been delayed by three days — from June 1 to June 4.
- ✓ The advance dates over states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and parts of Uttar Pradesh are also now delayed by 3-7 days.
- ✓ The monsoon withdrawal from northwest India will now be almost 7-14 days later from the existing dates
- ✓ Also, the official withdrawal date is now delayed by over a week to October 8, instead of September 29.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Covid-19 cases across the United States - crossed 6,00,000 on April 15, accounting for nearly a third of the global cases, and three times as many as the next worse affected country (Spain)**
- ✓ The US saw a surge in coronavirus fatalities on April 14, registering a single-day record of 2,228 deaths after it had stabilised and fallen to around 1500 deaths on the two previous days.
- ✓ Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump suspended American funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO)
- ✓ The US is WHO's largest donor with a current contribution of about \$450 million per year



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	6,13,187	26,950	185 countries/ regions hit
Spain	1,77,633	18,579	
Italy	1,65,155	21,645	20,16,020+ infected globally
Germany	1,33,154	3,592	
France	1,31,365	15,750	
United Kingdom	99,455	12,892	1,30,528+ have died
China	83,356	3,346	
Iran	76,389	4,777	5,04,254+ have recovered
Turkey	65,111	1,403	
Belgium	33,573	4,440	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ In the economy front, US President Trump announced the constitution of the 'Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups', with over 200 prominent business icons, including six Indian-Americans, in it.
 - ✓ The Group consists of familiar figures such as Apple's Tim Cook and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg
 - ✓ It also includes Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Google's Sundar Pichai, IBM's Arvind Krishna, Micron's Sanjay Mehrotra, Mastercard's Ajay Banga, and Ann Mukherjee from Pernod Ricard
- ✓ As on date, the new coronavirus has infected more than 2 million people around the world
- ✓ It took about four months for the virus to infect 1 million people and only 12 days for that number to double.
- ✓ Spain recorded 523 new virus deaths while infections shot up again for the first time in five days.
 - ✓ On April 15, 5,092 infections, or a 3% day-to-day increase was registered, bringing the total of confirmed cases to 1,77,633.
- ✓ Africa has confirmed around 15,000 cases and 800 deaths continent-wide
- ✓ Germany, however, is expected to extend its virus restrictions to May 3, while other countries including Italy, Austria, Finland among others are expected to ease down their restrictions following a slump in the new infections

SPORTS

- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) - has formally informed the eight Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises that the 13th edition of the IPL**

T20 league has been “indefinitely postponed” due to COVID-19 outbreak crisis.



- ✓ This will be the first time since its inception in 2008 that the T20 extravaganza will not be played during India’s summer.
- ✓ So far, all the 12 editions have been played between March and May every year
- ✓ This year’s tournament was originally scheduled to be held from March 29 to May 24.
- ✓ With the rise of Covid-19 infections in the country, the BCCI, on March 13, had suspended the IPL till April 15
- **The National Sports Federation of India - announced that it will be hosting the Asian Boxing Championship by November-December 2020**
- ✓ The host city is to be decided by the Boxing Federation of India later, following the end of coronavirus pandemic crisis
- ✓ The competition is a biennial event but was held in consecutive years in the past.
- ✓ India hosted men’s Asia boxing championship in Mumbai in 1980.
- ✓ It also hosted the women’s event in Hisar in 2003.
- ✓ So far, five men and four women have been qualified for Tokyo Olympics from India.

