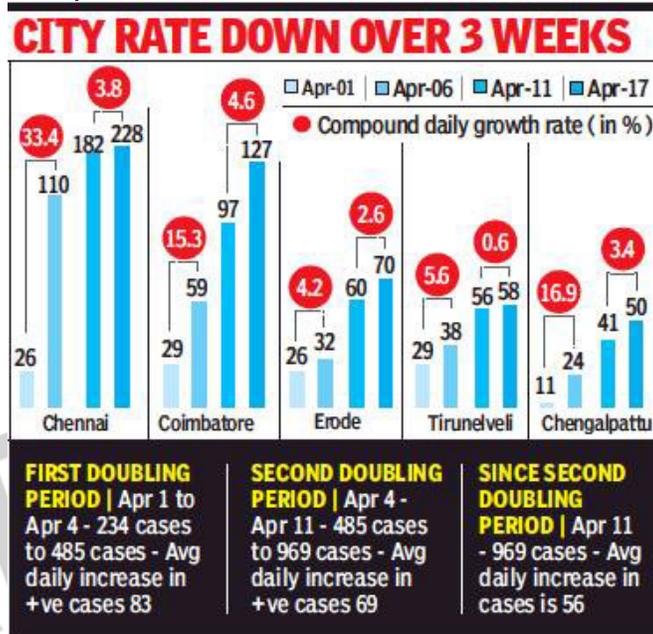


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 19, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – tested 49 more people ‘positive’ for Covid-19 infection on April 18, taking the total number of cases to 1,372 in the state**
- ✓ On the same day, 82 people were declared fit for discharge across various government hospitals.
- ✓ The total number of people discharged till date was 365
- ✓ Of those tested positive, 47 were from the Tablighi Jamaat cluster, one is a nurse from Coimbatore and another person had a history of interstate travel
- ✓ All those tested positive were from containment zones
- ✓ Of those tested positive, Tiruppur alone accounted for 28, while Chennai recorded seven cases.
- ✓ With seven new cases, Chennai’s total infections stood at 235, followed by Coimbatore with 128 and Tiruppur with 108.
- ✓ There have been no deaths reported in the last two days in the state
- ✓ On April 18, 5,363 samples were tested and 49 were found to be ‘positive’
- ✓ The number of samples tested in the state went up to 35,036 from 29,673, as on date.
- ✓ In the testing front, the total number of testing facilities had increased to 31, including 21 in the government sector and 10 in the private sector.
- ✓ The Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, the Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital, the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai and the Institute of Vector Control and Zoonoses, Hosur were among the institutions that had been approved for testing
- ✓ From April 18, the state has started using ‘rapid antibody’ testing kits to screen people at hotspots for surveillance purpose and for epidemiological surveys
- ✓ On April 18, the State received 12,000 rapid testing kits from the Centre.
- ✓ This comes after a day of receiving the 24,000 antibody-based testing kits that has been ordered by the State through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC)

- ✓ There were 34 people in government quarantine facilities and 1,884 people in hospital isolation.
- ✓ **The rate at which people are being infected is reported to be slowing in Chennai and 12 other districts of Tamil Nadu that have at least 40 cases as of April 17, with Madurai being the only exception.**
 - ✓ Overall, Tamil Nadu recorded a compound daily growth rate (CDGR) of 21% between April 1 and April 6, which further came down to 9.3% between April 6 and April 11.
 - ✓ The week after that till April 17, it dropped further to 5.3%.
 - ✓ All districts, except Madurai, reflected the trend



- ✓ The biggest drop was recorded by Chennai, which has the most Covid-19 positive cases in the state — 228 as of April 17.
- ✓ Chennai's CDGR of 33.4% in the first week of April dropped by nearly 30 percentage points to 3.8% by April 17.
- ✓ In Tiruppur, it dropped down from 47.6 %to 20.6% while in Namakkal it went down from 9.2% to 3.4%.
- ✓ The only district that witnessed a consistent increase was Madurai, where the CDGR went up from 4.8% to 9.9% in three weeks.

- **The Directorate of Public Health - has distributed the recently purchased 'Rapid antibody testing kits' for screening of patients with influenza-like illness in hotspots in Chennai, Salem and Coimbatore.**
 - ✓ Earlier, the state placed orders for three lakh kits in instalments to begin testing all people with symptoms of influenza-like illness.
 - ✓ The orders for the first batch of 50,000 kits were placed with Chinese company Wondfo at ₹600 a kit on April 3, a day after receiving the approval of ICMR
 - ✓ The orders were placed through Kodambakkam-based Shan Biotech and Diagnostics

- ✓ The state now has 24,000 rapid testing kits from China and 12,000 from the Centre.
 - ✓ The state initially planned to test persons with influenza-like illness with the rapid test before sending them for RT-PCR tests.
 - ✓ But, on April 17, the ICMR announced that rapid antibody test was needed only in hotspots for surveillance purpose and not to be used as a diagnostic tool.
 - ✓ In hotspots, RT-PCR test is used on people showing symptoms for less than a week, while antibody tests to be done on those showing symptoms for more than a week.
 - ✓ In this scenario, the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) is talking to vendors to revise pricing and is also studying if so many kits are required.
 - ✓ The National Institute of Epidemiology resources will also be used for random tests to check for community transmission in both “hot” and “cold” spots to study prevalence of the disease
- **The Chennai Corporation – has announced that two-wheelers will not be allowed inside Koyambedu vegetable and flower market after 7.30am from April 19, after repeated violations of physical distancing.**
 - ✓ However, the time restrictions will not be extended to traders who visit the market in three or four-wheeler vehicles
 - ✓ On April 15, the Market Management Committee (MMC), which maintains Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex, asked people not to visit the market for retail purchases following violations of social distancing norms
- **The Madras high court - has decided to cancel its usual four-week summer break as it has suffered near closure since the lockdown began on March 25.**
 - ✓ The summer vacation of all subordinate courts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry too stands suspended.
 - ✓ As per the notification issued by the high court registry, the principal bench in Chennai and its Madurai bench will continue to function regularly from May 1 to May 31
 - ✓ However, the administrative committee of the court headed by the Chief Justice A P Sahi will continue to function ‘restrictively’ by taking up only emergency and urgent matters till May 3.
- **The Greater Chennai corporation - has appealed to the public and essential commodities manufacturers to apply ‘online’ the ‘emergency vehicle passes’ and to avoid visiting the Ripon Buildings for the same**
 - ✓ Those in need of passes can apply online through the website <http://covid19.chennaicorporation.gov.in/c19> between 8am-11am and 3pm-5pm.
 - ✓ The applications will be reviewed and approved by the authorities through the ‘online’ process.

- ✓ However, the passes will be provided only in case of weddings, medical emergencies, deaths and movement of essentials.
 - ✓ The applicants seeking to transport essential commodities are required to upload photocopies of GST certificate, staff identity card, registration certificate of vehicle along with a letter of approval from the employer.
 - ✓ The corporation has issued 652 passes so far.
 - ✓ The 'essential services' vehicle pass given to service providers, industries and staff including bankers, will now remain valid up to May 3, against the earlier date of April 15, due to the lockdown extension.
- **Automobile major, Hyundai Motor India - has entered into a partnership with Air Liquide Medical Systems (ALMS) for the production and supply of ventilators in Tamil Nadu.**
- ✓ ALMS will receive technical knowhow and vendor support from Hyundai to commence production up to 200-300 ventilators a month.
 - ✓ ALMS is a manufacturer of ICU ventilators with its plant in Chennai
 - ✓ The final target is 1,000 ventilators in Phase 1 of production, which will be improved subsequently.
 - ✓ Hyundai is also producing an in-house ventilator, for which the third prototype will be submitted to the Tamil Nadu government for approval on April 20

STATES

- **The Kerala state government - had submitted a proposal to the Centre that divided Kerala into four zones — Red, Orange A, Orange B and Green — and suggested easing restrictions in three zones in a phased manner.**
- ✓ The Centre accepted Kerala's proposal on April 17.
 - ✓ For the past seven days, the number of positive cases in the state was in single digit and the recovery rate has also climbed up steadily.
 - ✓ From April 20, at least seven of Kerala's 14 districts will return back to normalcy as restaurants will back in action and a limited number of private vehicles under the odd-even scheme be allowed to ply.
 - ✓ However, there will be no roll back of curbs in the red zone.
 - ✓ From April 20, near-normal life will be back in Kottayam and Idukki districts — classified as green zones because they currently have no active cases.
 - ✓ In the green zone districts, other commercial establishments, like textile shops, will also be allowed to function
 - ✓ In Ernakulam, Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts, classified as Orange A zones, relaxation for restaurants will come into effect from April 24.
 - ✓ Also, several restrictions will be lifted in Orange B zone districts — Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad — too from April 20.

NORMAL HOURS FOR GOVT OFFICES

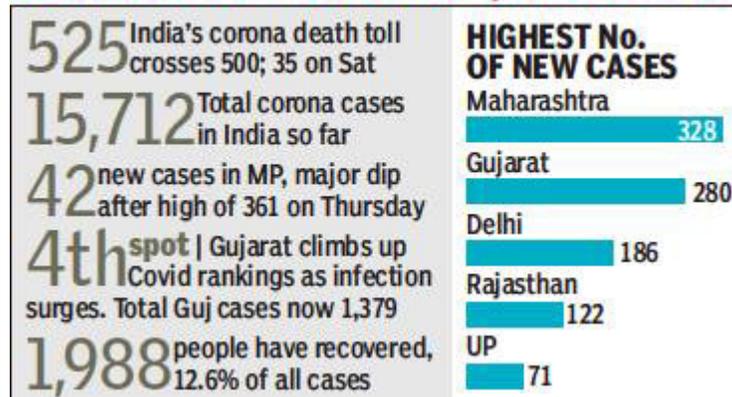
- Curbs to be eased in the state's Orange A, B & Green Zones in phased manner
- However, the Covid-19 Red Zone in Kerala will remain locked down
- Plumbers & electricians can work. Insurance cos, banks & NBFCs to function
- Govt offices to work normal hrs. Opticians, auto workshops, book stores & saloons open twice a week

- ✓ Insurance companies, cooperative credit societies and recognised non-banking finance corporations will also be allowed to function with limited staff, while banks and government offices will work normal hours.
- ✓ However, all places of worship and schools, colleges and shopping malls will remain closed across the state till May 3.
- ✓ Also, inter-district travel and Kochi Metro services stands suspended till May 3.

NATIONAL

- **The Covid-19 pandemic - touched two grim milestones in India on April 17**
- ✓ On the day, the number of cases crossed 15,000 and the death toll went past 500, as the country recorded its **highest single day rise in numbers at 1,266.**
- ✓ While cases continue to increase in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and Rajasthan, the good news is that the infection rate is dipping slightly.
 - ✓ It took seven-eight days for cases to double to 15,000, at a slower pace than earlier.

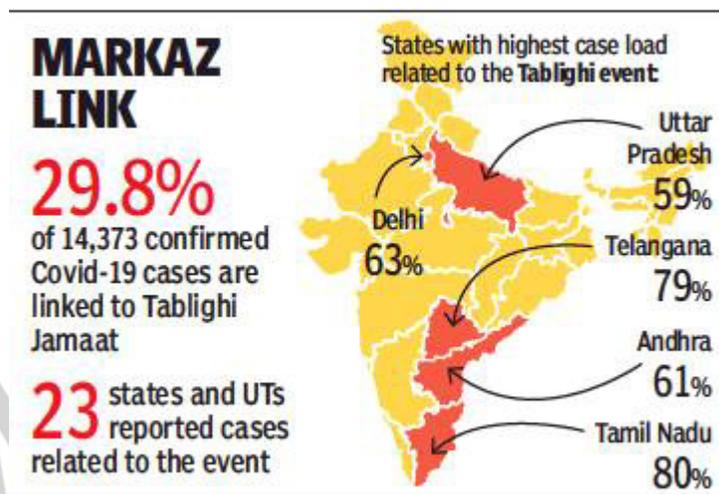
GUJARAT NUMBERS RISE, FALL IN MP



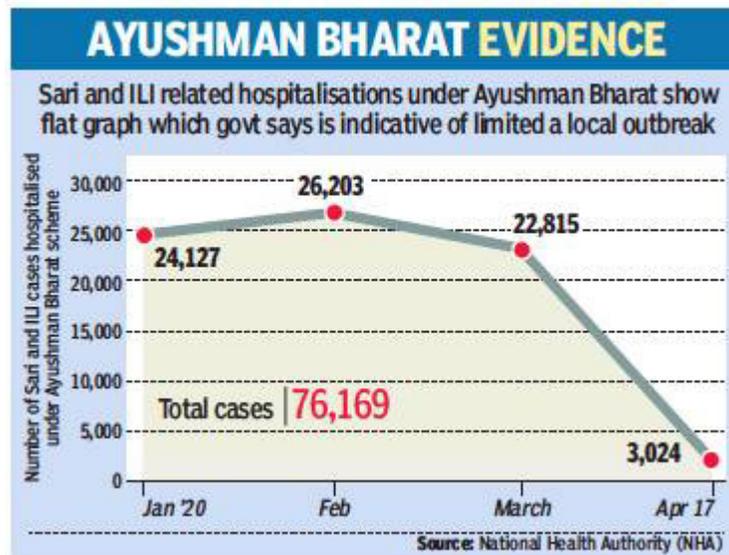
- ✓ Maharashtra continued to record the highest number of new cases at 328 on the day — it's third-highest single-day number

- ✓ Maharashtra recorded 11 more deaths on the day.
- ✓ The state's total coronavirus count now stands at 3,648
- ✓ Gujarat recorded the sharpest spike in cases with a record 280 new cases being reported in the past 24 hours
 - ✓ With this, the state's total count of Covid-19 has reached 1,376.
 - ✓ Gujarat also recorded 12 deaths in a day – highest so far – taking the state's death toll to 53.
- ✓ Delhi recorded 186 new cases, taking the state's total tally to 1,893.
 - ✓ It had witnessed a dip in cases over the last three days because there were no new positive cases among the Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) cluster.
- ✓ The Covid-19 infections in Madhya Pradesh, where 361 new cases were recorded two days ago, have suddenly dipped.
 - ✓ The state surprisingly recorded only 44 new cases on April 18, and no deaths.
- ✓ In Andhra Pradesh, Covid-19 cases surged past the 600 mark as the state reported 31 fresh positive cases and two more deaths on the day.
 - ✓ The Covid-19 tally has increased to 603 while the death roll has gone up to 16.
- ✓ Kerala recorded only four more Covid-19 cases.
- ✓ The surge in coronavirus positive cases continued in Telangana with 43 new cases being reported on April 18.
 - ✓ The state's total tally has now touched 809.
- ✓ Rajasthan reported four more Covid-19 deaths taking the state's death toll to 21
- ✓ In Jharkhand, a foreigner, who was a part of the Tablighi Jamaat group, tested positive for Covid-19 on the day, taking the total number of cases in the state to 33.
- ✓ **In a major Covid-19 outbreak in the Indian Navy, at least 26 sailors have tested positive for the coronavirus at a shore-based establishment in Mumbai**
 - ✓ The sharp increase in cases was reported at INS Angre, the main shore-based logistics and administrative depot of the Western Naval Command in south Mumbai
 - ✓ This is the biggest coronavirus outbreak in the over 15-lakh strong armed forces till now
 - ✓ Covid-19 has already hit operations of several warships, including four US and one French nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, around the globe.
- ✓ As on date, the total number of persons who have recovered from the disease has reached 1,998 and the overall cure percentage stood at 12.6%
- ✓ As of now, the mortality rate for Covid-19 is 3.3%
- ✓ The health ministry announced that a positive trend was emerging in 23 states due to lockdown and containment measures against Covid-19 outbreak undertaken by the Union and state governments.

- ✓ **Around 47 districts from 23 states have reported no cases of Covid-19 in the last 14 days.**
- ✓ Besides, 22 new districts from 12 states — which had earlier reported some districts with not even a single case for 14 days — have joined the list by not reporting any cases in 14 days led by Covid-19 containment efforts.
- **On April 18, the Health Ministry – announced that around 30% of the total confirmed cases of Covid-19 in India are linked to the Tablighi Jamaat religious congregation event held in mid-March at Nizamuddin Markaz in New Delhi**
- ✓ Of the total 14,378 confirmed cases of Covid-19, 4,291 or 29.8% were linked to the Islamic event.



- ✓ These cases are spread across 23 states and Union territories, which include most of the high burden states
- ✓ Almost 80% of cases in Tamil Nadu, 63% cases in Delhi, 79% cases in Telangana, 59% cases in Uttar Pradesh and 61% cases in Andhra Pradesh are related to the event.
- ✓ Also, over 40,000 people including members of the congregation and their contacts were quarantined.
- **The Government – has come up with ‘factual’ evidence to indicate wider community transmission is yet to begin in India despite hotspots and clusters.**
- ✓ The hospital admissions of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and influenza like illnesses (ILI) cases under government’s health insurance scheme ‘Ayushman Bharat’ have shown a flat graph in the last three months since January, when India reported its first confirmed case of Covid-19
- ✓ The Data from national health authority (NHA) indicates the number of SARI & ILI admissions in both public and private hospitals together increased by just 8.6% between January and February and thereafter declined in March by 5.4% and 12.9%, as compared to the previous two months.

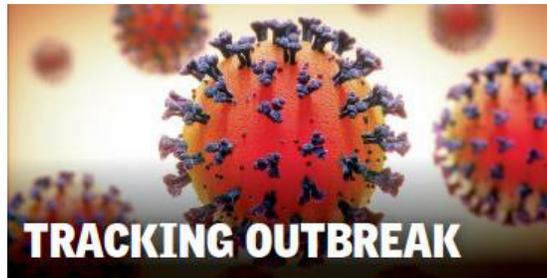


- ✓ The data shown by Ayushman Bharat is one of several indicators such as sale of drugs for flu-type illnesses and reporting of such cases in OPDs, clinics and hospitals
- ✓ The SARI and ILI cases are considered as the key indicator to determine whether there is community transmission of Covid-19 in India
- ✓ From the graph, the flat curve and in fact a drop in such admissions in March could be suggestive that there is only limited local transmission in some areas with higher intensity in the country
- ✓ In January, when government started initial screening for Covid-19, there were 24,127 hospital admissions for SARI and ILI under the government-run health insurance scheme.
- ✓ After lockdown was imposed, the number of hospitalisations dropped to 22,815 in March and 3,024 in April so far.

INTERNATIONAL

- **New York's daily toll of virus deaths - hit its lowest point in more than two weeks as on April 18**
- ✓ The daily increase in virus deaths has dropped under 550 for the first time in over two weeks as hospitalizations continue to decline
- ✓ Overall, nearly 13,000 New Yorkers have died since March 1.
- ✓ Globally, Coronavirus deaths have surged past 150,000
- ✓ In a joint statement on April 18, foreign ministers from 13 countries, including Canada, Brazil, Italy and Germany, called for global cooperation to reduce the economic impact of the pandemic.
- ✓ The statement was also backed by Britain, France Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, South Korea, Singapore and Turkey

- ✓ Meanwhile, France and Spain started dismantling some field hospitals, while in Germany the number of active cases has slowly declined over the past week as people recover.
- ✓ Singapore and Japan, reported a fresh surge in cases on April 18.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	716,883	37,659	185 countries/ regions hit
Spain	1,91,726	20,043	
Italy	1,75,925	23,227	22,97,712+ infected globally
France	1,49,146	19,345	
Germany	1,42,751	4,426	1,58,202+ have died
United Kingdom	1,15,300	15,497	
China	83,787	4,636	586,290+ have recovered
Turkey	82,329	1,890	
Iran	80,868	5,031	
Belgium	37,183	5,453	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

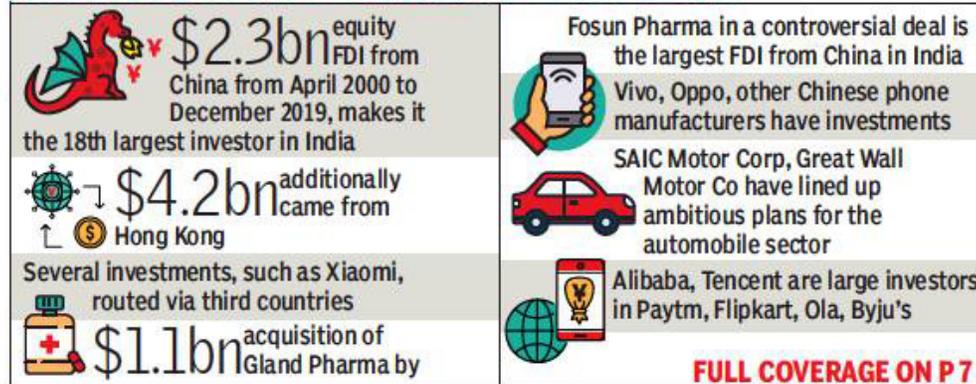
- ✓ Japan's total case number rose above 10,000 on the day.
- ✓ Singapore reported a sharp, one-day spike of 942 infections, the highest in Southeast Asia, following an upsurge in cases among foreign workers staying in crowded dormitories.
 - ✓ That brought the total to 5,992 in the tiny city-state of 6 million.
- ✓ China reported 27 new cases, due to an upsurge in infections in a northeastern province bordering Russia.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On April 18, the government - amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to put a blanket ban on investments through the automatic route by entities from countries that share a border with India**
- ✓ The Centre has made prior government approval 'mandatory' for foreign direct investments from countries which share a land border with India.
- ✓ Previously, only investments from Pakistan and Bangladesh faced such restrictions.
- ✓ India shares land borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

- ✓ The move is intended to restrict Chinese investments and the subsequent takeover of Indian companies, whose valuations have been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

THE DRAGON'S GIANT FOOTPRINT



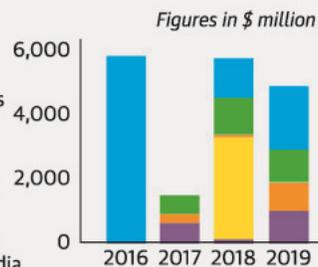
- ✓ The ban will also extend to entities where Chinese citizens have routed the investments via Hong Kong, Singapore or other countries.
- ✓ In general, most FDI flows into India are under the 'automatic route', which means companies only need to inform authorities after the investment is made
- ✓ The Indian government's move comes days after it emerged that the People's Bank of China has increased its stake in HDFC Bank, the country's largest private lender, to over 1%.

China's economic footprint in India

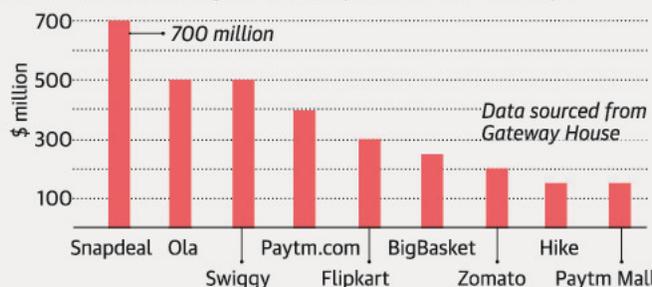
Chinese investment in India increased from \$1.6 billion in 2014 to \$8 billion in 2017 according to a Brookings India report. The investments span a range of sectors with a significant share in the start-up space

INVESTMENT VALUE

The chart depicts the estimated value of China's investments in India since 2016 across various sectors such as infrastructure, consumer goods, energy, real estate and automobiles. The chart includes both actual and planned investments. Data sourced from Brookings India



BACKING UNICORNS | Many Indian unicorns (start-ups with valuation >\$1 billion) have a Chinese investor. The chart depicts the estimated investment by Chinese companies in select start-ups



Chinese mobile phone companies such as Xiaomi, OPPO, Vivo, and Huawei are among the top selling brands in India. ■ REUTERS

- ✓ Stock market regulator, Sebi is separately keeping tabs on investments from China and some other countries.
- ✓ Indian tech, retail and fintech startups have got close to \$4 billion from Chinese investors since 2015.

- ✓ Out of 30 unicorns in the country, about 18 are funded by China.
- ✓ The single biggest Chinese acquisition has been in the pharmaceutical space, with Shanghai-based Fosun paying \$1.09 billion for a 74% stake in Hyderabad-based, Gland Pharma.
- ✓ India has joined Australia, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, UK and several European countries in reviewing its FDI policy to screen investments with a special focus on China.
- ✓ The US had begun a deeper scrutiny at the start of the year itself.

SPORTS

- **The All India Football Federation's league committee – declared 'Mohun Bagan' as I-League champions for the 2019-20 season**
- ✓ On April 18, the Committee held a meeting and recommended to the executive committee that the league is "deemed to be concluded"
- ✓ It has also decided to select the team rankings based on current standings until the point of suspension (March 14) and decide the winners if the matches would have been played under normal circumstances



- ✓ Not surprisingly, no team will be relegated to the Second Division I-League as the league is not completed
- ✓ It has also been decided that the prize money – apart from Mohun Bagan's share – will be given equally to the remaining 10 teams.
- ✓ As champions, Mohun Bagan will receive Rs 1 crore, while the remaining purse of Rs 1.25 crore will be shared equally between the remaining 10 teams.
- ✓ Each team will receive Rs 12.5 lakh as their share of the prize money.
- ✓ Apart from East Bengal, no club had objection to Mohun Bagan being crowned champions.
- ✓ In fact, East Bengal wanted the league to be declared 'null and void' with the prize money of Rs 2.5 crore shared with all 11 participating teams.