

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

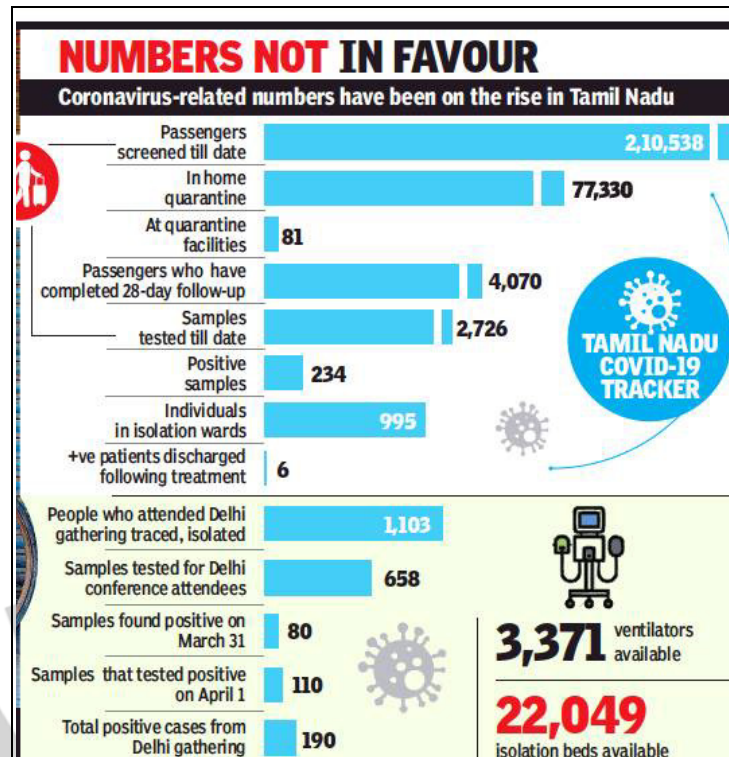
- **The number of confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Tamil Nadu - crossed the 200-mark on April 1.**
- ✓ The Covid-19 positive count from the Delhi Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) cluster shot up by 110, taking the state's total to 234 as on April 1.
- ✓ The 110 people who tested positive were from 15 districts in the state.
- ✓ They were identified from the following districts — 28 in Coimbatore, 20 in Theni, 17 in Dindigul, nine in Madurai, seven each in Tirupattur and Chengalpattu, six in Tirunelveli, five in Sivaganga, two each in Kancheepuram, Tiruvarur, Erode and Thoothukudi and one each in Karur, Tiruvannamalai and Chennai.
- ✓ The TJ congregation cluster now accounts for 190 of the positive cases in the state
- ✓ However, test results are still awaited for most of the 1,103 Delhi delegates who came forward to be screened in the state.
- ✓ Nationwide, 348 cases (18%), out of total 1,976 cases, identified across the country were linked to TJ congregations

COVID-19 in T.N. | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has impacted the State so far

	Until March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	Total
Cases reported	26	3	9	4	8	17	57	110	234
Recovered and discharged	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	6
Deceased	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Monitoring*		Capacity*		Testing*	
Persons screened at airports	2,10,538	Beds in isolation wards	22,049	Samples collected	2,726
Persons under home quarantine#	77,330	Ventilators	3,371	Tested positive	234
Persons in isolation wards in hospitals	995	*Status as on date; #Includes only Health and Family Welfare Department figures. People under home quarantine as per Bureau of Immigration advisory not included			
Persons in quarantine facilities	81				

- ✓ The number is likely to increase further as test results of nearly 8,000 TJ followers and people who came in contact is still awaited.
- ✓ As per the Government data, 16 people connected to the TJ meet — 3 foreigners and 13 Indians — have died in different states.
- ✓ The first case in the cluster tested positive on March 21 when two Thai national were brought to IRT in Perundurai with symptoms of cough and cold



- ✓ As on date, 77,330 persons continue to be under home quarantine, while 4,070 persons have completed the 28-day quarantine period.
 - ✓ A total of 2,726 samples have been lifted till date and 995 persons have been admitted to isolation wards
- **The Chennai Corporation - is planning to launch a door-to-door screening for flu-like symptoms across all 200 wards, marking a change in its 'micro' plan**
- ✓ The move is aimed to break the chain and ensure “asymptomatic” people with domestic/international travel history don’t infect family members, particularly the elderly, during the lockdown.
 - ✓ The change comes days after it rolled out an urban “micro” plan for containing the viral infection
 - ✓ The new initiative will be extended to all residents under its limits.
 - ✓ On March 28, the Government had announced that district administrators would demarcate a 5km radius containment zone around homes of Covid-19 positive people and a further 3km radius buffer zone in 10 districts.

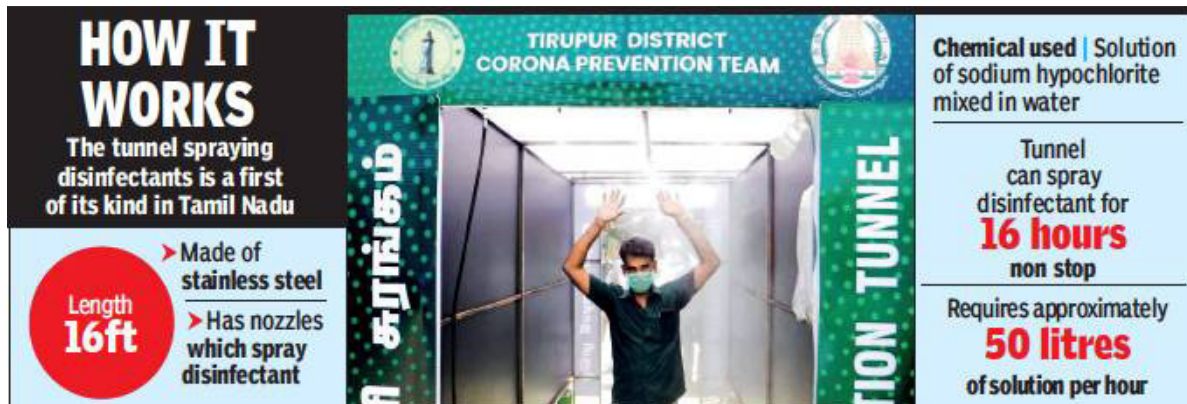
- ✓ The initiative was drafted based on the 'Micro Plan for Containing Local Transmission of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19)' guidelines given by the Union health ministry and the real time risk assessment prepared by the state public health officials.
 - ✓ In urban areas like Chennai, people in 2,500 houses around the infected person's residence will be monitored.
 - ✓ As per the revised plan, health workers will visit house to house in the containment zone
 - ✓ They will check for people with symptoms of the viral infection and create a list of high-risk patients, including the elderly and those with chronic ailments such as heart and renal conditions.
 - ✓ Priority counselling will be given to houses having people with travel history
 - ✓ Counsellors will advise people with travel history to quarantine themselves in a room.
 - ✓ As per the International guidelines, those with travel history must isolate themselves from the rest of the family to prevent the spread of virus.
- **The Chennai Corporation - launched a 'Corona Monitoring App' that can be downloaded from its website.**



- ✓ The new App aims to check the spread of coronavirus among the public
- ✓ If a person has symptoms, including fever, dry cough and breathlessness, he/she can take a photo of their door or a selfie from their house, and send it through the App to the GCC
 - ✓ Once the photo reaches the server of GCC, the location will be immediately identified.
 - ✓ Then, the medical team can examine whether the symptoms are normal or require a higher level of medical attention
- ✓ The app gives users three options — quarantine capture, general fever symptoms and report crowded spots.
 - ✓ The 'quarantine capture' requires users under quarantine to send in photos of the label outside their home
 - ✓ The persons with symptoms can send a photo using fever symptoms option.

- ✓ If a resident comes across a crowded spot, they too can send in a picture under the third category.

- **A disinfectant tunnel - was inaugurated by Tirupur collector K Vijayakarhikeyan at the Thennampalayam vegetable market in Tirupur on April 1.**
- ✓ This initiative might be the first of its kind in the State
- ✓ It was set up by the district administration in collaboration with Young Indians, the youth wing of the Confederation of Indian Industry.



- ✓ The tunnel was designed and developed by D Venkatesh, an expert in the water treatment business in Tirupur
- ✓ The tunnel is made of stainless steel and costs Rs 1lakh.
- ✓ The stainless steel structure, resembling a narrow passageway, is made up of thousands of tiny nozzles
- ✓ These nozzles are used to spray disinfectants for duration of three to five seconds on anyone who passes through.
- ✓ The nozzles are attached to a central container filled with 1% sodium hypochlorite, a common disinfectant, in a water base
- ✓ The 16-foot-long disinfectant tunnel can be operated for 16 hours continuously
- ✓ The district administration is planning to install ten more disinfectant tunnels at busy hubs in Tirupur

NATIONAL

- **The Covid-19 count in the country - continues to rise sharply, with each day's fresh cases surpassing the previous day's high.**
- ✓ On April 1, 388 new infections were reported— up from 315 on March 31
- ✓ Tamil Nadu registered a three-figure number for the second straight day and Andhra Pradesh more than doubled its count of cases overnight
- ✓ India's Covid-19 count stood at 1,996 at 11.45pm on April 1, having increased from close to 1,000 to nearly double that number in just 4 days.

BIG SURGE IN TAMIL NADU, ANDHRA

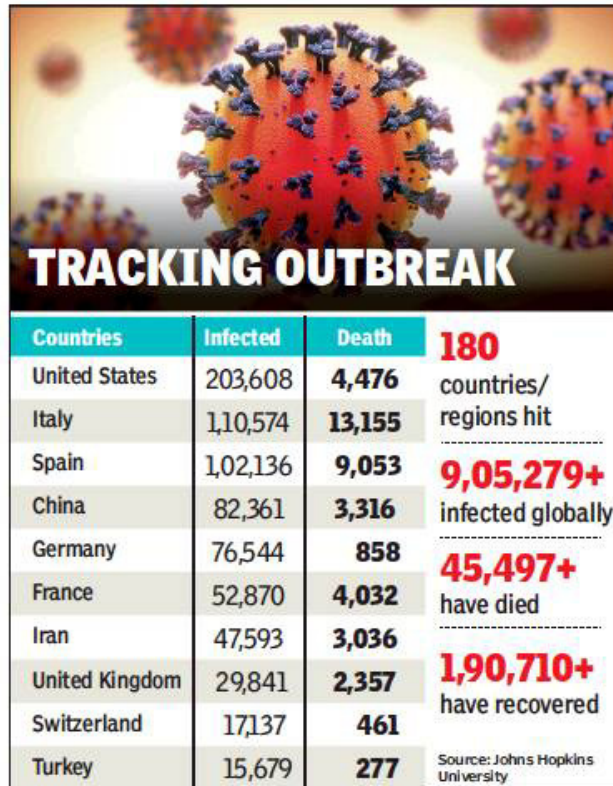
Name of State / UT	Cases on Wednesday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	33	335	35	16
Kerala	24	265	26	2
Tamil Nadu	110	234	6	1
Delhi	32	152	5	2
Rajasthan	27	120	14	2
Uttar Pradesh	13	116	17	2
Andhra Pradesh	67	111	2	
Karnataka	9	110	9	3
Telangana	12	104	14	7
Gujarat	13	87	6	6
Rest of India	48	372	18	16
Total	388	2006	152	57

- ✓ The Covid-19 infections also rose sharply in Delhi to a new single-day high of 32
 - ✓ However, the spread of the virus was reported to be reduced in the worst-hit state, Maharashtra, which reported 33 fresh cases, down from 82 on March 31.
 - ✓ Rajasthan (27), Kerala (24) and Madhya Pradesh (20) were the other states to report big single-day numbers.
 - ✓ At least 9 more people died in the country in the past 24 hours, with Maharashtra claiming 4, UP and West Bengal 2 each and Telangana one casualty.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Assam reported an increase of 12 new infections just a day after the first case was detected in the state
 - ✓ The death toll due to the pandemic in the country has gone up to 57, as per data shared by various states.
 - ✓ Of this, the health ministry has confirmed 41 deaths.
 - ✓ Maharashtra has now recorded 335 positive cases so far and 16 deaths, the highest in the country.
 - ✓ In a related move, 24 categories of medical devices would be regulated as “drugs”, according to a decision by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
 - ✓ This would prevent suppliers from raising rates to more than 10% of their prices annually.
- **The Union government - has issued a notification defining “domiciles” in the new Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir for protecting jobs in the Group D category and entry-level non-gazetted posts for the domiciles.**
- ✓ In a major decision, the Centre on March 31 notified changes in domicile rules for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
 - ✓ As per the new rules, anyone residing in J&K for 15 years or more will be eligible for government jobs
 - ✓ Moreover, anyone who has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class X or Class XII examination in Jammu and Kashmir is eligible for domicile certificate of the Union territory.

- ✓ The domicile rights are also extended to all migrants who have been registered by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner in the erstwhile state
- ✓ The notification further provides that central government officials, including those working in public sector undertakings, banks and central universities, who have served for 10 years in J&K and their children will now be eligible for domicile certificates.
- ✓ All such people can obtain a domicile certificate from tahsildar of their area of residence.
- ✓ Only permanent residents of J&K were eligible to apply for the gazetted and non-gazetted posts.
- ✓ The new domicile rules were notified in the gazette and made applicable from March 31
- ✓ The rules have been changed with regard to appointment in government services by amending the J&K Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act.
- ✓ The rules also makes changes to the Public Safety Act (PSA) by removing a clause that prohibited J&K residents booked under the Act to be lodged in jails outside.
 - ✓ The notification scraps all pension benefits such as car, driver, accommodation, phones, electricity, medical facilities and rent-free accommodation to former J&K Chief Ministers.
- ✓ As per the order, the domiciles will be eligible “for the purposes of appointment to any post carrying a pay scale of not more than Level 4”.
 - ✓ The Level 4 post comprises positions such as gardeners, barbers, office peons and waterman, and the highest rank in the category is that of a junior assistant.
- ✓ The reservation for domiciles would not apply to Group A and Group B posts, and like other UTs, recruitment would be done by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ✓ Earlier, the J&K constitution had defined permanent residents as those who were either born or settled in J&K before 1911 or have been residing in the state for 10 years.
- ✓ On August 6, 2019, the Centre withdrew J&K’s special status under Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution and bifurcated it into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
 - ✓ The Article 370 and Article 35A allows the legislature decide the “permanent residents”
 - ✓ It prohibits a non-J&K resident from buying property there and ensuring job reservation for its residents.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The coronavirus pandemic - has claimed more than 30,000 lives in Europe alone, according to a global tally released on April 1**
- ✓ Italy and Spain suffered the most, accounting for three in every four deaths on the continent.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	203,608	4,476	180 countries/ regions hit
Italy	1,10,574	13,155	
Spain	1,02,136	9,053	9,05,279+ infected globally
China	82,361	3,316	
Germany	76,544	858	45,497+ have died
France	52,870	4,032	
Iran	47,593	3,036	
United Kingdom	29,841	2,357	1,90,710+ have recovered
Switzerland	17,137	461	
Turkey	15,679	277	Source: Johns Hopkins University

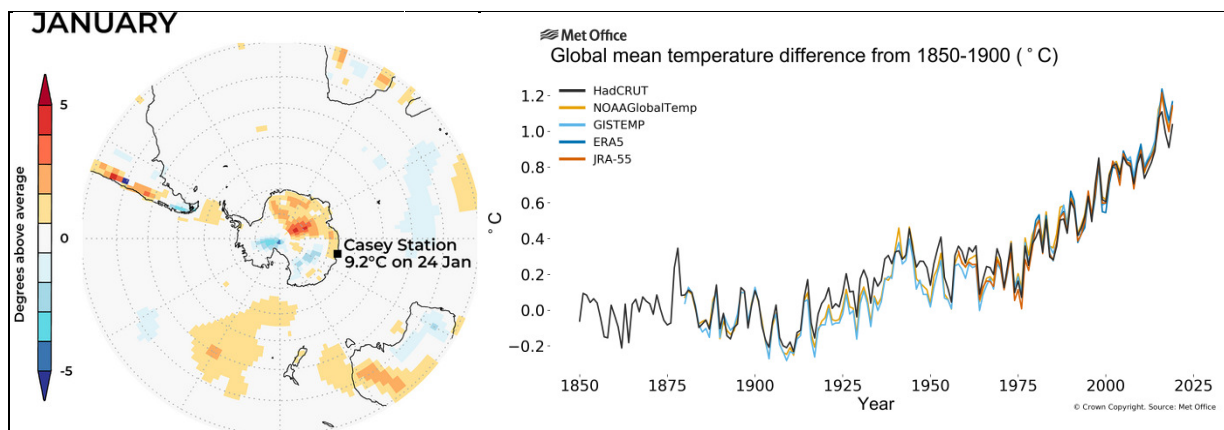
- ✓ The list of confirmed cases in Spain went beyond 1,00,000 as it recorded its biggest one-day death toll from the outbreak on April 1.
 - ✓ A record 864 fatalities on March 31 took the country's overall toll to 9,053 as total infections rose to 1,02,136
 - ✓ Barring Italy, the virus has killed more people in Spain than anywhere else
- ✓ France reported its highest daily number of deaths from Covid-19
 - ✓ A total of 509 people had died to bring the toll to 4,032 on April 1
- ✓ Since emerging in China in December 2019, Covid-19 has spread across the globe, claiming over 44,000 lives and infecting more than 8,80,000 people
- ✓ China reported just 36 new Covid-19 cases on April 1.
- ✓ Britain reported 563 daily coronavirus deaths on April 1, the first time the national toll has exceeded 500, bringing the total fatalities to 2,352.
 - ✓ Some 29,474 people have now tested positive, an increase of 4,324 over the previous day.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India - is planning to launch an 'Information Exchange Platform' (IEP), to facilitate real-time exchanges among health professionals of Saarc countries.**
 - ✓ The platform can be accessed by all Saarc countries
 - ✓ It is aimed at bringing health professionals of Saarc countries closer together in real time basis.
 - ✓ The IEP intends to cover various aspects of disease surveillance, contact tracing, travel restrictions and evacuation, risk assessment, diagnostics, isolation and quarantine methods and facilities, clinical management of patients, treatment options and protocols and safety of healthcare providers.
- ✓ India and other Saarc nations have decided to hold a video conference of trade officials soon, to study the likely impact of Covid-19 on intraregional trade
 - ✓ The trade video conference will be handled by the commerce ministry and is likely to be held in early April 2020.
- ✓ Following the earlier Saarc leaders' video conference, India pledged to donate \$10 million to the Covid-19 Emergency SAARC fund.
 - ✓ Apart from Pakistan, all other countries have also contributed to the fund.
- ✓ India has also kept on standby rapid response teams comprising doctors with testing equipment, under Department of military affairs, for its Saarc neighbours.
 - ✓ One such team has already visited the Maldives.
- ✓ Meanwhile, an interaction among doctors of participating countries on patient management, testing, disease surveillance has begun through a Saarc WhatsApp group of doctors.
 - ✓ All Saarc nations, except Pakistan and Afghanistan, have joined the group.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Scientists – have recorded the first-ever heat wave event in Antarctica over the 2019-20 summer period**



- ✓ Researchers from the Australian Antarctic Program recorded the heat wave at the Casey Research Station between January 23 and 26, which falls in the region's summer season
- ✓ The station is located on the northern part of Bailey Peninsula on the Budd Coast
- ✓ During these three days, minimum temperatures climbed above 0 degrees Celsius and maximum temperatures reached above 7.5 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ On January 24, its highest maximum of 9.2°C was recorded, almost 7°C above Casey's 30-year mean for the month of January.
- ✓ Heat waves are classified as three consecutive days with both extreme maximum and minimum temperatures
- ✓ In the 31-year record for Casey, the maximum temperature of 9.2 degrees Celsius is 6.9 degrees Celsius higher than the mean maximum temperature for the station, while the minimum is 0.2 degrees Celsius higher than the mean.
- ✓ It is believed that the recording of unusual temperatures was linked to meteorological patterns which occurred in the Southern Hemisphere during the spring and summer of 2019.

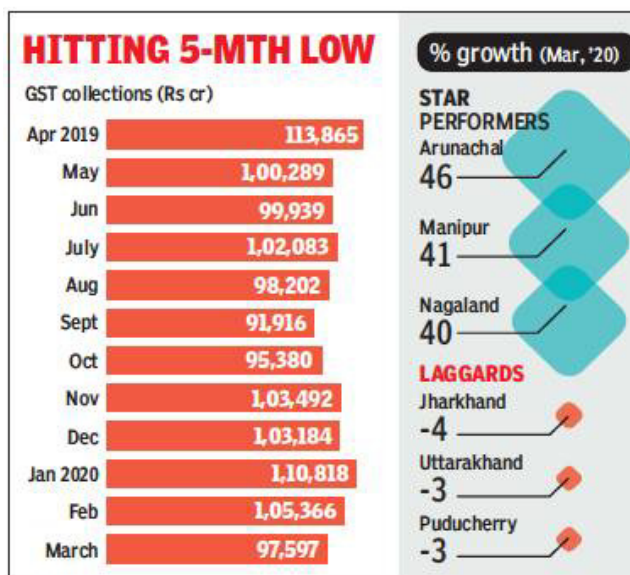
DEFENCE

- **The armed forces - have kept over 9,000 hospital beds ready to treat Covid-19 patients in the entire country**
- ✓ They have also made arrangements for more than 8,500 doctors and support staff to extend necessary assistance to civilian administrations
- ✓ Over 1,000 evacuees from countries like Italy, Iran and Malaysia are quarantined at military facilities in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Chennai, Manesar, Hindon and Mumbai
- ✓ The DRDO has supplied around 1.5 lakh litres of sanitisers to different organizations
 - ✓ Currently, it is also producing five-layered nano technology N99 face masks and PPE (personal protective equipment) on a war-footing now.
 - ✓ The DRDO had already developed 10,000 N99 masks and their daily production would be increased up to 20,000 soon.
 - ✓ It has also supplied 40,000 other face masks to the Delhi Police.
 - ✓ A DRDO lab has also made arrangements to make 20,000 PPE per day.
 - ✓ The DRDO is also making a minor modification of ventilators so that one machine can support four patients at the same time
- ✓ The IAF, on its part, has airlifted nearly 25 tonnes of essential medical supplies from Delhi, Surat and Chandigarh to Manipur, Nagaland, J&K and Ladakh.

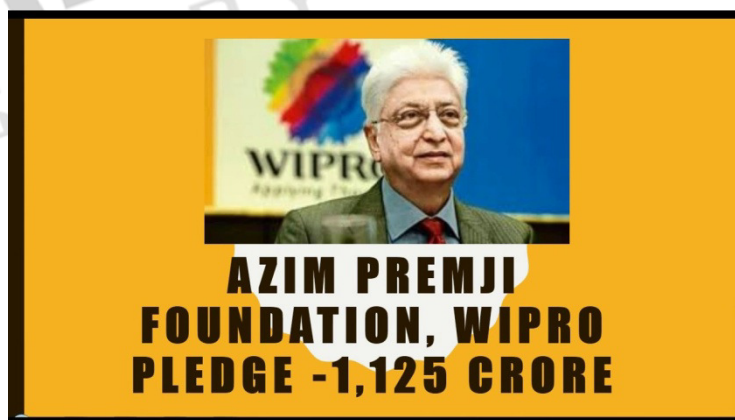
ECONOMY

- **The Goods and services tax (GST) collections in March - fell 8.4% to reach ₹97,597 crore**

- ✓ The collections failed to cross the physiological ₹1 lakh crore mark after four months, indicating a slowdown in the economy.



- ✓ The collections in March reflect the sales done in February
- ✓ As the second half of March 20 has been significantly impacted due to Covid-19 outbreak, the collections in April 2020 are likely to be substantially lower.
- **Azim Premji Foundation, along with Wipro Ltd and Wipro Enterprises – have announced to contribute ₹1,125 crore to tackle the health crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic**



- ✓ The contribution is one of the largest announced by corporate India
- ✓ It is just short of the ₹1,500 crore contribution announced by Tata Sons and Tata Trusts last week.
- ✓ Reliance Industries has already committed ₹500 crore.
- ✓ Out of the ₹1,125 crore, ₹1,000 crore will be given by Premji Foundation, ₹100 crore by Wipro Ltd and the remaining by Wipro Enterprises.
- ✓ Billionaire Premji is one of the biggest philanthropists in the country

- ✓ He has already committed \$21 billion to his philanthropic activities, making his endowment the biggest in Asia and one of the largest in the world.
- ✓ Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy and his wife Sudha Murthy have contributed ₹10 crore from their personal funds toward Akshaya Patra Foundation's Covid-19 relief work
- ✓ Tech major Cognizant has announced a contribution of an initial \$10 million to support communities around the world.
- ✓ The World Bank has also offered \$1 billion for India's COVID-19 emergency response and health systems preparedness project, through its COVID-19 Fast Track facility.

SPORTS

- **The organizers of Wimbledon - cancelled the grasscourt Grand Slam for the first time since World War II**



- ✓ The 134th edition of the Wimbledon championships will now be held from June 28 to July 11, 2021.
- ✓ Wimbledon was supposed to be held for a period of two weeks from June 29, with Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep set to defend their singles titles.
- ✓ The decision to scrap the tournament was widely expected, with the world struggling to contain the spread of COVID-19, which has infected more than 840,000 people worldwide and killed over 40,000
- ✓ Earlier, the French Tennis Federation decided to move the French Open from its original May 24 to June 7 window to begin on September 20 and run till October 4
- ✓ It means the French Open will start within just one week after the US Open men's final.
- ✓ Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was first held in 1877.
- ✓ It has been held every year, without a break, since 1946
- ✓ The tournament was cancelled in only during two stretches till now.

- ✓ Once during the World War I between 1915 and 1918 and then during the World War II between 1940 and 1945.
- ✓ The Wimbledon is hailed as the oldest Tennis Tournament in the world.
- ✓ It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, others being French Open, US open and Australian Open.
- ✓ Wimbledon is the only tournament that is still played traditionally on grass

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Autism Awareness Day – April 2



- ✓ The day is observed to increase awareness about Autism, which is a developmental disorder, and also about the measures taken to tackle it.
- ✓ World Autism Awareness Day is one among the seven health specific days observed by the United Nations
- ✓ The day is being observed since 2008.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - The Transition to Adulthood
- ✓ Generally, people with autism face difficulties in social interaction and communication.
- ✓ The disorder is caused primarily due to genetic factors and environmental factors

