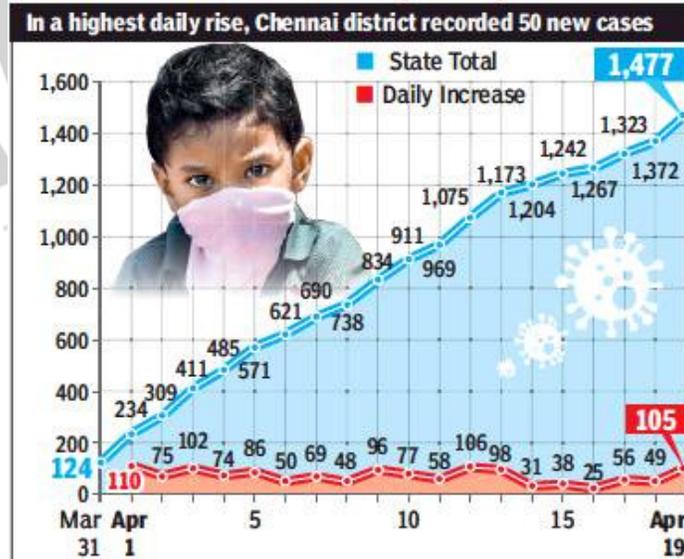


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 20, 2020

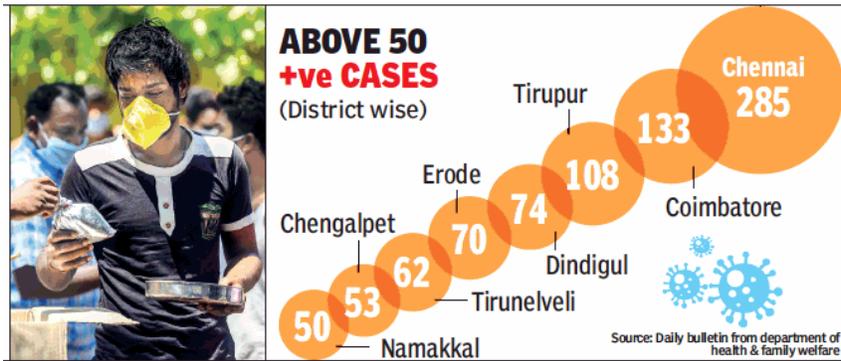
### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu - saw a surge in Covid-19 infections on April 19 with 105 new cases, along with the death of a senior city based neurosurgeon
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the state has been recording zero deaths and fewer than 40 new cases on an average every day over the last five days

#### TOTAL TN CASES 1,477; TOLL 16



- ✓ The total number of cases in the state now stands at 1,477 and death toll at 16.
- ✓ This is the fourth time the state has recorded a daily rise of over hundred so far
- ✓ It had reported 110 cases on April 1, 102 on April 3, and 106 on April 11
- ✓ More frontline workers — six doctors from the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, two nurses, a policeman and two journalists — and a three-day old baby were on the list of the 105 people tested positive for the infection on the day.
- ✓ On April 19, Chennai recorded 50 new cases — its highest daily rise — taking the total number of positive cases in the district to 285.
- ✓ Thanjavur recorded 10 cases and other districts had a single-digit rise.



- ✓ Among those tested positive, at least 57 belong to the Tablighi Jamaat cluster.
- ✓ Seven of them were conference attendees and 50 were contacts of those who tested positive from the cluster
- ✓ Of the 1,477 people tested positive as on date, 618 of them were participants of the conference that was held in Delhi and 661 were their close contacts.
  - ✓ Outside the cluster, 198 people were reported to have been infected.
- ✓ On April 19, 5,840 samples were taken, taking the total samples to 40,876.
- ✓ Of these, 31,853 samples tested negative.
- ✓ Of the 2,10,538 passengers who were screened at various airports in the State, 1,04,936 were under home quarantine as of April 18.
- ✓ On April 19, the State Government announced that existing lockdown restrictions will continue in the state, until the Government issues an order, considering the increase in Covid-19 cases
- ✓ An expert panel constituted by the state to formulate guidelines for phased exit from the lockdown will submit its interim report to the CM on April 20.
- ✓ As on date, 28 of the 37 districts in the state have been classified as hotspots.
- ✓ The state has also demarcated 600 containment zones in the hotspots

## STATES

- **On April 19, Goa - became the first state to be free of Covid-19 patients following the recovery of seventh patient from the virus.**
  - ✓ This makes Goa the first green State in the country with no case of coronavirus being reported since April 3.
  - ✓ It has reported seven positive cases till now
  - ✓ All seven patients — six with travel history, and the seventh the brother of one of the patients — have now recovered.
  - ✓ The state has also tested around 800 samples as on date.
- **The combined metropolitan area of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad - was declared a containment zone on April 19 and sealed till April 27**
  - ✓ The move makes the twin cities the first in India to be entirely locked down.
  - ✓ These cities have a total population of over 7.5 million

- ✓ All the border entry and exit points in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad were sealed
  - ✓ Following the announcement, movement of vehicles exempted from the order will also be controlled.
  - ✓ The exemption list includes essential goods transport and services.
  - ✓ In the entire country, till now, areas with concentration of Covid-19 cases have been declared containment zones across states
  - ✓ But, this is the first instance that a city has been sealed completely.
  - ✓ Thirteen of the 15 civic wards in Pune had been classified as “red zones” since April 10 and the other two as “orange zones”.
  - ✓ The Pune Municipal Corporation will conduct an extensive Covid-19 screening drive in the sealed area over the next eight days.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced that the ongoing lockdown in the State has been extended to May 7.
- **Uttar Pradesh - became the first state in the country to geotag community kitchens on April 19, 2020**

## Uttar Pradesh become First State to Geo Tag Community Kitchens



- ✓ Overall, around 7,368 community kitchens located in 75 districts in the state were geo tagged.
- ✓ The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has tied up with ‘Google’ to perform the geo tagging of community kitchens in the state.
- ✓ These community kitchens produce 12 lakh food packets per day, catering mostly the migrant workers
- ✓ The Remote Sensing Application Centre (RSAC) has also designed and developed an ‘Application’ (App) to identify the location of the community kitchens at various places in the state.

## NATIONAL

- **In the biggest increase in the Covid-19 pandemic in India so far, 1,612 new cases - were reported on a single day from across the country on April 19**
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra (552), Gujarat (367) and Uttar Pradesh (179) have reported their highest single-day count of fresh infections.

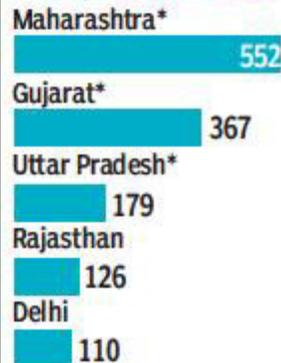
## SUNDAY SURGE: CASES UP 10%

- 1,612 new cases reported on Sunday, highest for a day. Previous highest of 1,266 was on Saturday
- 10% jump in cases in a single day. India now has 17,325 corona cases
- Maharashtra's corona count crosses 4,000, Delhi's goes past 2,000
- 36% of India's coronavirus cases from Maharashtra & Delhi alone
- 560 deaths reported so far

### RECOVERIES RISE TOO

- 2,139 patients discharged so far, which is 12.3% of total

### STATES WITH MOST NO. OF NEW CASES



\* State's highest single-day number

- ✓ The huge surge in these states resulted in the total number of coronavirus cases jumping by more than 10% in a single day to 17,325.
- ✓ With the increase, Maharashtra's total cases jumped to 4,200 and the death toll to 223.
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra recorded 12 new deaths, followed by Gujarat (10), Madhya Pradesh (5) and Telangana (3).
- ✓ Delhi, Rajasthan and Kerala recorded two new deaths each, taking the day's death toll to 39 and the cumulative total to 560.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Goa became the first state to be declared itself 'coronavirus-free' after the seventh (and last) Covid-19 patient was discharged after treatment.
- ✓ In Delhi, the total number of Covid-19 cases touched 2,003 with 110 new cases recorded on the day
- ✓ Gujarat now has 1,743 Covid-19 positive cases, jumping to the third spot in the country after Maharashtra and Delhi.
  - ✓ Ten more people died on the day taking the total death toll to 63.
  - ✓ In terms of mortality, the state is third again, after Maharashtra (211) and Madhya Pradesh (72).
- ✓ The total number of Covid-19 positive cases in Haryana touched 250 in Haryana with 18 new cases recorded on the day.
- ✓ In Rajasthan, with 127 new cases reported on the day, the number of infected persons has increased to 1,478 in the state.
- ✓ Six new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Karnataka — the lowest in 11 days.
  - ✓ The last time the state had reported cases as low as six cases was on April 8.
  - ✓ With this, the total number of positive cases has touched 390.
  - ✓ Two women infected with Covid-19 died during the day, taking the total number of deaths in the state to 16.
- ✓ In Kerala, only two positive cases were reported on the day - one each in Kannur and Kasaragod.

- ✓ On April 19, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) clarified that supply of non-essential goods by e-commerce companies will remain prohibited during the lockdown.

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All goods traffic allowed – essential and non-essential</li> <li>➤ Cargo by air rail, land &amp; sea</li> <li>➤ Carrier vehicles allowed with two drivers and one helper</li> <li>➤ Dhabas &amp; truck repair facilities on highways</li> <li>➤ IT and IT-enabled services at 50% capacity, IT and hardware manufacturing</li> </ul> | <p><b>WHAT OPENS</b></p>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Couriers, services like plumbers, electricians, carpenters, IT repair</li> <li>➤ Print and electronic media with 50% strength</li> <li>➤ Private security and facilities management services, hotels and homestays</li> </ul> <p><b>Social sector:</b> Homes for children, divyans, elderly, including observation and care homes</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Educational institutions. Online teaching allowed</li> <li>➤ Air, rail and bus travel</li> <li>➤ Restaurants,</li> </ul>   | <p><b>WHAT REMAINS SHUT</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ hotels, malls, cinema halls, gyms</li> <li>➤ Religious places</li> <li>➤ Liquor, tobacco shops</li> <li>➤ E-commerce for non-essential goods</li> </ul>   |

- ✓ As of now, only small grocery shops, meat, fruit & vegetable sellers and pharmacies are allowed to function.
- ✓ On the day, the Home Ministry also issued guidelines for the movement of migrant labourers living in relief camps to their workplace, within the boundaries of a State, in areas where the lockdown will be relaxed from April 20.
- ✓ However, no movement of such workers outside the state/Union Territory where they are currently located shall be allowed.
- ✓ The relaxations will not apply to hotspots or containment zones and public transport will remain prohibited till May 3.
- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is all set to resume toll collection from April 20, following instructions from the Ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH)
- ✓ There are a total of 48 toll plazas in Tamil Nadu, 22 in Madurai region and 26 in Chennai region.
- **The Government of India - has set up a high-level work force to test vaccines and drugs to check the menace of Coronavirus**
- ✓ The task force consists of members from NITI Aayog, DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) and ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
- ✓ The Department of Biotechnology has been made the central coordination committee to develop the vaccine.
- ✓ The main aim of the task force is to set up vaccine development process for the Covid-19.

- ✓ Currently, there are 70 clinical trials being conducted all over the world to find a vaccine for COVID-19.
- ✓ Of these, 5 have entered human trials.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The coronavirus pandemic - showed the first signs of easing in Europe as Italy, Spain and France, the region's hardest-hit countries slowly resumed their daily economic activities**

| TRACKING OUTBREAK |          |               |  |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|--|
| Countries         | Infected | Death         |  |
| United States     | 742,442  | <b>39,291</b> | <b>185</b> countries/<br>regions hit   |
| Spain             | 1,95,944 | <b>20,453</b> |  |
| Italy             | 1,78,972 | <b>23,660</b> | <b>23,74,141+</b><br>infected globally |
| France            | 1,52,996 | <b>19,744</b> |  |
| Germany           | 1,44,387 | <b>4,547</b>  | <b>1,63,372+</b><br>have died          |
| United Kingdom    | 1,21,168 | <b>16,095</b> |  |
| Turkey            | 86,306   | <b>2,017</b>  | <b>6,11,159+</b><br>have recovered     |
| China             | 83,805   | <b>4,636</b>  |  |
| Iran              | 82,211   | <b>5,118</b>  |  |
| Russia            | 42,853   | <b>361</b>    | Source: Johns Hopkins University       |

- ✓ On April 19, coronavirus deaths in Spain rose by 410 to reach 20,453, the smallest one-day increase since March 22
- ✓ Italy reported the fewest deaths in a week, with 433 deaths linked to the virus, while fatalities in France rose at the slowest pace in three weeks.
- ✓ Data in Germany and the UK also showed social-distancing measures managing to keep the fresh infections under control.
- ✓ The Netherlands reported 83 new deaths, marking the lowest daily increase since March 26.
- ✓ In the US, the death toll in New York dropped again with 507 people dead on April 18, down by 43 from the previous day.
- ✓ Meanwhile, China has classified the coronavirus epicentre 'Wuhan' as a low-risk area, days after it revised the city's death toll by 50%
- ✓ It has reported 16 new Covid-19 cases in the country on April 19.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Tech major, Cognizant Technology Solutions (CTS) - has reported that it was a victim of 'ransomware' attack on April 17**
- ✓ The anonymous hackers group behind 'Maze' attacked the company's systems causing disruptions to its clients.

- ✓ Usually, ransomware attackers hold their victims hostage by threatening to leak company information if the target company doesn't pay its ransom.
  - ✓ Cognizant manages the IT infrastructure for several Fortune 500 companies
  - ✓ It is one of the largest tech companies with 3 lakh employees and more than \$15 billion in revenues
  - ✓ Maze is not like any typical ransomware.
  - ✓ Other than encrypting the data, it will be able to spread across a specific network, infecting and encrypting every computer in its path.
  - ✓ It is also capable of exfiltrating the data to the attackers.
- **On April 18, 2020, NASA - announced that it will launch its flight of astronauts on a new mission titled 'Demo-2' on May 27, 2020.**
- ✓ The mission will launch astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the International Space Station (ISS)
  - ✓ The liftoff on May 27 will take place from historic Launch Pad 39A — the same site used for NASA's Apollo and shuttle missions — at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
  - ✓ This is the first flight of NASA in 9 years, after it had retired its fleet in July 2011
  - ✓ The astronauts will have an extended stay at the international space station.
  - ✓ The mission is to be launched by SpaceX using its Falcon-9 rocket
  - ✓ It is the first crewed launch of the Elon Musk space company.
  - ✓ The mission of NASA sending astronauts to International Space Station has been named "Commercial Crew Programme".
  - ✓ SpaceX launched NASA's first uncrewed test flight - Demo-1 mission - to the International Space Station in March 2019
  - ✓ SpaceX and Boeing are the two commercial companies chosen by NASA to fly astronauts to and from the ISS.
  - ✓ The Commercial Crew Programme, funded by the US Government, was administered by NASA.
  - ✓ Under the programme, the private vendors will operate crew vehicles to carry astronauts to the International Space Station.
  - ✓ The unmanned mission Demo-1 is also a part of Commercial Crew Programme.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- **The Supreme Court collegium, headed by CJI S A Bobde - has decided to recommend to the government to appoint Justice Dipankar Datta of Calcutta HC as the CJ of Bombay HC**
- ✓ Justice Datta is the son of former Calcutta HC judge Salil Kumar Datta and brother-in-law of former SC judge Amitava Roy.
  - ✓ Justice Datta succeeds incumbent Justice B P Dharamdhikari, who retires on April 27.



JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA

- ✓ On February 24, the collegium appointed Justice B P Dharmadhikari as CJ for a term of a little over two months
- ✓ Bombay HC is one among the country's oldest and biggest High Courts

## STATUS OF COVID-19 SPREAD IN INDIA - REPORT

### NEARLY HALF OF INDIA IS STILL COVID-FREE

