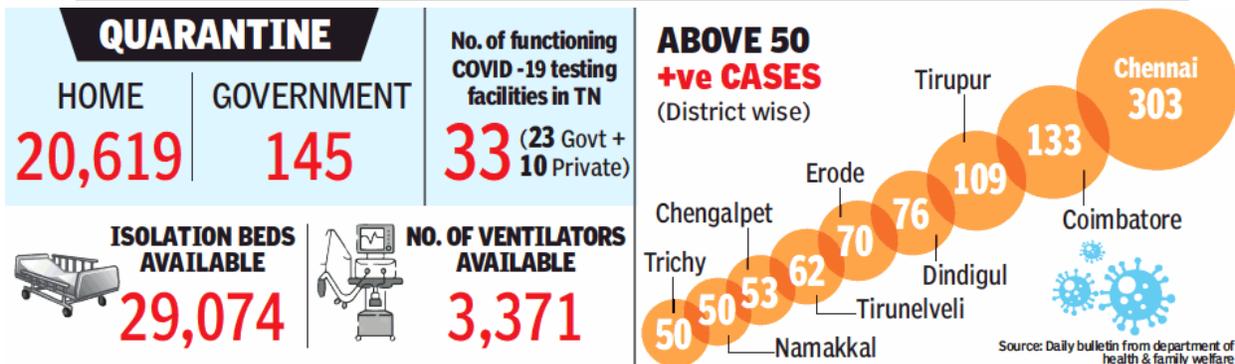
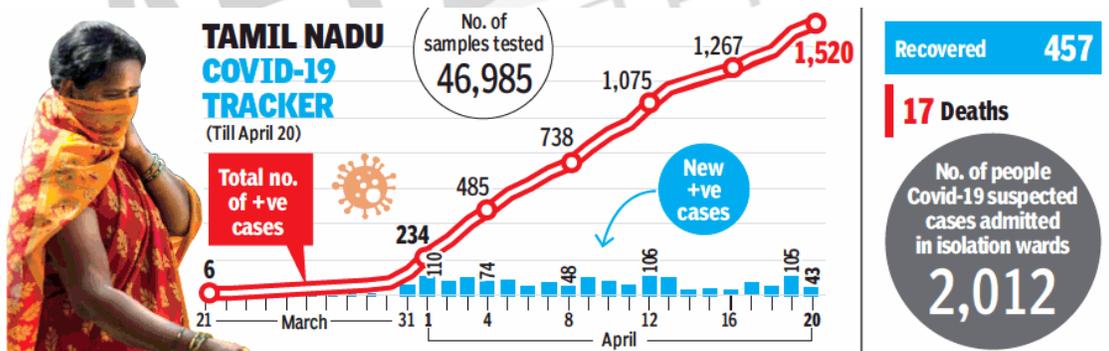


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 21, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On April 20, Tamil Nadu – reported 43 new cases and the death of a 57-year-old Covid-19 positive man at a private hospital.
- ✓ With this, the total number of cases recorded in the state so far has increased to 1,520 and the death toll to 17.
- ✓ For the second consecutive day, Chennai recorded the highest number of cases in the state – 18 – taking its total tally to 303.
- ✓ Thirteen other districts recorded less than five cases each



- ✓ Of the 6,109 samples that were tested on the day (the highest so far), 43 have returned positive

- ✓ Out of these 43 new cases, 23 belonged to the 'Single source event' in Delhi (TJ cluster)
- ✓ On the day, overall 46 people were discharged, including 22 from the Coimbatore ESI Medical College Hospital
- ✓ This takes the total number of discharged persons to 457, while there were 1,043 active cases in various hospitals across the state.
- ✓ As of April 19, a total of 618, who had travelled to Delhi for the Tablighi Jamaat conference, and 661 of their contacts, had tested positive.
- ✓ The remaining 198 patients had contact and travel histories.
- ✓ On April 20, Pudukottai reported its first case.
- ✓ This takes the total number of affected districts to 35.

WHAT NUMBERS SAY			FOREIGN PREACHERS		
International or interstate travel	Samples tested	positive	Primary sources	7	7
Primary sources	18,626	104	Contacts	225	14
Contacts	3,496	105	TOTAL	232	21
TOTAL	22,122	209	UNIDENTIFIED CONTACTS		
TJ CONFERENCE			Primary sources		29
Primary sources	1,468	618	Contacts	1,313	22
Contacts	15,632	578	TOTAL	1,313	51
TOTAL	17,100	1,196	Primary		758
<i>*data for Monday</i>			Contacts		719
			Total		1,477

- ✓ In the State, two more testing facilities had been approved - ESI Hospital Coimbatore and Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor.
 - ✓ With this, the State had 33 testing facilities — 23 in the government sector and 10 in the private sector,
 - ✓ The state has tested 46,985 samples till now, which includes 41,710 tested using the RT-PCR equipment
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the Chennai Corporation has banned the distribution of food within 2-km radius of containment zones, corporation hospitals, COVID-19 testing centres, government tertiary care hospitals and designated private hospitals, as directed by the Madras High Court.
- **On April 20, the Tamil Nadu government - decided to continue the lockdown until May 3.**
- ✓ The relaxation of some curbs suggested by the Union government after April 20 will not be applicable in the state.
 - ✓ The TN government will review the lockdown based on the virus spread.
 - ✓ The announcement was made after a 22-member expert committee led by finance secretary S Krishnan submitted an interim report to the state chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami.

NATIONAL

- **India – has reported more than 1,200 new coronavirus cases for the third straight day, with 1,267 being reported on April 20**
- ✓ However, the percentage growth of the infection dropped from the high of 10.3%, registered a day before, to 7.3%.
- ✓ As in the past few days, Maharashtra has reported the most with 466 fresh cases and nine deaths.
- ✓ It was followed by Gujarat (196 cases), Rajasthan (98) and UP (95).
- ✓ Delhi and Madhya Pradesh recorded 78 cases each.
- ✓ With these cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the country stood at 18,589, as per reports from states on April 20
- ✓ The death toll stood at 595, with 35 Covid-19 patients being dead due to the complications from the infection on the day.
- ✓ Maharashtra and Delhi remain the worst affected states with 4,666 and 2,081 cases respectively, with Gujarat taking the third spot with a big increase in recent days
- ✓ At 466 fresh cases, Maharashtra recorded its second-highest single-day jump in new cases, with Mumbai alone contributing 308 to the number
 - ✓ Maharashtra has recorded 232 Covid-19 deaths, the highest in the country so far.
- ✓ On April 20, Gujarat reported 196 cases, a significant dip from the high of 367 reported a day before.
- ✓ On the day, the health ministry said 80% of Covid-19 cases were either asymptomatic or with mild symptoms

WHEN SLOW DOUBLE IS GOOD NEWS

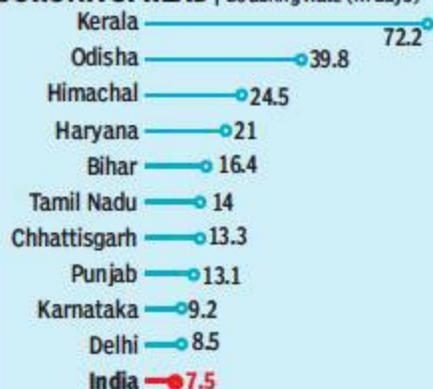
Doubling rate of coronavirus cases in India is now 7.5 days, up from 3.4 days before lockdown, says govt

WHAT IS DOUBLING RATE?

➤ It's the time taken for number of cases to double. A low doubling rate denotes fast spread of infection, and vice versa

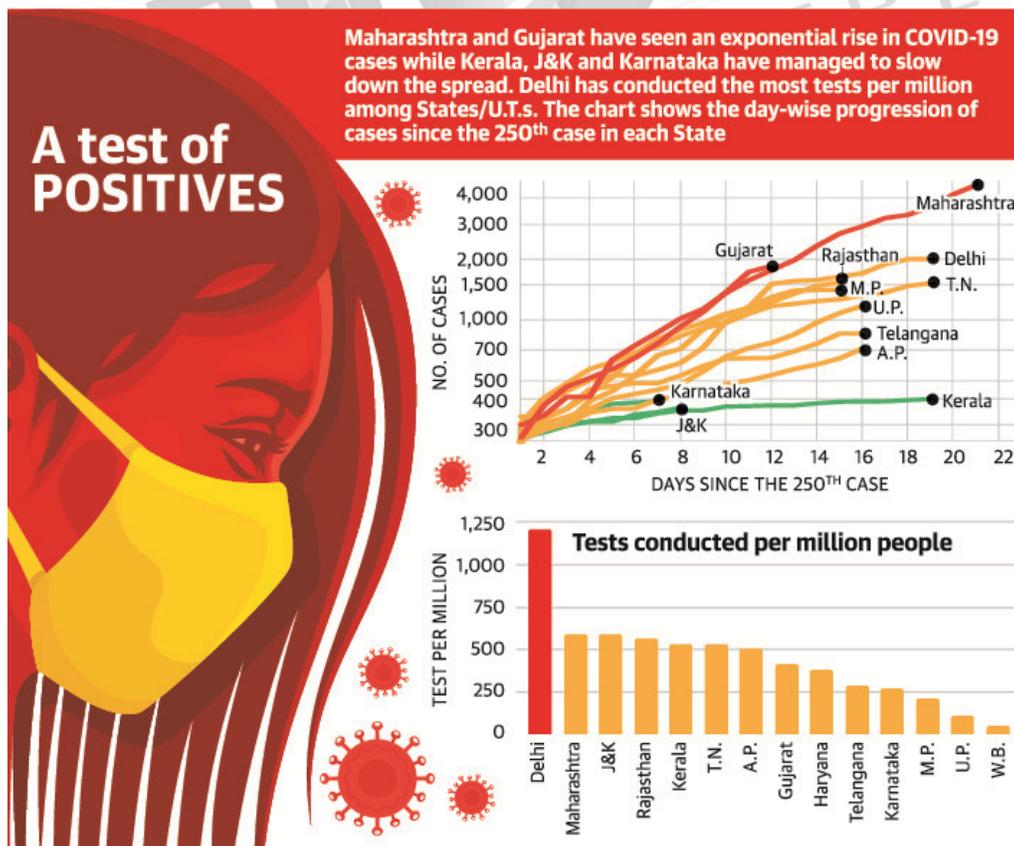
➤ 18 states have better doubling rate than national avg

SOME STATES WITH SLOWEST CORONA SPREAD | Doubling Rate (in days)



- ✓ As on date, the health ministry reported a total 17,265 confirmed cases.
- ✓ Of this, 14,175 are active cases.
- ✓ Around 1,553 new cases and 36 new deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

- ✓ Currently, 14.75% Covid-19 cases have recovered
- ✓ Meanwhile, on April 20, the Kerala government amended its lockdown relaxations following strong objection from the Centre to its directive allowing barber shops, workshops to function and dining facility at hotels and restaurants in some districts.
 - ✓ The State Government has withdrawn the directive till further notice.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs told the state that its April 17 order during the lockdown amounted to a dilution of the guidelines issued on April 15
- ✓ In the health front, the Indian embassy in Seoul signed an agreement for supply of 500,000 rapid test kits from a South Korean company to the ICMR.
 - ✓ The kits will be delivered in four separate consignments, the first of which will reach India April 30.
- **The rate at which Covid-19 cases are doubling in India - has gone up to 7.5 days from the earlier 3.4 days, which existed before the national lockdown was imposed on March 24**
- ✓ As of now, 18 states have a better doubling rate than the national average of 7.5 days, with Kerala and Odisha achieving a doubling rate of more than 30 days
- ✓ In Kerala, the time of doubling of cases is now 72.2 days, whereas it is 39.8 days in Odisha.

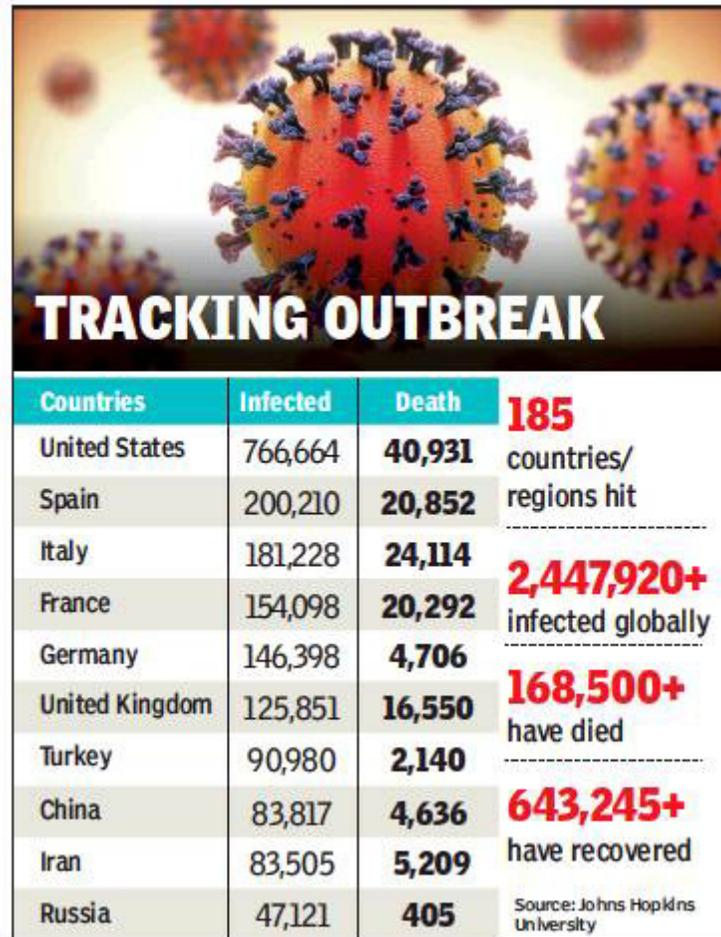


- ✓ States and UTs where the doubling time is less than 20 days are –
 - ✓ Delhi - 8.5 days

- ✓ Karnataka - 9.2 days
- ✓ Telangana - 9.4 days
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh - 10.6 days
- ✓ Jammu & Kashmir - 11.5 days
- ✓ Punjab - 13.1 days
- ✓ Chhattisgarh - 13.3 days
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - 14 days and
- ✓ Bihar - 16.4 days.
- ✓ States where the doubling time is between 20 days to 30 days include –
 - ✓ Andaman and Nicobar Islands - 20.1 days
 - ✓ Haryana – 21 days
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh - 24.5 days
 - ✓ Chandigarh - 25.4 days
 - ✓ Assam - 25.8 days
 - ✓ Uttarakhand - 26.6 days and
 - ✓ Ladakh - 26.6 days.
- ✓ In Goa, all Covid-19 patients have been discharged from hospital after recovery,
- ✓ Mahe in Puducherry, Kodagu in Karnataka and Pauri Garhwal in Uttarakhand have not reported any fresh case in the last 28 days.
- ✓ Besides, 59 districts in 23 states/UTs have not reported any fresh case in the last 14 days.
- **The Ministry of Home Affairs - has deployed ‘special’ teams to make ‘on-the-spot’ assessments in Indore, Mumbai, Pune, Jaipur, Kolkata and six other places in West Bengal (including Howrah, Medinipur East, 24 Parganas North, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri), following reports of serious concern with regard to spread of the disease.**
 - ✓ The move is intended to ensure that the lockdown measures are implemented strictly by their governments and to provide support to states in their endeavour to fight Covid-19
 - ✓ The Centre deployed six inter-ministerial central teams (IMCTs) to assess the preparedness and lockdown measures in these ‘select’ places and issue necessary directions to state authorities for redress.
 - ✓ The teams, constituted under the Disaster Management Act, will submit a report to the Centre as well.
 - ✓ Two IMCTs each have been tasked with visiting hotspots in West Bengal and Maharashtra, while one team each will make an assessment in Indore and Jaipur.
 - ✓ Each team comprises five members and is led by an additional secretary-level officer.
 - ✓ The IMCTs include representatives from NDMA, health ministry, agriculture ministry, department of financial services, power ministry, defence ministry, HRD ministry, department of consumer affairs, AIIMS, department of food and public distribution, food processing ministry as well as public health experts.

INTERNATIONAL

- The coronavirus - has so far infected more than 2.4 million people globally and killed over 168,000, with nearly two thirds of the victims in Europe.



- ✓ On April 20, Singapore reported a record 1,426 new coronavirus cases, mostly among foreign workers, pushing its total number of confirmed infections to 7,984.
 - ✓ The tiny city-state now has the highest number of cases in Southeast Asia, registering a massive increase from just 200 infections on March 15.
 - ✓ About 3,000 cases have been reported by the country in just the past three days.
 - ✓ Over 200,000 workers from Bangladesh, India and other Asian countries live in tightly packed dormitories in the country.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC), a leading cultural organisation in Gulf - has arranged the biggest isolation centre in GCC in Dubai, following an increase in the number of Covid-19 patients in UAE



- ✓ The isolation facilities were arranged in 32 flat complexes of 20 buildings in Warsan area of Dubai
- ✓ Overall, they can accommodate around 10,000 patients among the complexes
- ✓ The vacant buildings have already been handed over to KMCC
- ✓ The work to arrange isolation facilities in the buildings is progressing on a war footing

ECONOMY

- **On April 20, the finance ministry - approved the release of April instalment of devolution of states' share in central taxes and duties, amounting to ₹46,038.10 crore.**
- ✓ The release of the funds will come as a huge relief for states who are tackling the major impact of Covid-19.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh tops the table with ₹8,255.19 crore, followed by Bihar with ₹4,631.96 crore and Madhya Pradesh with ₹3,630.60 crore.
- ✓ West Bengal, which has seen a surge in Covid-19 cases, has received ₹3,461.65 crore
- ✓ The finance ministry released funds to all the 28 states
- ✓ The share of the funds is as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On April 20, 2020, former IAS officer, Kapil Dev Tripathi - was appointed as the new secretary to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.**



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment for a term co-terminus with the tenure of the President.
- ✓ The Committee is headed by the Prime Minister of India
- ✓ It makes appointments as per the Transactions of Business rules, 1961.
- ✓ The Appointment Committee appoints the top posts of Government of India.
- ✓ In general, it is responsible for the appointments of Director General of Military Operations, Chiefs of three services, Chiefs of Air and army commands, scientific advisor of the defence minister, director general of defence estates, director general of armed forces, governor of RBI, Chief Vigilance Officers, Chairman and Members of railway board.
- ✓ Kapil Dev Tripathi is a 1980 batch IAS officer, who retired as Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- ✓ He replaces Sanjay Kothari, who was appointed as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner in February.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Civil Services Day - April 21



- ✓ The main aim of observing the day is to motivate the efforts and works of civil servants.
- ✓ On this day, India rewards various officers with Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration
- ✓ The awards are intended to serve as an inspiration to the civil servants.
- ✓ The awards are presented in three categories - first category includes hill states and north eastern States, second category includes 7 union territories and the third category includes the rest of 18 states.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1947, Iron Man of India and former Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhai Patel addressed the first batch probationers of Administrative Services.
- ✓ He referred them as the 'Steel frame of India' during his address
- ✓ However, the day was first observed in the year 2006.
- ✓ According to Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Civil Servants are the backbone of Indian economy, who work tirelessly towards smooth functioning of public administration