

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - APR 25, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On April 24, Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced a total lockdown in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai corporations from 6am on April 26 to 9pm on April 29

SERVICES THAT ARE EXEMPTED

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hospitals, labs, pharmacies, milk supply, ambulance & hearse services ➤ Vegetable markets like Koyambedu, mobile sale of vegetables & fruits ➤ Secretariat, health and family welfare, police, revenue and disaster management, electricity, Aavin, local bodies and water supply departments ➤ Central government offices and banks for maintenance of essential services with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendance not exceeding 33% ➤ Fuel pumps (8am to 12noon), LPG agencies, PDS shops ➤ Amma canteens & ATMs ➤ Home-delivery of food from hotels/ restaurants ➤ Homes for senior citizens/physically challenged/orphans and caregivers of senior citizens ➤ Community kitchens run by govt, allied agencies and NGOs helping the poor and needy ➤ Print and electronic media
---	---

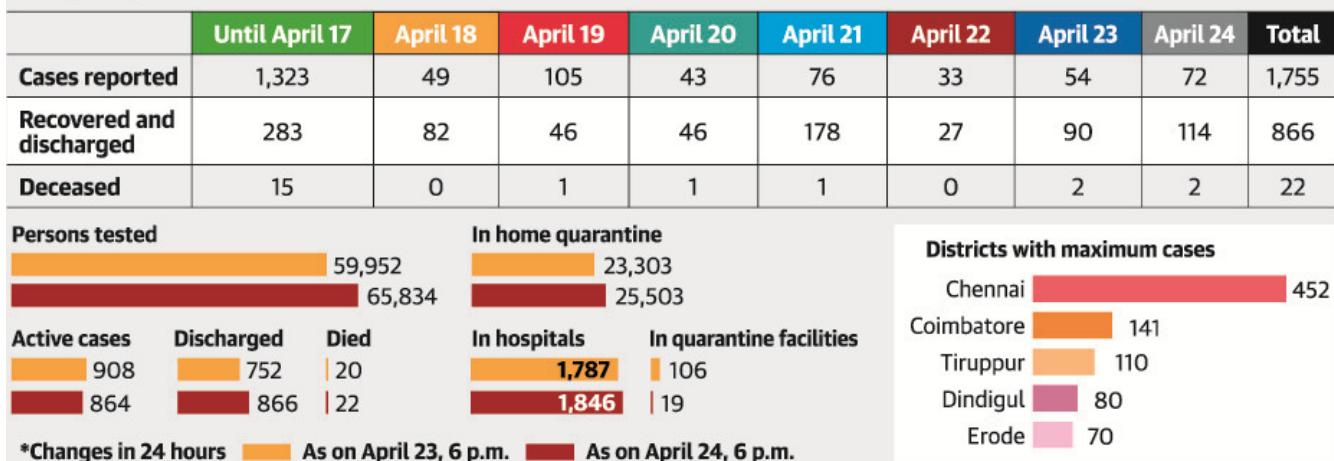
TO COVER MOST CITY SUBURBS INCLUDING | Tambaram, Pallavaram, Pammal, Perungalathur, Chitlapakkam, 15 village panchayats of St Thomas Mount Union, Mangadu Kurathur town panchayats, Tiruvallur, Avadi, Poonamallee, Minjur and Ponneri municipalities, and 13 panchayats of Villivakkam panchayat union, among others

- ✓ The restriction will also be applicable to city suburbs such as Tambaram, Pallavaram, Pammal and St Thomas Mount Panchayat Union and several other areas falling under Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts.
- ✓ In Salem and Tirupur corporation limits, the lockdown will be in force from 6am on April 26 to 9pm on April 28.
- ✓ During the lockdown, all shops including grocery stores, will remain shut.
- ✓ Only the essential services involving the medical related activities will be permitted during this period.

- ✓ In a statement, the CM held that the virus has been brought under control in rural areas, but the chances of it spreading in urban areas are still quite high.
 - ✓ The CM announced the decision after a high-level meeting with chief secretary K Shanmugam, DGP J K Tripathy, Chennai police commissioner A K Viswanathan, and senior bureaucrats on April 24.
- **On April 24, the Ministry of Home Affairs – announced the constitution of four more inter-ministerial central teams (IMCTs) to assess the “serious” Covid-19 situation in hotspots of Chennai, Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat and Hyderabad in Telangana.**
- ✓ Also, the IMCT for Mumbai will conduct ‘on-the-spot’ assessment for Thane in Maharashtra.
 - ✓ The committees are expected to focus on range of issues that includes implementation of lock down measures under Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - ✓ These expert teams will assist state authorities in redressing the situation and submit report to the Centre “in larger interest of general public”.
 - ✓ The teams will be headed by additional secretary-level officers and comprise public health and disaster management experts.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Centre had constituted six IMCTs to visit Kolkata and other areas of West Bengal, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Jaipur in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ The move behind deputing the teams followed reports of violations of lockdown in these areas, which pose a serious health hazard and risk for spread of the virus.
 - ✓ The violations include attack on front-line healthcare professionals and police personnel, violations of social distancing norms in market places and opposition to setting up of quarantine centres.
 - ✓ The teams will look into issues such as supply of essential commodities, preparedness of health infrastructure, hospital facilities and sample statistics in the district, safety of health professionals and police personnel, availability of test kits, PPEs, masks and other safety equipment and conditions of relief camps for migrant workers and the poor.
 - ✓ The committees have been constituted under the Section 35 of Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - ✓ The Section 35 (1) empowers the Union Government to take all the required measures that it considers ‘important’ as per the needs of the situation
 - ✓ The act empowers the Union Government to deploy military or paramilitary force in order to enforce guidelines issued under Disaster Management Act.
- **On April 24, two senior citizens died of Covid-19 - taking the state’s death toll to 22, while the total cases touched 1,755 with 72 more testing positive.**
- ✓ Chennai continued to be the epicenter of the infection in the state with 52 new cases, taking its total case count to 452.
 - ✓ Nine other districts reported cases in single digits.

- ✓ A 70-year-old woman who tested positive and was admitted to the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, on April 21, died on April 24.
- ✓ Hailing from Madurai, the woman is mother of a priest at the Meenakshi Amman Temple
- ✓ A 67-year-old man, a resident of Chennai, was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on April 14.
- ✓ He died on April 22 and his samples were tested positive for Covid-19 now

Keeping count | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has affected the State so far



Active Cases + Discharged + Died will not equal Total Cases as 2 deaths were cross-notified to other States and 1 patient, who initially tested positive for COVID-19, later tested negative after death, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department

- ✓ A total of 6,426 samples were tested today, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 72,403.
- ✓ On the day, the state discharged 114 patients from different hospitals, taking the total number of patients to 866
- ✓ The number of active cases stood at 864 in the State.
- ✓ The Madras Medical College and the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital were announced to be a part of a multi-centric trial for convalescent plasma therapy.
 - ✓ These institutes were selected for the trial being conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
 - ✓ The other centres are AIIMS and the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research.

- **On April 24, the State Government - announced a partnership with tech company HCL to set up a 'disaster management - data analytics centre'**
- ✓ The new centre is expected to strengthen the state's disaster management efforts against the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic.
- ✓ The centre will help capture data trends from across all districts of Tamil Nadu in 'real time' basis and display them 'live' to the Government

- ✓ This will facilitate the government's future decisions on degree of response needed for each district and also for graded relaxation of the current lockdown to resume economic activities.
- ✓ HCL operates the state's disaster management helpline (helpline -1070)
- ✓ The helpline is accessible to people across the state and delivers the first level of response in any emergency.
- ✓ HCL supports the helpline through technological upgradation, manpower assistance and effective reporting mechanisms
- ✓ The data analytics centre is housed in Ezhilagam building, Chepauk

NATIONAL

- **India's total Covid-19 count - stood close to the 25,000-mark, with 24,546 cases reported from the states, as on April 24.**
- ✓ The number of daily cases in the country dropped to 1,433, after hitting a peak of 1,755 just the day before
- ✓ The drop is mainly because of Maharashtra reporting a decline of nearly 50% from a record high of 778 registered a day before
- ✓ However, the number of deaths related to the virus jumped to what is probably the highest single-day toll of 54, taking the total to 780 so far — which amounts to a case-fatality ratio of around 3.2%.
- ✓ Maharashtra continued to report the highest number of deaths, with 18 on the day, Gujarat (15), Madhya Pradesh (8), Rajasthan (4) and Delhi (3).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh recorded two deaths each while one death each was recorded in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.
- ✓ On the positive side, 5,154 people — 21% of all positive cases — have recovered from the disease
- ✓ Maharashtra, the worst-affected state by a huge margin, reported 394 new cases on the day, taking its tally to 6,817.
- ✓ Delhi, in contrast, has one of the best recovery rates with 857 patients out of a total of 2,514 having been successfully treated for the disease.
 - ✓ However, the capital city reported a surge in the viral infection with 138 fresh cases on the day.
 - ✓ The Covid-19 death toll in Delhi is 53
- ✓ Gujarat showed a slight dip in new cases with 191 positive cases being confirmed.
 - ✓ The state's Covid-19 tally is 2,815, the second-highest in the country, and showing the fastest growth among big states over the past few days.
- ✓ Karnataka reported 29 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total to 474.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh recorded 62 new cases, taking overall positive tally to 955
 - ✓ With two new deaths being reported on the day, Andhra Pradesh's Covid-19 toll rose to 29

Changing hotspots

The burden of COVID-19 cases has come down lately in Kerala, while it has spiralled in Gujarat. Whereas Maharashtra has consistently recorded the highest share of India's cases

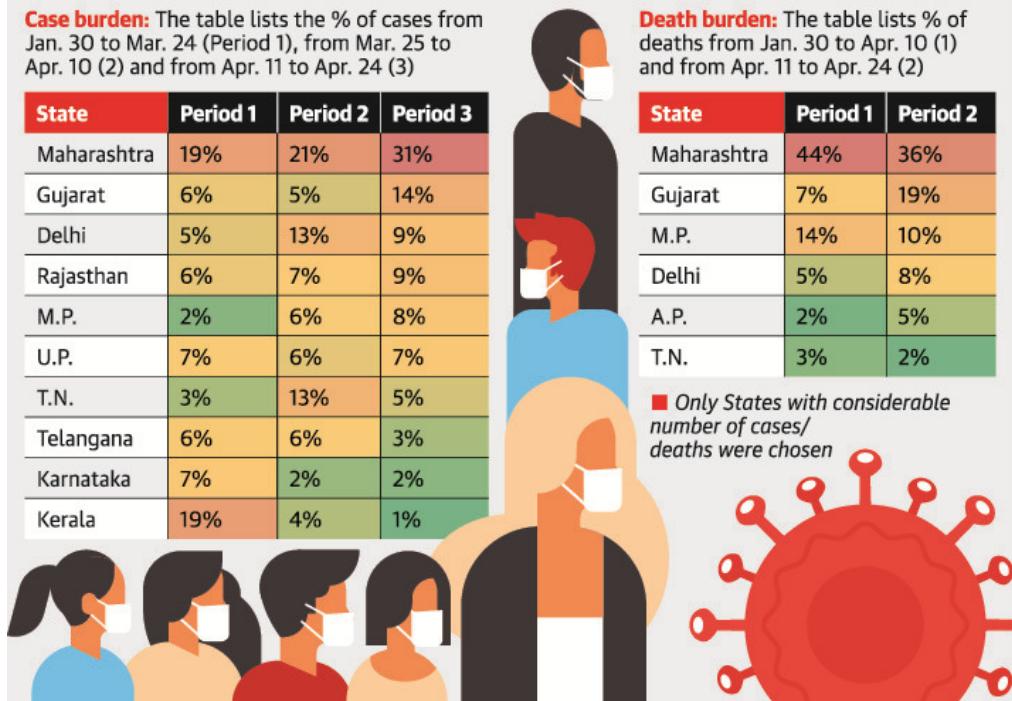
Case burden: The table lists the % of cases from Jan. 30 to Mar. 24 (Period 1), from Mar. 25 to Apr. 10 (2) and from Apr. 11 to Apr. 24 (3)

State	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Maharashtra	19%	21%	31%
Gujarat	6%	5%	14%
Delhi	5%	13%	9%
Rajasthan	6%	7%	9%
M.P.	2%	6%	8%
U.P.	7%	6%	7%
T.N.	3%	13%	5%
Telangana	6%	6%	3%
Karnataka	7%	2%	2%
Kerala	19%	4%	1%

Death burden: The table lists % of deaths from Jan. 30 to Apr. 10 (1) and from Apr. 11 to Apr. 24 (2)

State	Period 1	Period 2
Maharashtra	44%	36%
Gujarat	7%	19%
M.P.	14%	10%
Delhi	5%	8%
A.P.	2%	5%
T.N.	3%	2%

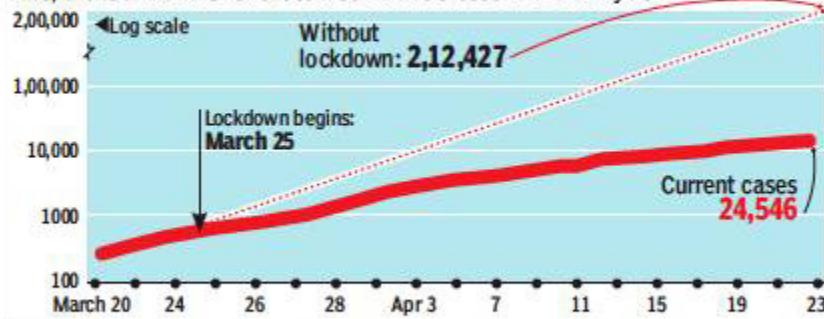
Only States with considerable number of cases/deaths were chosen



- ✓ Meanwhile, many districts have joined the list of areas without any fresh Covid-19 case in 28 days and 14 days, respectively.
- ✓ In the last 28 days, as many as 15 districts had no new case, whereas 80 districts had not reported any new coronavirus case in the last 14 days.
- ✓ According to Government estimates, the doubling time of positive cases had improved to 10 days in the past three days
- ✓ The doubling time has improved from 5.2 days during March 24-30 to 4.2 during March 31-April 6 and further to 8.6 during April 14-20.

WITHOUT LOCKDOWN WE MAY'VE HIT 2 LAKH BY NOW

The average daily growth in cases was 21.6% on March 24, a day before lockdown. This has since dropped to 8.1%. Had India continued to grow at that rate, the total number of cases would have crossed **2 lakh** by now



AT CURRENT GROWTH RATE

By end of next week
40,000 cases

In next 15 days
70,000

By end of May
2.5 lakh

On lockdown-eve,
2 states had 100+ cases
Kerala 109, Maha 107

A MONTH LATER, 7 STATES HAVE 1,000+ CASES

Maha	6,817
Gujarat	2,815
Delhi	2,514
Raj	2,034
TN	1,755
MP	1,914
UP	1,674

Kerala has only 450 cases so far

- ✓ The average daily growth in cases was 21.6% on March 24, which has now dropped to 8.1%
- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi - interacted with all the village sarpanchs across the country through video conferencing on April 24, on the occasion of the National Panchayati Raj Day 2020**



- ✓ During the interaction, the Prime Minister said the biggest message arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic was that the country should be self-reliant and self-sufficient for the majority of its needs.
- ✓ During the occasion, the Prime Minister launched a new portal and a scheme.
- ✓ **The portal is e-GramSwaraj portal and the scheme is Swamitva**
 - ✓ The e-GramSwaraj portal is designed to monitor rural infrastructure works and e-governance
 - ✓ The Swamitva programme will undertake mapping rural housing and land holdings via technology, including drones.
- ✓ The e-GramSwaraj portal is a new initiative of the Panchayati Raj Ministry
 - ✓ It aims to provide all the gram panchayats with one single platform to prepare and implement their gram panchayat development plan
 - ✓ The portal marks the complete digitization of villages and rural areas.
 - ✓ It can be accessed at egramswaraj.gov.in and is also available as a mobile app
 - ✓ The portal will also contain the details of ongoing development works and the fund allocated for them.
 - ✓ It will enhance transparency in de-centralised planning of development projects, progress reporting and work-based accounting on the whole.
- ✓ The Swamitva scheme will enable rapid development of rural areas by mapping all the village properties.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the inhabited land will be demarcated in rural areas by using the latest surveying methods using drone technology

- ✓ It will be undertaken with the collaborated efforts of the Survey of India, State Panchayati Raj Department, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and State Revenue Department.
- ✓ It will create records of land ownership in villages and these records will further facilitate tax collection, new building plan and issuance of permits.
- ✓ The scheme would help in reducing the disputes over property in rural areas
- ✓ It will also enable government in effectively planning the infrastructural programs in villages.
- ✓ The scheme is proposed to be initially launched in six states namely Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL

- The novel coronavirus - has killed more than 50,000 people in the U.S., after one of the deadliest days of the pandemic which saw 3,176 deaths on April 24

TRACKING OUTBREAK

Countries	Infected	Death	185
United States	883,826	50,373	countries/ regions hit
Spain	219,764	22,524	
Italy	192,994	25,969	
France	159,495	22,278	2,766,611+ infected globally
Germany	154,111	5,632	
United Kingdom	144,681	19,561	194,456+ have died
Turkey	104,912	2,600	
Iran	88,194	5,574	760,047+ have recovered
China	83,885	4,636	
Russia	68,622	615	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ It now has 870,468 confirmed cases.
- ✓ Globally, the number of infections have crossed 2.75 million and around 1.95 lakh people have succumbed to the disease
- On April 23, China - has announced to donate an additional \$30 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) in the battle against COVID-19.
- ✓ Earlier, on March 11, China had donated \$20 million to the WHO.
- ✓ The pledge for the donation from China came a week after U.S. President Donald Trump announced to suspend the funding to WHO

- ✓ WHO has been seeking the funding of more than \$1 billion to combat the ongoing pandemic, which has already killed around 1.95 lakh people worldwide.
 - ✓ The reason for U.S. criticism of WHO is attributed to the way it handled the outbreak of the virus in the early weeks of January
 - ✓ In 2019, US has contributed more than \$400 million to WHO, which is roughly 15% of the organization's budget.
- **China - has named its first Mars exploration mission as 'Tianwen-1', which is expected to be launched later this year**
- ✓ China's Mars mission will include an orbiter, a lander and a rover.
 - ✓ With the mission, China aims to be part of an elite league of other nations that have launched successful mars missions, which includes the United States, European Union, Russia and India.
 - ✓ The new Mars probe spacecraft has been developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), which is being managed by the National Space Science Centre (NSSC).
 - ✓ As per the Chinese authorities, henceforth, all the planetary missions are to be named as 'Tianwen' series.
 - ✓ The main objective of launching Tianwen-1 is to look out for evidence of both current and past life on Mars and to study the planet's environment for human living conditions.
 - ✓ 'Tianwen-1' in Chinese refers to 'heavenly questions' or 'questions to heaven', which is a poem written by a well-known Chinese poet Qu Yuan (340-278 BC).
 - ✓ The announcement was made on April 24, 2020, the day when China celebrated 'Space Day'
 - ✓ The 'Space Day' marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of its first-ever satellite 'Dong Fang Hong-1' in 1970.
 - ✓ China had begun its Mars programme in 2009 in association with Russia.
 - ✓ It had launched its Mars exploratory probe 'Yinghuo-1' aboard a Russian spacecraft in 2011, which failed shortly after the launch
 - ✓ Following this, China commenced its own Mars project.
 - ✓ India was the first Asian country to have successfully launched its Mars orbiter mission, Mangalyaan in 2014.
 - ✓ India was also the first nation to enter the Martian orbit in its first attempt.
 - ✓ It was the fourth country in the world to reach Mars after Russia, USA and European Union.
- **Iran - recently launched its first military satellite 'Noor', which is placed at an orbit of 425 km from Earth**
- ✓ This has resulted in further increasing the tensions between US and Iran, amidst COVID-19 crisis.
 - ✓ The Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps, IRGC launched the satellite, which is said to have been running with both solid and liquid fuel



- ✓ Iran has used 'Ghased' or Messenger satellite launcher to put the satellite in its orbit.
- ✓ In 2015, Iran signed the 'Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action' with US, France, UK, China, Germany and Russia.
- ✓ As per the plan, the nuclear usage and weapon production of Iran was supposed to have been stopped.
- ✓ However, the US walked out of the deal recently claiming Iran has violated the nuclear agreement.
- ✓ Apart from this, the US killed the most powerful military commander of Iran, General Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike recently.

ECONOMY

- **The World Bank - has stated that remittances to India are likely to drop down by 23% due to COVID-19 which has led to the global recession.**
- ✓ The drop will be from \$83 billion last year to \$64 billion this year.
- ✓ As per the estimates, globally remittances will see a sharp decline by about 20% in 2020 due to the economic crisis started by the pandemic and shutdowns
- ✓ In India, the projected fall will be about 23% in 2020, which will be a striking contrast to a growth of 5.5% in 2019.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Malaria Day – April 25**



- ✓ The day is observed to create awareness and mobilize resources to control Malaria apart from striving to empower communities to prevent it.

- ✓ The World Malaria Day was established by the World Health Organization at its 60th session in 2007.
- ✓ Prior to the World Malaria Day, Africa Malaria Day was established in 2001, following the signing by 44 countries at the African Summit on Malaria.
- ✓ Theme 2020 – ‘Zero Malaria Starts with me’
- ✓ As per the World Malaria Report, 2019, more than a billion people died of malaria in 2018.
- ✓ Malaria is one of the eight global public health campaigns that are observed by the WHO.
- ✓ The other 7 campaigns are World Tuberculosis Day, World AIDS Day, World Hepatitis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Immunization Week, World Blood Donor Day and World Health Day.

COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN INDIA – A REPORT

