

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 26, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- On April 25, Tamil Nadu - registered 66 new cases (38 men and 28 women) taking the total number of cases in the state to 1,821
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's biggest hotspot, Chennai, continued to record the most number of cases in the state
- ✓ On the day, Chennai has registered 43 new cases, taking the total number up to 495 in the district.

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

	Until April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	Total
Cases reported	1,372	105	43	76	33	54	72	66	1,821
Recovered and discharged	365	46	46	178	27	90	114	94	960
Deceased	15	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	23

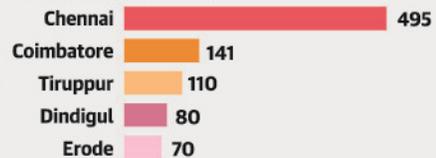
**Persons tested**



**In home quarantine**



**Districts with maximum cases**



Active cases	Discharged	Died	In hospitals	In quarantine facilities
864	866	22	1,846	19
835	960	23	1,865	25

\*Changes in 24 hours ■ As on April 24, 6 p.m. ■ As on April 25, 6 p.m.

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.

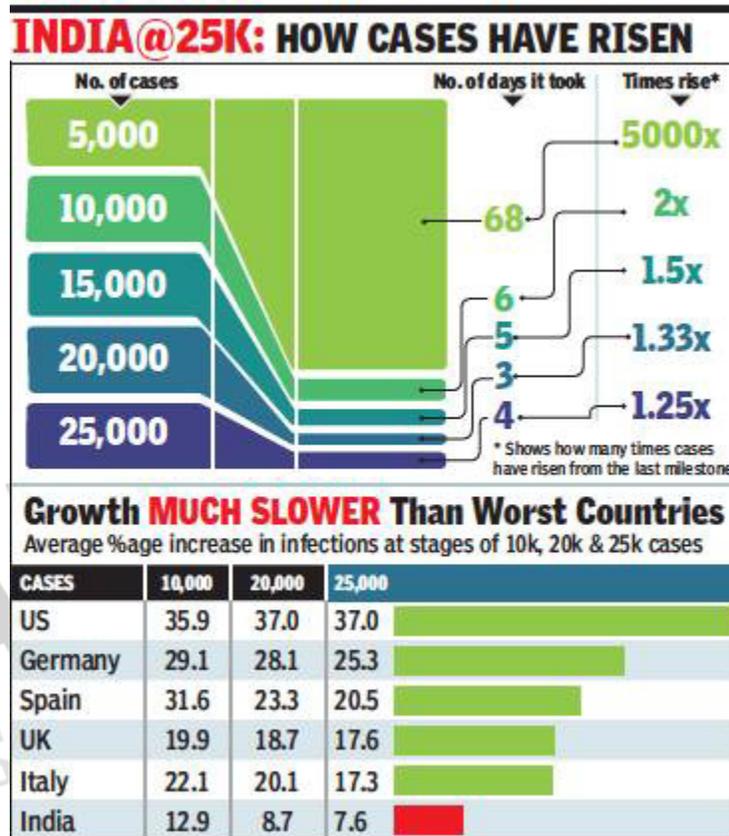
- ✓ A 36-year-old man, a resident of Kundrathur, who was admitted to Chromepet Government Hospital on April 24, died on the day after he tested positive for Covid-19.
- ✓ His death took the toll in the state to 23.
- ✓ The recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in Tamil Nadu crossed 52% when 94 patients were discharged on the day, taking the total number of people recovered from the infection to 960.
- ✓ With these discharges, the number of active cases in the state has come down to 835 on the day, from 864 on a day before

- ✓ Late on the day, Krishnagiri collector S Prabhakar declared the district's first case — a 43-year-old man, who was working in a private company in Mysuru, had tested positive in Hosur.
  - ✓ However, his name was not added to the state's count as samples have been sent to the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research in Chennai for verification
  - ✓ Till date, 80,110 samples have been tested in the State, while 72,965 individuals, have been tested.
  - ✓ A total of 7,131 people were tested on the day
  - ✓ The State's testing percentage is almost double than the average testing percentage of the country.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the number of testing facilities has increased from 34 to 41.
  - ✓ Seven new laboratories have been added in the government sector — National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai; Rajah Muthiah Medical College, Chidambaram; Government medical colleges in Karur, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpattu and Pudukottai and Dr. ALM PG Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Chennai.
  - ✓ With this, there are 30 testing facilities in the government and 11 in the private sector.
  - ✓ The State has the highest number of testing facilities in the government sector in the entire country.
  - ✓ With these labs, the State's testing capacity can go up to 10,000 samples a day
  - ✓ To boost the immunity of public, the government has allotted ₹3.5 crore for manufacturing of kabasura kudineer, an herbal concoction that consists of 14 ingredients.
- **On April 25, Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced the extension of service of doctors, nurses and technicians of health and family welfare department, who are due to retire on April 30, by another two months on 'contract basis'**
- ✓ They would be given consolidated pay by the Government for the extended 'contract' tenure.
  - ✓ The CM also announced that the state government will induct 1,323 nurses into service immediately.
  - ✓ This is part of the government's efforts to tackle the COVID-19 crisis in the state.
  - ✓ The doctors, nurses and technicians, who were to retire on March 31, have already been given extensions of service
  - ✓ Recently, the government had inducted 1,509 lab technicians, 530 doctors and 1,000 nurses into service.
  - ✓ They were recruited based on their performance in various competitive examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Recruitment Board

- ✓ The state health department has about 20,000 doctors working in the three directorates and at least 28,000 nurses, including 12,700 contract nurses, besides other technicians and healthcare workers.

## NATIONAL

- On April 25, India crossed the grim milestone of 25,000 Covid-19 cases — ending the day above 26,000 — after Maharashtra registered another record rise of 811 cases, with 602 of these in Mumbai alone.



- ✓ Maharashtra accounted for 50% of the day's national Covid-19 count
- ✓ The day witnessed the reporting of 1,715 cases, which was the second-highest recorded for a single day so far, 30 short of 1,755 reported on April 23.
- ✓ With this, the country's total number of Covid-19 cases stood at 26,270, as per latest figures collated from state governments
- ✓ This places the country at 16th spot among countries with the highest coronavirus counts.
- ✓ India also crossed the 800-mark in Covid deaths, with 43 reported on the day, taking the total number to 821.
- ✓ Maharashtra led in the death figures too by registering maximum 22 fresh fatalities (13 of these from Mumbai), followed by six deaths each in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, three in Rajasthan and two in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Delhi recorded one death, along with Tamil Nadu, UP and J&K.

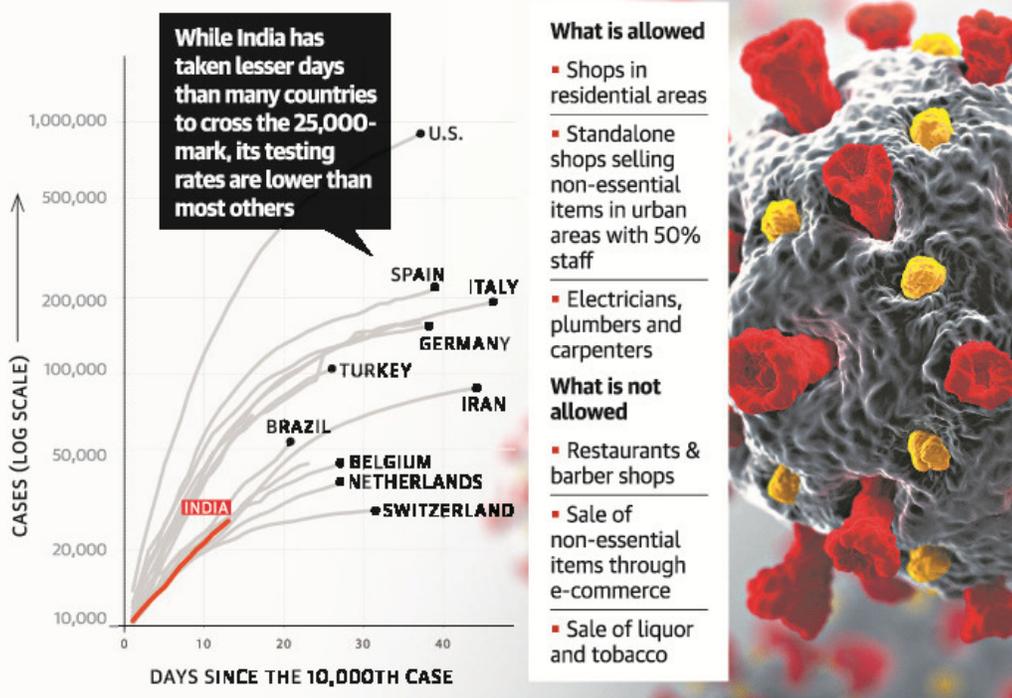
- ✓ On the day, Gujarat, where 256 new infections were reported, became the second Indian state to cross 3,000 cases
  - ✓ Gujarat's death toll is now 133, the second highest after Maharashtra.
- ✓ Delhi recorded 111 new Covid-19 cases, a slight dip from 138 cases reported a day before, taking its tally to 2,514.
  - ✓ With one more death, the toll in Delhi has risen to 53
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh registered the day's third-highest number of new cases at 122, taking the tally to 1,796 apart from the reporting of 15 deaths
- ✓ Mumbai further strengthened its position as the coronavirus capital of India with 602 more cases during the day
  - ✓ The country's financial capital has so far recorded 5,049 cases, nearly double that of second placed Delhi (2,625).
- ✓ Maharashtra's Covid tally crossed 7,000 mark to 7,628 cases, almost equal to the combined tally of the next three states — Gujarat, Delhi and Rajasthan.
- ✓ The Covid-19 cases in Bengal also on the rise, with the state recording 57 new cases taking its tally to 571.
  - ✓ Fifteen people have died due to the disease in the state, as per official figures.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, which had witnessed an explosion of cases last week, showed another dramatic drop in cases, with just 31 new ones on the day.
- ✓ Telangana's Covid-19 graph too took a big drop on the day, in a marked shift from the last week's rampage, with the reporting of only seven new cases
- ✓ With this, the total number of cases in the state reached 990, inching towards the 1,000 mark
  - ✓ The death total in the state remained at 25.
- ✓ On April 25, 40 days after the first case was reported on March 12, Andhra Pradesh's Covid-19 tally breached the 1,000-mark with 61 new positive cases.
  - ✓ Two more deaths were also reported taking the Covid-19 toll to 31.
- ✓ **Meanwhile, the Government has announced that India recorded 6% growth in new cases on a single day, from 8am on April 24 to 8am on April 25, which is the lowest daily growth rate recorded since the country crossed 100 cases**
- ✓ Since April 24, an increase of 1,429 cases has been reported, taking the total number of Covid-19 confirmed cases to 24,506 from 23,077 reported on the day by the health ministry
- ✓ The current death rate is around 3.1% while the recovery rate is more than 20%, which is comparatively better than several countries
- ✓ As per the health ministry, the average doubling rate of the country is 9.1 days as of now.
- ✓ The timely measures undertaken by the Governments and the implementation of lockdown helped improve the doubling time from 5.2 days in the last week of March to almost 10 days in last three days.
- ✓ So far, 5,062 people have been cured with a recovery rate of 20.66%.

- ✓ **Meanwhile, amid common concerns associated with airconditioning, ventilation and the spread of coronavirus, Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioner Engineers has released new guidelines to be followed by the general public**
- ✓ As per the think tank, the air-conditioner temperature should be ideally set between 24°C and 30°C and humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70%.
- ✓ The guidelines suggest that survival of virus decreases progressively at temperatures of 20.5°C to 24°C and further decreases at more than 30°C.
- ✓ As per the guidelines, it's better to ventilate indoor environments with outdoor air as much as possible to check the risk of Covid-19 infection by air
  
- **The Panels set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) - have submitted the reports on the recommendations for a revised academic calendar and suggestions for conducting examinations, at a time when the country is under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ According to a panel led by Haryana University vice-chancellor R C Kuhad, the new academic year for universities and colleges can start from September instead of July in view of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ This committee was formed to look into ways of conducting exams in universities amid the lockdown and work on an alternative academic calendar.
- ✓ The next panel, led by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) V-C Nageshwar Rao, has recommended conducting 'online' exams wherever possible.
  - ✓ This committee was set up to suggest measures to improve online education
- ✓ Both the panels submitted their reports on April 24
- ✓ The ministry of human resources development is likely to issue a notification next week after studying the reports.
- ✓ If the recommendations are accepted, students may not have winter holidays next academic year, and colleges may have to work on Saturdays and holidays to compensate for the lost working days.
  
- **The Government - has declared the banking industry as a 'Public Utility Service' for six months till October 21, under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.**
- ✓ The Union Labour ministry issued the notification recently, amid the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The law has been brought into effect from April 21, 2020.
- ✓ Following the announcement, the banking sector employees or officers would not be able to take part in any strikes during the operation of the act.
- ✓ The Public Utility Services are those services that operate as public service corporation, providing essential services to the general public

- ✓ All public sector banks and old generation private sector banks such as ICICI, HDFC, Axis Bank and Federal Bank are a part of the Indian Banks' Association. (IBA)
  - ✓ Also, some of the old generation foreign banks including HSBC, Citibank and Standard Chartered Bank are also a part of IBA.
  - ✓ All of these banks come under wage settlements and other employee issues that can be taken up by IBA.
  - ✓ The new generation private sector banks such as IndusInd, Yes Bank and Kotak Bank are outside the purview of IBA norms.
  - ✓ The Industrial Disputes act, 1947 regulates Indian labour laws.
    - ✓ It is applicable to only the organized sector.
- **On April 25, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) - clarified that all shops in rural areas, except those in malls, are allowed to open.**
- ✓ In urban areas, all standalone and neighbourhood shops and those in residential complexes are allowed to function with minimum staff, but not those in markets, market complexes and shopping malls.

## Up, up and away

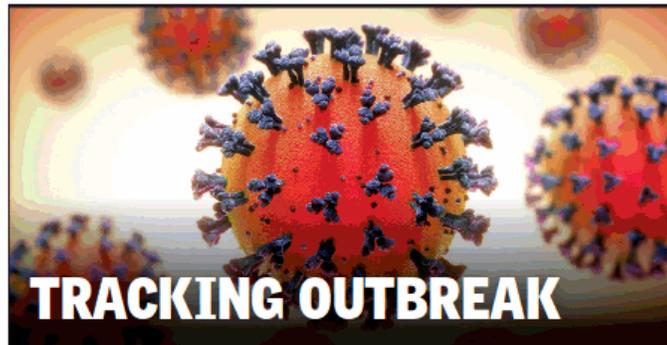
The chart shows the day-wise progression of cases from the 10,000th case in countries which have recorded at least 25,000. Only 16 countries have crossed that mark



- ✓ As per the Ministry, the relaxation was granted only to shops selling items and hence, all restaurants, salons and barber shops would remain closed as they “render services”
- ✓ The statement also added that liquor shops continued to be prohibited and e-commerce platforms could only be used for the sale of essential items.

## INTERNATIONAL

- Globally, the total COVID-19 deaths have climbed past 2 lakhs, even though the new reported cases appear to have stabilised at about 80,000 a day.
- ✓ The U.S. is the hardest-hit by far in the pandemic, recording more than 52,000 deaths and about 9.25 lakh infections.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	924,576	<b>52,782</b>	<b>185</b> countries/ regions hit
Spain	223,759	<b>22,902</b>	
Italy	195,351	<b>26,384</b>	<b>2,865,938+</b> infected globally
France	159,952	<b>22,279</b>	
Germany	155,418	<b>5,805</b>	<b>200,698+</b> have died
United Kingdom	149,554	<b>20,380</b>	
Turkey	107,773	<b>2,706</b>	<b>810,327+</b> have recovered
Iran	89,328	<b>5,650</b>	
China	83,901	<b>4,636</b>	
Russia	74,588	<b>681</b>	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ On April 25, Britain passed the grim milestone of over 20,000 COVID-19 deaths, as the daily toll rose 813 to a cumulative tally of 20,319 people, who were tested positive for the illness and died in hospital.
- ✓ The country has the fifth highest official toll in the world, after the United States, Italy, Spain and France.
- ✓ Globally, 2.8 million people were reported to be affected by the viral pandemic across 185 countries.

## APPOINTMENTS

- On April 25, retired IAS officer Sanjay Kothari - took oath as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)
- ✓ He was the former secretary to President, Ram Nath Kovind
- ✓ Kothari was administered oath by President Kovind at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- ✓ The event was attended by PM Narendra Modi and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, among others
- ✓ Kothari was replaced by Kapil Dev Tripathi as the next secretary to President on April 20, 2020
- ✓ A retired officer of the 1978 batch, Kothari was shortlisted as CVC by a high-powered panel headed by PM Modi in February, 2020.



- ✓ The CVC is appointed by President, based on the recommendation of the committee comprising of the Leader of Opposition and Minister of Home Affairs
  - ✓ The Central Vigilance Commissioner carries out corruption investigations against government officials after obtaining due permission of the Government.
  - ✓ He does not have powers to register criminal cases, but can deal only with vigilance and disciplinary cases.
  - ✓ Also, the CVC cannot direct the CBI officials to initiate inquiries.
  - ✓ The Vigilance Awareness Week is celebrated every year in the last week of October, coinciding with the birthday of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Iron Man of India
- **T S Tirumurti, Secretary in the external affairs ministry – was announced as the country's next ambassador to the United Nations**
- ✓ He will be taking over from Syed Akbaruddin who will retire soon.

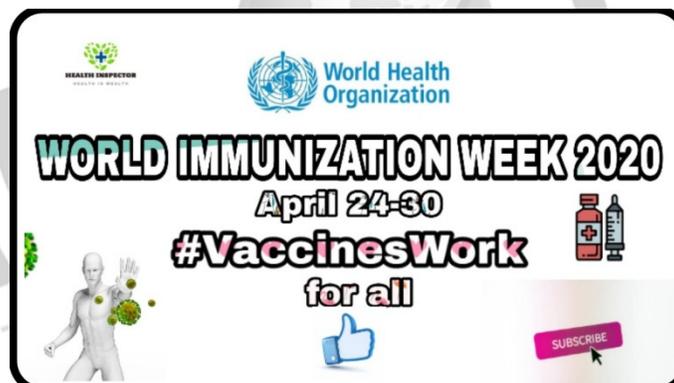


- ✓ Akbaruddin had a successful stint at the UN during his tenure
- ✓ He was instrumental in getting the body to announce Masood Azhar as a 'global terrorist' and preventing Chinese officials to bring the Kashmir issue to the UNSC.

- ✓ India will become a non-permanent member at the UNSC for a two-year term in 2021-22
- ✓ India's envoy to Brussels and European Union, Gaitri Kumar, will be the next high commissioner to the UK.
- ✓ Gaitri takes over from Ruchi Ghanshyam, who is expected to retire from service later this summer.
- ✓ Santosh Jha, currently India's ambassador to Uzbekistan will take over as the next ambassador to the EU in Brussels.
- ✓ Raveesh Kumar, former spokesperson of MEA, has been named as the next ambassador to Finland, taking over from Vani Rao.
- ✓ Jaideep Mazumdar, who is India's ambassador to the Philippines, will go to Austria as the new ambassador.
  - ✓ He will represent India at the UN in Vienna as well as be India's representative at the IAEA.

## INTERNATIONAL WEEK

- **World Immunization Week – Last week of April**



- ✓ The week is observed to create awareness of immunization for the betterment of the society.
- ✓ Theme 2020 – ‘Vaccines Work for all’
- ✓ According to the World Health Organization, immunization can protect people from 25 different infectious disease-causing agents or diseases.
- ✓ English Physician, Edward Jenner developed the first vaccine to immunize against the small pox disease in 1796.
- ✓ Usually, the vaccine programmes take a long time to come into effect.
- ✓ For instance, the Ebola Vaccine programme, which was launched in 2014, became effective only in 2016 and finally approved for medical use in US only in 2016

