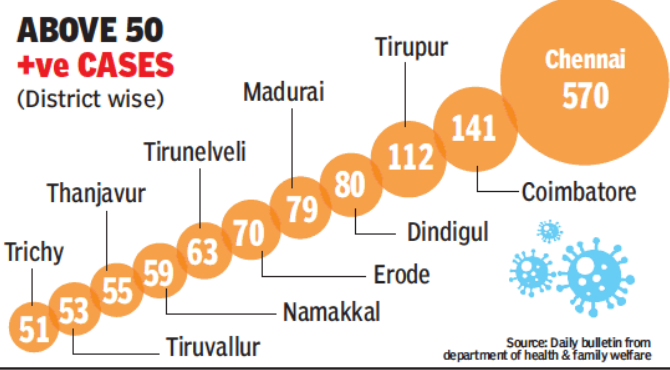
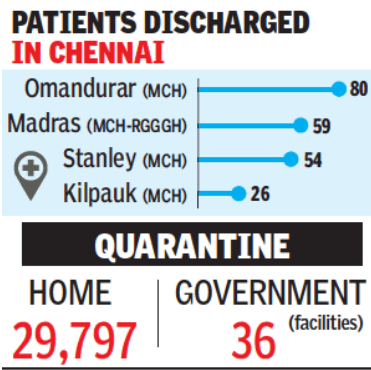
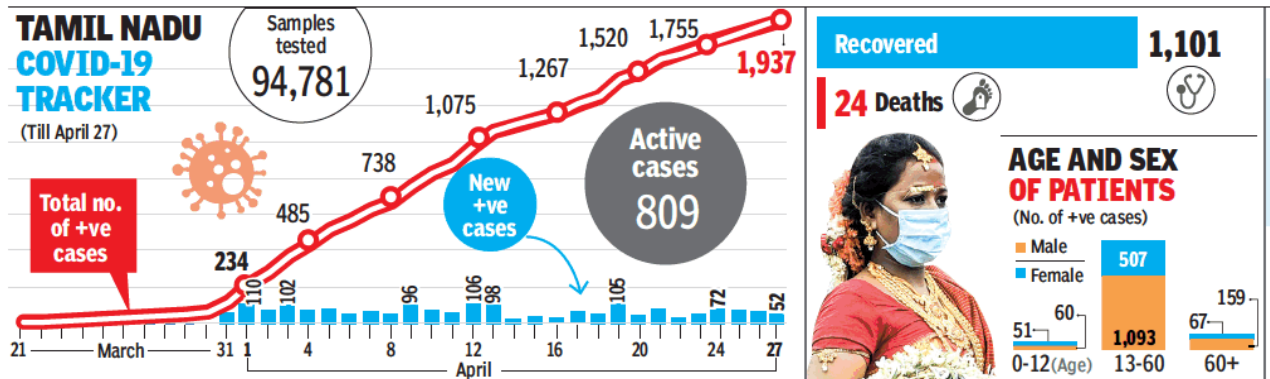


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 28, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – reported 52 (33 men and 19 women) Covid-19 positive cases on April 27, taking the state’s total to 1,937.
- ✓ Out of the 52 cases, Chennai alone registered 47 positive cases, followed by Madurai with four cases and Villupuram with one case.
- ✓ As on date, there were 809 people under treatment in various hospitals across the state.
- ✓ No deaths were reported on the day.



- ✓ Six of 52 cases were primary cases — which were unlinked to any source of infection for which a detailed investigation was under progress — and the remaining persons were contacts of COVID-19 patients.
 - ✓ On the day, two new clusters have been identified in Chennai – one, a vegetable seller, who had tested positive two days ago, living at Padi Kuppam, about 3km from Koyambedu, with at least 13 close contacts of him getting infected.
 - ✓ Another, a barber, who has a shop on Kaliamman Koil Street in Virugambakkam, also about 2.5km from the Koyambedu market, also testing positive
 - ✓ The barber has been offering haircuts illegally, leading to the launch of a massive contact-tracing exercise for about 30 persons by the officials
 - ✓ Chennai is witnessing an average case of 32, at the moment, way higher than an average daily increase of 17 cases a day reported in the first week of April
 - ✓ Meanwhile, 81 people were discharged from various hospitals, taking the total number of people discharged to 1,101.
 - ✓ Of the 1,937 people who tested positive so far, 1,312 were men and 625 were women.
 - ✓ Regarding the age breakup, there were 111 people below the age of 12, 1,600 people between 13 and 60 and 226 people above the age of 60
- **On April 27, the Tamil Nadu government – announced the freezing of dearness allowance (DA) and leave surrender facility for government employees, in an effort to boost revenue sources to help in its fight against Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ The government has announced that there won't be any hike in DA this financial year, in line with the Centre's earlier decision for its employees
 - ✓ The move is expected to help the exchequer save ₹4,950 crore.
 - ✓ Besides, the savings on account of freezing the earned leave surrender facility is expected to bring another ₹2,450 crore to the Government.
 - ✓ The freezing of encashment of earned leave is also for one year period.
 - ✓ The move is expected to impact around 18 lakh government employees, teachers, pensioners and family pensioners.
 - ✓ The order is applicable to teaching and non-teaching staff working in aided educational institutions, employees in local bodies, employees governed by UGC and All India Council for Technical Education
 - ✓ The order shall also be applicable to all constitutional, statutory bodies, including state corporations, local bodies, boards, universities, commissions, companies, institutions and societies

NATIONAL

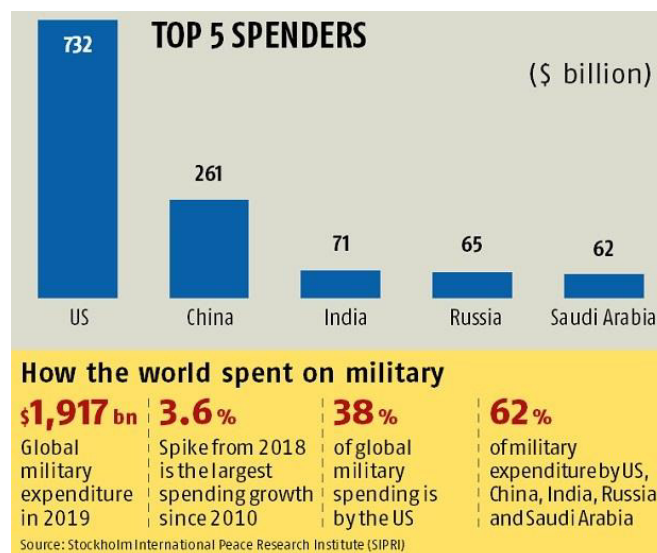
- **India's Covid-19 count - inched close to the 30,000-mark, as the day's count increased to 1,709 and the total cases to 29,571.**

- ✓ The death toll from the virus rose drastically to 58, the highest reported so far in a single day.
- ✓ With this, the number of deaths caused due to Covid-19 in the country has now risen to 937, with more than 50 deaths being reported for the third consecutive day.
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded 27 new Covid-19 deaths, its highest single-day toll, followed by Gujarat (11), Rajasthan (9), Madhya Pradesh (7) and West Bengal (2).
- ✓ One death each was reported from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh as well.
- ✓ Maharashtra and Gujarat continued to report high numbers with 522 and 247 new cases respectively
- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, Indore reported 196 new cases, taking its total to 1,372.
- ✓ In Delhi, 190 more people tested positive for Covid-19, lower than 293 reported a day before
- ✓ Of the 369 deaths recorded in Maharashtra, 219 have occurred in Mumbai alone, as per government data.
 - ✓ The state reported 522 new Covid-19 cases on the day, taking its tally to 8,590.
 - ✓ Of the new cases added in the state, Mumbai contributed to 70% or 369 cases.
 - ✓ Mumbai case tally now stands at 5,776.
- ✓ In Gujarat, Ahmedabad too is emerging as a cause of concern as the city's Covid-19 death rate is 4.7%, much higher than Mumbai's (3.8%).
 - ✓ Ahmedabad accounts for 67.5% of Gujarat's total deaths in the pandemic.
- ✓ In Rajasthan, nine Covid-19 deaths were reported, taking the state's toll to 50.
 - ✓ Rajasthan also recorded 77 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking its cumulative total to 2262.
- ✓ Bihar reported its highest single-day tally of Covid-19 positive cases so far with 68 people testing positive on the day, taking the total number of cases to 345.
- ✓ In Jharkhand, the number of Covid-19 cases crossed the three-figure-mark as the state reported 23 fresh cases.
 - ✓ The figure also the highest single-day spike in the number of cases, far above 16 cases reported on the previous day.
 - ✓ The state has now recorded 103 cases and two deaths due to the novel coronavirus.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh reported 86 new cases taking the state's tally to 1,963.
 - ✓ It recorded one more death, taking the toll to 31.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh recorded 80 more Covid-19 positive cases, taking the overall tally to 1,177.
- ✓ On April 27, Telangana reported only two new positive cases, which is the lowest for a day in more than 40 days.
 - ✓ Telangana Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced that 21 of 33 districts would have no coronavirus active cases on April 28.

- ✓ This would be more than 60% of the cases in the state, which will be free of Covid-19
- ✓ The rate of recovery of patients in the state is 97% in the state.

➤ **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - has asked states to stop using the rapid test kits and return them to be sent back to the suppliers**

- ✓ The move follows the evaluation of rapid antibody testing kits in field conditions by ICMR, which have shown wide variations in sensitivity
 - ✓ The rapid tests were intended for surveillance purpose and for tracking of trends in hotspots and low-prevalence areas
 - ✓ The RT-PCR test remains the Gold standard of confirming Covid-19 infection.
 - ✓ The ICMR also noted that it has not made any payment in respect of the supply of these rapid test kits.
 - ✓ These kits were supplied by two Chinese companies — Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech and Zhuhai Livzon Diagnostics
 - ✓ On April 16, the ICMR received a consignment of 5,50,000 of test kits from the two Chinese companies.
 - ✓ Rajasthan was the first State to start using the kits on April 18
 - ✓ Various states, including Rajasthan, found patients already confirmed through RT-PCR tests being reported negative by the rapid test kits.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar announced that the state will be returning 24,000 rapid test kits to suppliers, as advised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- **For the first time, India - has emerged among the top three countries in the world in terms of military expenditure**
- ✓ However, it has to be noted that the US spends more than 10 times and China almost four times than the defence budget of India.



- ✓ This was revealed by the latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on April 27
 - ✓ As per the report, the global military expenditure rose to \$1,917 billion in 2019, a rise of 3.6% from 2018.
 - ✓ Globally, the five biggest military spenders were the US (\$732 billion), China (\$261 billion), India (\$71.1 billion), Russia (\$65.1 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$61.9 billion)
 - ✓ These five countries together account for 62% of the global spending on military
 - ✓ The \$71.1 billion spent by India on defence in 2019 was 2.4% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
 - ✓ In this regard, India was at the fourth position in 2018 with Saudi Arabia at the third.
 - ✓ Pakistan (\$10.3 billion) was ranked 24th in the top-40 list, compared to 19th in 2018
 - ✓ This is the first time that two Asian states (China was second in 2018 also, but India was fourth) have featured among the top three military spenders
 - ✓ India's annual military expenditure includes a huge pension bill for 3.3 million veterans and defence civilians.
 - ✓ In the 2020-21 defence budget, for instance, the pension bill was almost \$18 billion out of the total \$63 billion.
 - ✓ Globally, India is also the second-largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia.
 - ✓ As per SIPRI, China's military expenditure reached \$261 billion in 2019, a 5.1% increase compared with 2018, while India's grew by 6.8% to \$71.1 billion
 - ✓ After China and India, Japan (\$47.6 billion) and South Korea (\$43.9 billion) were the largest military spenders in the Asia and Oceania region.
- **On April 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - held his 3rd video conference with the state Chief Ministers to discuss the way forward for the country in its battle against coronavirus pandemic.**



- ✓ Home Minister Amit Shah also attended the meeting

- ✓ During the interaction with the CMs, the Prime Minister stated that the impact of coronavirus will remain visible in the coming months and masks and face covers will have to be a part of daily life
- ✓ The PM stressed that all efforts should be made to convert the red zones (where cases have occurred in the past 14 days) to orange (where cases have not occurred in 14 days) and green zones (where no cases have occurred in 28 days).
- ✓ During the interaction, most states wanted the lockdown to continue with some easing of curbs depending on the situation in a particular area
- ✓ The CMs of north-eastern states, Himachal, Uttarakhand and some others like Odisha and Bihar felt it would be premature to lift the lockdown with fresh cases occurring and hotspots notified every day.
- ✓ In this scenario, the national lockdown is expected to be replaced with a graded with least restrictions in green zones or districts with low prevalence or no Covid-19 cases, while tough stipulations will remain in red zones which include major cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The PM highlighted the importance of enforcing guidelines, including social distancing, strictly in hotspots
- ✓ PM Modi emphasized on the important of ensuring that more and more people download the Aarogya Setu app to 'stay safe' and boost the nation's efforts in the battle against coronavirus
- ✓ In his written statement, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami reiterated several of his requests made earlier to Prime Minister, including release of funds and provision of more PCR kits.
 - ✓ The State is planning to increase the number of tests for COVID-19 to 10,000 a day.
 - ✓ Presently, the State has 30 government and 11 private labs for COVID testing, with a capacity of 7,500 tests per day.

TN SEEKS RICE SUBSIDY, PCR KITS

CM Edappadi Palaniswami on Monday sought assistance from PM Modi to battle the pandemic. These were his demands

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Immediate fund for procuring medical equipment > Supply of more PCR kits to increase tests to 10,000 a day > Additional allocation of grain free for all cardholders > Release of custom milled rice subsidy of ₹1,321 crore > Transport subsidy to farmer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> producers' organisation > Support to MSMEs for payment of salaries, PF, ESI dues on their behalf Deferring payment of GST advance tax and income tax for six months to help MSMEs > Release of 50% of finance commission grants to local bodies for current fiscal now
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- ✓ The Prime Minister held the first video conference with the state Chief Ministers on March 20 to discuss the strategies to be used in checking the spread of novel coronavirus.

- ✓ Following this, on March 24, the Prime Minister had announced the 21-day nation-wide lockdown.
- ✓ The second video conference of the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers was held on April 11, to decide on the extension of the initial 21-day lockdown by another two weeks.
 - ✓ Following the meeting, the Prime Minister extended the lockdown till May 3, 2020 on April 14, which was the last day of the lockdown
- **The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in 112 aspirational districts - accounts for only 2.3% of total cases in the entire country**
- ✓ Overall, as on April 24, only 532 coronavirus positive cases have been reported from the 112 aspirational districts or most backward ones, indicating the efficient handling by the district administrations
- ✓ These districts comprise 18% of the population.
- ✓ The district administrations have developed a number of innovative practices to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for doctors, promote hand hygiene and social distancing measures, manufacturing of face covers and other steps
- ✓ The government's economic think tank Niti Aayog launched the aspirational districts programme in January 2018
 - ✓ The main aim of the programme is to fast-track the socio-economic development of these backward districts.
 - ✓ Under the programme, the district administration are urged to monitor on various parameters of health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure through real-time data.
- **India's Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry - became the top exporting sector for the first time during the April 2019 – January 2020 period of the last fiscal year.**
- ✓ India's chemical exports increased by 7.43% to Rs 2.68 lakh crore rupees between the said period.
- ✓ This constitutes 14.35% of the total exports made by the country.
- ✓ Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, DV Sadananda Gowda congratulated the industry and assured full support to make India a leading global hub for the manufacturing of chemicals and petrochemicals.
- **King George Medical University, Lucknow - has become the first government hospital in India to launch Plasma Therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, following the approval of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).**

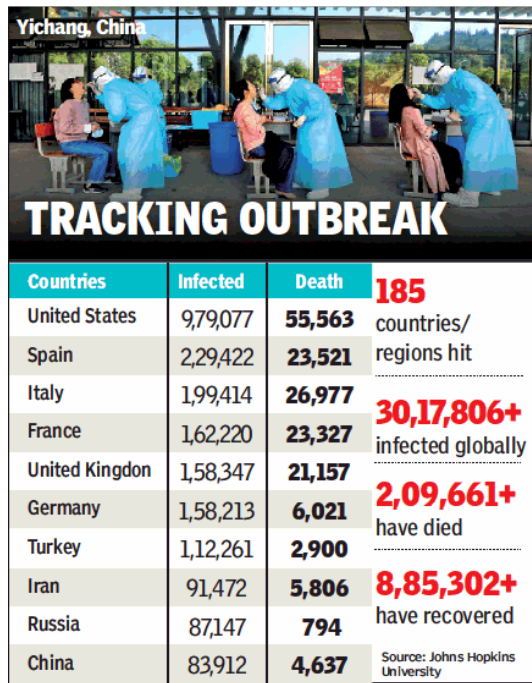


King George Medical University in Lucknow becomes 1st govt hospital in country to successfully launch Plasma Therapy Treatment for COVID-19

- ✓ A 58- year old doctor has become the first patient of COVID-19 at the King George Medical University to receive Plasma therapy
- ✓ The therapy will be an experimental trial for the treatment of COVID-19 disease
- ✓ The patient was administered the plasma donated by a woman doctor from Canada, who recovered from the disease.
- ✓ She was the first COVID-19 patient who was admitted to the King George Medical Hospital.
- ✓ As per the doctors, the patient will be under observation and if required will be given the second dose of plasma later in the day or on April 28
- ✓ During the therapy, a blood component from a cured patient of COVID-19 has been transfused to the critically ill Coronavirus patient.
 - ✓ Once the blood plasma of the recovered patient has been infused in the sick patient, the antibodies from the cured person's blood will start fighting against the virus present in the sick patient's body.
 - ✓ The process of donating plasma is same like the process of donating blood, which takes just about an hour

INTERNATIONAL

- **The global confirmed coronavirus cases - surpassed 3 million on April 27, while the number of cases in the United States is nearing the 1 million mark.**
- ✓ The US has reported an average of more than 30,000 new cases a day in the past week, and now represents around a third of all new cases.
- ✓ Globally, an average of 82,000 cases has been reported per day in the past week.
- ✓ The toll stood at more than 209,000 as on date.
- ✓ Some severely affected countries in Europe, including Italy, France and Spain, have reported a drop in daily case numbers over recent weeks
- ✓ However, they have still reported 2,000-5,000 new infections per day in the past week
- ✓ Russia overtook China in the number of confirmed cases on the day, when its tally climbed above 87,000



- ✓ Italy, which has the world’s second-highest rate of virus deaths, will allow factories to reopen from May 4 as it prepares a staggered end to Europe’s longest lockdown.
- ✓ In US, although the number of cases and death are now seeing a daily decline, the virus is seen to continue transmitting asymptotically
- ✓ The country has reported 1344 deaths and 27,284 cases on April 26, nearly 50% down from its peak figures.
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - has expanded its list of possible symptoms of the coronavirus**



- ✓ The federal health agency said on its website that the following coronavirus symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus - **chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.**
- ✓ The new symptoms were listed out based on the observations of doctors treating thousands of patients in the pandemic

- ✓ The move is seen as a step that reflects the broad variation and unpredictability in the way the illness can affect individual patients
- ✓ Previously the CDC had listed just three symptoms - fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- ✓ However, the CDC made no public announcement this time, when it added the six new symptoms to its website on April 18
- ✓ The revised CDC list differs from the symptoms described by the WHO on its website.
- ✓ As per the WHO, the most common symptoms of the Covid-19 are fever, dry cough and tiredness.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On April 27, the government - sent a consignment of medical gloves to Sri Lanka, building upon its early Saarc Covid-19 initiative**
- ✓ Earlier, India has gifted a consignment of about 13 tonnes of essential life-saving medicines, including hydroxychloroquine, to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Apart from providing essential medicines to its Saarc neighbours, the government is also imparting online training to the emergency response teams of these countries to assist them in their efforts to deal with Covid-19.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs is also conducting short training live webinars for healthcare professionals on Covid Management Strategies and related aspects.
 - ✓ The first such webinar “COVID-19 Pandemic: Prevention and Management Guidelines for Health Care Professionals” was organised at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur this month.
 - ✓ Eleven medical officers of the ministry of health of Sri Lanka participated.
- ✓ Apart from Sri Lanka, India has similarly shipped medicines and other Covid-related equipment to the Maldives, another Indian Ocean neighbour
- ✓ On April 27, 2020, India sent 1 lakh Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) tablets, 50,000 sterile surgical gloves and other emergency medical supplies to Bangladesh
 - ✓ Earlier, India had provided 15,000 head covers and 30,000 surgical masks to Bangladesh in the first shipment of assistance under COVID-19 emergency fund
- ✓ The emergency fund was created by PM Modi during his interaction with the SAARC leaders on March 15, 2020 with India contributing USD 10 million.
 - ✓ Maldives and Bhutan contributed USD 200,000 and USD 100,000 respectively towards the funds.
 - ✓ Pakistan had contributed USD 3 million, while Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal have contributed USD 1.5 million each.
 - ✓ So far, the funds accumulated is USD 21.8 million.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A Massive Asteroid 1998 OR2 – is expected to zoom past Earth on 29th April 2020, as per the details shared by the NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies**
 - ✓ However it poses no threat to us or our planet, as confirmed by the space agency.
 - ✓ According to NASA, the asteroid 52768 (1998 OR2), which is expected to be 1.8 to 4.1 kilometres wide, will travel past earth at an astonishing pace of 19,461 miles per hour.
 - ✓ The Asteroid will be closest to planet Earth at 3:26 PM IST on April 29.
 - ✓ The asteroid will fly by earth at a distance of 6.2 million kilometres, which is quite far.
 - ✓ The distance between Earth and Moon is 3,85,000 km, as compared to that the asteroid 1998 OR2 will be around 16 times further from Earth.
 - ✓ By definition, any object that comes within 19.5 times the distance of Earth and Moon are classified as 'Potentially Hazardous' by NASA.
 - ✓ The asteroid will be invisible to the naked eye.
 - ✓ In order to view the asteroid from earth, one would need at least a 6-inch or 8-inch telescope and clear skies.

ECONOMY

- **On April 27, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - provided a special facility with an initial corpus of ₹50,000 crore for mutual funds to borrow from using the banking channel.**
 - ✓ The move comes in the wake of last week's surprise decision by Franklin Templeton MF to wind down six of its debt funds
 - ✓ These debt funds were amounting nearly ₹25,900 crore before the closing down
 - ✓ Under RBI's new facility, named 'Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds' (SLFMF), banks are allowed to borrow from RBI for a maximum of 90 days and then in turn lend the money to mutual funds against collateral in their portfolio.
 - ✓ After 90 days, the fund houses will have to repay the bank and take back the collateral deposited.
 - ✓ The banks in turn will return the money to RBI.
 - ✓ On March 27, RBI announced its first stimulus package to help the economy cope with the Coronavirus pandemic-related disruptions
 - ✓ Since then, the mutual fund houses have been demanding a similar line of funding from the central bank.
 - ✓ Earlier, such special fund facilities were used during the global financial crisis in 2008 and during the currency crisis in 2013.
 - ✓ The scheme is available from Monday i.e., April 27, 2020 till May 11, 2020 or up to utilisation of the allocated amount.

CORONA HOTSPOTS IN TAMIL NADU – A REPORT

SPREAD OF THE MENACE

The map shows Covid-19 spread across districts in Tamil Nadu

Red Zone: >15 cases or doubling time <4days

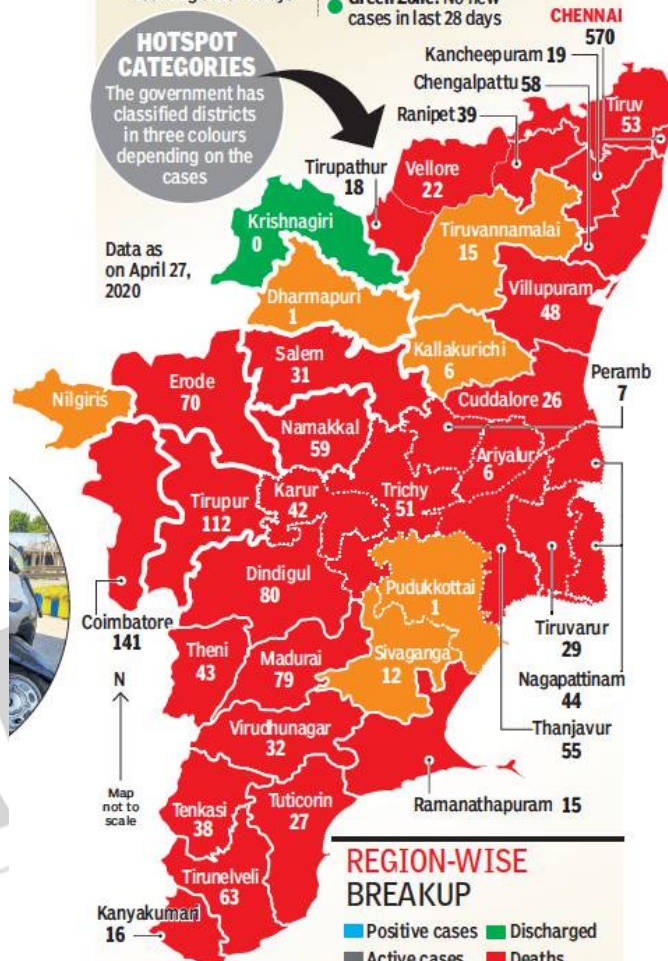
Orange Zone: <15 cases

Green Zone: No new cases in last 28 days

HOTSPOT CATEGORIES

The government has classified districts in three colours depending on the cases

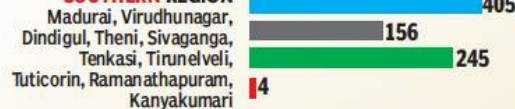
Data as on April 27, 2020



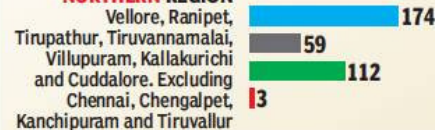
REGION-WISE BREAKUP

Positive cases (Blue), Discharged (Green), Active cases (Grey), Deaths (Red)

SOUTHERN REGION



NORTHERN REGION



WESTERN REGION



CENTRAL REGION

