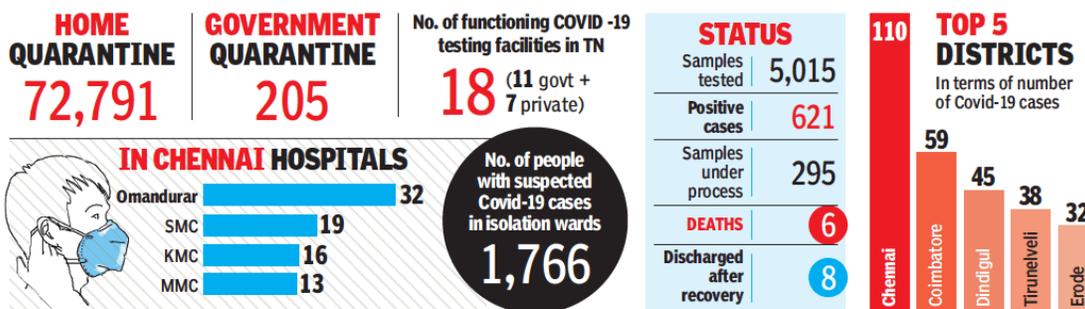
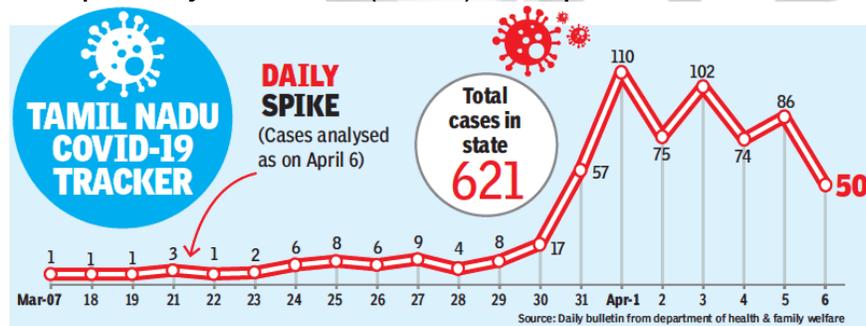


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 7, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The State's coronavirus toll – went up to six on April 6, with the death of a 57-year-old woman in Chennai
- ✓ The woman was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) on April 5 and died on the next day



- ✓ The number of Covid-19 positive cases in the state went up to 621 on April 6, as 50 more people – 48 of them from the Tablighi Jamaat cluster -- tested positive
- ✓ Chennai is topping the list with 110 cases as on date
- ✓ It is followed by Coimbatore, which has 59 cases, while Dindigul has 45 cases.
- ✓ A total of 5,015 samples have been tested till date, out of which 295 samples are still under process.
- ✓ A total of 72,791 persons are under home quarantine, while 19,060 persons have completed the 28-day quarantine period.

- ✓ Another 205 persons are in government quarantine facilities.
- ✓ Meanwhile, aggressive containment plans have been initiated in 32 districts by the respective administrations, where at least 40 lakh people from more than 11 lakh households were screened
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has announced free treatment for frontline staff of its essential services departments, in case they were tested positive for coronavirus.**
 - ✓ The free-of-cost treatment will be provided to the government employees both in government and private hospitals.
 - ✓ They will also get ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh, as per the Government announcement.
 - ✓ This is applicable to all categories of officials dealing with Covid-19 prevention work and belonging to health and family welfare, revenue and disaster management, police, sanitary and conservancy employees of rural and urban local bodies
 - ✓ The officials of other departments directly involved in Covid-19 prevention, identification, quarantine and treatment activities are also eligible for the free treatment.
- **Tamil Nadu - has finished as the Topmost state at the all-India level for micro-irrigation coverage, in the just-concluded financial year 2019-20**
 - ✓ This has been achieved as part of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) across the state
 - ✓ The PMKSY is a central government scheme that is aimed at promoting the “more crop per drop” concept by focusing on water-saving technologies.

48 MONTHS OF TRANSFORMING INDIA

Saaf Niyat Sahi Vikas

Ensuring More Crop Per Drop
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana

₹50,000 crores to be invested to achieve 'Har Khet Ko Paani'

To cover **28.5 Lakh** hectare area under irrigation

26.87 lakh hectares under micro irrigation from 2014-18

Dedicated Micro Irrigation fund of ₹5000 crores

Facilitating farmers for installing solar water pumps in field irrigation

- ✓ The progress of the state in reaching the Top level is due to the consistent efforts of the state and district administrations
- ✓ During the inaugural year of the programme (2015-16), Tamil Nadu had just about 32,290 hectares under micro-irrigation, well behind several high performing states such as Telangana (39,864 ha), Rajasthan (56,345 ha), Karnataka (64,220 ha), Andhra Pradesh (94,104 ha) and Gujarat (about 1.43 lakh ha).
- ✓ In the financial year 2017-18, the State made giant strides when the coverage reached about 1.05 lakh ha
- ✓ In 2018-19, the coverage went up by another 67,000 ha, to reach the total of 1.72 lakh ha
- ✓ Then during 2019-20, the overall figure was 2.06 lakh ha, surpassing the performance of topmost states such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - ✓ Last year, these two southern States accounted for about 95,520 ha and 1.41 lakh ha respectively.
- ✓ For 2019-20, the Tamil Nadu Agriculture department claim that the coverage is 2.18 lakh ha with an expenditure of ₹1,112 crore.
- ✓ However, as regards the cumulative total coverage under the PMKSY during 2015-2020, Tamil Nadu occupies the fourth spot with about 5.62 lakh ha
 - ✓ The first place goes to Karnataka (8.16 lakh ha) followed by Andhra Pradesh (7.17 lakh ha) and Gujarat (7 lakh ha).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has executed the PMKSY successfully due to a number of steps taken to promote the scheme
- ✓ The State government has absorbed the cost of 12% goods and services tax (GST) on micro irrigation components.
- ✓ It has also developed an exclusive website “Micro Irrigation Management Information System” (MIMIS)
- ✓ The implementation of the scheme — from registration of beneficiaries to the final round of release of funds — has been made fully ‘online’, thereby simplifying the procedure and speeding up the approval process.

STATES

- **The Ernakulam district administration in Kerala - has installed ‘walk in sample kiosks’ (Wisk) on the premises of Kalamassery Medical College to facilitate collecting of samples by the health workers for Covid-19 test in just two minutes.**
- ✓ The ‘Wisk’ has been modeled in South Korean method in which people sit outside a cubicle and a health worker collects sample using gloves attached to the front panel.
- ✓ The health worker and people coming to give samples do not come in direct contact with each other at the kiosk.
- ✓ The total expenditure for setting up a kiosk is around Rs.40,000



- ✓ Several safety features such as magnetic door, fan and ultraviolet light facilities have been arranged in the kiosks for ensuring the safety of both health workers and people coming for giving samples
- ✓ The kiosks can set up at anywhere and samples of large number of people could be collected without visiting hospitals.
- ✓ It will also be helpful when rapid testing begins.
- ✓ The kiosk will be more helpful considering the difficulties health workers face while wearing personal protection equipment (PPE) for long, as the PPE is for one-time use.

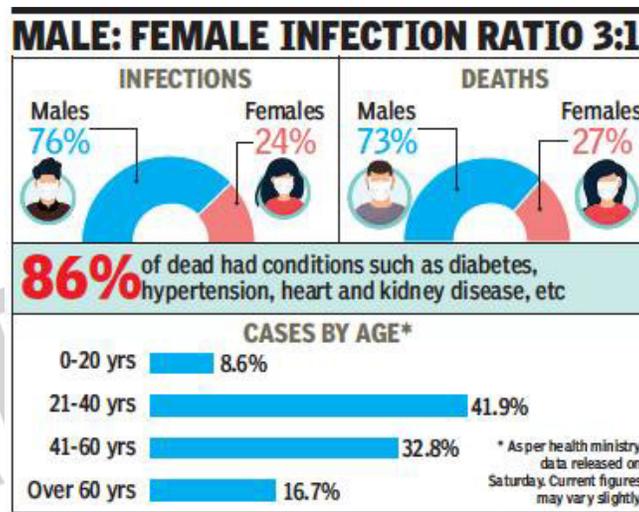
NATIONAL

- **As per latest data from the states, the number of coronavirus cases recorded so far was 4,757 - with 479 fresh infections reported on April 6.**
- ✓ There were 16 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, with Maharashtra accounting for seven, taking the total death toll from the virus to 132.

NEW CASES FALL BELOW 500

Name of State/UT	Cases on Monday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	120	868	35	45
Tamil Nadu	50	621	8	6
Delhi	22	525	19	7
Telangana	30	364	45	11
Kerala	13	327	59	2
Uttar Pradesh	26	308	22	3
Andhra Pradesh	51	303	6	3
Rest of India	167	1,441	122	55
Total	479	4,757	316	132

- ✓ The health ministry has confirmed 4,281 cases and 111 deaths.
- ✓ On April 6, fresh coronavirus cases in the country registered a slight dip and fell below 500 for the first time in the past five days.
- ✓ Maharashtra remains the worst-affected state with 868 confirmed cases and 45 deaths
- ✓ It was followed by Tamil Nadu (621 cases and 6 deaths) and Delhi (525 cases and 7 deaths).
- ✓ Maharashtra also recorded the highest number of 120 fresh coronavirus positive cases, with Mumbai's tally alone crossing 500 to end the day at 526.
- ✓ The government was following the strategy of 'cluster containment' when a limited number of cases were being reported from a particular area
- ✓ An analysis of Covid-19 cases and fatalities till now shows that men may be more susceptible to the infection than women.



- ✓ Of the total infected so far, 76% were males and 24% females, whereas men also accounted for more deaths at 73%, while 27% deaths were among women.
- ✓ The infection ratio is 3:1
- ✓ On April 4, the ministry released an age-wise analysis of all positive Covid-19 cases, which showed that 8.6% of patients were 20 and below, 41.9% were between 21 and 40, 32.8% in the 41-60 bracket, and 16.7% above 60.

Delhi, Mumbai have the worst-hit districts

The 10 worst districts alone account for over 30% of cases in the country

STATE	DISTRICT	TOTAL CASES
Delhi	South Delhi	320
Maharashtra	Mumbai	298
Kerala	Kasargod	136
Telangana	Hyderabad	113
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	110
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	81
Maharashtra	Pune	62
Karnataka	Bengaluru	57
Uttar Pradesh	GB Nagar	55
Rajsthan	Jaipur	54

- ✓ As per the data available, 10 worst-hit districts alone account for 30% of all Covid-19 cases in the country
- ✓ The total number of districts that reported COVID-19 positive cases across the country jumped from 62 to 257 in a span of 15 days
- ✓ In all, there are 718 districts in the country spread over 28 States and eight Union Territories.
- ✓ The country was put under a 21-day lockdown on March 25 after a day-long 'Janata Curfew' on March 22
- ✓ All international passenger flights were banned on March 22, the day when "Janata Curfew" was observed.
- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a "pandemic" on March 11 and the first-ever advisory on social distancing was issued on March 17
- ✓ COVID-19 originated as a cluster of atypical pneumonia from Wuhan, China, in December 2019

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved an ordinance to cut salaries of the Prime Minister, all ministers and sitting MPs by 30% for one year in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis on April 6**
- ✓ It had also decided to suspend the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for a period of two years.
- ✓ The announcement was made by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- ✓ The ordinance seeks to amend the Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, to cut the salaries of MPs by 30%.
- ✓ According to the Act, as amended in April 2018, MPs are entitled to a monthly salary of ₹1 lakh, apart from various allowances.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and governors of states have also voluntarily offered to take the 30% pay cut as a social responsibility.
 - ✓ The wage cuts will come into effect from April 1 for a year
 - ✓ The suspension of MPLADS fund to each MP will be for 2020-21 and 2021-22.
 - ✓ The twin moves will release ₹7,900 crore to combat the disease
 - ✓ The total amount will be transferred into the Consolidated Fund of India.
- ✓ The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act will be amended in the next Parliament session.
- ✓ The Consolidated Fund of India was constituted under Article 266
 - ✓ It collects and keeps all the revenue received by the Central Government.
 - ✓ The revenue sources include direct taxes, indirect taxes, receipts from loans, money borrowed.
 - ✓ The money from the funds cannot be withdrawn without the permission of the parliament
 - ✓ The salary of President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, CAG, Judges of High Court, Supreme Court draw their salary from the consolidated fund

- ✓ The MPLADS is Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
 - ✓ It was introduced in 1993
 - ✓ Under this scheme, the members of the parliament shall undertake works upto Rs 25 lakhs per year in their constituency
 - ✓ And in case of natural calamity, they shall sanction funds upto Rs 1 crore.

- **State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - has begun the world's largest humanitarian supply exercise to supply 120,000 kilo litres of fuels and 3,300 tonne of LPG across mountain passes to the newly created Union territory of Ladakh.**
 - ✓ The annual '**Operation Ladakh**' exercise is larger than the Berlin airlift in terms of tonnage hauled till date.
 - ✓ The exercise will ensure fuel supplies to two lakh civil and three lakh defence personnel in Ladakh.
 - ✓ For the next 3-4 months, 1,000 tankers will each make 10-12 trips on an average to Kargil and Leh from the company's Jammu, Jalandhar and Sangrur terminals to create stockpiles of petrol, diesel, jet fuel, kerosene and LPG.

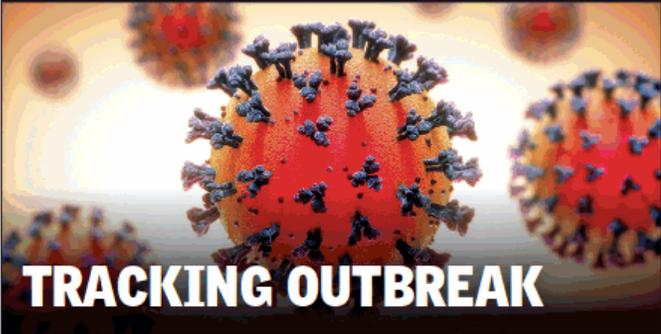
- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation – has launched the 'Lifeline UDAN' to help India fight against COVID-19.**



- ✓ Under this initiative, flights were operated to transport essential equipment and medicines all over the country.
- ✓ In just 5 days of its launch, more than 15.4 tonnes of essential supplies have been transported in 62 aircrafts to various destinations
- ✓ The products transported included masks and gloves, consumables, etc.
- ✓ The initiative provided a special focus to the north-eastern region and to the Ladakh region in J&K.
- ✓ The UDAN initiative is focused on the regional airport development.
- ✓ It aims to make air travel widespread and affordable.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The death toll in the US from coronavirus-related illness - crossed 10,000 on April 6, with the reporting of around 1037 deaths on April 5 as against the previous day's 1400+ plus casualties.**
- ✓ The State of New York reported 594 new deaths on April 5, down from 630 on April 4
- ✓ In Spain, deaths and new infections dropped again on April 6.
- ✓ The health ministry reported 637 new fatalities, the lowest toll in 13 days.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	347,003	10,335	184 countries/ regions hit
Spain	135,032	13,169	
Italy	132,547	16,523	1,309,439+ infected globally
Germany	101,178	1,612	
France	93,785	8,093	72,638+ have died
China	82,665	3,335	
Iran	60,500	3,739	273,546+ have recovered
United Kingdom	52,260	5,383	
Turkey	27,069	574	
Switzerland	21,652	762	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ Virus deaths in Italy rose by 636 on April 6, more than 100 higher than the previous daily tally of 525, but the number of new cases fell sharply.
- ✓ The total number of cases increased by 3,599 to 1,32,547, the lowest daily rise since March 17
- ✓ On April 6, France reported that 833 more people had died of Covid-19 over the previous 24 hours, its highest daily toll since the pandemic began.
- ✓ Britain reported more than 600 deaths on April 5.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Russia's case tally rose to 6,343 in the past 24 hours, a record daily increase of 954.
- ✓ Mainland China reported 39 new COVID-19 cases as of April 5, up from 30 a day earlier, with the reporting of imported cases and asymptomatic patients

- ✓ Globally, more than 1.3 million people have been infected and over 72,000 have died

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A 4-year-old Malayan tiger named Nadia at the Bronx Zoo in New York City - has tested positive for the coronavirus**

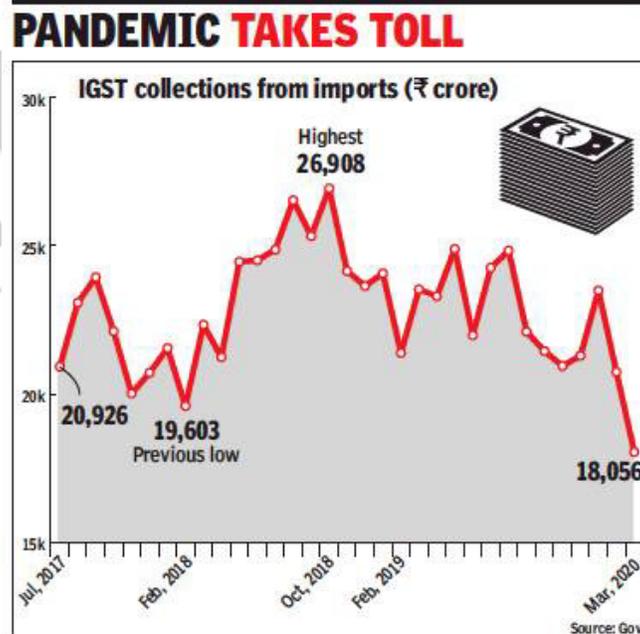


- ✓ The Bronx Zoo incident is the first known case in the world where a human infected a big cat with Covid-19
 - ✓ It is also believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the US or a tiger anywhere.
 - ✓ Nadia's sister Azul, two Amur tigers and three African lions have also fallen ill and are believed to have been infected by a zoo employee
 - ✓ Nadia started showing symptoms on March 27, and currently all are doing well and expected to recover
 - ✓ The zoo has been closed to the public since March 16 amid the surging coronavirus outbreak in New York.
 - ✓ Malayan Tigers or the Southern Indochinese Tiger is a type of tiger sub-species native to Peninsular Malaysia
 - ✓ It is classified as a critically endangered species by IUCN.
 - ✓ With 2,967 tigers, India is currently home to 75% of the global tiger population
 - ✓ India's environment & forests ministry, as precautionary measure, advised all the chief wildlife wardens of all states/UTs to "reduce human-wildlife interface and restrict the movement of people to national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves".
 - ✓ The government also identified three animal health institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, where Covid-19 testing would be initiated.
 - ✓ These institutes are the National Institute of High Security Animal Disease in Bhopal, the National Research Centre on Equines in Hisar and the Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic, IVRI, Izatnagar, Bareilly.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research – has recently approved a new home testing COVID-19 kit, that was designed by a startup called 'Bione'**

- ✓ To take up the test, one has to clean his or her finger with alcohol and use the lancet in the kit to prick the finger.
- ✓ The kit examines the blood that oozes out from the pick and displays the result in 5 to 10 minutes.
- ✓ The prices of the kit ranges between Rs 2,000 and Rs 3,000
- ✓ The company is headquartered in Bengaluru
- ✓ It is the first company to bring in Next Generation Sequencing in India.
- ✓ Also, it is the only company in the country that is offering personalized Genetic and microbiome testing.
- ✓ Next Generation Sequencing is the technology that allows a person to determine the sequence of DNA molecules.
- ✓ The technology basically determines the order of four bases of a DNA molecule - adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine.

ECONOMY

- **The government – has collected just over Rs 18,000 crore through integrated GST (IGST) on imports in March, the lowest since the new tax regime kicked in 30 months ago**



- ✓ Collections in March are related to sales or import consignments in February
- ✓ The numbers are lower than the previous low of Rs 19,603 crore raised in February 2018.
- ✓ These low collections from imports point to not only a significant decline in the value shipments into the country but also a further moderation in economic activity
- ✓ The latest IGST numbers for March were probably on account of factory shutdowns in China due to coronavirus

- ✓ The shutdown has resulted in lower shipments of basic drugs, plastics and even electronic components that are used for manufacturing mobile phones and other devices.

SPORTS

- **All international shooting competitions scheduled to be held this year - have been cancelled.**



- ✓ On April 6, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced cancellation of the Delhi World Cup due to the Covid-19 spread across the globe.
- ✓ The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) announced that the third and last World Cup, scheduled in Baku, Azerbaijan, in June will also be cancelled.
- ✓ Earlier, the Delhi World Cup (rifle-pistol and shotgun), which was originally scheduled to be held from March 15, was postponed to May and June.
- ✓ This was the first World Cup of the year.
- ✓ The Munich World Cup, which was second in line, was cancelled last week.
- ✓ Since this was the Olympic year, there were only three World Cups scheduled this year instead of four.
- ✓ All the events this year were scheduled before July, considering the Tokyo Olympics' earlier schedule.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Health Day – April 7**
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate the work of midwives and nurses for their role in keeping the world safety and healthy.
- ✓ This year, 2020, is being celebrated as International Year of Nurse and Midwife.
- ✓ The World Health Day is observed by World Health Organization along with several other organizations
- ✓ On the World Health Day, the State of World Nursing Report, 2020 will be released.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Support Nurses and Midwives
- ✓ The day is celebrated every year to mark the WHO's founding.
- ✓ WHO held the first world health assembly in 1948



- ✓ The WHO marks only eight campaigns officially
- ✓ The World Health Day is one among them.
- ✓ The other campaigns include World Malaria Day, World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World No Tobacco Day, World AIDS Day, World Hepatitis Day and World Blood Donor Day.

