

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 30, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The state's Covid-19 positive count - touched 50 on March 29, with eight new cases being reported**
- ✓ As a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the state government employed more than 10,000 health officials and government employees and screened 10 lakh people across 11 districts for symptoms
- ✓ On March 29, district and civic authorities had demarcated a 5km radius containment zone around houses of people who tested positive and a further 3km radius buffer zone
- ✓ In Chennai, more than 1.5 lakh people were screened by 5,000 Greater Chennai Corporation domestic breeding checkers (DBC's) and anganwadi staff, 750 health nurses and 1,500 school teachers

1.5L SCREENED IN CITY

➤ 5km radius around houses of Covid-19 patients marked as containment zone; 3km around it declared buffer zone

➤ Health workers screen people for flu and prepare a list of people with such symptoms. Counsellor quarantined individuals and close contacts of positive patients

➤ Orders placed for 1,500 ventilators, 30,000 testing kits and 20 lakh N95 masks

No of cases | 50

Number of people discharged/ cured | 5; People in hospital isolation | 295

People in home quarantine | 43,537
Govt quarantine | 79



- ✓ The health workers also created a line list of high-risk patients, including the elderly and those with chronic ailments such as heart and renal conditions
- ✓ Besides the 550 bed 'exclusive' hospital in Omandurar Medical College Hospital, the state is also arranging 200-bed facility in Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, 250-beds in Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital and 300-beds in Stanley Medical College Hospital

COVID-19 in T.N. | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has impacted the State so far

	Until March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	Total
Cases reported	9	3	6	8	3	9	4	8	50
Recovered and discharged	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
Deceased	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Monitoring*		Capacity*		Testing*	
Persons screened at airports	2,09,284	Beds in isolation wards	13,323	Samples collected	1,763
Persons under home quarantine#	43,537	Ventilators	3,018	Tested positive	50
Persons in isolation wards in hospitals	295			Tested negative	1,632
Persons in quarantine facilities	79			Under process	81

*Status as on date; # Includes only Health and Family Welfare Department figures. People under home quarantine as per Bureau of Immigration advisory not included

- ✓ The eight patients, including four from the same family and a ten month-old boy, who tested positive on March 29 were linked to the two Thai nationals, who are still undergoing treatment at IRT Perundurai Medical College Hospital in Erode
- ✓ Currently, 295 patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals, and 37 of them have tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – launched its massive ‘containment’ plan to ensure that the virus doesn’t spread within the city limits**
 - ✓ As a first step, it has identified the location of the houses where the patients of 15 positive cases in the city has so far lived.
 - ✓ These are Arumbakkam and Purasaiwalkam in Anna Nagar zone, Santhome in Teynampet zone, Virugambakkam, Saidapet and West Mambalam in Kodambakkam zone, Porur and Alandur in Valasaravakkam zone, and Kotturpuram in Adyar zone.
 - ✓ Around each house, 2,500 houses will be chosen as a focus area and each such house will be inspected door-to-door to track cases of fever as well as other symptoms of Covid-19
 - ✓ The fever surveys will be done by domestic breeding checkers (DBC) from the health wing of the civic body
 - ✓ This door-to-door survey will be undertaken once in two days and continue for the next 28 days
 - ✓ For the containment drive, the corporation will deploy 2,500 DBCs, 1,500 anganwadi workers, 750 health nurses and 1,500 school teachers on its payroll.
 - ✓ It has also formed fifteen special teams for the task.

ACROSS THE CITY

Zone	In home quarantine	Positive cases
Thiruvottiyur	80	0
Manali	96	0
Madhavaram	122	0
Tondiarpet	1048	0
Royapuram	2166	0
Thiru-vi-ka nagar	899	0
Ambattur	388	0
Anna Nagar	3079	5
Teynampet	3857	1
Kodambakkam	3177	5
Valasaravakkam	415	2
Alandur	505	1
Adyar	3393	1
Perungudi	537	0
Sholinganallur	478	0
Total	20,240	15



- ✓ The corporation has released data of 20,240 people being in home quarantine across the city's 15 zones.
- ✓ Of this, 1,120 have finished their mandatory 28-day quarantine.
- ✓ The maximum number of people in home quarantine is in Teynampet, Adyar, Kodambakkam and Anna Nagar.
- **The state government - has issued an order exempting various farming activities from the lockdown, thereby allowing farmers to carry out their routine work.**
- ✓ The GO also allows manufacturing and selling of fertilizers to farmers for the entire 21-day curfew period.
- ✓ The order has been issued by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management
- ✓ The government has exempted agencies engaged in procurement of agriculture products, including MSP operations and 'mandis' operated by the Agriculture Produce Market Committee.
- ✓ During the lockdown period, shops selling animal fodder, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers will be operational on all days
- ✓ To facilitate farming activities, movement of harvesting and sowing-related machines like combined harvester and other agricultural and horticulture implements have also been included in the list of essentials.
- ✓ In a related move, the state electricity minister P Thangamani announced that no power connection would be disconnected till April 14 for non-payment of power bills.
- ✓ The minister said the instruction holds good for all types of power connection - domestic, commercial and industrial – till the end of lockdown.

STATES

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik - launched “Mo Jeeban Programme” to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the state**
- ✓ ‘Mo Jeeban’ means ‘My Life’.
- ✓ Through the programme, the State Government appealed to the people to stay indoors during the critical phase of the disease spread.
- ✓ It urges the working population to take an oath in name of their children and parents to cooperate and support by not stepping outside
- ✓ The programme intends to create awareness about washing hands at least for 20 seconds.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Odisha Government announced that it is setting up two COVID-19 dedicated hospitals under PPP (Public Private Partnership) model.
- ✓ The Orissa Mining Corporation and Mahanadi Coal Limited (a Coal India Subsidiary) has decided to contribute Rs 500 crores from their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds for the initiative.

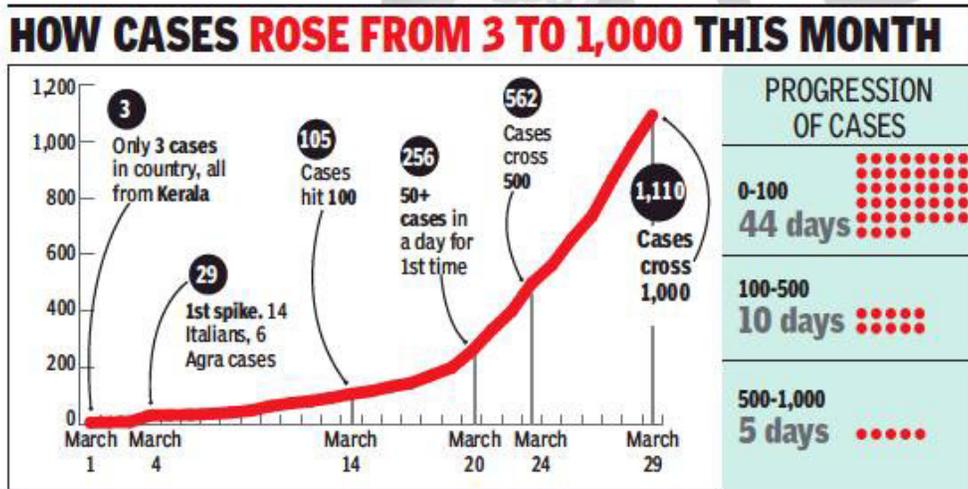
NATIONAL

- **India’s Covid-19 count - crossed the 1,000 mark on March 29, with states reporting 130 new cases, the highest for a single day so far**
- ✓ Nationally, March 29 was the third consecutive day when the count of new cases was over 100, indicating that the infection was spreading
- ✓ States have reported 1,122 coronavirus cases so far, of which 30 have died
- ✓ The Union health ministry has confirmed 1,024 cases and 27 deaths

200+ CASES IN MAHA, KERALA NOW

Name of state/UT	New cases on Sunday	Total cases	Recovered	Dead
Maharashtra	17	203	28	8
Kerala	20	202	20	1
Karnataka	7	83	5	3
Uttar Pradesh	19	80	14	
Delhi	23	72	5	2
Telangana	3	70	11	1
Gujarat	3	58	1	5
Rajasthan	5	59	16	2
Tamil Nadu	8	50	4	1
Madhya Pradesh	5	39	1	2
J&K	8	38		1
Punjab	0	37		2
Haryana	1	32	11	
Andhra Pradesh	2	21	2	
Bengal	3	21		1
Rest of India	6	57	0	2
Total	130	1,122	118	31

- ✓ Maharashtra, which has the highest number of 203 Covid-19 cases, reported two deaths on March 29, taking the toll in the state to eight.
- ✓ After Maharashtra, Kerala is worst affected by the Covid-19 crisis with 202 cases and one death
- ✓ As per the government estimates, 119 Covid-19 patients, approximately 10% of the total number of cases reported so far, have recovered from the disease across India
- **The Centre – has stepped in to ensure the safety of migrant workers and announced new measures to the states on March 29**
- ✓ The Union home secretary has issued new guidelines under Section 10(2)(I) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to stop the movement of migrant workers on roads and highways
- ✓ The states and UTs were told to ensure proper screening of migrants on the move for Covid-19 and keep them in government quarantine facilities for a minimum 14 days as per standard health protocol.
- ✓ The centre has fixed responsibility on district magistrates and senior superintendents of police to seal district and state borders to curb movement



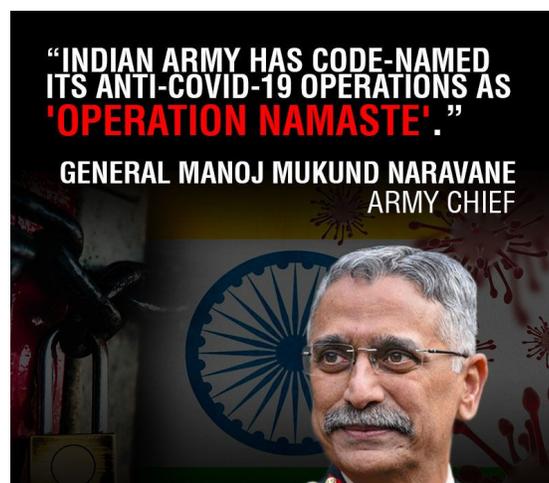
- ✓ The government has started identifying emerging 'hotspots' for the infection to enforce rigorous 'cluster isolation' in order to avoid community transmission
- ✓ The move comes after certain areas witnessed a significant jump in the number of Covid-19 cases.
- **Indian Railways - re-introduced special parcel service, discontinued in 1974, to ensure supply of commodities across India**
- ✓ The railways has decided to carry essential commodities to different parts of the country in freight trains and will run special parcel bogies to carry small quantities of essential items.
- ✓ The special trains and bogies can carry items like dairy products, medical equipment and medicines, groceries, edible oil, and other food items

- ✓ Currently, three parcel bogies are being planned in the Ambala division — two from Ambala and one from Chandigarh.
 - ✓ One Ambala bogie will ply between Ambala and Ludhiana and the other till Ludhiana via Chandigarh.
 - ✓ The Chandigarh parcel bogie will run till Jaipur.
 - ✓ In the Ferozepur division, a single parcel bogie will deliver products of an MNC from Moga till Assam
- **The central government – has announced the setting up of 11 empowered groups on March 29, 2020 to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response to COVID-19.**
- ✓ The special groups have been constituted under the Disaster Management Act.
 - ✓ Each of the groups comprises a senior representative from the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat to ensure smooth and seamless coordination.
 - ✓ The empowered groups will formulate plans and suggest necessary measures to boost healthcare
 - ✓ These groups will ensure the time-bound implementation of all necessary measures
 - ✓ Among the 11 groups formed, 9 will be headed by Secretary-level officers, one by NITI Aayog member, Dr V Paul and one by the NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant.
 - ✓ All the groups will comprise 6 members each and one member from PMO and Cabinet Secretariat
 - ✓ These groups will function under a committee set up by the Prime Minister
 - ✓ The committee will work under the chairmanship of P K Mishra, principal secretary of the Prime Minister.
- **On March 28, 2020, Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare - launched 'CoNTec', COVID-19 Telecommunication Centre**



- ✓ The platform aims to connect the doctors in the country with AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)
- ✓ The platform will remain active 24/7.
- ✓ Doctors will be available in the platform throughout to answer queries and help in 'real time' treatment of COVID-19 patients

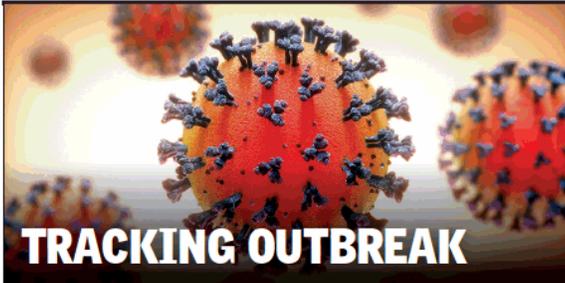
- ✓ The guidelines of patient management advices are framed by AIIMS.
 - ✓ Also, CoNTec will be completely integrated with National Medical College Network.
 - ✓ Currently there are 6 lines that can operate simultaneously under the programme.
 - ✓ The programme, operated by AIIMS, is monitored by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman - recently instructed the state governments to utilise DMF (District Mineral Foundation) funds to fight against COVID-19.**
- ✓ This is being done to support the medical facilities that will help fight against coronavirus pandemic.
 - ✓ The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a non-profit body.
 - ✓ The foundation works towards the benefit and interest of the persons affected due to the mining activity.
 - ✓ It was set up in those districts that were affected by mining works
 - ✓ The DMF funds were set up under Section 9B of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) - MMDR - amendment act.
 - ✓ According to the Act, every mine holder has to contribute 10% of their loyalty towards the funds.
 - ✓ The DMF funds are used to implement the Centre's scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Khanij Khsetra Kalyana Yojana
 - ✓ This scheme primarily focuses on safeguarding environment, health and economic conditions of the tribal people.
 - ✓ The DMF funds are generally used for providing drinking water supply, health care, environment preservation, women welfare, education, sanitation and skill development.
- **The Indian Army - launched "Operation Namaste" to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country on March 27.**



- ✓ Under the operation, the army will help the Central Government fight against the deadly disease.
- ✓ The Indian Army has established 8 quarantine so far, as part of the operation.
- ✓ It has also arranged facilities for the families of the army men to visit nearest camps in case of any emergency following the coronavirus spread
- ✓ Army has also issued guidelines for army men to keep themselves safe as it is difficult to maintain social distancing due to operational and tactical reasons

INTERNATIONAL

- **Spain - confirmed 838 deaths in 24 hours from coronavirus on March 29, a new daily record bringing the total number of deaths to 6,528**
- ✓ The toll in Italy climbed by 756 to 10,779, on March 29, the second successive fall in the daily rate
- ✓ Spain and Italy alone account for more than 50% of the world's death toll, and are still seeing over 800 deaths a day each.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	132,637	2,351	177 countries/ regions hit
Italy	97,689	10,779	
China	82,122	3,304	704,095+ infected globally
Spain	78,799	6,606	
Germany	60,659	482	33,509+ have died
Iran	38,309	2,640	
France	38,105	2,609	148,824+ have recovered
United Kingdom	19,772	1,231	
Switzerland	14,829	300	
Netherlands	10,926	772	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ France reported 292 new deaths from the coronavirus on March 29, up 13% on the previous day and taking the total to 2,609 since March 1
- ✓ In Britain, deaths have now topped 1,000 as Prime Minister Boris Johnson was also tested positive for the virus last week
- ✓ The U.S. is home to the highest number of confirmed infections globally with more than 1,24,000 cases
- ✓ Around the world, more than 6,67,090 cases have been officially declared since the outbreak began late last year

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - declared the Hydroxychloroquine as a Schedule H1 drug on March 27**
- ✓ With the announcement, the Government has brought upon restrictions on sales and distribution of the drug.
- ✓ The drug was declared as an essential drug to treat COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ Out of the 4 treatments suggested by the World Health Organization to contain the virus, India adopted the use of Hydroxychloroquine drug.
- ✓ Currently the drug is being prescribed for symptomatic patients and also for asymptomatic patients who are in contact with the Corona infected patients
- ✓ The supply of H1 drugs are to be registered in a separate register, holding the name and address of the prescriber and the patient
- ✓ These details are to be maintained by the supplier for a minimum of three years.
- ✓ The drug listed under Schedule H1 should be labelled as “Rx” in red colour containing all necessary precautionary warnings

DEFENCE

- **The U.S. Air Force - has cancelled Phase-I of its flagship multilateral air exercise, Red Flag, scheduled in Alaska from April 30 to May 15**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) was to take part in the exercise with its Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets
- ✓ The exercise was cancelled owing to the travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. Department of Defence, following the outbreak of massive Covid-19 cases in US.

OBITUARY

- **Eminent academician, S.V. Chittibabu - passed away on March 29 at the age of 100.**



- ✓ Mr Chittibabu was the former Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University and Annamalai University

- ✓ He had also served as Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education.
- ✓ He headed the State government-constituted commission to prescribe fee structure and minimum infrastructure facilities for private schools following the death of 96 children in a school fire in Kumbakonam in 2004.
- ✓ Mr Chittibabu also founded the Tamil Nadu History Congress.
- ✓ He formed the congress in 1994 and held the topmost post in it for 10 years.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Earth Hour – March 28, 2020



- ✓ The main aim of the observing Earth Hour is to call attention towards global warming, loss of biodiversity and climate change
- ✓ During the one-hour campaign, businesses and people all over the world are urged to switch off unnecessary lights and electronic items between 8:30 PM and 9:30 PM.
- ✓ The event is organized by the World wide Fund
- ✓ The event was first started in Sydney, Australia in 2007
- ✓ The Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March.

