



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 24, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On May 23, Tamil Nadu - breached the 15,000-mark to record 15,512 Covid-19 cases.
- ✓ Chennai reported 625 cases on the day, one of its highest single-day increase, taking its total number of infections to 9,989.
- ✓ Five more deaths were reported in Chennai, taking the state's toll to 103.

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

	Until May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	Total
Cases reported	10,585	639	536	688	743	776	786	759	15,512
Recovered and discharged	3,538	634	234	489	987	400	846	363	7,491
Deceased	74	4	3	3	3	7	4	5	103

Persons tested



Active cases	Discharged	Died	In hospitals
7,524	7,128	98	5,349
7,915	7,491	103	5,518

*Changes in 24 hours As on May 22, 6 p.m. As on May 23, 6 p.m.

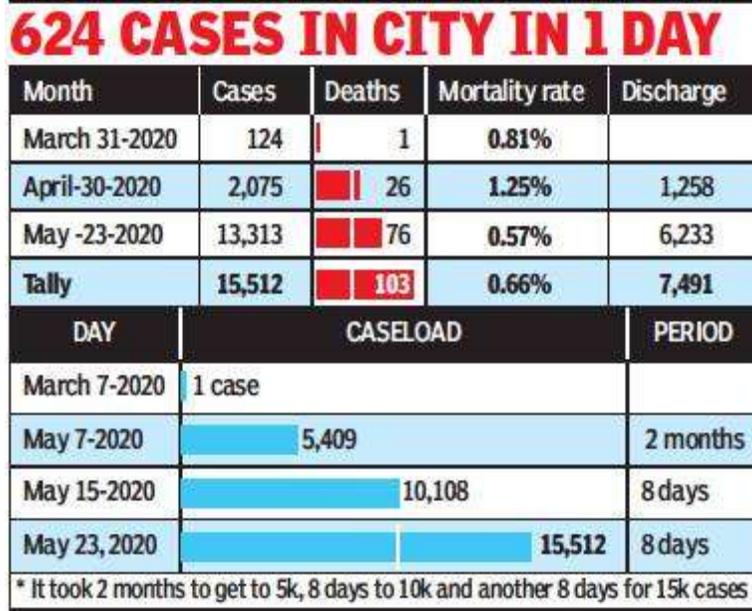
Districts with maximum cases



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.

- ✓ Another 363 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total recovered in the state to 7,491 persons.
- ✓ There are 7,915 active cases in the state, as on date.
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, Chengalpattu reported 39 cases, Tiruvallur 17 and Kancheepuram 13 cases.
 - ✓ There were six new cases reported in Tiruvannamalai, four in Villupuram, two in Tenkasi, and one each in Cuddalore, Madurai, Pudukottai, Ranipet and Theni.

- ✓ Seven people who returned from London and five from Philippines tested positive, besides 37 others from other states, including Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



- ✓ It may be recalled that it took nearly two months for the state to get to the first 5,000 cases, but in the next 16 days it added 10,000 cases.
 - ✓ In the month of May alone, the state recorded 13,313 cases and 76 deaths
- ✓ The State's mortality rate stood at 0.66% and it's the lowest in the country.
- ✓ The recovery rate is climbing to nearly 50% now in the state.
- ✓ The five deaths reported on the day includes a 67-year-old man admitted in a private hospital, a 75-year-old woman admitted at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, two men admitted at RGGGH, and a 53-year-old man admitted at Govt. Medical College Hospital, Omandurar Estate.
- ✓ A total of 12,155 samples were tested, taking the total number of samples tested so far by the state to 3,97,340.
- ✓ One more private laboratory — Vivek Laboratories, Kanyakumari — was approved for COVID-19 testing.
 - ✓ As of now, there are 68 testing centres in Tamil Nadu, including 27 in private sector, which is the highest in any state in the country
- ✓ Meanwhile, chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that the state has suffered an estimated Rs 35,000 crore GST revenue loss during the ongoing lockdown period
- ✓ On May 23, the State government allowed salons and beauty parlours to function across the state, except within the Chennai police limits and COVID-19 containment zones, from May 24, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- ✓ The government had already allowed salons in rural areas to operate from May 19.

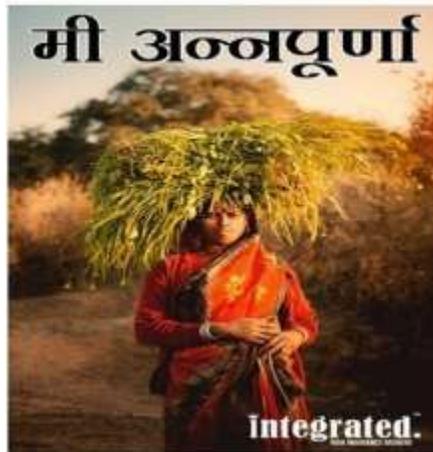
- **Tamil Nadu - has agreed to allow departures alone from its airports, following the centre's decision to resume domestic flight services across the country from May 25**
- ✓ Two additional chief secretaries, Hans Raj Verma and Harmender Singh, were appointed to coordinate and strategize screening, testing and quarantining of incoming rail and air passengers across the state
- ✓ The senior bureaucrats will regulate the incoming passengers with due health protocols
- ✓ Hans Raj Verma will take care of domestic air services while Harmender Singh is responsible for railway passenger trains

- **Governor Banwarilal Purohit - promulgated two ordinances, extending the time limit for traders for various statutory compliances, in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ The first ordinance, the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, has been issued to carry out an amendment to the GST Act, 2017
- ✓ The second ordinance, the Tamil Nadu Taxation Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, covers several laws including Value Added Tax Act, 2006; Betting Tax Act, 1935; Entertainment Tax Act, 1939, and the Tax on Luxuries Act, 1981.
- ✓ The ordinances came into effect on May 23
- ✓ They were intended to provide more time to file statements of outward supplies; file refund claims and appeals; submit replies and applications, and furnish reports, returns, statements or documents, wherever necessary.

- **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - has requested the Centre to run non-AC special trains within Tamil Nadu, connecting important railway stations, other than Chennai Egmore and Tambaram.**
- ✓ Following the CM's request, the Southern Railway has sought permission from the Railway Board to run four trains.
- ✓ The four trains proposed to be operated include Coimbatore-Mayiladuthurai Jan Shatabdi Special, intercity specials on Madurai-Villupuram, Tiruchi-Nagercoil and Coimbatore-Katpadi sections.

SCHEMES

- **Mee Annapurna, an inclusive programme - has been launched for the welfare of farmers in Maharashtra.**
- ✓ The programme was announced by Integrated Risk Insurance (IRI), an IRDA Licensed insurance intermediary.
- ✓ It will integrate three critical aspects of livelihood and comprehensive engagement - Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.



- ✓ The initiative is part of IRI's commitment as a Corporate Social Responsibility towards the welfare of the farmers and agriculture community in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The scheme aims to re-invest a substantial amount of their income to develop long-term sustainable program for continuity of income for the farmers and other individuals associated with agriculture and allied activities.
- ✓ IRI is one of the first intermediaries to be licensed by IRDAI.
 - ✓ It has over 16 years of experience with relevant technologies, round-the-clock helpline and unparalleled communication support
 - ✓ The intermediary has been chosen as a suited partner for the implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme across the state.
 - ✓ The organisation provides free-of-cost skill-based training to over 1500 individuals across 35 districts in Maharashtra
- ✓ After the completion of training, the organization provides them with sustainable livelihood by engaging them in activities related to crop cutting experiments and audits.

STATES

- **The Uttar Pradesh cabinet - has cleared “The Uttar Pradesh Excise (Settlement of Licenses for Premium Retail Vends of Foreign Liquor) Rules, 2020” which will allow the sale of certain categories of liquors in malls within the state.**
 - ✓ As per the new norms, liquor can be sold in standalone shops or in multiproduct chains and supermarkets, similar to some other states.
 - ✓ It permits the selling of premium brands of liquor, wine and beer in air-conditioned mall once shopping malls, currently shut due to the lockdown, reopen.
 - ✓ The government has also reduced the permissible loss in redistillation of liquor from the earlier 2-2.5% to 0.5-1%.
 - ✓ In another related development, the Odisha government imposed a 50% ‘Special COVID Fee’ on the maximum retail price (MRP) of liquor while allowing home delivery of alcohol in the State from May 24.

- **The Mizoram Cabinet - has granted industry status to Sports, a move aimed at generating investment and employment.**
- ✓ It becomes the first state in India to do so, to bolster the sports activities, by attracting more investments from corporates
- ✓ Besides, all the industrial benefits including subsidies, banking facilities would now be extended to sports industry too.
- ✓ The industry status should help the state to meet the requirements of sportspersons and others involved in the sector
- ✓ The Sports and Youth Services department had advised the State government to grant the industry status to the Sports.
- ✓ Among the eight northeastern states, Mizoram is already at the forefront in the country's sports world, especially in football.
 - ✓ At least 150 Mizo football players are part of the Indian Super League, one of the top premier football leagues in India.
 - ✓ Besides winning Indian Super League, one of the top premier football leagues in India, the state has done well in hockey and weightlifting in recent years.

NATIONAL

- **On May 23, India reported 6,378 new Covid-19 infections, the highest single-day jump in cases so far.**
- ✓ This was the fifth peak in daily cases in five days, according to data collected from state governments.
- ✓ It takes the country's total coronavirus count to 1,29,539, barely five days after the caseload crossed 1 lakh.
- ✓ The day's death toll was reported at 144, the seventh consecutive day when more than 130 people have died, taking the total toll to 3,870.
- ✓ Maharashtra topped the infections list but reported a slight drop in total count with 2,608, down from a high of 2,940 reported a day earlier.
- ✓ On the day, several states that are not among the worst-hit reported a record surge in cases, including Karnataka (216) and Uttarakhand (92).
- ✓ At the same time, the numbers continued to remain high in Tamil Nadu (759 new cases), Delhi (591), Madhya Pradesh (282), Rajasthan (248), Uttar Pradesh (282) and Bihar (228).
- ✓ As many as 27 states and UTs reported infection cases during the day, an indication of the spread of the virus in the country.
- ✓ **These included the first Covid positive case detected in Sikkim, the only state/UT that had remained free of the virus so far.**
- ✓ For the seventh day in a row, Maharashtra continued to report over 2,000 cases per day.
 - ✓ With this, the total cases in the state remains at 47,190, of which Mumbai's caseload stood at 28,634

- ✓ Mumbai reported 1,566 cases on the day, when the state recorded its second highest addition of 2,608 cases.
 - ✓ The state reported 60 deaths on the day, of which 42 occurred in the last 24-hour period with 40 in Mumbai alone
 - ✓ The total deaths in the state now stand at 1,577.
 - ✓ However, the state continues to report a steady dip in the case fatality rate, which stands at 3.34% on the day.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Delhi reported 23 virus related deaths, its highest in a single day, taking the total death toll in the state to 231.
 - ✓ Delhi's Covid-19 count has reached 12,910 with 591 more persons testing positive for the viral infection.
 - ✓ For the last five days, the national capital has been getting 500 or more new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).
 - ✓ Odisha registered 80 new cases taking the State's tally to 1,269.
 - ✓ Of these, 497 persons have recovered and seven patients have died.
 - ✓ In Rajasthan, seven people died while 248 others tested positive for the virus, bringing the state's tally to 6,742.
 - ✓ Kerala had a fresh increase in cases with 62 persons, including 49 expatriates and Non-Resident Keralites (NoRKs) from other States testing positive.
 - ✓ This takes the overall case tally in the state to 794, of which 515 have recovered already.
 - ✓ A total of 275 COVID-19 patients were undergoing treatment in various hospitals
 - ✓ Kerala had 88,640 arrivals from abroad and from other States.
 - ✓ The death of one person in Andhra Pradesh raised the state's toll to 56, representing 2.06% of total cases.
 - ✓ With 47 new cases reported on the day, the State's infection count touched 2,714
 - ✓ The state's tests per million population stands at 5,486, which was the "highest" nationally
 - ✓ Karnataka reported 216 cases of COVID-19 on the day, and its total cases rose to 1,959.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Telangana has a cumulative death toll of 49 and 1,813 positive cases, with 1,068 discharged.
 - ✓ On May 23, the Centre asked 11 municipal areas — accounting for 70% of active Covid-19 cases — to step up testing for early detection, timely clinical management and a reduction in fatality rate.
 - ✓ The 11 areas with high caseload of Covid-19 cases are in seven states — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan.
- **Indian Railways - has prepared a schedule to operate 2,600 more Shramik Special trains in the next 10 days as per the needs of the State governments**

- ✓ These trains will transport nearly 36 lakh migrants to their home states
- ✓ The national transporter is also likely to introduce more special mail/ express trains on routes, particularly east bound ones in which booking of tickets has touched between 90% and 100%

WORK IN PROGRESS

No. of stranded migrants transported in Shramik Specials		
Day	Total trains	Cumulative passengers (till date)
May 1	4	3,645
May 10	101	5,47,767
May 16	167	16,45,621
May 18	181	20,95,315
May 20	279	27,30,471
May 22	255	34,26,949

Source: Ministry of railways

- ✓ Since May 1, the Railways has operated 2,600 such trains, carrying about 35 lakh passengers to their respective states in interstate Shramik Specials and intra-state trains.
 - ✓ Further, according to Home ministry, nearly 40 lakh stranded migrants have travelled in buses.
 - ✓ As per Railways, of the 2,600 trains run so far, a maximum of 1,246, or 48.5%, terminated in Uttar Pradesh, and 804, or 31.3%, terminated in Bihar.
 - ✓ These two Hindi heartland states send maximum number of guest workers in the country.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the Railways had decided to use about 50% of the 5,000 'COVID care centre' coaches for the Shramik Specials as their capacity was currently lying idle.
 - ✓ **On May 23, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that commercial international flight operations could start before August if the situation improves**
 - ✓ As per the Minister, 33% of domestic flights would start operating from May 25
 - ✓ The Government is discussing the method of quarantine process to be followed, as some States have insisted on mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine for all incoming passengers.
 - ✓ Earlier, all domestic and international flights were suspended on March 23, a day before the first phase of the lockdown was imposed, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country
- **The Centre – has recently launched National Migrant Information System, a central repository of data on guest workers**
- ✓ The new 'online' database will facilitate faster interstate communication and ensure smooth movement of migrant workers to their home states.

- ✓ Using the system, the movement of migrants can be monitored and provided with help to travel to their native places.
 - ✓ The online dashboard has been developed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the existing NDMA-GIS portal
 - ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the states to upload data on NMIS to ensure better coordination, contact tracing, and movement monitoring of the migrant workers.
 - ✓ The states will now be able to track the number of migrants moving from various places and monitor whether they are reaching destinations through GIS.
 - ✓ There will be a unique ID for each migrant, which will be used for all transactions.
 - ✓ The mobile numbers of the migrant workers will be used for contact tracing and monitoring during COVID-19
- **India - became the second largest producer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the world recently.**



- ✓ China is the leading producer of PPE in the world.
- ✓ Of late, the Ministry of Textiles has been taking several measures to ensure the quality of PPE alongside an increase in manufacturing levels.
- ✓ Recently, on May 21, 2020, the Textiles Committee operating under Ministry of Textiles has launched a new testing equipment for PPEs
 - ✓ The equipment is called Synthetic Blood Penetration Testing Equipment
 - ✓ It tests the resistance of the PPE (masks, covers, etc) to penetration of synthetic blood under different levels of pressure.
 - ✓ This will help increase PPE testing quality and capacity of the country.
- ✓ India is now producing its maximum capacity of 2.06 lakh PPE kits every day, as per the data provided by the Ministry of Health.
- ✓ On an average, India produces 1 lakh kits.
- ✓ A PPE kit consists of shoe cover, gloves, eye shield, mask and gown.
- ✓ In January 2020, India had just 2.75 lakh PPE kits and they were then being imported.
- ✓ Today India has more than 15.96 lakh PPE kits as stock buffer.

INTERNATIONAL

- **World Health Organization (WHO) - has declared that South America is 'a new epicentre' of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- ✓ Brazil leads the countries across South America in its death toll, which passed 21,000 on May 22 and reported 3,30,000 infections, the third-highest caseload of any country
- ✓ Elsewhere in Latin America, Peru, a country of 32 million, has reported more than 1,10,000 cases and 3,100 deaths.
- ✓ However, these figures are much lesser than the 96,000 deaths suffered so far in the United States, which has registered 1.6 million infections.
- ✓ Meanwhile, China recorded no new confirmed COVID-19 cases on the mainland for May 22, when compared to four new cases on the previous day.
 - ✓ It is the first time it had seen no daily rise in the number of cases since the pandemic began in the central city of Wuhan late last year.
 - ✓ Also, new asymptomatic cases of the coronavirus fell to 28 from 35 a day earlier in the country
 - ✓ The number of confirmed cases in the mainland stood at 82,971 and the death toll remained unchanged at 4,634.
- ✓ Meanwhile, a woman has died in Gaza Strip after succumbing to the viral infection, becoming the first fatality in Palestine
- ✓ Churches in Berlin were opened to let Muslims hold Friday Prayer while observing social distancing because of the pandemic.

Slots painted for the homeless to maintain distance in San Francisco



TRACKING OUTBREAK

Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	1,611,691	96,479	188 countries/ regions hit
Russia	335,882	3,388	
Brazil	330,890	21,048	5,267,452+ infected globally
United Kingdom	258,504	36,757	
Spain	234,824	28,628	339,949+ have died
Italy	229,327	32,735	
France	182,018	28,218	2,086,375+ have recovered
Germany	179,850	8,261	
Turkey	155,686	4,308	
Iran	133,521	7,359	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ Meanwhile, France allowed religious services to resume after a legal challenge to the ban on gatherings in places of worship.
- ✓ In the US, President Trump declared churches, mosques and synagogues “essential services” and ordered to reopen them.
- ✓ One of the world’s major pilgrimage sites is reopening on May 24 - the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, built on the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected.
- ✓ As on date, the Covid-19 pandemic has infected 5.2 million globally and killed around 3.4 lakh people

PERSONALITIES

- **Ivanka Trump, the daughter of US President Donald Trump and who is also the senior White House adviser - praised 15-year-old India’s ‘bicycle girl’ Jyoti Kumari on May 23.**



- ✓ Jyoti Kumari had recently pedalled 1,200km in seven days from Gurugram in Delhi to her native village in Bihar’s Darbhanga district
- ✓ She was carrying her ailing father on the rear seat of her bicycle after the family was left with no money during the lockdown
- ✓ After hearing the enduring incident, the Cycling Federation of India chairman Onkar Singh said that if Jyoti passed a bicycle trial, she would be selected as a trainee at National Cycling Academy at the IGI Stadium complex in Delhi.
- ✓ However, Jyoti, a Class VIII student, has turned down an offer as she wants to concentrate on her studies

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology - has launched a new ‘magnetic nano particle’ based RNA extraction kit called “Agappe Chitra Magna”.**
- ✓ After development, the kit was transferred to Agappe Diagnostics and hence the name ‘Agappe Chitra Magna kit’.

- ✓ The kit was validated by the National Institute of Virology and approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ✓ It uses the technology of magnetic nano particles to isolate and capture RNA from the sample of the patient.
- ✓ The kit provides enhanced detection of positive cases.
- ✓ This is because the magnetic nanoparticles binds to the viral RNA and when exposed to magnetic field gives concentrated RNA
- ✓ The price of the kit is Rs 300 and is expected to come down to Rs 150, on mass production
- ✓ The Centre has estimated that the country will need around 8 lakhs kits per month for the next six months.
- ✓ The Agappe Diagnostics has manufacturing capacity of 3 lakh kits per month.
- ✓ The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology operates under Department of Science and Technology

ECONOMY

- **Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman – held a meeting with the Chiefs of various banks on May 23 to discuss the implementation of the Covid package**
- ✓ During the meeting, the FM asked the banks to extend loans automatically to eligible borrowers, especially MSMEs, without ‘fear of 3Cs — Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and Comptroller and Audit General (CAG)’.
- ✓ The government has asked public sector banks to provide additional working capital to small businesses at 7.5% interest under the loan guarantee scheme that proposes to provide up to ₹3 lakh crore
- ✓ Currently, small businesses are borrowing at 11-12% from state-run lenders.
- ✓ It has also asked them to ensure that senior citizens earn higher returns on their fixed deposits.

BIG DISCOUNT FOR MICRO UNITS	
<p>7.5% rate of interest at which govt wants PSBs to provide additional loan to small biz; currently, borrowing rate is 11-12%</p>	<p>7.4% proposed interest to senior citizens on fixed deposits; rate to be reset next yr; scheme extended till 2023</p> 
<p>₹3L cr corpus under loan guarantee scheme to provide extra working capital to small businesses</p> 	<p>6.5% SBI currently paying sr citizens; has reduced peak fixed deposit rate to 5.7% for funds parked for 5-10 years</p>

- ✓ Bankers have been asked to ensure widespread implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, which has been extended by three years up to March 2023.
- ✓ Under the scheme, senior citizens will be paid 7.4 % interest during the current financial year with rate to be reset next year.
- ✓ Currently, the banks provide around 6.5% interest per annum for senior citizens
- ✓ Last week, the government had cleared an emergency facility for business enterprises with a turnover of up to ₹100 crore and outstanding loans of up to ₹25 crore
 - ✓ As per the new facility, these units will get additional 20% working capital through a government guarantee with interest rate capped at 9.25%.
- ✓ On May 22, the RBI had reduced repo rate — or the rate at which it lends to banks — by another 40 basis points.
- ✓ This means, the banks will be lowering rates on all loans in the coming months as they adjust their deposit rates.

SPORTS

- **C.A. Bhavani Devi - has been nominated for the Arjuna Award by the Fencing Association of India and the application has been forwarded to the Sports Ministry.**



- ✓ This is the first time a fencer has been nominated for the prestigious award.
- ✓ The 26-year old trailblazer from Tamil Nadu has given fencing an identity in India by winning laurels at the international level through sheer hard work and determination.
- ✓ The India's No. 1 fencer competes in the sabre category
 - ✓ She is the first Indian fencer to win gold at the World Cup satellite tournament in Reykjavik, Iceland.
 - ✓ Bhavani was the first Indian to win the gold medal in the senior Commonwealth fencing championship held in Canberra in November 2018.
 - ✓ She had also won the silver medal in women's sabre individual category in the Tournoi Satellite Fencing competition at Ghent, Belgium in early 2018

- ✓ Meanwhile, in another development, the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said India will not host any international event in immediate future
 - ✓ He also said that the fans will have to learn to live with the new norm of sporting activities happening behind closed doors, post COVID-19.
- **Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka - has become the world's highest-paid female athlete, making \$37.4 million in the past 12 months, according to the rankings of Forbes magazine.**



- ✓ The 22-year-old two-time Grand Slam champion surpassed Serena Williams by \$1.4 million in prize money and endorsements.
- ✓ Osaka's accumulated earnings are the biggest total over a 12-month period for a female athlete, beating the previous tally of \$29.7m achieved by Maria Sharapova in 2015.
- ✓ Osaka is ranked 29th in the overall list, with Williams at 33rd, marking the first time since 2016, two women have made the 100 highest-paid athletes.
- ✓ Williams, 38, had been the world's highest-paid female athlete in each of the past four years.
- ✓ Sharapova ruled before Williams for five straight years.
- ✓ Williams had annual incomes from \$18 million to \$29 million and has collected nearly \$300 million, mostly in endorsement deals.
- ✓ Osaka won back-to-back Grand Slam titles at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open
 - ✓ She won the first Slam singles crown ever by a Japanese woman in flushing meadows in 2018 US Open.
 - ✓ After 2019, she slipped from world number one to 10th in the WTA rankings.
 - ✓ Osaka has major sponsorship deals with the likes of Nike, Nissan Motors, Shiseido and Yonex.
- ✓ The complete list of rankings is due to be released next week
- ✓ Since Forbes began ranking of women athletes' income figures from 1990, tennis players have topped the annual list of female top income earners every year.

CONTAINMENT ZONES IN CHENNAI – A REPORT

- Teynampet - has become the fourth zone of the Chennai Corporation to report more than 1,000 COVID-19 cases.
- ✓ The number of residents who tested positive had already crossed 1,000 in zones of Royapuram, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Kodambakkam.
- ✓ All the 200 wards of the Corporation have reported cases in the city.
- ✓ A total of 28 wards have reported less than 10 cases.

