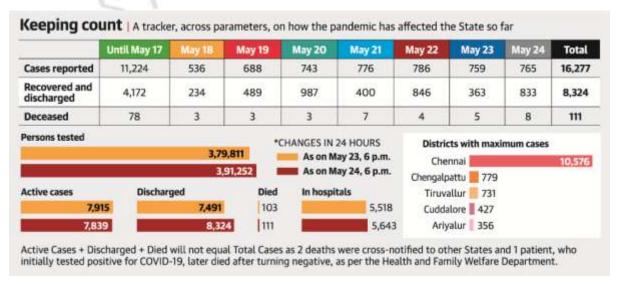


# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - MAY 25, 2020

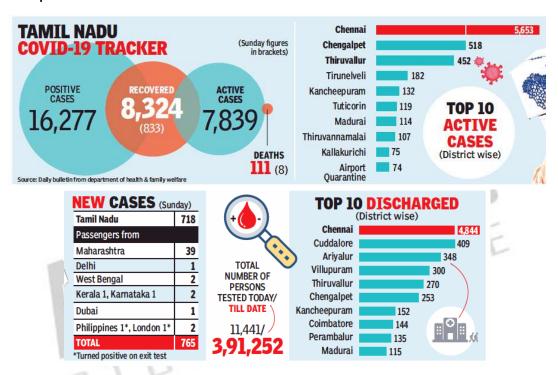
#### **TAMIL NADU**

- On May 24, Tamil Nadu's Covid-19 count crossed 16,000 mark, while Chennai's tally crossed 10,000 mark
- ✓ With the state reporting 765 fresh cases, 587 of them in Chennai, the cumulative tally now stands at 16,277
- ✓ Chennai has accounted for 10,576 infections as on date.
- ✓ Eight more deaths were reported on the day, taking the state's toll to 111.
- ✓ On May 24, for the first time since May 1, the number of people cured of Covid-19 in Tamil Nadu exceeded the number of those being treated in the state
  - ✓ A total of 8,324 positive patients were discharged following treatment, while 7,839 were still under treatment, as on May 24.
- ✓ On the day, 833 persons have been discharged from various hospitals in the State



- ✓ As on date, 5,643 persons are still undergoing treatment in isolation wards
- ✓ On May 24, 44 people who returned from other states, tested positive 39 of them were from Maharashtra

- ✓ A total of 76 foreign returnees have been tested positive till now.
- ✓ On the positive side, Coimbatore continued to have zero cases for the 21st day and Erode, Nagapattinam, Salem and Sivaganga did not report any new cases for 48 hours or more.
- ✓ All eight deaths reported in the state were from Chennai and its suburbs.
  - ✓ The deceased were aged between 46 and 68 and had comorbidities
  - ✓ It includes four patients admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, two patients in Stanley and two patients admitted to private hospitals



- ✓ On May 24, the State tested 12,275 persons, taking the total number of samples tested to 4,09,615.
- ✓ The number of infected children and the elderly crossed the 1,000-mark on the day.
  - ✓ As on May 24, 1,003 children, aged below 12, tested positive, while 1,358 elderly patients are infected with the viral infection.
- ✓ There are a total of 1,143 containment zones in the State, with Chennai topping the list with 635.
  - ✓ Followed by Chennai, Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts had 119 and 107 containment zones, respectively.
  - ✓ Tiruvannamalai comes next with 54 zones and further by Kancheepuram, 35.
- ✓ On the day, the State government has permitted 17 industrial estates, including those in Ambattur, Guindy and other parts of the Greater Chennai police limits, to resume operations with 25% of workforce from May 25.

- ✓ However, the companies are not permitted to engage labourers from containment zones and asked them to comply with standard operating procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- The Tamil Nadu government has recently reconstituted the State Planning Commission as the State Development Policy Council (SDPC) with a Government Order, issued last month.
- ✓ The SDPC would be headed by the Chief Minister like the erstwhile State Planning Commission
- ✓ It would have a Vice-Chairman, a permanent member and 12 part-time members, who are experts in various fields, besides consultants with specific expertise.
- ✓ The new body SDPC will have 'Planning' as the core responsibility, similar to the functions of the former Planning Commission.
- ✓ It will perform additional responsibilities such as monitoring and evaluation of various State government schemes
- ✓ According to SDPC Vice-Chairman C. Ponnaiyan, the permanent member would be appointed within a week and several profiles were being scrutinised for parttime members and consultants
- ✓ The SDPC would focus on all three parts of the development agriculture, which
  is the primary sector, industries, which form the secondary sector and consumer
  services, which constitute the tertiary sector.
- ✓ The SDPC would continue to function from the fifth floor of Ezhilagam complex in Chepauk.
- ✓ On March 16, 2017, then Finance Minister D. Jayakumar, while presenting the Budget for 2017-2018 in the Assembly said the State government would replace the State Planning Commission with a new body called the State Development Policy Council
  - ✓ As per the Minister, the council shall advise the government on policy coherence and formulation of programmes to guide the development of the State.
  - ✓ He had referred to the Centre's decision in not distinguishing plan and nonplan allocations in Budget formulation from 2017-2018
- > The Tamil Nadu government has decided to allow domestic flight arrivals from May 25, but with certain restrictions.
- ✓ In this regard, a SOP (standard operating procedure) was released by the state government on handling of domestic passengers
- ✓ There will be only 25 arrivals a day, while e-passes are a must for arriving passengers.
- ✓ However, for the first few days, the e-passed will be issued to the passengers upon arrival.



- ✓ RT-PCR test will be done only for those with symptoms, while those without symptoms should be on home quarantine for 14 days
- ✓ All inbound passengers shall undergo thermal screening for any symptoms of Covid-19 and not swab tests.
- ✓ It is mandatory for all the domestic air passengers flying into the state to register their details 'online' and obtain a TN e-pass through the e-pass portal, https://tnepass.tnerga.org.
- ✓ All the passengers will be stamped with 'quarantine' seal with date with indelible ink before they leave the airport.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the state government allowed operation of any number of outgoing flights from the state.

# **STATES**

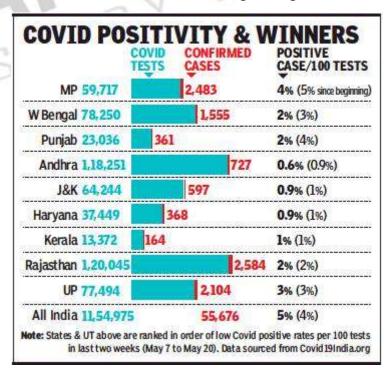
- The Uttar Pradesh Government announced that it will be setting up a Migration Commission for the welfare of migrants.
- ✓ The Commission will primarily work to ensure job and social security of the migrant workers through the skill mapping of the migrants.
- ✓ The decision of the government comes against the backdrop of millions of stranded migrant labourers returning to their native villages in UP following the nationwide lockdown to contain the coronavirus.
- ✓ Till now, at least 2.3 million migrant workers have returned to Uttar Pradesh from other states such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The UP CM Yogi Adityanath has decided to ensure that every migrant worker coming back to the state gets 'due' employment and integrated into the state's economy.

- ✓ Based on the data found during skill mapping, the migrant workers will be accommodated in different sectors.
- ✓ The state CM has instructed officials to create more than 2 million local level employment opportunities for migrants in sectors including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), agriculture, one district one product (ODOP) scheme, dairy and animal husbandry.

## **NATIONAL**

- On May 24, India overtook Iran in total recorded cases of the coronavirus to take the 10th spot among nations worst-hit by the pandemic.
- ✓ The country has reported 6,566 new cases in the past 24 hours
- ✓ It is the highest single day rise so far and the sixth peak in daily cases in as many days
- ✓ The country recorded 153 deaths on the day.
- ✓ At least 26 states/Union territories reported new cases on the day, one less than
  the number on the previous day, indicating the spread of the infection in the
  country.
- ✓ Maharashtra led the numbers with a fresh high of 3,041 new cases, 1,725 from Mumbai alone.
  - ✓ With this, the state breached the 50,000-mark in total cases while Mumbai crossed the 30,000 mark
- ✓ Cyclone-ravaged Bengal reported its highest number of fresh cases at 208, taking the cumulative tally of cases to 3,667
  - ✓ Before this, the highest single-day case spike had been reported on May 10, with 158 new cases.
- Continuing the trend of the past few days, Tamil Nadu reported the second highest count of cases during the day at 765.
- ✓ In Gujarat, 394 more Covid-19 cases were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the total to 14,063.
  - ✓ The state crossed figure of 14,000 positive cases, becoming third after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to do so.
  - ✓ Gujarat also recorded 29 Covid-related deaths, taking the death toll to 858.
  - ✓ Of the total cases, Ahmedabad alone reported 279 cases and 29 deaths.
  - ✓ Gujarat is second in death toll after Maharashtra with a mortality rate of 6.1%.
- ✓ The virus continued to surge in Delhi, with 508 new cases reported and as many as 30 deaths.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Rajasthan reported 286 new cases, while the number was high in Uttar Pradesh (254), Madhya Pradesh (219) and Bihar (180), mostly due to the migrant workers returning in large numbers.
- ✓ In Odisha, 66 fresh cases were recorded.

- ✓ With this, the number of districts that have so far reported the virus increased to 28 out of the total 30 districts.
- ✓ Kerala also reported 53 new cases and one fatality
  - ✓ Of the new cases, 47 were imported, with 18 people having come from the Gulf and 29 from other States, including Maharashtra.
  - ✓ At present, 322 patients were undergoing treatment.
  - ✓ So far, 520 recovered and five succumbed to the infection.
- ✓ The surge of Covid-19 continues in Andhra Pradesh with 83 new cases detected in 24 hours, taking the state's tally to 2,797.
  - ✓ Also, 37 patients recovered while no deaths were reported.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State's testing capacity went up 11, 357 samples were tested in 24 hours, for the first time.
- ✓ With 130 new COVID-19 cases reported in Karnataka, the State had 2,089 cases.
  - ✓ Among 130 new cases, 105 people who tested positive were from other States, 100 of them from Maharashtra alone.
  - ✓ Karnataka had done 3,209 tests per million population.
  - ✓ Delhi was first with 9,852 tests per million, while Andhra Pradesh had done 5,909 tests per million.
- ✓ The total COVID-19 deaths in Telangana rose to 53, with four more fatalities.
  - ✓ The number of new cases too rose by 41.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry said the recovery rate in the country stood at 41.28%.
- ✓ The countrywide positivity rate of coronavirus cases per 100 tests has improved to 4% in the last two weeks from 5% at the beginning of the outbreak in February



- ✓ Some states like Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have done better in bringing down the positivity rate and tackling the pandemic.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, which had struggled with new cases reported in Indore and Bhopal, has improved from 5% to 4% in the last two weeks (between May 7 and May 21).
  - ✓ Other states with similar performances include West Bengal, which has brought down the positivity rate from 3% to 2%; Punjab, from 4% to 2%; Andhra Pradesh, from 0.9% to 0.6% and J&K and Haryana at 1%.
  - ✓ States like Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have a constant positivity rate, below 1%.
  - ✓ Kerala, so far the best performing state, has kept the positivity rate at 1%, with no changes since the beginning
- ✓ On the other end of the spectrum are at least seven states and Union Territories which are reporting rising positivity rates.
  - ✓ These include Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Telangana, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar, each placed between 5% and 18%, the highest being Maharashtra.
- ✓ According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), of the total 607 labs allowed to carry out Covid-19 testing, 180 labs are in the private sector – accounting for almost 30% of approved labs across the country.
  - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, 27 private labs, the second highest after Maharashtra with 31, tested 48,457 samples which is merely 13% of the total 3.47 lakh samples tested in the state.
- ✓ Till May 24, over 29.43 lakh samples were tested for Covid-19 across the country
- India has brought back over 28,500 nationals stuck in over 30 countries during the first two phases of a massive and complex repatriation process.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs is the lead ministry handling the Vande Bharat and Samudra Setu missions
- ✓ A total of 4,921 students, 3,969 professionals, 5,936 workers, 3,254 tourists, 3,588 visitors, 610 deportees, 429 who were granted amnesty in different countries, 551 crew members, as well as 5,272 from different categories were brought back into the country.
- ✓ Altogether, 28,530 Indian nationals have been evacuated under the missions.
- ✓ UAE accounted for the maximum number of returnees at 4,243, the UK at 3,186, and the US at 2,678
- ✓ The Indian Navy vessels brought back 1,488 Indians, while other countries' aircraft, coming to India to pick up their citizens brought back 910 people.
- In a major relaxation to vehicle owners, the Road Transport ministry has ordered that payments made by applicants on or after February 1 for obtaining documents or availing services will be valid till July 31.

- ✓ This relaxation will be applicable for activities including renewal of fitness certificate, conducting fitness test, issuing new or renewal of driving licence, international driving permit etc.,
- ✓ Moreover, if there is delay in paying the fees which was due from February 1 till the period of lockdown, any additional or late fee will not be charged till July end.
- ✓ However, no relaxation has been provided for vehicle registration related matters due to the SC order on the pending registration of BS-IV vehicles.
- ✓ The relaxations with regard to payment of fees for more than two dozen services have been provided though an executive order of the Government
- An army of desert locusts has reached Jhansi and Agra in Uttar Pradesh, prompting the government to declare a statewide alert.
- ✓ Earlier, the swarm of locusts have destroyed huge acres of crops in 18 districts of Rajasthan and a dozen districts of Madhya Pradesh

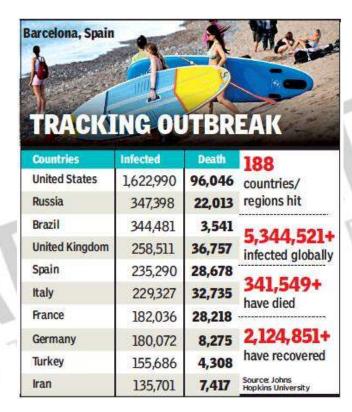


- ✓ The crop-eating pests had first entered Rajasthan from Pakistan in the second week of April.
- ✓ In UP, locusts are feared to affect 17 districts
- ✓ According to UP agriculture department officials, a big swarm of locusts can eat acres of crop within an hour.
- ✓ To deal with the situation, UP's agriculture department has launched a massive drive to educate farmers on how to check the spread of the locusts.
- ✓ In Agra, the district administration has deployed 204 tractors mounted with chemical sprays.
- ✓ Earlier, the Locust Warning Organization (LWO) of the Union ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare had warned of locust attack in May-June this year.
- ✓ However, Rajasthan reported the first wave of locust attack this year in April second week, much to the surprise of LWO.
- ✓ On May 20, swarms of locusts were found in Dausa district of Rajasthan, around 100km from the UP border.
- ✓ In five days, they had covered a distance of around 200km to reach Dausa from Ajmer. Now, the pests have already entered UP.

✓ After entering Rajasthan from Pakistan, locusts soon spread into 18 districts of the state.

# INTERNATIONAL

- ➤ Brazil overtook Russia to become the country with the second-highest number of Covid-19 cases, a day after WHO termed it as the new 'epicentre' of the deadly viral infection.
- ✓ The nation added 16,508 cases on May 23 and said the death toll rose by 965.
- ✓ Brazil now has 347,398 cases, trailing only the US.



- ✓ Meanwhile, US is steadily proceeding towards the grim milestone of 1,00,000 deaths from Covid-19 infection.
- ✓ According to New York governor Andrew Cuomo, the state lost 84 people to Covid-19 on May 23, the first time the toll has fallen to below 100 since late March.
  - ✓ However, on the next day, 109 new deaths were reported.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Chinese virology institute said that it has three live strains of bat coronavirus on-site, but none matched the Covid-19 strain
  - ✓ The centre is at the forefront of US allegations that it may have been the source of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ One of their teams has been researching bat coronaviruses since 2004 and focused on the "source tracing of SARS"
- ✓ Scientists think Covid-19 originated in bats.

### **ECONOMY**

Reliance's Jio-Mart - has commenced the operations in 200 cities over the weekend, including in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata as well as tier-2 towns in Rajasthan and Odisha.

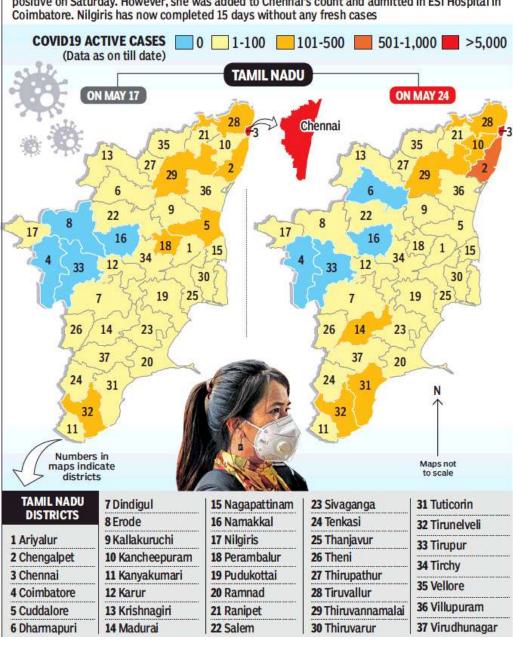


- ✓ This comes after the company's successful pilot test in the Mumbai suburbs of Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan and Dombivli.
- ✓ Though an app is not yet available, consumers can place orders through its
  website
- ✓ The company is offering products at a minimum discount of 5% on the maximum retail price (MRP).
- ✓ Orders through WhatsApp are also likely to be launched across the country soon, based on its successful pilot in Mumbai region.
- ✓ The JioMart platform is currently selling essential products like grocery, fruits and vegetables.
- ✓ Currently, JioMart is charging a delivery fee of Rs 25 for orders less than Rs 750.
- ✓ For order value above that, delivery is free.
- ✓ In central Bengaluru, it is offering a delivery timeline of up to two days.
- ✓ Jio-Mart plans to utilise WhatsApp's user base of 400 million in India, a key differentiator compared to its rivals like Amazon and Flipkart, or e-grocers like Bigbasket and Grofers.
  - ✓ This partnership is one of the key elements of Facebook's \$5.7-billion investment in Jio Platforms in April.
- ✓ Since then, Jio Platforms has raised \$10.3 billion from a series of top-tier investors like KKR, General Atlantic, Vista and Silver Lake.

# COVID-19 PROGRESS IN TAMIL NADU IN THE LAST WEEK - REPORT

# **FEW HITS, MORE MISSES**

The week that went by was a mixed bag in the battle against Covid-19. It offered something for Tamil Nadu to cheer and something more to worry about. Coimbatore and Tirupur completed 21 and 22 days respectively without any new Covid-19 cases, on Sunday, technically qualifying to be green zones. Coimbatore reported the last positive case on May 3 and Tirupur on May 2. However, elsewhere in the state, cases were not only multiplying but districts which were Covid-free for several weeks started reporting fresh cases following the influx of people from other states. Erode, which was the lone green district for a long time, reported a new case on May 22 after 37 days. Sivaganga, Salem and Tiruvarur reported new cases primarily due to people returning from Maharashtra and other states. A woman from Chennai headed to the Nilgiris tested positive on Saturday. However, she was added to Chennai's count and admitted in ESI Hospital in Coimbatore. Nilgiris has now completed 15 days without any fresh cases



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11 | Расе

# AIR TRAVEL TO RESUME IN INDIA – A REPORT

- ➤ The Centre is planning to restart domestic flights from May 25 after a gap of two months following the Covid-induced lockdown
- ✓ Union health ministry has issued new guidelines for domestic travel by air, train and inter-state bus on May 24
- ✓ According to the new norms, only passengers without Covid-19 symptoms will be allowed to fly and on arrival will have to self-monitor their health for 14 days.
- ✓ If passengers develop any Covid-like symptoms after travel, they will need to inform the district surveillance officer or the state/national call centre



When & How Many: Mumbai airport allows only 50 flights on Day One. Chennai and Hyderabad are also likely to cap flight numbers. Cyclone-hit Kolkata and Bagdogra will allow a reduced number of flights from May 28, and Vijayawada & Vizag will allow flights from Tuesday

Flight Numbers: Instead of 1,170 daily flights — 8,216 domestic weekly flights — planned earlier, Monday may see about 600 flights

Norms For Flyers: While Centre's guidelines for arriving domestic travellers say they are required to self-monitor their health for 14 days, states are free to develop own protocol for quarantine for incoming passengers

- ✓ For international arrivals, the guidelines mandate that all travellers, before boarding the aircraft to India, shall give an undertaking that they will undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days in the country
- ✓ Out of these 14 days, seven-day paid institutional quarantine should be exercised at their own cost, followed by seven days' isolation at home with self-monitoring of health
- ✓ A 14-day home quarantine may be permitted only in exceptional cases like "human distress, pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) accompanied by children below 10 years"
- ✓ Such passengers will mandatorily need to use the Aarogya Setu app
- ✓ The Centre, however, has allowed states to develop their own isolation and quarantine protocols.
- ✓ Travellers have also been advised to download the Aarogya Setu app, but it is not mandatory for them, except for those going for 14-day home quarantine upon return from abroad
- ✓ While Mumbai will restart operations from May 25, it will allow only 25 each of arrivals and departures, just around 30% of regular flights, operating to different airports.

- ✓ West Bengal's Kolkata and Bagdogra airports have delayed re-opening until May 28 due to cyclone Amphan.
- ✓ Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam airports in Andhra Pradesh will reopen only from May 26, with only 20% of flights permitted.
- ✓ Hyderabad airport in Telangana will reopen but permit only 15 arrivals and departures.

# WHAT TO EXPECT IN DIFFERENT STATES

Maharashtra: Mumbai airport authorities to send passengers for 14-day home isolation after screening

Rajasthan: 14-day institutional quarantine (IQ) for elderly and symptomatic travellers, no clarity for others

Gujarat: State govt not to force isolation – either at any institutional facility or at home

UP: 14 days at home. Those on business visit are exempted, but they will have to give details of place of stay and can stay only for seven days

Uttarakhand: 10 days in govt facility/ hotel. Home facility allowed only if health officials are convinced

Punjab: 14-day home isolation

Himachal: 14-day IQ

Chandigarh: No quarantine

Haryana: Gurgaon administration insists on 14day home isolation

J&K: Four days of IQ

Bengal: No clarity on quarantine. Domestic flights will resume only from May 28 in view of Cyclone Amphan aftermath



Odisha: Professionals, govt officials, businessmen exempted from quarantine if they return within 72 hours. Others need home isolation for 14 days

Bihar: No quarantine required

Jharkhand: 14-day home isolation for all

Assam: Seven-day IQ followed by seven days at home. Only those who return the same day will not be guarantined

Mizoram: Travellers would be allowed to enter the state only after they carry special permission from state home department

Madhya Pradesh: 14-day IQ for symptomatic travellers

Chhattisgarh: 14-day isolation at a hotel or a govt facility or at home Kerala: 14-day home isolation

TN: 14 days at home. IQ for those who don't have the facility at home

Karnataka: Seven-day IQ followed by seven days of home isolation for fliers from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Home guarantine for 14 days for all those flying from other states. Pregnant women, children 10 years and below, senior citizens 80 years and above and terminally-ill patients exempted from IO. Business fliers will be exempted if they bring a Covid-19 negative certificate issued by an ICMRapproved lab

Andhra Pradesh: 14 days at home or at a govt facility

Telangana: Symptomatic fliers to be sent to hospital, rest can go home

Goa: Fliers without a Covidnegative certificate will have
to undergo a test for Rs 2,000
and home isolation till the
results come. If they test
positive, they will be admitted
to a Covid hospital and their
family will be kept in paid IQ.
Mandatory 14-day home
isolation for those who can't
afford the test

# **Travel guide**

A look at the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry for domestic and international travellers

#### INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS (AIR, LAND AND SEA)

- Before boarding, all passengers need to agree to 7 days of paid institutional quarantine, followed by
   7 days of home isolation
- A copy of the selfdeclaration form should be produced to officials on arrival
- A 14-day home quarantine will be permitted only for reasons such as human distress, pregnancy, death in the family, serious illness and parent(s) accompanied by children less than 10 years old.
   Use of Aarogya Setu is mandatory in such cases

#### DOMESTIC TRAVEL (AIR/TRAIN/ INTER-STATE BUS TRAVEL)

 On arrival, all asymptomatic passengers will be permitted to go home. They have to self-monitor their health for 14 days

#### **COMMON GUIDELINES**

- Only asymptomatic passengers will be allowed; use of Aarogya Setu app is advised
- Passengers and crew should wear masks and ensure hand hygiene
- Compulsory thermal screening will be done at exit points

- If found symptomatic on arrival, passengers will be taken to the nearest health facility
- Those with moderate or severe symptoms will be sent to dedicated COVID-19 facilities
- After 14 days of quarantine, authorities should be informed if symptoms develop

