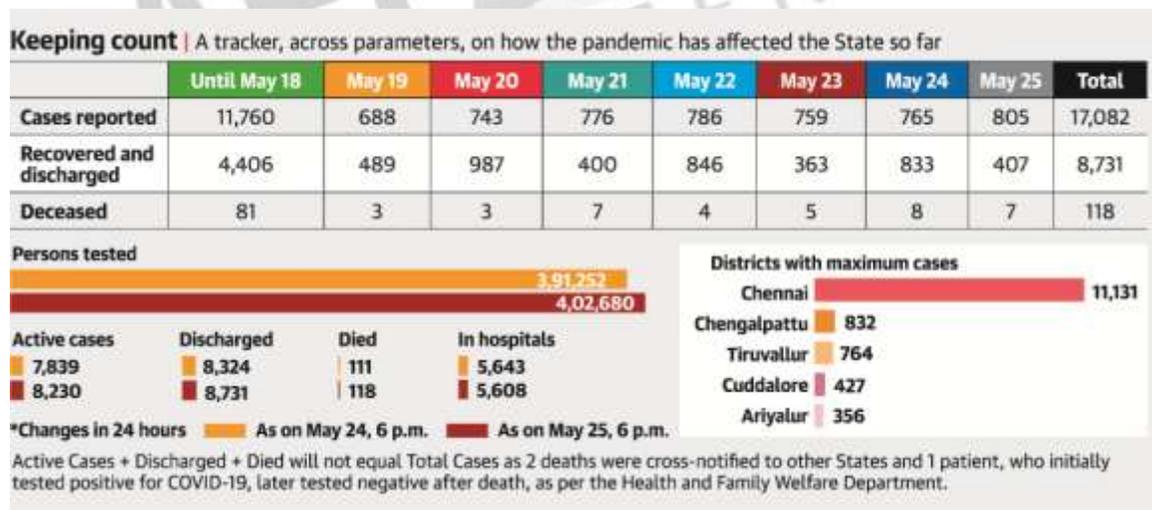




## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 26, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- On May 25, Tamil Nadu - reported 805 cases (314 women and 491 men) of COVID-19, its highest single-day increase, taking its tally to 17,082
- ✓ Chennai alone accounted for 549 cases, mostly from containment zones in Royapuram, Thiru-vi-ka Nagar and Puliyanthope, taking its cumulative count to 11,131 cases.
- ✓ The toll touched 118 after seven people died at various hospitals in Chennai
- ✓ Chennai alone accounted for 84 of the 118 deaths in the State



- ✓ Of the 93 returnees who tested positive on the day, 87 were from Maharashtra.
- ✓ According to health minister C Vijayabaskar, natives returning from Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh by road and rail made up 5% of the state's caseload in the past 10 days.
- ✓ Since May 9, 942 returnees had tested positive, including 726 people from Maharashtra, 21 from Gujarat, 15 from Delhi and 19 from West Bengal

## 407 PEOPLE RECOVER IN A DAY

805 +ve across TN on Monday;  
17,082 +ve so far in state

548 fresh cases in Chennai;  
11,131 overall

8,230 Covid cases  
under treatment

8,731 patients discharged

7 deaths on  
Monday, total 118

**VIRUS ALERT:** A passenger at the Chennai airport on Monday



- ✓ On May 25, 486 people arrived in Chennai and more than 1,000 left the state.
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, there were 54 new cases in Chengalpattu, 36 in Tiruvallur, 19 in Kancheepuram, 11 in Tiruvannamalai, five in Ramanathapuram, four each in Ranipet and Virudhunagar, two each in Kanniyakumari and Theni, and one each in Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Tiruchi.
  - ✓ Dharmapuri, which did not report any case after May 12, reported one case on the day.
  - ✓ Kallakurichi and Salem, which had no cases from the state, together reported 16 cases from Maharashtra.
- ✓ The state tested 11,835 samples for the viral infection in the past 24 hours
  - ✓ With this, the state has tested more than 4.2 lakh samples
- ✓ The state's recovery rate has reached 50% while the mortality is around 0.69%
- ✓ On May 25, 407 were discharged taking the total recovered in the state to 8,731.
- ✓ For the second day, the number of people under treatment at 8,230 was less than those cured, which stands at 8,731
- ✓ A total of 5,608 persons with suspected symptoms are admitted to isolation wards in various hospitals
- ✓ So far, the State has tested a total of 4,21,450 samples that include the day's 11,835 samples.
- ✓ On the day, six men and one woman succumbed to the virus, with the youngest being a 32 year old and the oldest being an 86 year old person with comorbidities.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Tondiarpet becoming the fifth zone in Chennai Corporation to register over a thousand COVID-19 patients
  - ✓ Already Royapuram, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Kodambakkam and Teynampet zones have reported more than 1,000 cases.
  - ✓ Among these zones, the number of COVID-19 positive cases is already marching towards the 2,000-mark in Royapuram.
- ✓ In the health front, the government has decided to deploy 100 more mobile fever clinics in Chennai to identify symptomatic people with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and influenza-like illness (ILI).

- ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation will work out the logistics for the initiative in association with the state health department
  - ✓ The government has already been supplying kabasura kudineer, a herbal decoction, for enhancing immunity of people in the state.
  - ✓ The civic body is already running 15 such mobile clinics.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the state has restricted the number of domestic flight arrivals at Chennai to 25 per day, following the surge of cases in the state.
- **The School education department - has made all required arrangements to maintain physical distancing and personal hygiene during the evaluation of Class XII board exam answer scripts**
- ✓ The process of assessing 48 lakh answer scripts will involve more than 40,000 teachers at 200 evaluation centres from May 27.

<b>TESTING TIMES</b>		<b>Over 40,000 teachers will evaluate more than 48 lakh answer scripts of over 8.5 lakh Class XII students</b>
<p><b>TEAM</b>   Each evaluation room to have one chief examiner, one officer for scrutiny and six assistant examiners (Down from 24 teachers per hall)</p> <p>➤ Evaluation centres up from 70 to 200</p> <p>➤ Seating arrangements to be made following <b>social distancing norms</b></p> <p>➤ Teachers and staff whose residences fall within</p>		<p><b>containment zones to be exempted from evaluation work</b></p> <p>➤ No evaluation work in Chennai due to increase in number of Covid-19 cases</p> <p><b>TRANSPORT</b>   Government buses to transport teachers to evaluation centres</p> <p>➤ Teachers can travel in private vehicles for evaluation even to other districts, e-pass not needed</p>
		<p><b>SANITIZATION</b>   Evaluation centres along with furniture, hand rails, doors, windows disinfected twice</p> <p>➤ Handwash facilities with <b>soap and running water</b> at entry and exit points, sanitizers to be provided in every room</p> <p>➤ Every teacher would be provided with <b>three reusable face masks</b></p> <p>➤ All vehicles will be sanitized twice daily</p>

- ✓ Due to increasing Covid-19 cases, the department has decided not to have evaluations done in Chennai
- ✓ Also, teachers from the district will be exempted from the evaluation duty.
- ✓ The answer scripts allotted for evaluation in Chennai will be shifted to other districts.
- ✓ Over 40,000 of the 69,000 post-graduate teachers teaching Classes XI and XII will be called for the evaluation work.
- ✓ Headmasters were asked to avoid calling teachers residing in containment zones.
- ✓ School education department would provide three reusable masks for every teacher to do the evaluation work
- ✓ As per the tentative plan, the directorate of government examinations may release the Class XII results in the third week of June.
- ✓ More than 8.5 lakh students wrote the exams, which were conducted from March 2 to 24

- **The last Zamindar of Singampatti, T.N.S. Murugadoss Theerthapathi (92 years) - died in his palace at Singampatti, on May 24.**
- ✓ He was the last Zamindar of south India.
- ✓ Singampatti, one of the 72 erstwhile 'palayams' in southern Tamil Nadu, is situated close to the Western Ghats in Ambasamudram taluk

In The Sovereign's domain		Rajah's talents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Includes several acres of cultivable land (<b>downsized after the Land Ceiling Act</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>The Rajah's palace is situated on 7 acres of land</b> in Singampatti village in Tirunelveli district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Collects agriculture proceeds from tenants</b>, most of them relatives, on a 60:40 sharing basis</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>T N S Murugadoss Theerthapathi Maharaja is the trustee of over 900 acres</b> of wetland owned by 8 temples (built by his forefathers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Is an intermediate drop out</b> with knowledge of impeccable spoken and written English</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; These wetlands are among <b>the properties owned by the state Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>22 acres of forest land owned by the Karaiyar-Sorimuthaian temple</b> perched on the banks of Tamirabarani river</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>A ballroom dancer – taught a teacher of Dutch-Portuguese descent</b> in Trinity College</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; He is <b>president of a joint committee administering</b> a high school and arts college</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Ambidextrous and plays tennis</b> with both hands</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Sharp-shooter who can shoot a cigarette out of a man's mouth;</b> can shoot blindfolded</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Represented a private club in Kandy, Ceylon</b> in a rugby match against the Royal Air Force (England)</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Accomplished Silambam and varuma kalai</b> artist</li> </ul>

- ✓ Murugadoss was crowned the Zamindar of Singampatti at the age of three-and-a-half years when his father died in 1936
- ✓ He later went to Kandy in Sri Lanka for his education in the pre-Independence era at Trinity College.
- ✓ He used to visit his friends in Sri Lanka every five years, till last year.
- ✓ Murugadoss, an excellent orator in English, was in Chennai for a brief period for his business activities.
- ✓ Then, he returned to Singampatti and was administering the famous Sorimuthu Ayyanar Temple inside the Kalakkadu - Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve beyond Papanasam
  - ✓ The temple would attract thousands of devotees for the Adi amavasai festival.
  - ✓ He would be in the royal robes during this festival.
- ✓ Singampatti Zamin had given on lease a few thousand acres of land in the Western Ghats for tea plantation
  - ✓ However, the Zamin lost its ownership of the land later following the abolishment of Zamindari system in the country.
  - ✓ After a prolonged legal battle, the tea estates are now owned by the Department of Forests.
- ✓ Murugadoss was an expert in handling a range of rifles and was an honorary wildlife warden.
- ✓ He is also an active LIC agent for three decades, utilizing his earnings towards the school fees of several children and temple activities.

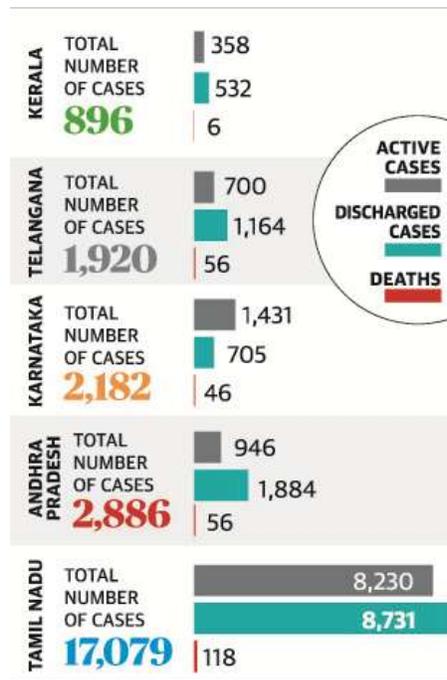
## STATES

- **The Rajasthan government - has withdrawn an earlier order increasing working hour shifts in manufacturing units from eight to 12 hours**
- ✓ On May 23, the Rajasthan government cancelled certain clauses of the Factories Act, 1948 which allow governments to increase daily work shifts from 8 hours to 12 hours in the event of a national emergency
- ✓ Henceforth, the state will continue to work with 8-hour work shifts.
- ✓ Earlier, several state governments, including Rajasthan, had diluted the labour law with an aim to encourage industries in restarting the economic activity following the relaxation of lockdown restrictions.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh had earlier brought in the 'Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020'
  - ✓ As per the ordinance, all but three labour laws in the state were kept in abeyance for three years, and increased daily work hour shift to 10 hours
  - ✓ Following UP, at least a dozen other states have also diluted sections of labour laws.
- ✓ The UP government subsequently revoked the order.
  
- **In a mega boost for Telangana's vaccine industry, the Centre - has approved the setting up of a regional testing laboratory for vaccines in Hyderabad.**
- ✓ This announcement was made by Telangana IT and industries minister K T Rama Rao on May 25
- ✓ This will be only the second such laboratory in India after the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) at Kasauli
- ✓ The new lab will be set up at the upcoming National Animal Research Facility at Genome Valley within the next one year.
- ✓ Currently the vaccine companies send their vaccine batches for testing only to Kasauli.
- ✓ The CDL is the National Control Laboratory for testing of Immunobiologicals (vaccines and antisera) meant for human use in India
- ✓ Telangana is at the forefront of the country's vaccine industry, as major vaccine players like Shantha Biotechnics, Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL), Bharat Biotech and Biological E, which are in the global race to develop Covid-19 vaccines, are located in Hyderabad.
- ✓ In fact, Hyderabad accounts for nearly 33% of the total vaccines developed and supplied globally.

## NATIONAL

- **India - recorded more than 6,000 fresh Covid-19 infections for the fourth day running on May 25**

- ✓ However, the count was slightly less than the numbers reported over the past three days, mainly due to a drop of more than 600 in Maharashtra as compared with a record high of 3,041 cases reported a day earlier.
- ✓ On May 25, the country added another 6,087 cases, taking the Covid-19 count to more than 1.42 lakh, as per data collated from state governments.
- ✓ Nagaland became the 34th state/Union territory to report coronavirus infections, after three people who had returned from Chennai tested positive in the state
- ✓ Across the country, 150 virus-related deaths were reported, with Maharashtra recording 60 deaths (38 in Mumbai alone), Gujarat 30, Delhi 15 and Madhya Pradesh 10
- ✓ This is the second consecutive day when the toll was 150 or more in the country.
- ✓ As many as 28 states/UTs reported Covid-19 cases during the day, probably the highest number so far, indicating the spread of the virus across the country.
- ✓ **Only the UTs of Lakshadweep and Daman & Diu remain free of the virus, with no cases so far.**
- ✓ In a more cheerful development, the number of people who have recovered from the infection went past the 60,000 mark at 60,699.
- ✓ This means, the country has achieved a recovery rate of 42.6%, the highest so far.
- ✓ Maharashtra, by far the worst-hit by the pandemic, reported 2,436 new cases on the day, a drop from the previous day's figure of over 3,000.
  - ✓ With this, the state's tally has reached 52,667.
  - ✓ Of these, Mumbai accounted for 1,430 fresh infections, taking its case count to 31,972
  - ✓ Deaths in the city crossed into four-figures at 1,026, while the state's toll has risen to 1,695.
- ✓ In Gujarat, 30 more people succumbed to the virus in 24 hours, pushing the toll to 888.
  - ✓ The state recorded 405 positive cases, taking the total tally to 14,468.
  - ✓ This is the highest case tally in a day for the state in 20 days, indicating seven Covid-19 positive cases every two minutes.
- ✓ In Rajasthan, four persons died on the day, taking the death toll in the state to 167.
  - ✓ A total of 272 people were tested positive for the virus, taking the positive count in the state to 7,300.
  - ✓ The state has 3,077 active cases, as on date.
- ✓ In Karnataka, two patients succumbed to the infection, taking the total number of COVID- 19 deaths to 44
  - ✓ Meanwhile, 93 new cases were reported in the state, taking the case total to 2,182



- ✓ Kerala, which established early success in reducing COVID-19 incidence had one more death and 49 new positive cases
  - ✓ Out of the 49 new cases, 43 are imported, represented by expatriates and non-resident Keralites from other States
  - ✓ At present, 359 patients were undergoing treatment in hospitals, while 532 recovered from the disease.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported 89 more cases in 24 hours, 45 of them being returnees from Gulf countries.
  - ✓ With this, the state had 2,886 cases, 946 of them still 'active' in various hospitals.
  - ✓ The State had tested 10,240 samples on the day and 3,14,566 samples till date.
- ✓ Three COVID-19 patients died in Telangana on the day, taking the toll to 56
  - ✓ There was a spike in the state as 66 more tested positive, while 72 were discharged.
- **The domestic air travel in the country - resumed on May 25 after two months of lockdown.**
  - ✓ But, a large number of passengers were left stranded as airlines were forced to cancel half the flights just hours before take-off due to poor co-ordination between the Centre and the States.
  - ✓ The first day of resumption of flight services saw 532 flights operate, ferrying 39,231 passengers to various destinations
  - ✓ With Andhra Pradesh set to resume operations from May 26 and West Bengal from May 28, these numbers are all set to increase further
  - ✓ Delhi airport logged 118 arrivals, 125 departures and 82 cancellations.

- ✓ Mumbai had 47 flights — less than one-fourth of the original plan — with seven airlines flying in 1,100 passengers and flying out 3,752 travellers to 14 cities.

### HALF OF 1,054 FLIGHTS FLEW ON DAY 1

- There were just 532 domestic flights carrying 39,231 flyers on Monday — about half of the 1,054 flights initially planned
- Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore alone accounted for 275 cancellations
- Daily flight numbers will rise as more airports — Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata and Bagdogra — resume operations; others, especially Mumbai and Hyderabad, set to increase daily allowed flights and GoAir to resume flights from June 1



IGI logged 118 arrivals, 125 departures & 82 cancellations on Day 1

- ✓ Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore alone accounted for about 270 cancelled flights.
- ✓ Some airports like Kolkata, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam will open only later this week while others like Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad would have a strict cap on the number of flights
- ✓ While airlines were given the approval to restart upto 30% of regular flights, the operation of 532 flights represents a mere 15% of pre-COVID-19 days of nearly 3,300 arrivals and departures.
- **The Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry - is planning to set up a separate 'National assessment centre' (NAC) as an overarching body for various school boards**
- ✓ The main aim of NAC is to set uniform standards for examination pattern and evaluation for Classes X and XII.
- ✓ At present, each of the 31 school education boards across various states has individual system for assessment and evaluation standards
- ✓ This is seen as one of the reason behind unusual spike in scores of Class X and XII board exams.
- ✓ In order to bring in uniformity and break rote learning, NAC will advise school boards regarding new assessment patterns, promote collaborations between school boards, and share best practices among them.
- ✓ It will prevent surge of marks, often seen as a result of competition among school boards.
- ✓ The ministry is expected to send the proposal on NAC to the Union cabinet soon.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 25, the Supreme Court - allowed Air India to fill middle seats till June 6 on its non-scheduled international flights, which are engaged to bring back stranded Indians and take foreigners in India back to their home nations.**

- ✓ The order was pronounced by a bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy on urgent petitions filed by the Union government and Air India challenging a May 22 interim order of the Bombay high court
- ✓ According to Bombay high court's order, Air India has been barred from utilizing middle seats in its non-scheduled international rescue flights, to ensure social distancing norms enforced by the government were followed during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ It had led to cancellation of tickets of one-third of passengers who had come from various parts of the country to New Delhi to board flights to their countries on May 24, leading to chaos and disturbance at the airport.
- ✓ According to SC, after June 6, Air India has to operate non-scheduled flights in accordance with the interim order passed by the Bombay high court.
- ✓ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation by its March 23 circular had ordered middle seats to be kept vacant for only scheduled domestic flights.
- ✓ The Bombay HC had passed the interim order on May 22 saying there could not be two types of norms for flights and that keeping middle seats vacant was in sync with social distancing norms

## INTERNATIONAL

- **United States - has banned entry of non-US citizens from Brazil and warned it would review traffic from other countries with high incidence of coronavirus infections.**
- ✓ According to White House, the move was a “decisive action to protect the country”, as Brazil now has the second largest number of infections with over 3,63,000 cases

TRACKING OUTBREAK			
Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	1,653,390	97,940	<b>188</b> countries/ regions hit
Brazil	363,211	22,666	
Russia	353,427	3,633	<b>5,460,747+</b> infected globally
United Kingdom	262,541	36,996	
Spain	235,400	26,834	<b>346,293+</b> have died
Italy	230,158	32,877	
France	182,709	28,370	<b>2,193,461+</b> have recovered
Germany	180,595	8,309	
Turkey	157,814	4,369	
<b>India</b>	144,741	<b>4,162</b>	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ Incidentally, US itself has more than four times the number with nearly 1.7 million cases and is closing in on 1,00,000 deaths, the highest in the world.
- ✓ However, the ban will not apply to US nationals, green card holders, and their relatives.
- ✓ US has already banned non-American travellers from China, Europe, the UK among other countries, but it has not restricted travel from Russia, which has the world's third-highest caseload
- ✓ Wuhan, the city at the centre of China's COVID-19 outbreak, has conducted 6.5 million tests for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, following a massive citywide campaign launched on May 14.
  - ✓ The city launched the unprecedented 10 day-campaign to test all of its 11 million residents after a cluster of asymptomatic infections was reported on May 9.
- ✓ On May 25, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe said that the state of emergency will be lifted in the entire country, and that the country managed to get the spread of the virus under control within two months.
  - ✓ But, Japan is expected to expand its travel ban list to 111 countries effective on May 27.
  - ✓ It now includes the US, India, and South Africa.
  - ✓ The ban list, which will add 11 more countries this week, forbids foreign nationals who stayed in those countries from entering Japan.
- ✓ Meanwhile, around 15,000 Rohingya refugees are now under quarantine in Bangladesh's camps, as the number of infections rose to 29.
- ✓ The first cases among the cramped settlements were detected in mid-May.
- ✓ Meanwhile, in Spain, Madrid and Barcelona cautiously emerged from one of the world's strictest lockdowns
  - ✓ The parks and cafe terraces remained open for the first time in more than two months.
  - ✓ In other parts of Spain, beaches reopened with strict guidelines.
  - ✓ The country also announced it would scrap quarantine for foreign arrivals from July1, in the hope of helping the tourism sector
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Covid tally crossed 56,800 while the toll rose to 1,170 in Pakistan
- ✓ Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest sites, began a five day round-the-clock curfew from May 23
- ✓ The move is announced after infections have more than quadrupled since the start of Ramzan to over 74,000 — the highest in the Gulf.
- **On May 25, the World Health Organization - said that it will temporarily drop hydroxychloroquine from its global study into experimental Covid-19 treatments, as its experts need to review all available evidence to date.**
  - ✓ This was announced by WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
  - ✓ According to a research paper published last week in the Lancet, people taking hydroxychloroquine were shown at higher risk of death and heart problems

- ✓ The drug is approved treatments for people with malaria or autoimmune diseases.
- ✓ Other treatments in the trial, including the experimental drug Remdesivir and an HIV combination therapy, are still being tested.
- ✓ WHO expects more details on the trials within the next two weeks.
- ✓ Hydroxychloroquine has been supported by US President Donald Trump
- ✓ He has been taking the drug to help prevent Covid-19, as a possible treatment for the disease, inspite of several warnings by his own administration
- ✓ Both the European Medicines Agency and the Food and Drug Administration warned that the drug should not be used to treat Covid-19 outside of hospital or research settings, due to side effects that can be fatal in some cases
- ✓ On May 22, the Indian health ministry had expanded hydroxychloroquine's prophylactic use for asymptomatic healthcare and frontline workers.
- ✓ However, the guidelines had advised that caution must be exercised in case of people with cardio rhythm disorders and hypersensitivity to the drug.

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **China - has announced that it will evacuate its citizens, stranded due to the lockdown in India, starting next week in case they are facing difficulties.**
- ✓ It has arranged flights from Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata to Shanghai, Chongqing, Jinan, Guangzhou and Zhengzhou, starting June 2 and the citizens would need to register by May 27.
- ✓ The Chinese embassy put out a notice on its website asking citizens to book themselves on the flights
- ✓ However, those who had been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had fever and cough symptoms within the past 14 days would not be permitted to travel.
- ✓ The costs for the tickets and for quarantine expenses for 14 days on arrival in China would be borne by the passengers.
- ✓ On March 27, China announced international travel restrictions following a rise in imported COVID-19 cases
- ✓ The ministry of external affairs had already facilitated return of more than 60,000 foreign nationals to their home countries until last week.
- ✓ The move of Chinese government comes amid strained relations and a military standoff in east Ladakh in the Himalayas
- ✓ Chinese troops have infiltrated into Indian Territory in parts of Ladakh, which has resulted in stand-offs in four-five locations, requiring high-level political intervention.
  
- **India and Israel - have decided to jointly develop rapid testing systems, based on big data & AI technology, that can conduct Covid-19 tests at under a minute, in the highest level of R&D cooperation between the two countries.**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu have already spoken a couple of times since the outbreak of the pandemic.



- ✓ For the joint project, the premier defence research organisations on both sides will be involved.
- ✓ Indian institutions like Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are likely to partner Israel's Directorate of R&D in the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ Earlier in May 2020, Israel had announced the successful development of a monoclonal antibody that has the potential to neutralize the SARS-CoV2 virus.
- ✓ The State of Israel and the Republic of India have extensive military, economic and strategic relationships.
- ✓ In Asia, as of 2014, India is the third-largest trade partner of Israel.

## DEFENCE

- **Tamil Nadu's Sulur-based 'Flying Bullets', the Indian Air Force's No.18 squadron - will become the second to operate the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas' on May 27.**
- ✓ Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, will operationalise 'Flying Bullets' at the Air Force Station in Sulur
- ✓ The 'Flying Daggers' or the No. 45 Squadron was the first squadron to fly Tejas
  - ✓ It is also based at Sulur Air force station, which is near Coimbatore
  - ✓ The squadron, which was shifted from Bengaluru to Sulur, became operational in 2018.
- ✓ Thus, Sulur will become the only base of IAF to be equipped with two squadrons that fly Tejas
- ✓ With the development, Sulur will become a strategically important base of the IAF under its Southern Air Command based at Thiruvananthapuram.



- ✓ The No 18 squadron was formed on April 15, 1965, with the motto 'Teevraaur Nirbhaya' (swift and fearless).
  - ✓ It was flying MiG 27 fighter jets earlier, before it was decommissioned on April 15, 2016.
  - ✓ The squadron was resurrected on April 01, 2020 at the Sullur station.
  - ✓ The squadron took part in the 1971 war with Pakistan
  - ✓ It was decorated with the highest gallantry award Param Vir Chakra, which was awarded to flying officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon posthumously.
  - ✓ It earned the nickname of 'Defenders of Kashmir Valley' after being the first to land and operates from Srinagar.
  - ✓ The squadron was awarded the prestigious President's Standard in November 2015.
- ✓ Tejas is a fourth-generation tailless aircraft equipped with advanced flight control system, integrated digital avionics and multi-mode radar.
  - ✓ The structure is made of composite materials.
  - ✓ It is the lightest and smallest in the group of fourth-generation supersonic combat aircraft.
  - ✓ The aircraft has been designed by the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) which is under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
  - ✓ It was manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

## SPORTS

- **Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr (96 years), India's greatest centre forward and winner of three Olympic gold medals – passed away at a private hospital in Mohali after battling multiple health issues for more than two weeks.**
  - ✓ He suffered three cardiac arrests but had been stable since May 13.
  - ✓ He was cremated with full state honours.
  - ✓ Balbir Sr represented the country in 3 olympics - London 1948 (Gold), Helsinki 1952 (Gold) and Melbourne 1956 (Gold)



- ✓ With skills considered at par with Major Dhyhan Chand, Singh was among independent India's biggest hockey stars.
- ✓ Playing for the Punjab Police team before Independence, Singh made his international debut in May 1947 against Sri Lanka
- ✓ A year later, he scored six goals — with a hat-trick in each half — against Argentina to help India win by a massive 9-1 margin at the 1948 London Olympics.
  - ✓ In the final against Britain, he scored two goals leading to India's victory at 4-0.
  - ✓ It was the country's first medal after Independence
- ✓ Out of India's 13 goals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Balbir Singh scored nine, including a hat-trick against Great Britain in the semifinals.
  - ✓ He went on to score five goals in the final against Holland, still an individual scoring record that still stands to this day.
  - ✓ India won the final 6-1.
- ✓ Under his captaincy, India scored 38 goals without conceding even once while winning the gold medal in 1956 Melbourne Olympics.
- ✓ He scored 22 goals in the Olympics for India
- ✓ Balbir is the only Indian so far to have the honour of being the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of two Summer Olympics – in 1952 (Helsinki) and 1956 (Melbourne).
- ✓ He was the manager of the World Cup Winning team of 1975
- ✓ The Government of India awarded the country's fourth-highest civilian honour Padma Shri to Balbir Sr in 1957, making him the first sportsperson to receive the honour.
- ✓ In 2014, he was conferred with the Major Dhyhan Chand Life Time Achievement Award by Hockey India
- ✓ Balbir Sr was the only Indian among 16 legends chosen by the International Olympic Committee across modern Olympic history
- ✓ After winning silver in the 1958 Tokyo Asian Games, he called time on his extraordinary career.

# TAMILNADU'S COVID-19 CASE STUDY – A REPORT

## OUTSIDE INFLUENCE

People returning to Tamil Nadu have been testing positive for coronavirus. Those returning from Maharashtra have accounted for most cases

### AIRPORT QUARANTINE

Tested **2,239**

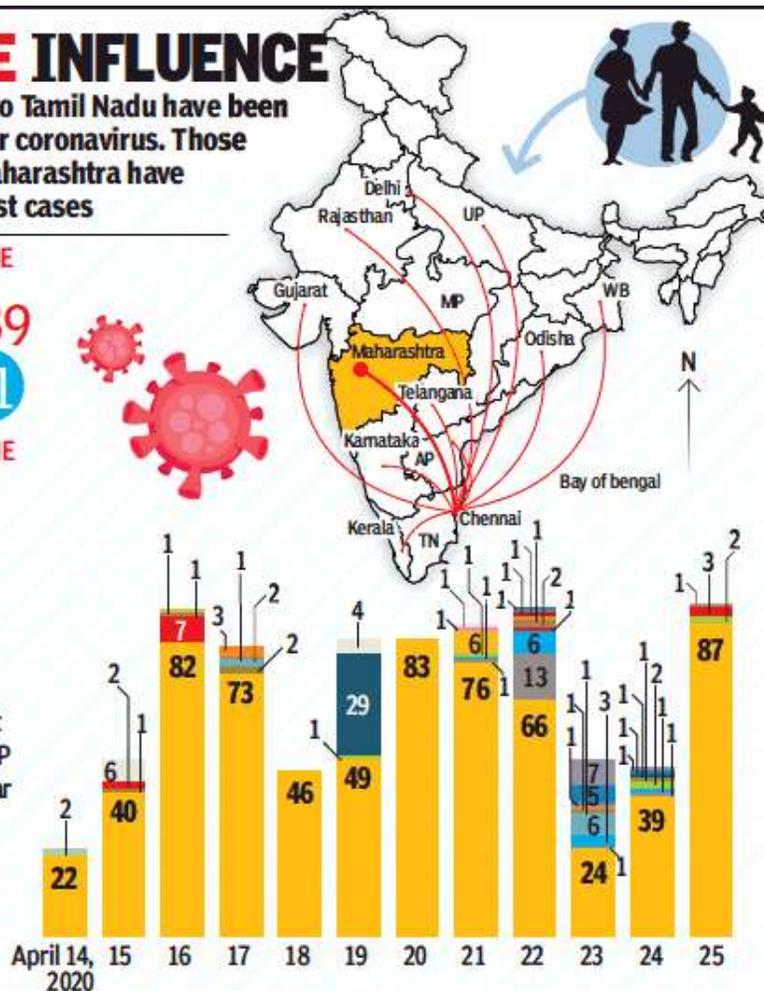
+ve at entry 41  
+ve at exit 40 **81**

### RAILWAY QUARANTINE

Tested **5,137**

+ve at entry **35**

- Maharashtra
- Delhi ■ WB
- Kerala ■ Karnataka
- Rajasthan ■ Gujarat
- AP ■ Telangana ■ UP
- MP ■ Odisha ■ Qatar
- Dubai ■ Dhaka
- Phillipines ■ UK
- Canada ■ Chicago
- Muscat ■ Maldives



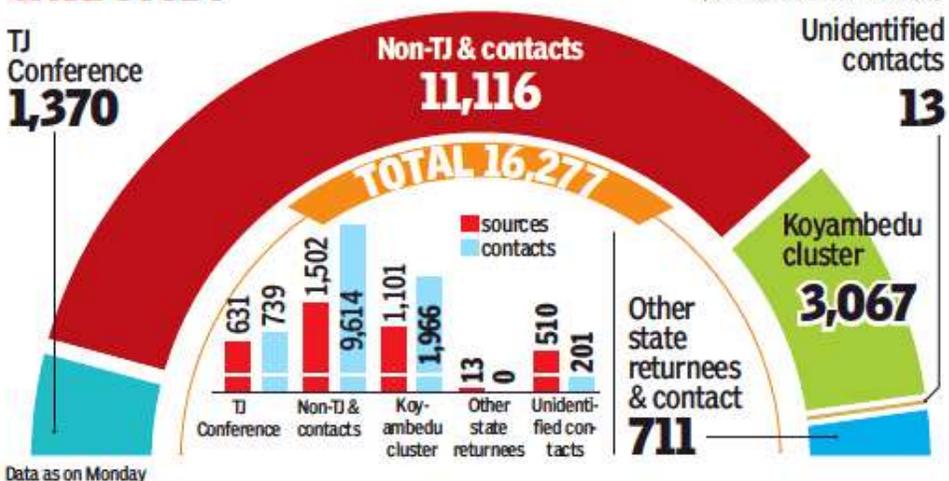
## CASE STUDY

TJ Conference **1,370**

Non-TJ & contacts **11,116**

Unidentified contacts **13**

**TOTAL 16,277**



Data as on Monday