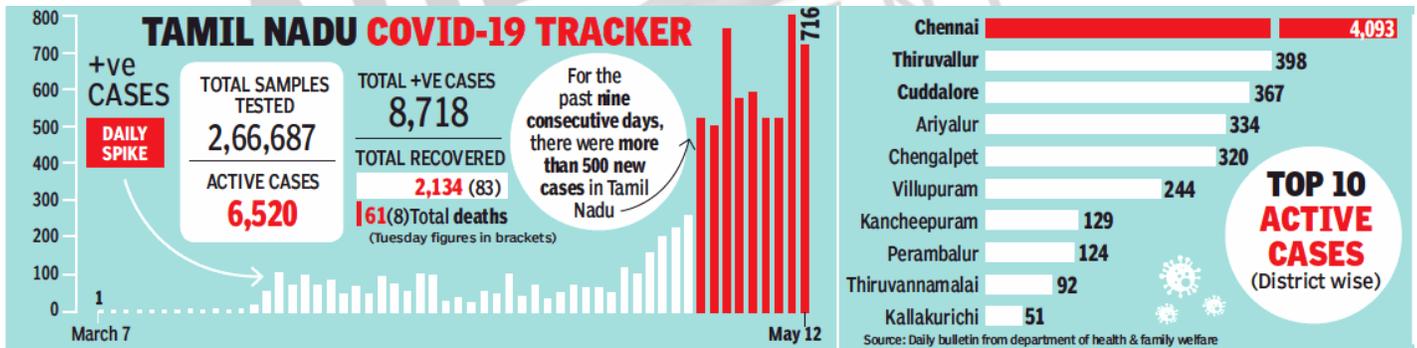


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 13, 2020

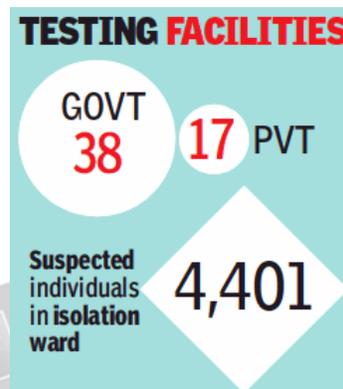
TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu's Covid-19 tally – rose to 8,718 after the reporting of 716 more people (427 men, 288 women and one transgender) infected on May 12
- ✓ Chennai recorded more than 500 new cases for the third day running, taking its tally to 4,882
- ✓ Eight deaths were also reported on the day, taking the toll to 61 and keeping the state's mortality rate at 0.69%



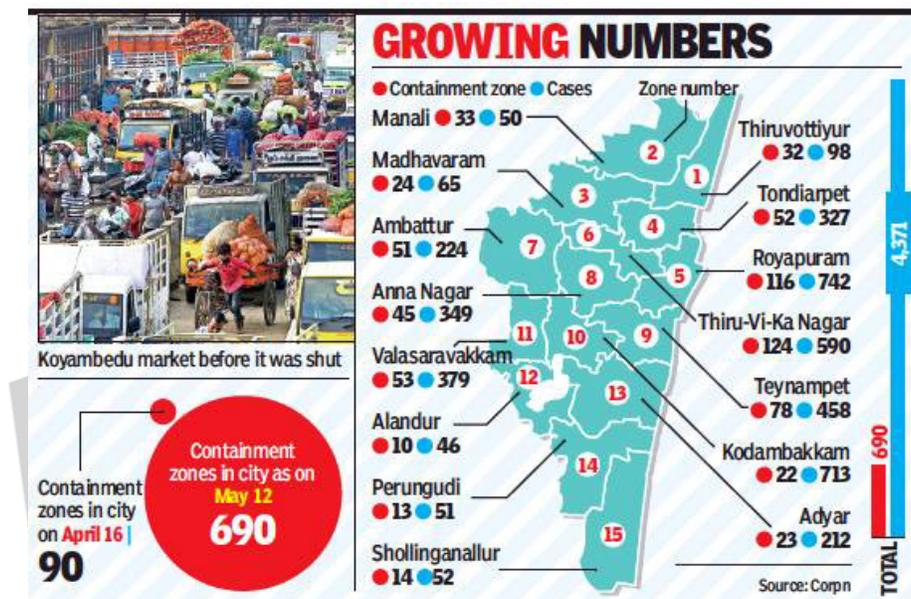
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, Ariyalur had reported 36 cases, Chengalpattu 35 cases, Perambalur and Tiruvallur had 27 cases each and Kancheepuram had 24 cases.
 - ✓ There were 13 cases from Tiruvannamalai, nine in Ranipet, seven in Theni, four each in Karur and Virudhunagar, three in Tirunelveli, two each in Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Thoothukudi and Tiruchi, and one each in Cuddalore, Kanniyakumari, Tenkasi, Vellore and Villupuram.
- ✓ As on date, a total of 487 children aged 0 to 12 and 596 persons aged above 60 have tested positive in the State.
- ✓ The state continues to see an increase in the TJ and Koyambedu clusters.
 - ✓ As on May 10, there were 1,350 people in the TJ cluster, which rose to 1,365 on the next day.
 - ✓ The cases in Koyambedu cluster stood at 2,553 on May 11.

- ✓ The total cases outside these two clusters also went up from 3,558 to 4,084 on May 11
- ✓ All eight deaths announced on the day, happened in the last two days in three government medical college hospitals in Chennai.
 - ✓ While four deaths were in Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, three were in Kilpauk Medical College Hospital and one was recorded at the Stanley Medical College Hospital.
- ✓ A total of 11,788 samples were tested on the day, after the state modified its testing strategy.
- ✓ With this, a total of 2,66,687 samples have been tested so far, as on date.
- ✓ Two more testing facilities were approved - at the Government Kallakurichi Hospital and Chettinad Hospital and Research Institute, Chengalpattu.



- ✓ With this, there are a total of 55 testing facilities in the state - 38 in the government sector offering free services and 17 in the private sector.
- ✓ A total of 83 more persons being discharged on the day, taking the total recoveries in the state to 2,134 cases
- ✓ There are 6,520 active cases and 4,401 persons suspected with symptoms being admitted to isolation wards.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the state has decided to recommend reducing the quarantine period for those testing positive from 28 days to 14 days as per international protocol.
- ✓ It has also received protocol for clinical trial using the antiviral drug Remdesivir
- ✓ The trial for plasma therapy will be done by three government hospitals
- ✓ On May 12, school education minister K A Sengottaiyan said that the Class X board exams in the state will commence from June 1.
 - ✓ The exams, which were supposed to have begun on March 27, were postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
 - ✓ Around 9.5 lakh students may have to sit for the exam, which will conclude on June 12
 - ✓ A total of 3,825 centres will have to be arranged for conducting Class X exam.
 - ✓ Also, the evaluation of Class XII answer scripts will begin on May 27

- ✓ The minister also announced that a postponed Class XI exam (that was to be held on March 26) will be held on June 2, and re-exam for 36,842 absentees of Class XII final exam will be on June 4.
- ✓ But, no decision has been taken on reopening schools.
- **Chennai - has 690 containment zones as on May 11, compared to just 90 in mid-April, as per the data released by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)**
- ✓ A containment zone is an area where one or more residents were found to have been infected with coronavirus.
- ✓ Currently, the Corporation follows a policy of barricading all entry and exits of containment zones to prevent public movement.



- ✓ Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar has the maximum number of containment zones (124) and recorded 590 cases.
- ✓ The Royapuram zone has the maximum number of cases (742) spreading across 116 containment zones
- ✓ However, Kodambakkam zone has just 10 containment zones, but has recorded 713 cases, which is the second highest among zones in the city.
- ✓ Adyar has more number of containment zones (23), but has only a third of the cases in Kodambakkam.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State government has set aside ₹219 crore for the provision of toor dal, edible oil and sugar free of cost to all ration cardholders in June, as part of its relief measures following the Covid-19 induced lockdown
 - ✓ This is the third time since April that the government has given approval for the provision of rice and other essential commodities free of cost to ration cardholders.
 - ✓ In late March, the government sanctioned ₹2,187.8 crore, which included the component of cash support.

- ✓ In mid-April, it sanctioned ₹184.3 crore for May.
 - ✓ In a separate announcement, the Puducherry Labour Department has temporarily extended working hours to 12 hours to boost the functioning of industries after the gradual lifting of lockdown regulations.
 - ✓ The Union Territory has also made mandatory for all government servants to download Aarogya Setu mobile application.
- **The Tamil Nadu district administrators - have begun the kudimaramath scheme for the current year, which intends to restore the waterbodies in the state**
- ✓ The scheme also includes other related activities such as strengthening of tank bund, desilting of supply channel, surplus course, repairs and reconstruction of sluice and weir, repairs of shutters.



- ✓ The state also plans to open Mettur reservoir on June 12 for kuruvai cultivation.
 - ✓ As part of the scheme, the state will spend ₹498 crore by taking up 1,387 works to benefit 673 hectares.
 - ✓ The restoration is done along with the “participation” of farmer organizations, councils or ayacutdars or group of ayacutdars.
 - ✓ The scheme covers most of the areas of Cheyyur, Madurantakam, Uthiramerur, Sriperumbudur, Ponneri and Tiruttani taluks of Chennai’s periphery.
 - ✓ Nagapattinam tops the activities with 131 works, including reconstruction of sluices and regulators in Sirkali
- **On May 12, the Greater Chennai Corporation - launched a new app offering telemedicine services to people free of cost.**
- ✓ Special nodal officer J. Radhakrishnan launched the “GCC Vidmed” app in the presence of Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash.
 - ✓ The app allows people to consult a physician without visiting the hospital, free of cost 24x7.
 - ✓ Once the doctor spots symptoms, those availing telemedicine services will be screened for COVID-19.
 - ✓ Then, arrangements will be made to send teams of doctors to help such residents at home.
 - ✓ The civic body has also started telecounselling for residents in the containment zones.



GCC VIDMED Telemedicine

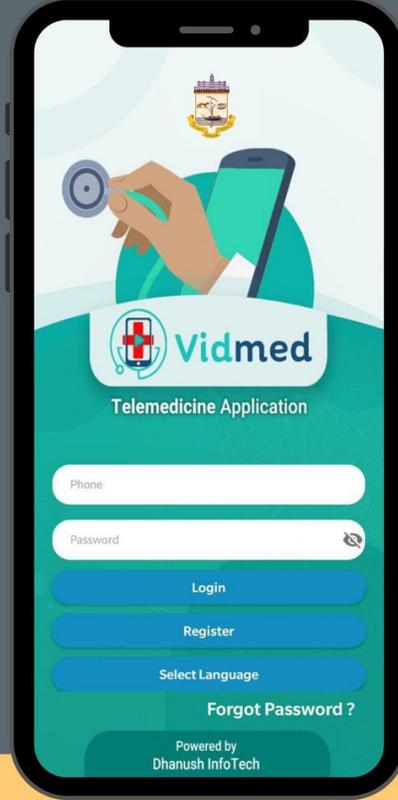
அன்பார்ந்த சென்னைவாசிகளே,

பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மற்றும் விடமெட் ஒன்றிணைந்து வீடியோ அழைப்பின் மூலம் மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை பெறும் செயலியை இன்று அறிமுகப்படுத்தியுள்ளது.

GCC Vidmed என்ற இந்த செயலி, நோயாளியையும் மருத்துவரையும் வீடியோ அழைப்பின் மூலம் இணைக்கிறது. கொரோனா நோய்த் தொற்று பரவலை தடுக்க ஊரடங்கு அமலில் இருக்கும் இச்சமயம், இந்த செயலி பயன்படுத்துவதனால் சரியான நேரத்தில் உங்களுக்கான மருத்துவ உதவிகளை இலவசமாக பெற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம்.

பயன்படுத்த எளிமையான, அனுபவம் வாய்ந்த மருத்துவ நிபுணர்களின் இலவச மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை மற்றும் பல சிறப்பம்சங்கள் கொண்டது.

இந்த **GCC VIDMED** செயலியைப் பதிவிறக்கம் செய்து, சுய பதிவு செய்து கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறோம்.



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- ✓ Any resident can call 044-25384520 to get help, including on civic issues, relating to COVID-19.

STATES

- **Telangana - has become the first state in the country to start a pilot project which guides its farmers what to grow and when.**
- ✓ On May 12, Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao issued a statement regarding the pilot project
- ✓ As per the project, the government has announced that the farmers will cultivate Telangana Sona variety of paddy, whose acreage will be limited to 50 lakh acres.
- ✓ Redgram, another important crop, will be limited to in 10 lakh acres, while cotton will be cultivated in 50 lakh acres.
- ✓ The government will further announce what crops should be cultivated in which areas.
- ✓ The state government has also announced that it will not support farmers who don't follow the new directives but no clarifications were provided whether the benefits of the state's flagship 'Rythu Bandhu scheme' will be linked to the plan.

- ✓ At present, the state gives ₹10,000 per acre to each farmer whether he cultivates the land or not.
 - ✓ As per the state government, this method of regulatory cultivation would benefit farmers as it would help get minimum support price (MSP) and ensure demand for their produce
 - ✓ As part of the scheme, the state would also set up a 'seed regulatory authority' to check the presence and distribution of spurious seeds in the state
 - ✓ The new authority will ensure that only the seeds of crops identified by the government are sold
 - ✓ The government will identify those making and selling fake and spurious seeds and book them under Public distribution Act
 - ✓ As part of the project, the government also decided to encourage vegetables in farmland near urban areas.
 - ✓ It will also suggest farmers which vegetables should be grown in which areas.
- **Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting - was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on May 12 by the Chennai-based Geographical Indications Registry**



- ✓ The GI application for the painting was forwarded by Sohrai Kala Mahila Vikas Sahyog Samiti Limited
- ✓ The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being done by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons
- ✓ This form of art uses local and naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- ✓ However, in recent years, for promotional purposes, it is also done in other parts of Jharkhand.
- ✓ This form of art is traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, but they are now seen on other surfaces, too.
- ✓ The style features a collage of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.

- ✓ In recent years, the walls of important public places in Jharkhand, such as the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, and the Hazaribagh and Tatanagar Railway Stations, among others, have been decorated with Sohrai-Khovar paintings.
- **The state of Madhya Pradesh - has launched a new scheme 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'(FIR at your doorsteps) in Bhopal on May 11.**



- ✓ It has become the first state in the country to launch such an innovative scheme.
- ✓ The scheme was started as a pilot project in 23 police stations, including one rural and one urban police station at 11 divisional headquarters.
- ✓ According to the new scheme, people will not be required to visit the police station to lodge their complaints.
- ✓ Once the complainant dials 100, the trained head constables will reach their residence and will get the FIR registered.
- ✓ The Police personnel in the First Response Vehicle (FRV), which is GPS fitted for attending the dial 100 emergency calls, will be able to file the FIR on spot.
- ✓ The pilot project will run till August 31.
- ✓ After that, the scheme will be reviewed and further implemented across the state with an improved system and more trained police personnel.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh government has also launched a new 'helpline dial 112'.
- ✓ This helpline number will facilitate the immediate availability of police, ambulance, and fire- fighting services wherever needed in the state.

NATIONAL

- **On May 12, India's total count of Covid-19 cases - was all set to cross 75,000 and remained at 74,298, after reporting 3,494 new cases.**
- ✓ With this, India overtook Canada as the 12th worst-affected country in the world, one spot below China, where the virus had originated.
- ✓ However, the number of new infections in the country fell to a three day low on the day, after reporting 3,613 and 4,308 in the past two days.
- ✓ However, the death toll from the virus rose by 121, the second-highest in a single day so far.
 - ✓ On the day, Maharashtra recorded 53 Covid-related deaths, equaling its highest single-day toll recorded on May 10

- ✓ Gujarat reported 24 deaths, 21 in Ahmedabad alone, while Delhi recorded 13, including several deaths from previous days.
 - ✓ For the seventh day in the row, Maharashtra added more than 1,000 new Covid 19 cases and reported 1,026 fresh infections, to take the cumulative tally in the state to 24,427.
 - ✓ Out of the 1,026 cases, Mumbai contributed 426 cases, its lowest in the last 11 days and a drop of nearly 46% as compared to the 782 cases recorded a day before.
 - ✓ The total number of cases in Mumbai as on date was 14521.
 - ✓ Delhi again reported a surge of cases with 406 fresh ones, taking the total count to over 7,500.
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh too saw a spike in cases, with 201 reported on the day.
 - ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, 112 new cases were detected, where about 41% of the state's affected districts had less than 10 cases each, even though the disease has been reported in 74 out of 75 districts
 - ✓ In Jharkhand, all 11 fresh cases reported in the state were those of migrants, who arrived in Shramik special trains or by their own transport.
 - ✓ In Rajasthan, the Covid-19 outbreak has crossed the 4,000 mark, with 138 more persons found infected with the virus.
 - ✓ Four persons also died on the day, taking the toll to 117 in the state.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that the doubling time has now improved to 12.2 days over the last three days from 10.9 days in the past 14 days
 - ✓ The Minister also said that the fatality rate was 3.2% while the recovery rate was progressively increasing and stood at 31.74%.
 - ✓ Earlier, on May 7, the health ministry had reported a doubling rate of 10.2 days.
 - ✓ In a related move, the Union Health Ministry instructed that the Aarogya Setu app be made compulsory for all migrant labourers and foreign returnees for better surveillance and suitable medical interventions
 - ✓ In a separate announcement, on May 12, US Embassy announced that the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has decided to offer \$3.6 million to assist India in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ The grant will be helpful in the prevention and response activities of the country to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic
- **On May 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package worth Rs 20 lakh crore to make India 'self-reliant and resilient', during his address to the nation.**
- ✓ This amount includes packages already announced at the beginning of the lockdown, incorporating a range of measures from the RBI and the payouts of the Finance ministry under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
 - ✓ The package will help to bring back the battered economy to health and provide a new set of reforms focused on land, labour, liquidity and legal frameworks

REFORMS IN LAND, LABOUR, LIQUIDITY & LAWS

➤ Previous steps announced by RBI worked out to 3.2% of GDP while PM Garib Kalyan package announced on March 25 came to 0.8% of GDP. New measures will thus be around 6% of GDP

➤ Package to ensure reforms in land, labour, liquidity and laws. More clarity on stimulus to emerge in FM's press conference today

➤ Package will cater to various sections including cottage industry, MSMEs, farmers, labourers, middle class, and industry

➤ PM pitches for self-reliance, says it will be based on 5 pillars - economy, infrastructure, technology-driven system, vibrant demography and demand



“Every Indian should be vocal for local... Today's global brands were once local too but when people there started supporting them they became global”
—PM Narendra Modi

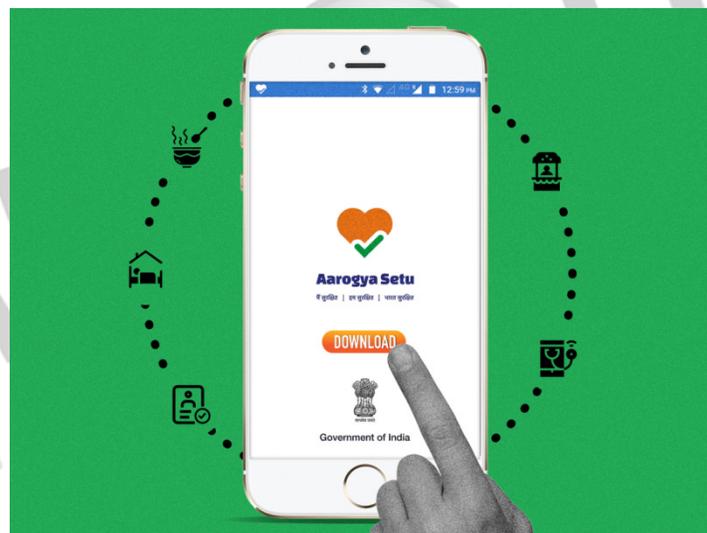
- ✓ According to the PM, the details of mega package would be announced on May 13 by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- ✓ He said that the theme of “Atma-nirbhar Bharat” (self-reliant India) would not just be a vision but would prepare the country for tough competition in the global supply chain.
- ✓ The PM gave the example of India's ramped-up capacity in producing 2 lakh Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and 2 lakh N-95 masks, everyday, required by medical personnel and frontline health workers to illustrate the point that India could achieve this.
- ✓ The package would be equal to 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).
- ✓ Overall, the RBI had announced support equal to 3.2% of the GDP and the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana unveiled by Sitharaman on March 26 accounted for 0.8% of the GDP.
- ✓ According to the PM, the new reforms would focus more on poor, migrants, street labour and others from both organised and unorganised sectors, along with cottage industry, MSME, middle class, industries and other sectors and those whose livelihoods had been hit hard by the viral infection.
- ✓ The PM also gave a call to be “**vocal about local**” which he said was crucial to sustain life during the lockdown.
- ✓ He said the economy don't just need incremental steps but a quantum jump and added this was one of the “**five pillars**” of a **self-reliant India**.
 - ✓ The other pillars include - infrastructure, a tech-driven system that delivers on the dreams of a modern India, demography that is vibrant and demand that is fed by supply chains capable of meeting the needs of a growing nation.

- ✓ Through his speech, the PM underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfill, demand and made a strong pitch for local manufacturing and local products.
 - ✓ To put the 10% GDP overall package in context, the government had announced a similar package equivalent to 4% of GDP during the global financial crisis in 2008-09.
 - ✓ The Rs 20 lakh crore package is also comparable with Germany's 10.7% of GDP and more than the 9.7% of GDP package unveiled by France to tackle the impact of Covid-19 on their economies
 - ✓ During his speech, the PM confirmed that there would be a fourth phase of lockdown, but said it will have new rules and completely different from the earlier three national lockdowns
 - ✓ The new rules, based on the suggestions from chief ministers, would be announced before May 18.
 - ✓ The nationwide lockdown which began on March 25, 2020 is scheduled to end on May 17, 2020.
 - ✓ Later, it was extended for the first time till May 3rd and then till May 17th.
- **Air India – has decided to operate more ‘special’ domestic flights from different cities between May 19 and June 2 to help passengers stranded across the country reach home.**
- ✓ To avail these services, passengers must pay for the seats, for which bookings were yet to start.
 - ✓ A majority of these flights will be operated from Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
 - ✓ Chennai will have one flight - Kochi-Chennai on May 19.
 - ✓ The country's capital, Delhi will have 173 flights, while Mumbai will have 40, Hyderabad 25 and Kochi 12.
 - ✓ The flights from Delhi will be operated to Jaipur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Amritsar, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Vijayawada, Gaya, Lucknow and a few other cities.
 - ✓ Similarly, Air India will operate flights from Mumbai to Visakapatnam, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Vijayawada.
 - ✓ There are also flights from Hyderabad to Mumbai, Delhi and back.
 - ✓ Meantime, Bengaluru will have flights to Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad and an incoming flight from Bhubaneswar.
- **As on May 12, almost all 30 ‘special trains’ being run by railways - were booked for the first seven days of travel.**
- ✓ A total of over 90,000 tickets were sold for 1.69 lakh passengers during this period, as per the Railways.
 - ✓ The maximum booking of 12,845 berths for passengers were done on Howrah-New Delhi special trains followed by Bengaluru-New Delhi (11,643) and Dibrugarh-New Delhi (11,172).

- ✓ A total of around 8,000 passengers boarded the first eight special trains which started their journey from six different stations on May 12.
 - ✓ Another nine special trains will start from the originating stations on the next day
 - ✓ As per Railways, around 6.8 lakh stranded guest workers, tourists and students have been transported by Shramik Special trains till May 12 afternoon, which was the biggest ever evacuation exercise undertaken by the Indian Railways.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, in a significant announcement, the health department of Delhi government issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) saying that all asymptomatic people reaching the national capital would be allowed to go to their respective homes
- **The government - is all set to launch the second phase of Vande Bharat Mission on May 16**
- ✓ During this phase, India will be operating 149 flights, including 30 feeder flights, to bring back Indian nationals from 31 countries over the next one week.
 - ✓ So far, a total of 1.5 lakh expats from all over the world have registered and completed all formalities for repatriation
 - ✓ The government will focus on US, Canada, Europe, central and southeast Asia in this phase with only 39, of the total 149, scheduled from Gulf nations.
 - ✓ A total of 27 flights are already scheduled exclusively for Gulf region during the ongoing first phase (May 7-15)
 - ✓ During the second phase, the US will see maximum number of flights, 13, in the May 16-22 period.
 - ✓ Canada, UK and Australia will have 10, 9 and 7 repatriation flights operated by India. India will also operate six flights from Ukraine, where many Indian students are stranded, during this phase.
 - ✓ During this phase, the number of flights is more than double of the 64 flights in the ongoing first phase
 - ✓ During the first phase, around 14,800 Indians are expected to return from 12 countries.
- **India's amphibious warship, INS Magar - reached Kochi from Male with another 202 Indian nationals on May 12, under the "Operation Samudra Setu" (sea bridge) launched by Indian Navy**



- ✓ INS Magar, based at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, is the second ship to repatriate stranded Indians from the Maldives.
 - ✓ Those who came on INS Magar included 91 people from Kerala, 83 from Tamil Nadu and 28 people from 13 other States and Union Territories.
 - ✓ Earlier, in her first voyage on May 10, the Navy's largest amphibious warship INS Jalashwa had repatriated 698 citizens to India.
 - ✓ Further, INS Jalashwa will be evacuating around 700 Indian nationals from Male in Maldives to Kochi in India during her second repatriation sortie on May 15.
 - ✓ Overall, around 2,000 Indian citizens will be evacuated by INS Jalashwa and INS Magar in batches from Maldives as part of the operation.
 - ✓ The priority is being given to 'compelling' cases such as medical and family emergencies, senior citizens and those rendered jobless.
- **US's premier Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - has given two out of five stars to Aarogya Setu, sparking concern about the privacy policies of the contact tracing app.**



- ✓ Meanwhile, Union ministry of information and technology released a new set of “guidelines” around data storage and retention related to the App.
- ✓ The new protocol, among other things, lists a “sunset clause”, which mandates that the data stored on servers would be used only for Covid-19 purposes and will be deleted after 180 days.
- ✓ This new protocol is named as ‘Aarogya Setu Data Access and Knowledge Sharing Protocol’ (2020), which was developed by an “empowered group” on technology and data management.
- ✓ The MIT tracker ranked at least 25 such applications from different countries based on parameters such as type of data personal collected, its retention, minimisation, transparency, and whether or not the application is mandatory.
- ✓ India lost crucial points because of lack of transparency, making the app compulsory and not defining who the data is shared with.

- ✓ China's contact tracing app, Chinese health code system is rated the worst, with zero stars.
- ✓ The Apps developed by several countries such as Austria, Iceland, Israel, Norway, The Czech Republic and Singapore have been given 5/5 stars.
- **On May 12, 2020, the Ministry of MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) – has announced the launch of a new 'Champions' Portal.**



Ministry of MSME Launches CHAMPIONS Portal
www.Champions.gov.in

- ✓ Champions stand for 'Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes'.
- ✓ The portal acts as a technology driven control room cum management information system, providing information to the industries
- ✓ It will be using modern ICT tools to assist Indian MSMEs, so that small units can become big industries in due course
- ✓ These systems are enabled with Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
- ✓ The portal will be completely integrated with CPGRAMS of Government of India.
- ✓ CPGRAMS is called 'Centralized Public Grievances and Monitoring System'.
- ✓ It was developed by the National Informatics Centre along with DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) and Directorate of Public Grievances
- ✓ The portal will be helpful to the citizens in tracking their grievances registered with Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL

- **As on May 12, Russia - has the world's second-highest number of COVID-19 cases after reporting another 10,899 new cases, taking its cumulative tally to 2,32,243**
- ✓ With this, it surpasses the number of infections reported in Britain and Spain and now behind only the U.S., which has reported more than 1.3 million cases.

- ✓ Russia has been reporting more than 10,000 new cases per day for over a week now.
- ✓ However factory and construction workers returned to work in the country despite a new surge in coronavirus cases
- ✓ On the day, China reported no new domestic coronavirus infections, after two consecutive days of double-digit increase, indicating fears of a second wave of infections.
 - ✓ On May 11, China's National Health Commission reported 17 new cases, of which seven were imported.
 - ✓ Chinese authorities, meanwhile, decided to test the entire 11-million strong population of the city of Wuhan, the first epicenter of the global pandemic, after new cases were reported there.
 - ✓ Six new cases were reported on May 10 and 11 from a residential compound in Dongxihu district.



TRACKING OUTBREAK

Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	1,356,037	81,571	187 countries/ regions hit
Russia	232,243	2,116	
United Kingdom	227,736	32,769	4,229,074+ infected globally
Spain	227,436	26,744	
Italy	221,216	30,911	
France	177,547	26,991	289,349+ have died
Germany	172,812	7,676	
Brazil	172,243	11,980	1,479,508+ have recovered
Turkey	141,475	3,894	
Iran	110,767	6,733	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ With the virus taking hold in other nations, China has barred most foreigners from entering the country.
- ✓ Wuhan has reported 3,869 deaths since the outbreak began.
- ✓ In South Korea, more than 100 new cases have emerged after an infected man visited nightclubs in Seoul.
- ✓ Germany has also reported an increase of 933 cases in 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,72,812.

- ✓ It had reported an increase in 'Reproduction (R) rate' — the number of people each person with the disease goes on to infect — in the past three days
- ✓ However, on May 12, the R rate again fell below the critical threshold of 1 with an estimated value of 0.94.
- ✓ If the pandemic is to die down, R rate has to be below 1
- ✓ Meanwhile, in US, around 20.5 million people have applied as 'jobless' in the government's portal
 - ✓ Among this, 4.3 million people are 'immigrants' (foreign-born), constituting 16.5% in April 2020, from 2.7% in April, 2019 — a rise of 13.8 percentage points.
 - ✓ For native-born, it was a comparatively a lower 10.6 percentage point increase, which stood at 14% last month.
 - ✓ The number of immigrants rendered unemployed is 455% higher when compared with the data of April 2019.
 - ✓ Among the native-born, 18.2 million suffered job losses in April 2020, which is 295% higher in comparison with the similar figure in 2019
 - ✓ According to the latest census survey, Indians constituted 5.92% of the total foreign-born population as of July 2018.
 - ✓ The unemployment rate was 13.8% for Whites, 16.4% for African-Americans and 14.3% for Asians.
- **Taiwan – is not expected to participate as an observer at this year's World Health Assembly and its membership to the World Health Organisation (WHO) is unlikely to be discussed**
 - ✓ According to rules, WHO cannot invite Taiwan to be a participant as this can be done only by member countries.
 - ✓ Since the meeting will be a virtual one, there won't be any voting this year to make this happen.
 - ✓ So far, eight international countries have supported the candidature of Taiwan as observer.
 - ✓ Taiwan used to be part of WHA meetings as observer from 2009 to 2016.
 - ✓ US secretary of state Mike Pompeo has openly suggested that Taiwan should join the meeting, while Japan and New Zealand have also supported Taiwan's presence.
 - ✓ China claims Taiwan as its territory and as a part of China, Taiwan has no right to join WHO or attend its meetings, as WHO is a specialised agency of the United Nations restricted to sovereign states.
 - ✓ In a related move last week, Taiwan had donated a million surgical masks to India with which it has no formal diplomatic ties.
 - ✓ The Geneva-based WHA will hold a virtual meeting on May 18 and 19 to elect members to the 34-nation Executive Board, among other things, and it will be followed by a Board meeting on May 22.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **CSIR- National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), Bangalore - has developed a non-invasive BiPAP ventilator named 'SwasthVayu'**
- ✓ It was designed and produced in a record time of just 36 days.



- ✓ NAL is a constituent lab of CSIR, which is involved in the development of various testing equipment for Covid-19.
 - ✓ The CSIR-NAL team had enabled a spin-off technology for the ventilator, on the basis of its expertise in the aerospace design domain.
 - ✓ The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has certified the system for safety and performance after stringent biomedical tests.
 - ✓ The ventilator is primarily a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with an externally connected oxygen concentrator.
 - ✓ It will be useful for the treatment of moderate or mid-stage severe COVID-19 patients, who do not require invasive ventilation and intubation.
-
- **The Carbon dioxide Emissions in India - has declined the least in last four decades, as per a study conducted by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)**
 - ✓ According to the study, the carbon dioxide emissions in India have reduced by 15% in March and by 30% in April.
 - ✓ The latest consumption of oil and gas, coal has also declined during the same period.
 - ✓ It has dropped by 30 million tonnes in 2019-20 as compared to the similar period last year.
 - ✓ The carbon dioxide pollution in the country is mainly caused by the power and transportation sector.
 - ✓ The decline in consumption of fossil fuels is also the main reason for the drastic reduction in air pollution.

- ✓ Also, the power generated by coal-fired power plants reduced by 15% in March for the first time.
- ✓ The renewable energy generation has increased by 6.4% in March, in comparison with the same period in previous year.

SPORTS

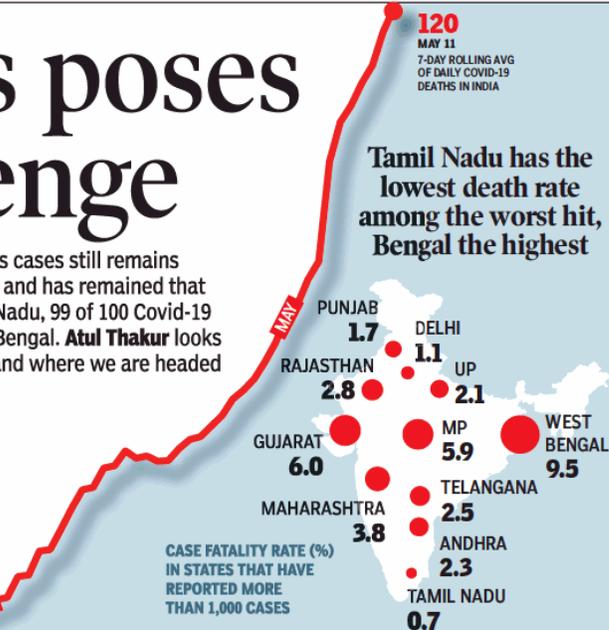
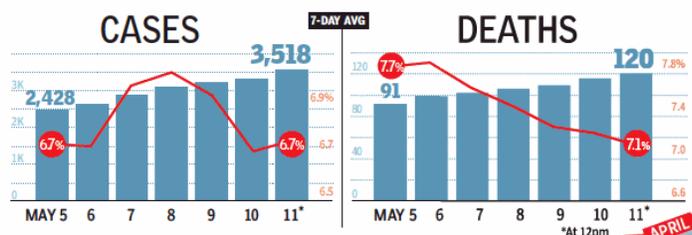
- **The earlier postponed Under-17 Women's World Cup – will now be held from February 17-March 7 next year, as announced by FIFA on May 11.**
- ✓ The FIFA organized event will be hosted by India for the first time



- ✓ The women's age-group marquee event was originally scheduled to be held from November 2-21 this year, but was eventually postponed following the global Covid-19 outbreak
- ✓ The eligibility criteria — players born on or after 1 January 2003 and on or before 31 December 2005 — for the World Cup will remain the same without any change.
- ✓ Five venues — Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai — were identified as host cities for the event
- ✓ The 2020 U-20 Women's World Cup, in Costa Rica / Panama, has also been rescheduled to January 20-February 6, 2021
- ✓ The 2020 Futsal World Cup would be held from September 12-October 3, 2021 in Lithuania, as per the latest announcement
- ✓ The FIFA U-17 competition has been taking place every four years since 1991
 - ✓ The inaugural tournament was held in China, which was then called the FIFA women's world championship.
 - ✓ Six countries have so far hosted the women's world cup.
 - ✓ Both US and China have hosted the event twice while France, Germany, Canada, and Sweden have hosted the event once.

Spike in deaths poses a new challenge

Eighth week into the lockdown, the growth in the number of coronavirus cases still remains uncomfortably high. And even the number of daily deaths has crossed 100 and has remained that way for five days now. But India's story is far from uniform. While in Tamil Nadu, 99 of 100 Covid-19 patients are likely to recover and go home, the situation is far more grim in Bengal. **Atul Thakur** looks at the numbers from India and around the world to tell us where we stand, and where we are headed



India's death toll was world's sixth highest on May 10

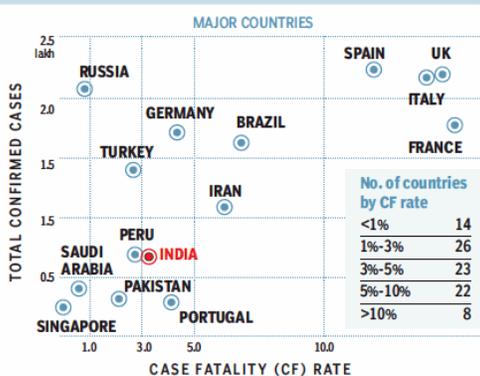
On May 10 – the day for which latest comparable data is available – India reported 128 deaths. This was sixth highest among the nine countries that reported over 100 deaths that day. US topped the list with 1,614, and for the 37th day in a row reported more than 1,000 deaths

Country	Deaths on May 10
US	1,614
BRAZIL	730
UK	346
ITALY	194
MEXICO	193
INDIA	128
CANADA	124
RUSSIA	104
PERU	100

India's fatality rate lower than US & UK, but high number of cases a concern

93 countries have reported more than a 1,000 cases. Of them, 42 have a lower case fatality rate (deaths as a share of confirmed cases) than India (3.3%). US, with 13.3 lakh cases, is at 6%

When deaths and cases are expressed per million of the country's population, India fares better than most of these countries

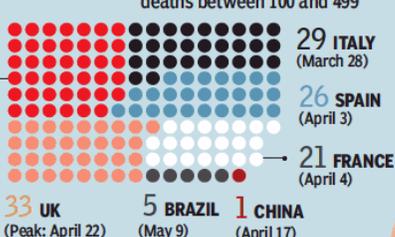


Graphics: Sajeew Kumarapuram
Source: ECDC, Johns Hopkins, popper.ai, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

But this is nothing compared to what many countries saw

So far, there are 156 instances of countries reporting more than 500 deaths in a single day, and 350 such instances of deaths between 100 and 499

US death toll crossed the 500 mark on **41 days**. (The highest number was recorded on April 16)



At current growth rate, India will hit 1 lakh cases by next week

The growth rate of 6.7% is still very high, given the large base of confirmed cases now in India. We will reach more than a lakh cases if we grow at this rate

CASES ON MAY 11	67,152
GROWTH RATE	NEXT 7 DAYS
14-day avg 6.5%	1,04,202
7-day avg 6.7%	1,06,035
5-day avg 6.3%	1,03,256
3-day avg 6.0%	1,01,171