

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On May 1, the Covid-19 positive count surged in Chennai, accounting for 176 of the total 203 new cases (117 men and 86 women) in the entire state.
- ✓ With this, the number of Covid-19 positive cases in the state reached 2,526.
- ✓ The toll in the state went up to 28, with the death of a 98-year-old man at the Omandurar multispeciality hospital in Chennai.

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

	Until April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	Total
Cases reported	1,755	66	64	52	121	104	161	203	2,526
Recovered and discharged	866	94	60	81	27	82	48	54	1,312
Deceased	22	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	28

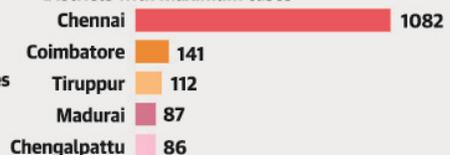
Persons tested



In home quarantine



Districts with maximum cases



Active cases	Discharged	Died
1,035	1,258	27
1,183	1,312	28

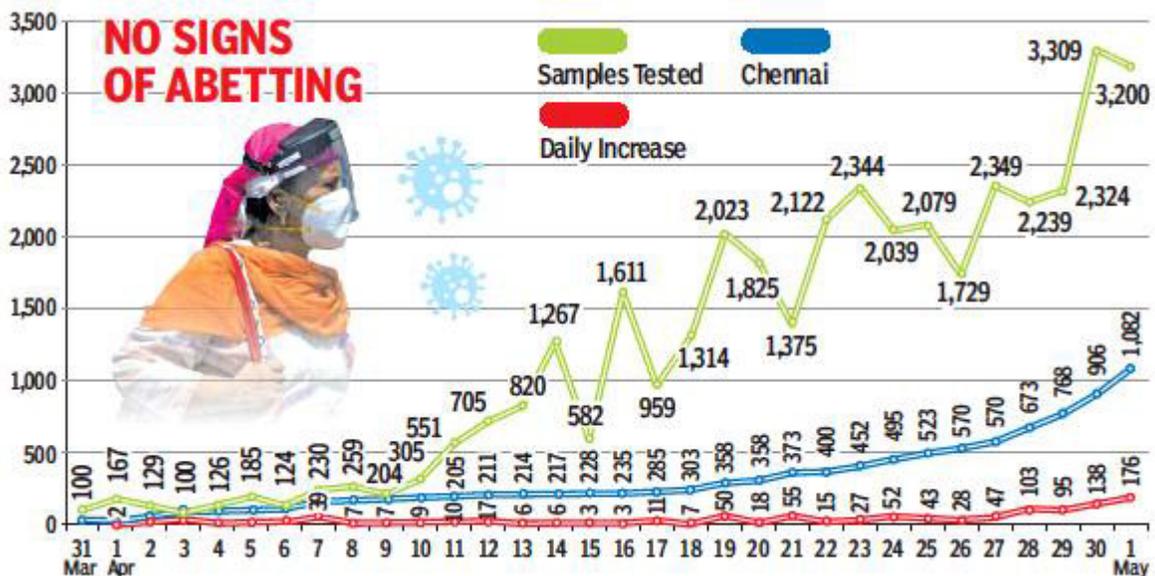
In hospitals	In quarantine facilities
1,978	40
2,013	40

*Changes in 24 hours As on April 30, 6 p.m. As on May 1, 6 p.m.

Active Cases + Discharged + Died will not equal Total Cases as 2 deaths were cross-notified to other States and 1 patient, who initially tested positive for COVID-19, later tested negative after death, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

- ✓ Among the 203 new cases (117 men and 86 women), apart from Chennai, Chengalpattu accounted for eight cases, while Tiruvallur had six.
 - ✓ There were three patients in Madurai, two each in Kancheepuram and Thanjavur, and one each in Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Karur, Nagapattinam and Villupuram.
- ✓ As on date, Chennai's total tally of COVID-19 cases stood at 1,082, while Chengalpattu accounted for 86 cases.
- ✓ So far, a total of 150 children aged 0 to 12, 2,110 persons in the age group of 13 to 60 and 266 persons above 60 years have tested positive for the viral disease.

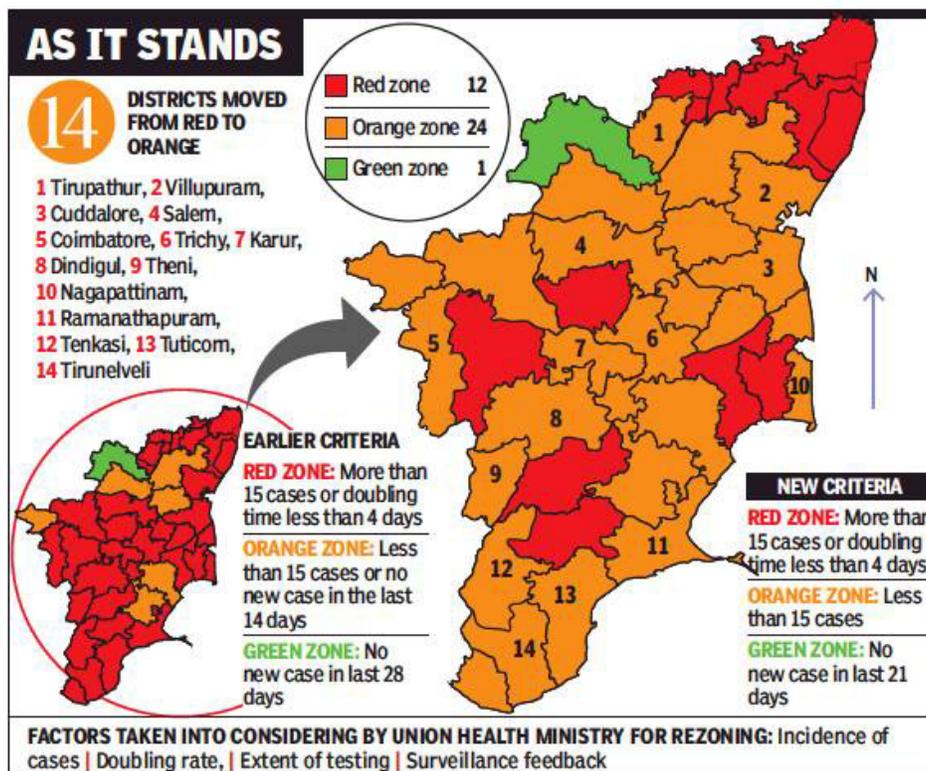
- ✓ On the day, another 54 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of persons discharged across the State to 1,312
- ✓ The State's recovery rate of 54% was the highest in the country, while the mortality rate stood at 1.2%
- ✓ On May 1, 9,615 samples were tested in the state
 - ✓ The State has so far tested 1,29,363 samples, accounting for 14% of the total samples (9,02,684) tested in the country till now.
 - ✓ One more private laboratory — Meenakshi Labs in Madurai — was approved for COVID-19 testing.
 - ✓ With this, there are 34 testing facilities in the government and 12 facilities in the private sector.
- ✓ As on date, 2,013 persons with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 were admitted to hospitals.
- ✓ A total of 33,184 persons were in home quarantine and 40 in government quarantine facilities.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State government appointed senior IAS officer, J. Radhakrishnan as Special Nodal Officer to coordinate issues relating to the pandemic in Chennai.
 - ✓ Five senior IPS officers will support him.
- ✓ In Chennai, the doubling time (weekly average) — the time it takes for the cases to double — had come down from 9 days on April 27 to 5 days on May 1.
 - ✓ This means the rate of infection in the city is increasing rapidly.
- ✓ Currently, the state performs 165 tests per million population compared to the national average of 65, contributing atleast 14% of the total samples tested in the country



- ✓ In Chennai, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar (Zone 6) overtook Royapuram (Zone 5) as the zone with the most Covid-19 positive cases, after recording a high number of cases for three consecutive days
 - ✓ Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, comprising wards 64-78, has 259 cases, while Royapuram, which comprises wards 49-63, has 216 cases.

- ✓ The two zones alone account for 475 positive cases of the 1082 (44%) in the city (at 6 pm, May 1)
- ✓ Till last week, the two zones with Tondiarpet (Zone 4) were at the red zone in the city, accounting for 57 % of the total cases
- ✓ On April 22, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zone had recorded only 42 cases, while Royapuram had registered 116 cases

➤ **A total of 14 districts in Tamil Nadu - have moved from red to orange zone, clearing the way for restarting economic activity, as per the new health ministry charts**



- ✓ Now, only 12 districts remain in Red zone with Krishnagiri being the sole green zone.
- ✓ Coimbatore, Salem, Cuddalore, Trichy, Karur and Theni have now been moved to orange zone.
- ✓ Earlier the state government had moved 10 districts to the orange zone, including Erode, Tiruvannamalai, Pudukottai and Nilgiris because they had not recorded a new case for the past 14 days.
- ✓ As per the current chart, the health ministry has decided to revise the criteria for orange and green zones by reducing the transition time
 - ✓ The new notification has reduced the waiting time of 28 days without new cases to 21 days for a district to be reclassified as a green zone.
- ✓ While districts like Ariyalur, Karur, Dindigul, Villupuram, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore were re-designated as orange, they recorded new cases on May 1.

- ✓ The notification clearly states that the zoning list is dynamic and will be revised on a weekly basis, and states can add more red or orange zones if required.
- ✓ The northern region remained a heavy cluster of red zone with 5 of the 10 districts, including Chengalpet, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Ranipet, classified as hot spots.
- **T. Pradeep, a faculty in the Chemistry Department of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020 in the science and technology category**
- ✓ The faculty was conferred the award for contributing to the region's sustainable development.



- ✓ Pradeep was recently conferred the Padma Shri award in the science and technology category

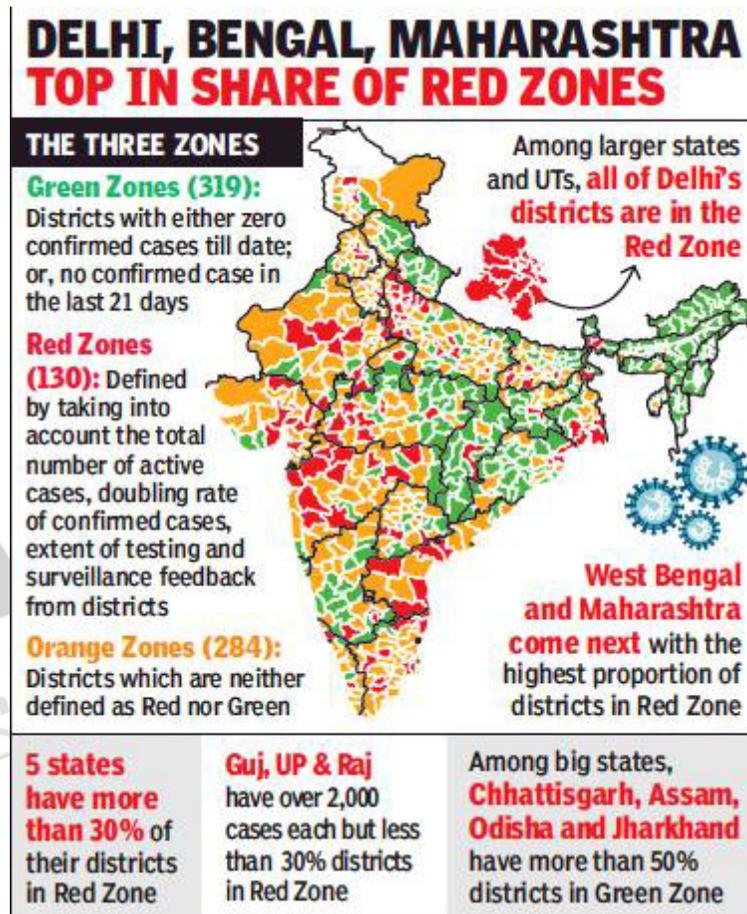
STATES

- **Bengaluru Civic Body, BBMP – has announced that citizens not wearing masks in public and workplaces with more than five people will have to pay a fine of ₹1,000.**
- ✓ On May 1, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) also announced a penalty of ₹2,000 for second-time offenders
- ✓ The civic body has made the wearing of masks 'mandatory' in the city
- ✓ The gloves and masks used in households and commercial establishments should be handed over to waste collectors in covers or sealed bags as part of sanitary waste.
- ✓ The citizens have been barred from spitting, urinating and littering in public spaces.
- ✓ As per the new move, all violations carry the same fine of ₹1,000
- ✓ The objective behind the move is to ensure people maintain hygiene in public spaces
- ✓ BBMP ward marshals, junior and senior health inspectors and police have been authorised to levy fines on the public.

NATIONAL

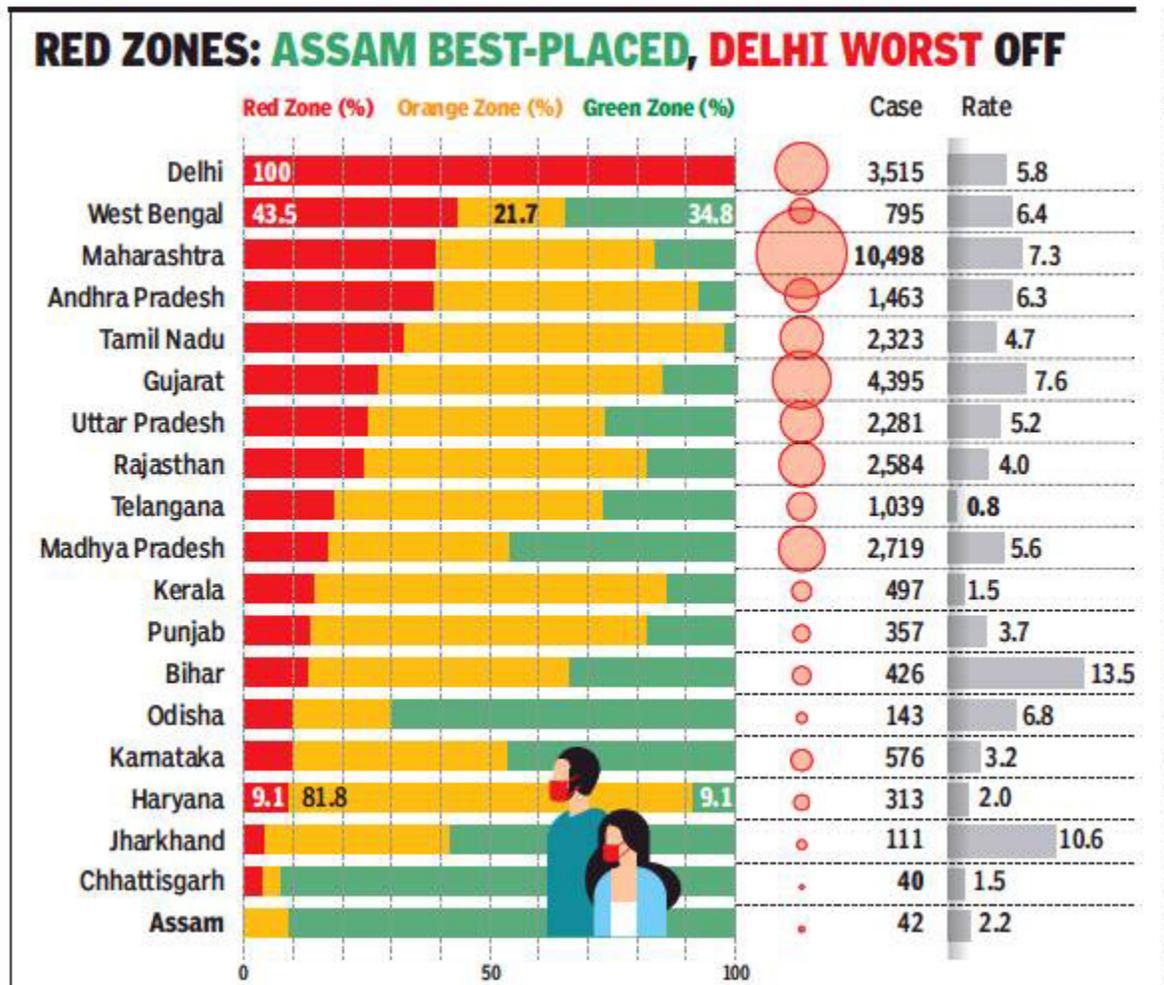
- **On May 1, the Covid-19 pandemic in India - grew by the highest number as on date, by reporting as many as 2,333 cases across the country**
- ✓ The number of cases reported on the day was 27% higher than the previous single-day peak of 1,840, recorded on April 28, and represented a 6.7% growth in infections in a day.
- ✓ As on date, the country has recorded 37,200 Covid cases and 1,222 deaths, with the toll rising by 68, according to reports from states.
- ✓ The drastic increase is caused by an explosion of infections in Maharashtra, which reported a record 1,003 new cases in a single day with Mumbai alone registering 741.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu too saw its highest rise in cases, with 203 added on the day, while Gujarat (326) and Delhi (223) continued to report high numbers
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded the maximum 26 Covid-related deaths on the day, taking its total toll to 485, followed by Gujarat (22), Madhya Pradesh (8) and Rajasthan (4).
 - ✓ Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh recorded two Covid-19 deaths each while one death each was reported from Tamil Nadu and Bihar.
- ✓ On the brighter side, the number of persons who have recovered from the disease reached 9,709, accounting for 26% of all positive cases, as on date
- ✓ The previous single-day high of Maharashtra, the worst affected state in the country, was 811, of which Mumbai accounted for 602, recorded in April 25.
- ✓ Gujarat remains second most affected state.
 - ✓ It recorded 22 fresh deaths due to Covid-19 on the day, taking the state's total death toll to 236.
 - ✓ Ahmedabad continues to remain the hotspot in the state, as it recorded 16 or 73% of the 22 deaths.
 - ✓ It was also the third consecutive day where state tally of positive cases was above 300.
 - ✓ Gujarat's total count of Covid-19 cases is 4721
- ✓ Delhi, the third worst-hit state, added 223 cases and two deaths due to Covid count.
 - ✓ All 11 districts in the capital have been declared red zones.
- ✓ In Rajasthan, 4 persons died due to Covid-19 taking the total toll to 62.
 - ✓ As many as 82 others tested positive for Covid-19 in the state, taking the total positive cases in the state to 2666.
- ✓ Bihar recorded 41 new Covid-19 cases, taking total number of such cases in the state to 466 and one more death due to the disease.
 - ✓ Two persons from Ranchi tested positive for Covid-19 on the day, taking Jharkhand's tally to 113.

- ✓ Of these, 91 are active case, while two patients have died and 20 have recovered
- **The Centre - has formulated a new list classifying 733 districts across the country as 130 red zones, 284 orange zones and 319 green zones to implement its Covid-19 containment strategy and enforce the third phase of the lockdown starting on May 4.**
- ✓ According to the new list, 17.7% of all 733 districts are still in the red zone and 38.7% in orange with a significant 43.5% in the green zone.



- ✓ However, all major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata, continue to be in the red zone.
- ✓ The list comes along with fresh guidelines for monitoring containment and buffer zones with stricter measures like house-to-house surveillance and enhanced testing
- ✓ The districts were earlier designated as hotspots or red zones, orange zones and green zones primarily based on the cumulative cases reported and the doubling rate

- ✓ A district will now qualify as a green zone if there are no confirmed cases till date or no case was reported in the last 21 days, according to the new order from the health ministry.
- ✓ Till now, a district was classified as a green zone if there were no cases reported for 28 days.
- ✓ As on April 30, there were 129 districts in the red zone, 297 in orange and 307 in the green zone.



- ✓ Under the new guidelines, the Centre has asked states to create buffer zones around containment areas as a safety measure to eliminate any chances of the virus spreading.
- ✓ While the list will be revised every week, states will not be allowed to relax the zonal classification of districts classified as red and orange zones.
- ✓ According to the Centre's list, UP has the highest number of districts in the red zone — 19, followed by Maharashtra at 14.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has 12, while Delhi's all 11 districts are in the red zone.
 - ✓ West Bengal has 10, whereas Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have 5 districts each in the red zone

- **On May 1, the Centre - extended the national lockdown by another two weeks, leaving only containment areas under strict restrictions.**
- ✓ The announcement proposes significant easing of curbs to restart economic activity even in the red zones

WHAT IS OPEN & WHAT IS NOT

ORANGE ZONES

- In addition to activities permitted in Red Zone, taxis and cab aggregators will be permitted with 1 driver and 2 passengers only
- Inter-district movement of individuals and vehicles will be allowed for permitted activities only
- All goods traffic to be permitted, regardless of zones. No state/UT shall stop movement of cargo for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries

- Four wheeler vehicles will have maximum two passengers besides the driver and pillion riding will be allowed on two-wheelers

GREEN ZONES

- All activities are permitted except the limited number of activities which are prohibited throughout the country, irrespective of the zone
- Buses can operate with up to 50% seating capacity and bus depots can operate with up to 50% capacity

RULES THAT HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED STRICTLY

- Wearing of face mask compulsory in public places
- Use of Aarogya Setu app mandatory for employees both in public and private sector. Responsibility of the head of the organisation to ensure 100% compliance among employees

- Shops selling liquor, gutka, tobacco to ensure six feet distance from each other and that not more than 5 persons are present at one time at the shop

WORKPLACES

- Wearing of face cover compulsory, adequate stocks to be made available. Frequent sanitisation, social distancing, thermal screening

- ✓ The new announcement bans the movement of individuals for “non-essential” activities between 7pm and 7am and Section 144 can be invoked
- ✓ Senior citizens, persons with co-morbidities (health conditions) and children below 10 years are asked to stay at home except for health purposes.

New Guidelines for Lockdown 3.0

- ✓ The new norms allow domestic help and other local workers to work during the day.
- ✓ Private offices (at 33% staff strength) will be able to function even in red zones.
- ✓ The norms allow movement of taxis, autos and rickshaws in green zones, now designated as areas with no fresh Covid-19 cases for 21 days
- ✓ The same applies to orange zones where no cases have been detected for a fortnight but such movement is prohibited in red zones.
- ✓ Buses will also be allowed to operate at 50% capacity in green zones.
- ✓ In red zones, private four-wheelers with maximum two passengers in the back are permitted but for two-wheelers, no pillion riders are allowed.

- ✓ The norms set the framework for states, which can increase restrictions but cannot dilute them.
- ✓ E-commerce firms can start delivering non-essential items in orange and green zones but not in red zones.

LOCKDOWN LITE: LIQUOR, CIGARETTE SALES TO RESUME

IN RED ZONES: (Outside Hotspots, Containment Zones)

- No taxis and Uber in red zones but **private vehicles with two passengers in back seat allowed. For two wheelers no pillion**
- **Private offices** like architects, lawyers and IT firms allowed to function with **33% staffing** on any given day, with remaining persons working from home
- **Industrial establishments in urban areas**, SEZs, EOUs, industrial estates and industrial townships with access control can open
- **Mfg units of essential goods**, including drugs, pharma, med devices, their raw material & intermediates; prodn units, which require continuous process, and their supply chain; manufacturing of IT hardware; jute industry with staggered shifts and social distancing; and manufacturing units of packaging material
- **Construction activities** in urban areas where **workers are available on site**, and construction of renewable energy projects
- **Standalone shops, neighborhood**

- shops and **shops in residential complexes** can open in urban areas; **e-commerce** only for essential goods
- All govt offices shall function with **senior officers of level of deputy secy and above** at full strength, and the remaining staff attending up to 33%
- Defence & security services, health & family welfare, police, prisons, Home Guards, Civil Defence, fire & emergency services, disaster management & related services, NIC, Customs, FCI, NCC, NYK and municipal services shall function without any restrictions; **delivery of public services shall be ensured** and necessary staff will be deployed for such purpose
- All **industrial and construction activities in rural areas**, including MNREGA works, food-processing units and brick-kilns
- In rural areas, all shops, except in shopping malls are permitted
- **All health services** (including Ayush) to remain functional
- All **agriculture, animal husbandry**, and plantation activities allowed

- **Banks, NBFCs, insurance & capital market** activities, and credit co-op societies. Operation of homes for children, senior citizens, destitutes, women & widows and operation of anganwadi allowed
- **Public utilities** like water, power, telecom, internet, waste management; **courier & postal services** to function
- **Print & electronic media, IT & IT-enabled services**, data & call centres, cold storage & warehousing services, pvt security & facility mgmt services, and services provided by self-employed persons, except for barbers
- Rules can permit **domestic help, local workers** for non-essential activities between 7am and 7pm subject to states framing regulations
- **Paan and liquor shops to be open** with social distancing, and not more than 5 customers at a time. Bars and restaurants remain shut
- Districts with large non-municipal areas will have **more relaxed norms** for such localities
- No flights till May 17, possibility of limited start after that

WHAT IS PROHIBITED IN RED ZONES, OUTSIDE THE CONTAINMENT ZONE

- Plying of cycle rickshaws and auto rickshaws; running of taxis and cab aggregators; intra-district and inter-district plying of buses; barber shops, spas and saloons

WHAT REMAINS SHUT IRRESPECTIVE OF ZONES

- Air travel, Rail, metro and inter-state movement by road
- Running of schools, colleges, and other edu. and training/ coaching institutions;
- Hospitality services, including hotels, restaurants; places of large public gatherings, such as cinema halls, malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes
- Social, political, cultural and other kinds of gatherings; and, religious places/ places of worship for public

MORE COVERAGE P 7-8

- ✓ A limited number of activities remain prohibited throughout the country, irrespective of zones.
- ✓ These include travel by air, rail, Metro and inter-state movement by road, running of educational institutions and coaching centres, hospitality services, including hotels and restaurants, places of large public gatherings like cinema halls, malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes as well as social, religious, political, cultural and other gatherings.
- ✓ In a major relief for states that have been slammed by excise losses, there is no prohibition on the sale of liquor and tobacco products.
- ✓ The liquor shops are allowed to open with a minimum 6-foot distance between people and no more than five people present at one time.
- ✓ The consumption of liquor, paan, gutka or tobacco in public places will, however, continue to be banned.
- ✓ As per the norms, wearing a face cover will be compulsory and use of the Aarogya Setu app is mandatory for both public and private sector employees.
- ✓ In red zones, service providers, including domestic helps and drivers, can travel to households for work between 7am and 7pm though not to and from containment zones.

- ✓ Barber shops, spas and salons will remain closed in red zones, though they can operate in green and orange zones.

#	Activity	Green	Orange	Red	Containment
1	Travel- Air, Train, Metro	NO	NO	NO	NO
2	Inter-state Road Movement	NO	NO	NO	NO
3	Education Institutions	NO	NO	NO	NO
4	Hospitality- hotels, cinemas, malls	NO	NO	NO	NO
5	Worship & Large gatherings	NO	NO	NO	NO
6	Barbershop, spa	YES	YES	NO	NO
7	Coming out between 7 pm and 7 a	NO	NO	NO	NO
8	Age >65, <10, Pregnant - Outing	NO	NO	NO	NO
9	Medical Clinic, OPD	YES	YES	YES	NO
10	Auto, Taxi ,	1+1	1+1	NO	NO
11	4 Wheeler	1+2	1+2	1+2*	NO
12	2 Wheeler	1+1	1+1	1+0*	NO
13	Inter-district Bus	50%	50%	NO	NO
14	Intra-district Bus	50%	50%	NO	NO
15	Industrials with access control	YES	YES	YES	NO
16	Urban Industries	YES	YES	YES	NO
17	Urban in-situ construction	YES	YES	YES	NO
18	Urban single non/essential shops	YES	YES	YES	NO
19	E-com Essential goods	YES	YES	Yes	NO
20	Private and Govt (non-core)	YES	YES	33%	NO
21	Agri activiteis	YES	YES	Yes	NO
22	Bank & Finances	YES	YES	Yes	NO
23	Courier and Postal	YES	YES	YES	NO
24	Goods Traffic	YES	YES	YES	NO

- ✓ Industrial establishments like SEZs and EOUs, manufacturing of essential goods and IT hardware can resume in urban areas of red zones.
- ✓ All industrial activities may resume in rural areas.
- ✓ Only in-situ construction will be permitted in urban areas falling in red zones (outside containment zones) but all construction activities in rural areas.
- ✓ Markets and marketplaces will remain closed in urban areas of red zones though standalone/neighbourhood shops and shops in residential complexes can function.
- ✓ In rural areas, only malls will remain closed.
- ✓ Even in red zones, print and electronic media, IT and IT-enabled services, data and call centres, cold storage and warehousing services, private security and

facility management services and services provided by self-employed people, except barbers, can operate.

- ✓ In orange zones, besides all activities allowed in red zones, taxis and cab aggregators with a driver and two passengers can ply.
 - ✓ No inter-district or intra-district plying of buses is permitted
 - ✓ However inter-district movement of individuals and vehicles will be allowed for only permitted activities.
 - ✓ In green zones, all activities apart from those prohibited across all zones are allowed. Buses can ply here at 50% capacity and bus depots will operate at 50% capacity.
- **Indian Railways – started running five ‘Shramik Special’ trains to transport workers, students and tourists following the approval from the home ministry**
- ✓ The facility was launched a day after the Centre said buses will be used to take migrant workers to their home states
 - ✓ The five ‘Shramik Special’ trains planned are - Nasik (Maharashtra) to Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Aluva (Kerala) to Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Nasik (Maharashtra) to Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Jaipur (Rajasthan) to Patna (Bihar) and Kota (Rajasthan) to Hatia (Jharkhand).

FREE TICKETS

- State govts identify passengers, inform Rlys; free tickets issued in bulk
- People brought to stns in buses, medically checked & given masks, sanitizer
- Only 54 passengers in 1 sleeper coach; RPF ensures social distancing in trains

FIRST 6 SHRAMIK SPECIALS
Lingampalli to Hatia, Aluva to Bhubaneswar, Nasik to Bhopal, Jaipur to Patna, Kota to Hatia, Nasik to Lucknow (rescheduled)



- ✓ The first ‘Shramik Special’ train left Lingampalli in Telangana to Hatia in Jharkhand
- ✓ These special trains will be a regular feature in the coming weeks, as they facilitate movement of a larger number of people in less time than by buses
- ✓ Meanwhile, the home ministry issued revised guidelines permitting trains for inter-state transport of stranded people amid the lockdown.
- ✓ The Railways would also operate a few more trains from point-to-point in the next couple of days.

- ✓ Almost all trains that started on May 1 had 24 coaches each and transported around 1,000-1,200 passengers.
- ✓ About 54 passengers are allowed in a sleeper coach in place of the normal provision to accommodate 72 passengers
- ✓ In some cases, coaches were earmarked by destinations on the route.
 - ✓ For example, the train from Kota to Ranchi had coaches marked as Palamu, Ramgarh and Gumla.
 - ✓ This was done to ensure only those passengers destined for particular stations were in the specified coach and deboarded according to schedule.
- ✓ As per MHA guidelines, the railways have designated nodal officers for coordinating with states.
 - ✓ Bulk tickets are provided to the state and hence there is no sale of tickets for individuals.
 - ✓ So far as fare is concerned, the respective state governments will coordinate and pay the ticket price of a sleeper class and another ₹50 per passenger.
 - ✓ The fare includes complimentary meals and drinking water during the journey.
- ✓ Passengers nominated by state governments will be screened at departure points and allowed to proceed if found asymptomatic.
- ✓ On arrival, they will be assessed by authorities and kept in home quarantine.
- **Kashmir saffron, the pride of Jammu & Kashmir - has been given Geographical Indication (GI) tag, protecting the uniqueness of the farm produce.**



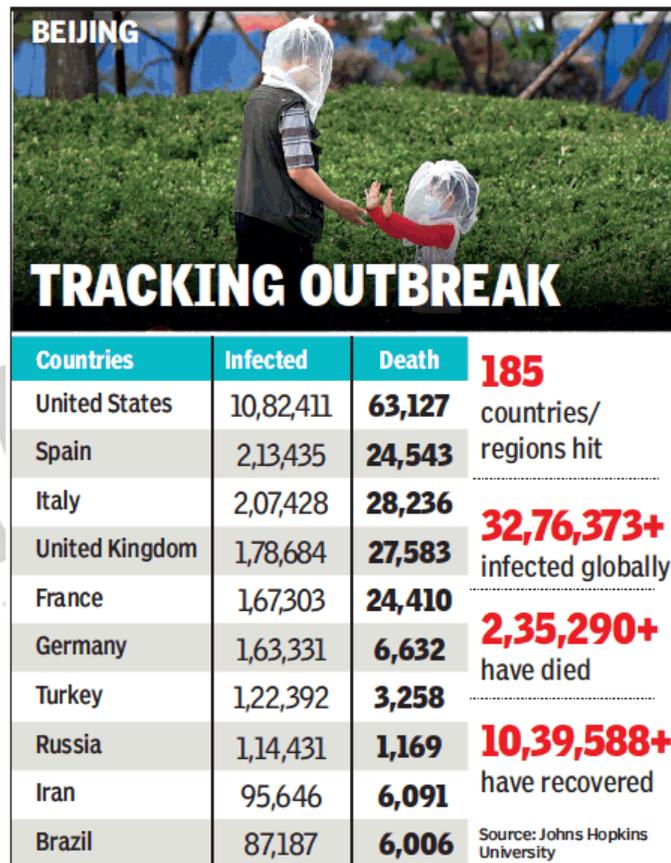
- ✓ The recognition was formally published in the latest GI journal by the GI Registry.
- ✓ The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron includes - longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour of stigmas, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness)

- ✓ This produce is famous all over the world as a spice, health rejuvenator and is also used for cosmetics as well as for medicinal purposes.
 - ✓ It is the only saffron grown at an altitude of 1,600m to 1,800m above the mean sea level in the world, adding to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available in the market world over.
 - ✓ The application was filed by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and facilitated by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, and Saffron Research Station, Dussu (Pampore).
 - ✓ Kashmir saffron is cultivated and harvested in the Karewas (high lands) of Jammu & Kashmir by local farmers.
 - ✓ It is also grown in Pampore and Kishtwar, apart from in few places like Budgam, Srinagar, Pulwama Khrew and Chirar-i-Sharief.
 - ✓ In fact, Kishtwar is commonly known as 'The Land of Sapphire and Saffron.'
 - ✓ As for the proof of origin, the department of agriculture had mentioned how cultivation was introduced by central Asian immigrants around first century BC.
 - ✓ It was also known as Bahukam in ancient Sanskrit literature (Amarakosara).
 - ✓ According to Chinese records, in 647 AD, the King of Kashmir had presented saffron as gift to the Chinese emperor.
 - ✓ In 519 AD the King of Cambodia had sent a consignment of saffron to China.
 - ✓ It is to be noted that three other products - Gorakhpur Teracotta, Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai and Black rice of Manipur also received GI tag recently
- **On May 1, the Navy and IAF - said their warships and aircraft are fully prepared to launch any mass evacuation of Indians stranded in the Gulf and other regions, on orders from the Government**
- ✓ The Gulf region has over eight million Indians, mostly living in port cities.
 - ✓ The IAF had kept 28-30 transport aircraft on standby for the evacuation operation, if the government directed them to undertake them.
 - ✓ The Navy has kept three amphibious warships, including the 16,900-tonne INS Jalashwa, and transport aircraft like the C-17 Globemaster-III and IL-76 "readied" in anticipation of the government order for evacuation, which could probably be launched in the first half of May.
- **On May 3, the Indian armed forces - will conduct flypasts across the country, illuminate warships in coastal areas, undertake band displays and use helicopters to shower petals on hospitals to express gratitude to all "corona warriors", from doctors and nurses to policemen and sanitation workers.**
- ✓ The fighter jets and transport aircraft from the IAF will conduct flypasts from Srinagar to Thiruvananthapuram and from Dibrugarh to Kutch, as part of the "special activities" planned by the armed forces

- ✓ This was announced by the Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on May 1.
 - ✓ This was the first formal press conference of the CDS along with the three Service Chiefs since he assumed charge on January 1.
 - ✓ The US Air Force and Navy, incidentally, have been holding such “aerial salutes” over American cities through their “Thunderbirds” and “Blue Angels” aerobatic teams on the directions of President Donald Trump.
 - ✓ The “plan of action” in India was finalised at a meeting chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh, with national security advisor Ajit Doval, Gen Rawat and the three Service chiefs, General M M Naravane, Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria.
- **Five more states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh - have joined the ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ platform**
- ✓ This takes the total number of states having ration card portability to 17 states and Union territories
 - ✓ The move is expected to bring huge relief to nearly 60 crore poor to get subsidised grains irrespective of their place of stay.
 - ✓ This was announced, in a tweet, by the Union food minister Ram Vilas Paswan
 - ✓ Earlier, on January 1, 12 states jointed the integrated management of PDS
 - ✓ The 12 states that have already joined the platform are - Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.
 - ✓ With this, the scheme provides the entitled quota of foodgrains from any fair price shop (FPS) of the choice of the public, anywhere in these states
- **India – is placed at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget accountability and transparency for the year 2019 by the Open budget survey**
- ✓ The survey, conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), released the ranking on April 29, 2020.
 - ✓ IBP has provided a transparency score of 49 out of 100 to India’s Union budget process.
 - ✓ The provided score to India is higher than the global average score of 45.
 - ✓ New Zealand has gained the highest score of 87.
 - ✓ The survey had evaluated various countries on the basis of the availability of eight key budget documents of the Central or Federal government
 - ✓ Open Budget Survey is a part of the International Budget Partnership’s Open budget initiative.
 - ✓ It is a global research program that promotes public access to budget information

INTERNATIONAL

- **The daily nationwide US toll – has went past 2,300 per day over the last 3 days, with the overall tally nearing 64,000, after dipping to below 1,500 deaths per day last weekend**
- ✓ Meanwhile, on May 1, the WHO extended its declaration of a global health emergency.
 - ✓ Earlier, the health agency has declared the coronavirus an international health emergency on January 30.
 - ✓ At that stage, only 82 cases of infection and no deaths outside China were reported.



- ✓ As on date, more than 3.27 million people around the world are infected and nearly a quarter million have died.
- ✓ However, in some good news, the number of people to have recovered from the infection crossed 1 million
- ✓ As on date, Russia's case tally rose by record 7,933 cases and stood at 114,431, while the toll stood at 1,169.
- ✓ Meanwhile, in China, Beijing parks and museums were reopened to the public
- ✓ On the day, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a month-long extension of a state of emergency declared over the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ Japan has seen nearly 14,300 infections and 432 deaths so far.

- ✓ Australia announced that it will consider early easing of coronavirus restrictions next week, as the number of local cases dwindled.
- ✓ Spain registered 281 deaths from coronavirus in the past 24 hours, bringing the total toll to 24,543, confirming the slowdown in the pandemic
 - ✓ On April 30, the death toll reached its lowest since March 20 with 268 deaths.
 - ✓ Spain has registered a total of 2,13,435 confirmed cases.

SPORTS

- **India - has lost its top spot to Australia in ICC test rankings on May 1 and has now been dropped to third place**
- ✓ New Zealand has gained 2nd position as per the latest rankings released by ICC.
- ✓ The fall in the ranking was because India's victory in 12 test matches and just one defeat in 2016-2017 were eliminated from the annual update.
- ✓ In the test ranking, Australia is leading with 116 points, New Zealand with 115 points and India with 114 points
- ✓ Australia also acquired no.1 spot in the T20 list for the first time.



ICC Test rankings

1 – Australia (116 points)

2 – New Zealand (115)

3 – India (114)

4 – England (105)

5 – Sri Lanka (91)

6 – South Africa (90)

7 – Pakistan (86)

8 – West Indies (79)



- ✓ The top ten rankings in ODI team rankings remain unchanged.
- ✓ England leads India in the ODI rankings, with a difference of 8 points now as against the earlier 6 points.
- ✓ New Zealand is still at the 3rd place, three points behind India.
- ✓ Australia with 278 points is on the top of the list for the T20 rankings, ever since the rankings were introduced in 2011
- ✓ England with 268 points has moved to the second position, while India has been up one place to third which is just two points behind.
- ✓ Pakistan, who had reached the top position in January 2018, has now fallen down to fourth with 260 points.

CHENNAI COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES - ZONE-WISE TALLY - REPORT

