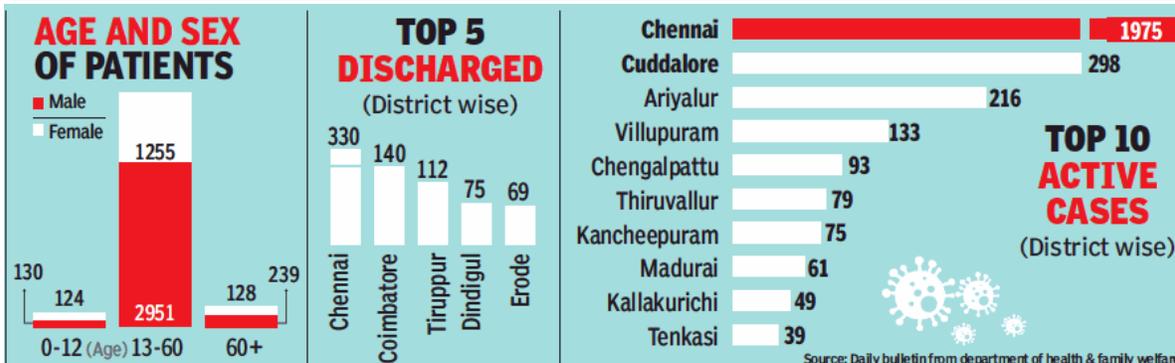
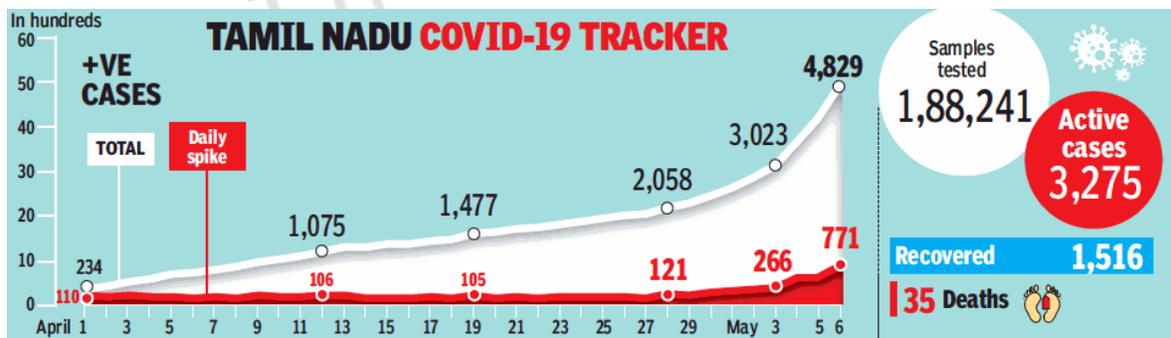


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 7, 2020

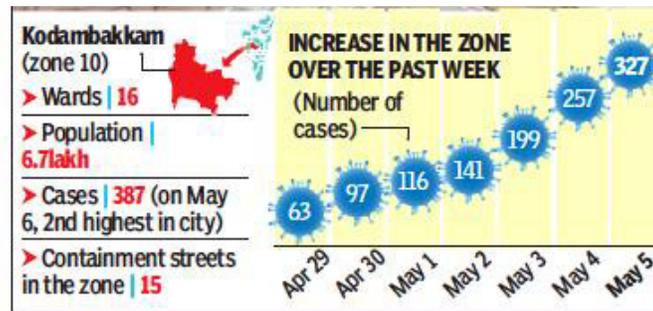
### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – touched a new high of Covid-19 infections on May 6 with 771 people (575 men and 196 women) testing positive, taking the total number of infections in the state to 4,829
- ✓ Out of 771 cases, 324 were from Chennai, 188 from Ariyalur and 95 from Cuddalore
  - ✓ The three districts — Chennai, Ariyalur and Cuddalore — accounted for 78% of the cases.
- ✓ The increase in numbers for the states is because of the contacts from the Koyambedu cluster, which were spread across nearly two dozen districts in the state
- ✓ The state toll went up to 35, with two more deaths being reported on the day



- ✓ Cuddalore now has the most infections after Chennai, with 298 cases, while Ariyalur is at the third position with 216 cases.
    - ✓ Apart from these three districts, there were 34 cases reported in Tiruvallur, 20 in Madurai, 17 in Tiruvannamalai, nine each in Chengalpattu and Dindigul, six in Vellore, five in Villupuram, three in Perambalur, two each in Krishnagiri, Pudukottai Theni and Thoothukudi, and one each in Karur, Salem Tenkasi, Thanjavur, Tirupattur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Tiruchi.
    - ✓ With the new cases, four districts — Ariyalur, Dindigul, Madurai, Tiruvallur — crossed the 100-mark on the day.
  - ✓ At least seven districts — Cuddalore, Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Ariyalur, Krishnagiri and Tenkasi — may soon be re-designated as red zones either because they have more than 50 cases or have a doubling time of less than four days or because they are reporting fresh cases
  - ✓ All vendors of the Koyambedu complex residing in Chennai are now being quarantined for at least 14 days in government quarantine facilities such as schools and hostels or at their homes and may not be picked for testing.
  - ✓ On May 6, the positivity rate in the state increased to 5% after 13,281 people were tested, the highest number till date.
  - ✓ Chennai, which had tested more than 3,500 people, had 10% positive cases.
  - ✓ The two deaths happened on the day were reported in Chennai – a 68-year-old man admitted at Stanley Medical College and Hospital and a 59-year-old man admitted at Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital succumbing to the infection.
  - ✓ At the end of the day, 31 people were discharged, taking the total number of people recovered to 1,516 across TN.
  - ✓ And, 3,275 people with the viral infection were still being treated at various hospitals across the state.
  - ✓ The testing of 871 samples was under process.
  - ✓ Till date, a total of 1,88,241 samples were tested in the State and the total number of individuals tested till now stands at 1,78,472.
- **The State health department – has approved a new testing protocol to be followed in Chennai by the civic authorities, following the continuing rise in infections in the state capital**
- ✓ As per the new protocol, all family contacts of patients who tested positive will undergo mandatory testing.
  - ✓ Apart from the family contacts, all extended contacts such as visitors and coworkers, will be quarantined for 14 days and tested, if they report symptoms of the viral infections such as fever, breathlessness or cough.
  - ✓ In case, the extended contacts are above 60 years of age or have co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart or kidney disease, or asthma, they also will be subjected to the tests.
  - ✓ Besides this, any one admitted to hospitals with severe respiratory distress or those with flu-like symptoms will also be tested

- ✓ All pregnant women will have to be tested a week before the expected date of delivery
- **Kodambakkam – has moved to the second position on the list of corporation zones with the most Covid-19 positive cases, behind only Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar**
- ✓ It had overtaken Royapuram, which had been worst affected by the Tablighi Jamaat cluster



- ✓ The main reason for the spurt in the cases in the zone is due to the increase in cases associated with the Koyambedu cluster
- ✓ Another reason attributed for the rise in cases is the increase in sample testing by the civic authorities.
- ✓ On April 22, Kodambakkam had 35 cases, while Royapuram zone had 116 and now, the zones have 387 and 375 cases respectively.
- ✓ Over the last four days, about 245 positive cases were reported from Kodambakkam zone, while Thiru Vi Ka Nagar and Royapuram reported 122 and 123 cases respectively in the same period.
- ✓ Besides Koyambedu market, Kodambakkam zone comprises some of the city's core residential neighbourhoods such as Ashok Nagar, K K Nagar, and T Nagar.
- **The government – has announced several guidelines for opening the Tasmac liquor shops in the State from May 7 at the safe zone areas**



- ✓ It had fixed different times for different age groups to buy liquor in shops across the state.

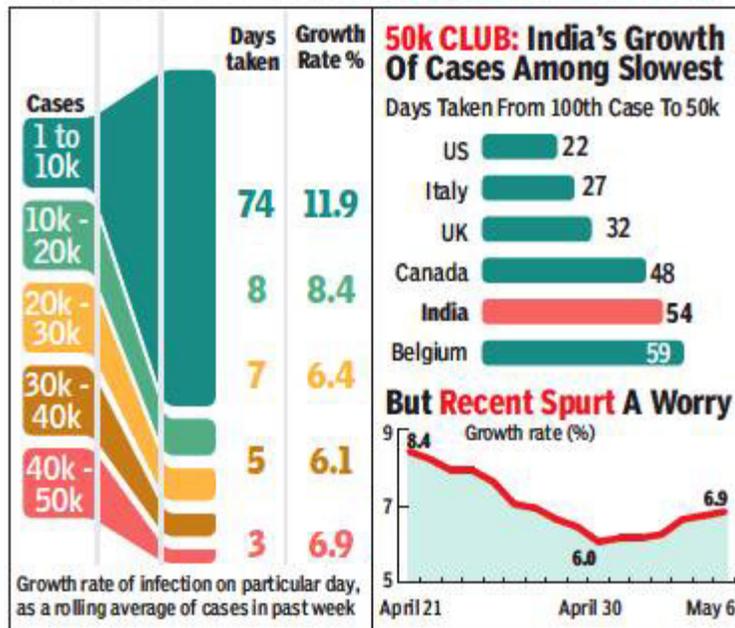
- ✓ A total of 3,850 Liquor outlets across the state, except those in Chennai police limits and those in border areas of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts, will be opening after a gap of 45 days
- ✓ As per the new timings announced, customers above 50 years of age can buy the liquor between 10am and 1pm, while those in the 40-50 age group can buy between 1pm and 3pm and the 18-39 age group can get from 3pm to 5pm.
- ✓ As per the safety guidelines issued by Tasmac (Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, the state-run agency that has sole rights to selling liquor in TN), people standing in queues must stay six feet apart, wear masks and clean their hands with sanitizers, which will be provided to them.
- ✓ Other guidelines includes -
  - ✓ The authorities will issue tokens to each customer after checking their age proof ID cards.
  - ✓ Customers have to give these tokens at the cash counter before they buy liquor.
  - ✓ If the address proof lies outside the jurisdiction of the area, the concerned person will be arrested
  - ✓ Only medically fit employees of Tasmac (below 55 years of age) have been called for duty in the shops
  - ✓ Also, there would not be any bulk sales at the outlets.
  - ✓ The premises of shops would be disinfected and barricading would be done with wooden sticks.
  - ✓ Circles were drawn with a distance of six feet between each.
  - ✓ Two policemen, two home guard personnel and a volunteer will be deployed near the cash counter of each outlet, while four policemen, four home guards and four volunteers will regulate the queue.
  - ✓ A patrol vehicle will scan through the streets and roads next to the shops, while a team headed by an inspector or SI will monitor the operation.
  - ✓ Two to four strike force teams have been assigned for each cluster of shops.
- ✓ Of the 5,300 liquor shops across the state, 2,100 have bars attached to them.
- ✓ All shops located in the containment zones will remain closed.
- ✓ Meanwhile, on May 6, the Madras high court refused to stay reopening of Tasmac liquor shops across the state on May 7.
  - ✓ However, it directed the government to implement rationing by permitting purchase of only one bottle of liquor (750 ml) per person a day, if payment is made by cash.
  - ✓ It had allowed two bottles a day for people making online payments, in a bid to encourage digital payment already available in some outlets
  - ✓ A special division bench of Justice Vineet Kothari and Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana directed the state to add the option to make online payments to prevent crowding at retail liquor shops.

- ✓ The bench passed the order after the state government ruled out possibility of liquor sale through alternative modes like 'online portals'
  - ✓ Several states, including Delhi, Punjab, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have already launched the government-owned apps and portals for people to order the liquor in 'online mode.
  - ✓ The average daily sales of liquor in the state is worth about ₹90 crore.
- **The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) – has announced the extension of last date for admission to students in technical institutions, including engineering colleges, by two weeks to August 31.**
- ✓ The last date for completing the first round of counselling has also been extended from June 30 to August 15.
  - ✓ The second round counselling must be held before August 25 instead of July 10 deadline, as per the guidelines in approval process handbook.
  - ✓ As per the UGC's earlier recommendation, the next academic year will commence from September 1 as against the earlier August 1 deadline.
  - ✓ Usually, engineering counselling in Tamil Nadu starts in the last week of June after medical counselling.
  - ✓ This year, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Neet) is planned to be held on July 26.
  - ✓ For last two years, Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) committee has been conducting online counselling to fill engineering seats in the state.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the AICTE has extended dates for granting approval to new institutions and institutions seeking to start new courses or reduce intake
  - ✓ As per the new schedule, approval would be given before June 15 and universities can provide affiliation till June 30.
  - ✓ For the first time, the AICTE would use online meeting platforms such as Microsoft Teams to scrutinize applications.

## NATIONAL

- **On May 6, India passed two grim Covid-19 milestones— crossing the 50,000 mark and breaching the 3,000-figure in its daily tally for the first time.**
- ✓ After reporting 3,602 new patients on the day – the biggest in a day since the outbreak of the disease — the total number of positive cases in the country rose to 52,935.
  - ✓ In an alarming note, while it took five days to cross the infections tally from the 30,000-mark to the 40,000-mark, the next 10,000 cases in the country were added in just three days.
  - ✓ It was on May 3 that India had reached 40,000 cases while the 30,000-mark was crossed on April 28.
  - ✓ However, the day recorded a death toll of 93, which was less than half of the 199 casualties reported on the previous day.

## CORONA COUNT SURGES PAST 50K



- ✓ On May 6, Maharashtra recorded 1,233 fresh cases, taking the total to 16,758.
  - ✓ The state reported 34 deaths, taking the toll to 651.
  - ✓ Maharashtra alone accounts for 36.6% of the total 1,777 casualties in India so far.
- ✓ Delhi recorded its maximum number of cases in a day – at 428 – taking the total number of Covid-19 patients to 5,532.
  - ✓ With one more death, the toll in the national capital stands at 65.
- ✓ Gujarat reported 28 more deaths, 25 of these from Ahmedabad alone, taking the total state toll to 396.
  - ✓ With 380 fresh cases, the state's infection count has increased to 6,625.
  - ✓ As the situation remained serious in Ahmedabad, the administration banned sale of grocery, vegetables and fruits - which was allowed in lockdown 1 and 2 - from May 7 till May 15.
- ✓ Bengal, which had accounted for 79 deaths on May 5, reported only four deaths on the day, taking the total casualty to 144.
- ✓ On the day, Madhya Pradesh reported nine deaths, Rajasthan and UP four each, Andhra Pradesh three, Tamil Nadu and Punjab two each and Haryana, Delhi and Odisha one each.
- ✓ Haryana's infection count reached 595 with 46 new cases, including 36 from NCR districts.
- ✓ Rajasthan recorded 159 fresh cases (against 97 a day before) and four deaths on the day, much lower than the record 12 deaths a day ago.
  - ✓ With this, the total number of cases in the state is 3,317 while the toll is 93.
- ✓ In Tripura, 22 more BSF jawans tested positive, taking the state tally to 64.
  - ✓ Of these, 62 are BSF personnel and their family members.

- ✓ UP recorded 118 new cases and four more deaths, taking the state tally to 2998 and 60 deaths.
  - ✓ For the second day in a row, UP reported higher number of people getting discharged than the new cases with as many as 143 patients recovering in the past 24 hours.
- ✓ In Andhra Pradesh, three more persons died and 60 others tested positive.
- ✓ Odisha reported its second casualty and nine more patients testing positive, taking the state total to 185
- ✓ On a happier note from Kerala, no fresh cases were reported from the state, which braces itself to receive expatriates on May 7.
  - ✓ Only 30 active cases remain in Kerala of the total 502 reported till date.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – has approved Lopinavir/ritonavir — a fixed-dose combination of drugs used for treatment and prevention of HIV/ AIDS — for use in Covid-19 patients.**

**THE OTHER DRUGS IN COVID FIGHT**

A drug meant to tackle alcohol dependence, another used to treat a skin disorder — this is the new armoury in the battle against the coronavirus. A look at some of the drugs that are being 'repurposed'

<p><b>HIV:</b> Lopinavir/ritonavir is a combination medicine for HIV/AIDS. It was used against SARS and MERS, two other coronaviruses. ICMR has allowed its use for Covid-19. Only those with acute symptoms, like severe respiratory distress, and the elderly with co-morbidities need this drug</p>		<p><b>Leprosy:</b> Mycobacterium w is an anti-leprosy drug repurposed as an immuno-modulator against severe blood infection. Cadilla's Sepsivac is an example. Clinical trials for Covid-19 under way in PGIMER Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi and Bhopal</p>
<p><b>Skin Disorder:</b> Biocon's psoriasis drug Itolizumab, an anti-inflammatory, has been permitted for use in moderate to severe Covid-19 cases. It's being trialled in Mumbai and Delhi</p>		<p><b>Alcohol Dependence:</b> Disulfiram is used to treat alcoholism by producing unpleasant reactions, like nausea, in the presence of alcohol. It was used for SARS and MERS as it helps induce immune responses. It's efficacy against Covid-19 is yet to be confirmed</p>
<p><b>Arthritis:</b> Tocilizumab, an immuno-modulator used to treat arthritis, can prevent extreme inflammation in critically ill Covid-19 patients. Clinical trials under way in India</p>		<p><b>Diarrhoea:</b> As more patients report gastrointestinal symptoms, antidiarrhoeal drug Loperamide, which reduces the number of bowel movements, is under consideration</p>

Source: ICMR, media reports

- ✓ The country's apex body for health research has issued detailed guidelines for the usage of the drug, which is one among the others under consideration
- ✓ As per the guidelines, the drug combination can be used to treat hospitalised patients with a moderate degree of severity, for example respiratory distress and new-onset organ dysfunction
- ✓ The ICMR has also identified more than a dozen other drugs for treating the viral infection, which includes

- ✓ remdesivir (originally developed to treat Ebola),
  - ✓ mycobacterium W (originally developed to treat leprosy),
  - ✓ disulfiram (drug for treatment of alcohol dependence) and
  - ✓ resveratrol (a natural compound from grape which is under clinical trials for heart and other diseases)
- ✓ Some of these drugs are undergoing clinical trials in India
  - ✓ As per ICMR, no effective treatment has been recommended for the novel coronavirus till now, except meticulous supportive care.
  - ✓ According to the guidelines, any hospital administering the anti-HIV drug combination to Covid-19 patients will need to obtain written informed consent from the patient.
  - ✓ Also, such patients need to be enrolled into this protocol on case-to-case basis.
  - ✓ The new guidelines are based on the observational studies amongst patients with SARS-CoV and MERSCoV as well as the studies conducted by the National Institute of Virology, Pune.
    - ✓ SARS and MERS, other two disease outbreaks that took place in 2002 and 2012, respectively, were also caused by coronaviruses.
  - ✓ Recently, the ICMR allowed the use of anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) for prophylactic use among healthcare workers.
- **Indian council of medical research (ICMR) - has begun the Phase-II multi-centre clinical trials to check the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma therapy for treatment of Covid-19**
- ✓ As many as 452 people will be enrolled as samples for the randomized controlled trials by the agency
  - ✓ The name of the trial is “A Phase II, Open Label, Randomized Controlled Trial to assess the safety and efficacy of Convalescent Plasma to Limit COVID-19 Associated Complications in Moderate Diseases”.
  - ✓ ICMR has so far approved 21 of the 111 institutions from across the country, which are interested in participating in the clinical trials
  - ✓ Plasma therapy is a process, which is under experimentation, involving the transfusion of blood plasma extracted from the antibody rich blood from cured Covid-19 patients into infected persons.
    - ✓ According to the protocol approved by the Drugs controller general of India (DCGI) for this trial, plasma will be collected from recovered individuals if they are eligible to donate blood to any blood bank after 28 days of symptom-free period.
    - ✓ The plasma donors can be asked to donate repeatedly but not more than 1,000ml of plasma can be collected from one donor in a month
  - ✓ Recently, the health ministry had categorically said that convalescent plasma is not yet approved as a therapy for use in treatment of Covid-19 patients
  - ✓ It advised that the therapy should only be used for research and trial purposes till there is robust scientific evidence to support its efficacy.

- ✓ The Phase-II trials usually involve larger sample size than Phase-I trials.
  - ✓ The controlled trial will enroll 226 Covid-19 patients in the intervention group which will receive plasma transfusion, while 226 Covid-19 patients in the controlled group will not receive the treatment.
- ✓ Recently, it has been reported that a patient who had recovered successfully with the help of Plasma treatment in Max hospital, Delhi.
- ✓ Also, King George Medical University in Lucknow has become the first government hospital to launch Plasma therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 6, Russia - recorded more than 10,000 new coronavirus cases for the fourth day in a row, surpassing Germany to become the country with the sixth-highest number of confirmed infections.**
- ✓ The country has reported 10,559 new cases over the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of infections to 1,65,929, with 1,537 deaths.
- ✓ Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced steps to ease the coronavirus lockdown in Germany
  - ✓ The country's premier has also launched an "emergency brake" mechanism simultaneously, allowing for renewed restrictions in case infections pick up again.

TRACKING OUTBREAK			
Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	12,14,572	<b>71,526</b>	<b>187</b> countries/ regions hit
Spain	2,19,329	<b>25,613</b>	
Italy	2,14,457	<b>29,684</b>	<b>37,11,425+</b> infected globally
United Kingdom	2,02,355	<b>30,150</b>	
France	1,70,694	<b>25,538</b>	<b>2,60,487+</b> have died
Germany	1,67,372	<b>6,993</b>	
Russia	1,65,929	<b>1,537</b>	<b>12,10,440+</b> have recovered
Turkey	1,31,744	<b>3,584</b>	
Brazil	1,21,600	<b>8,022</b>	
Iran	1,01,650	<b>6,418</b>	Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ The UK and the Netherlands, too, are planning to ease their lockdowns from May 11.
- ✓ British PM Boris Johnson would lay out the roadmap for easing the lockdowns on May 10

- ✓ Meanwhile, in Asia, Bangladesh has decided to re-open mosques for public prayers from May 7
- ✓ Globally, the pandemic has taken a toll of 2.6 lakhs and more than 3.7 million were infected across 187 countries

## PERSONALITIES

- **Rahul Dev, a Pakistani Hindu youth - has become the first person from the minority community to join Pakistan air force.**
- ✓ He has been recruited as general duty pilot officer.



- ✓ Dev hails from Tharparkar district of Sindh province.
- ✓ As per the Pakistan authorities, it is 'for the first time in Pakistan's history' that a Hindu youth has been recruited.
- ✓ Last year, Kainat Junaid became the first woman from Khyber-Pakthunkhwa province to have been selected for fighter pilot training.

