

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 12, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai – will be getting a new park close to Semmozhi Poonga soon**
- ✓ The 6.3-acre park will be named after Senganthal, the Tamil name of state flower *Gloriosa Superba*



- ✓ The new park is being set up at a budget of ₹5 crore
- ✓ It will house nearly 40,000 trees, shrubs, herbs and climbers in about 180 varieties
- ✓ The park will also have a 150-seat amphitheatre that can be used for public and private events as well as film shoots, a children's play area, gym for elders, and garden to play traditional games and flower outlet.
- ✓ It will be powered by a 15kW solar system near the entrance.
- ✓ The park will have the existing cluster of 126 trees including neem, tamarind, wood apple, teak, copper pod, rain tree, white teak, and Indian mast
- ✓ Further, new trees being planted include golden shower, rainbow shower, trumpet, Indian tulip, red cedar, orchid, Indian beech and several others.
- ✓ Flower beds at different locations and hedges of plants like *Clerodendran inerme* will provide a soothing look.
- ✓ A rock garden hosting plants like *Adenium obesum*, *Alocasia* and *Agave Americana* to suit the natural setting, will also be set up.

- ✓ Twenty palm varieties including red nut and betel nut will provide an appealing look.
- **On July 11, Tamil Nadu – reported 3,965 new cases, pushing the overall case tally to 1,34,226**
- ✓ The death toll rose to 1,898 with 69 fatalities recorded in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ The state has 46,410 active cases under treatment as on date.

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

	Until July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	Total
Cases reported	1,07,001	4,150	3,827	3,616	3,756	4,231	3,680	3,965	1,34,226
Recovered and discharged	60,592	2,186	3,793	4,545	3,051	3,994	4,163	3,591	85,915
Deceased	1,450	60	61	65	64	65	64	69	1,898



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 died after turning negative, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

- ✓ Another 3,591 persons were discharged, taking the total number of persons recovered to 85,915
- ✓ All the districts in Tamil Nadu recorded fresh cases of Covid-19 for the fourth consecutive day.
- ✓ Chennai reported 1,185 fresh cases, followed by Tiruvallur with 346, Madurai with 276, Chengalpet with 237, Tuticorin with 174, Vellore with 135, Salem with 132, Kanyakumari with 131, Tiruchi with 127, Theni and Kancheepuram with 119 persons.
- ✓ Most deaths continued to be reported in Chennai (22) followed by Madurai (10) and Kancheepuram (4).
- ✓ A total of 37,825 samples were tested during the last 24 hours.
- ✓ This takes the total number of samples tested so far to 15,66,917, while 15,00,909 individuals were tested.
- ✓ Meanwhile, a private laboratory — Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai — was approved for testing.
- ✓ This took the total number of testing facilities in the State to 102.

STATES

- **On July 8, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik - launched Bhubaneshwar Land Use Intelligence System (BLUIS) to track changes in all the government lands in Bhubaneshwar.**

- ✓ The web and a mobile-based solution is the flagship development of the State Public Grievances Department and General Administration
- ✓ It is designed to help the state government in monitoring changes in government property by utilising high-resolution satellite imagery.
- ✓ With the launch of BLUIS, Odisha has become the first state in the country to tap artificial intelligence (AI) and space technology for safeguarding the government land.
- ✓ It will also enable in observing cases of unauthorized land use.
- ✓ It can be used by the citizens to report any unauthorized development taking place over geo-tagged government land.

NATIONAL

- **India's tiger census of 2018 - has entered the Guinness Book of World Record for being the world's 'largest camera-trap wildlife survey'.**
- ✓ The fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 counted 2,967 tigers, which is about 75% of the global tiger population.



- ✓ According to the Guinness World Record team, the exercise was the “most comprehensive” to date, “in terms of both resource and data amassed”
- ✓ As part of the exercise, camera traps were placed in 26,838 locations across 141 different sites and surveyed an effective area of 121,337 square kilometres (46,848 square miles).
- ✓ In total, the camera traps captured 34,858,623 photographs of wildlife
- ✓ Out of this, 76,651 of which were tigers and 51,777 were leopards, while the remainder were other native fauna
- ✓ From these photographs, 2,461 individual tigers (excluding cubs) were identified using stripe-pattern-recognition software

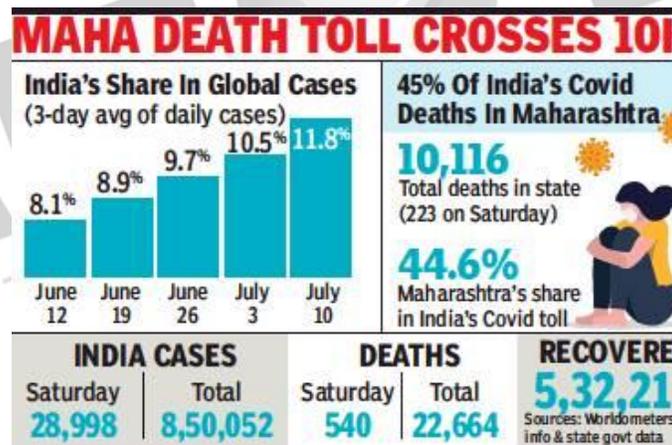
- ✓ The camera traps refer to the outdoor photographic devices fitted with motion sensors that record the movement of passing animals.
 - ✓ The comprehensive nature of the study covered a massive 83% of the tiger population in the country.
 - ✓ In addition to the camera trap usage, the 2018 “Status of Tigers in India” assessment also conducted extensive foot surveys that covered 522,996 km (324,975 miles) of trails and sampled 317,958 habitat plots for vegetation and prey dung.
 - ✓ It is estimated that the total area of forest studied was 381,200 sq km (147,181 sq miles)
 - ✓ Cumulatively, the collection and review of data equated to around 620,795 labour-days
 - ✓ The All India Tiger Estimation done every four years
 - ✓ It is conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India
 - ✓ At the current strength of tigers, India has already fulfilled its resolution of doubling the tiger numbers much before its target year 2022.
 - ✓ The resolution was made at St. Petersburg in 2010.
- **On July 10, the road transport ministry - issued a draft notification to include standards for safety evaluation of hydrogen fuel cell-propelled passenger vehicles (cars and above) and trucks as well.**
- ✓ According to the ministry, the standards would be in accordance with Automotive Industry Standards (AIS) 157 of 2020 till the BIS specification is notified.
 - ✓ As per the new standards, hydrogen gas-fuelled vehicles will have a separate identification mark similar to the CNG vehicles for easy recognition.
 - ✓ The identification mark will carry the letters H2GAS in white on a red background.
 - ✓ The AIS norms specify the compliance standards keeping in mind the safety requirement of these vehicles
 - ✓ According to the standard, the petroleum and explosive safety regulator, PESO may evaluate hydrogen cylinders based on BIS Standards.
 - ✓ It also specifies that the hydrogen supply line must be secured with an automatic shut-off valve mounted directly on or within the container.
- **Pharmaceutical major, Biocon - has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to use its biologic ‘Itolizumab’ for Covid-19 patients in critical and moderate situations**
- ✓ The drug is the first novel therapy to be approved anywhere in the world for treating patients with moderate to severe Covid-19 complications.
 - ✓ The drug was originally used to treat psoriasis, a skin condition
 - ✓ It was commercialized in India in 2013.
 - ✓ Itolizumab will be formulated and manufactured as an intravenous injection at Biocon’s facility at Biocon Park, Bengaluru.

- ✓ The DCGI approval is based on the results of the successful conclusion of a randomised, controlled clinical trial at multiple hospitals in Mumbai and New Delhi.
 - ✓ The study focused on the safety and efficacy of Itolizumab in preventing cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) patients due to coronavirus.
- **An IIT-Madras incubated startup - has set up a 15-bed hospital in Wayanad for treatment of Covid-19 patients within a day.**



- ✓ The rapidly-deployable 'instant' micro hospital was named 'mediCAB'
 - ✓ It was set up to provide safe, durable and affordable health facilities in rural areas to treat Covid-19 patients.
 - ✓ The medical facility, worth around ₹11 lakh, was installed at Varadoor in Kaniyambetta panchayat in a day
 - ✓ Modulus Housing, founded in 2018, is a Chennai-based startup that develops such foldable, portable houses that can be set up on site within a few hours.
- **On July 8, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved the new pan-India central sector scheme, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.**
- ✓ The new scheme aims to provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in eligible projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Self help groups (SHG), Primary agricultural credit societies (PACS), farmers, Marketing cooperative societies, Farmer producers organizations (FPOs), Joint liability groups (JLG), multipurpose cooperative societies, agri-entrepreneurs, startups, aggregation infrastructure providers and central/state agency or local body sponsored public-private partnership project
 - ✓ The loans will be disbursed in a total of four years
 - ✓ In the current fiscal year, Rs 10,000 crore will be sanctioned, followed by Rs 30,000 crore each in the remaining three fiscal years.

- ✓ The credit guarantee coverage will be provided to eligible borrowers from this financing facility under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs 2 crore.
 - ✓ The loans dispersed under the financing facility will carry interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs 2 crore.
 - ✓ The interest subvention will be available for a maximum of seven years.
 - ✓ The total budgetary support for the scheme from the centre will amount to Rs 10, 736 crores.
 - ✓ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.
 - ✓ The scheme has been launched for a period of 10 years from FY2020-FY2029.
- **On July 11, fresh Covid-19 cases across the country - surged to another new record of 28,998, taking the overall caseload above 8.5 lakhs to 8,50,052, as per data collated from state governments.**
- ✓ The day's death toll was 540, the second-highest single-day rise in deaths so far, apart from the 2,003 casualties reported on June 16, which included mostly back-dated fatalities
 - ✓ This brings the cumulative death toll to 22,664.



- ✓ As many as 5.32 lakh patients have been declared cured till now.
 - ✓ Maharashtra again led the count again, reporting its highest single-day number of 8,139
 - ✓ This was the first time that any state had reported 8,000-plus cases in a day.
 - ✓ Maharashtra also recorded a maximum of 223 deaths on the day
 - ✓ Besides Maharashtra, Karnataka had more cases (2,798), followed by Andhra Pradesh (1,813 new cases), Uttar Pradesh (1,403), Bengal (1,344), Madhya Pradesh (544) and Kerala (488).
- **Insurance regulator IRDAI - has cleared the Corona Kavach policy or the standard Covid-19 specific product of 30 general and health insurers.**

- ✓ Following the approval, several insurers including Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Max Bupa Health Insurance, HDFC Ergo General Insurance, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company introduced the policy.
 - ✓ As per IRDAI directions, it is a single premium, indemnity policy, available on individual and family floater basis with an optional cover on benefit basis.
 - ✓ The sum insured ranges from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh.
 - ✓ The policy period is three-and-a-half months, six-and-a-half months and nine-and-a-half months, including the waiting period of 15 days.
 - ✓ The policy will be for persons in the 18-65 years age group
 - ✓ It covers medical expenses of hospitalisation on diagnosis of Covid-19 and 15 days of pre-hospitalisation and 30 days of post hospitalisation expenses.
- **On July 10, the Ministry of Skilled Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) - launched 'Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) digital portal to help skilled people find suitable job opportunities.**
- ✓ The Artificial Intelligence (AI) based system will improve the information flow and will bridge the demand-supply gap in the skilled workforce market
 - ✓ ASEEM is developed and managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with the Bangalore based company, Betterplace which specializes in blue-collar employee management.
 - ✓ ASEEM is a digital platform that will refer to all the trends, data, and analytics describing the workforce market and map demand of skilled workforce to supply.
 - ✓ Through ASEEM, agencies, employers, and job aggregators who are looking for a skilled workforce in the specific sectors will have the required details at their fingertips.
 - ✓ Candidates will be able to register their profiles on the app and can easily search for employment opportunities in their neighborhood.
- **Indian Railways - has decided to take all possible steps to transform itself into a 'net zero' carbon emission transportation network by 2030.**
- ✓ To achieve this, the Railway Ministry has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused land on a large scale.
 - ✓ Apart from making Railways green, this step will also make Railway sector 'AtmaNirbhar'.
 - ✓ To achieve the target, Indian Railways will be collaborating with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for the project of 1.7 MWp at Bina (Madhya Pradesh).
 - ✓ The project is likely to be commissioned within 15 days
 - ✓ It will be the one of the first-of-its-kind project that is commissioned by Indian Railways in collaboration with BHEL.
 - ✓ The solar plant has been established near the Bina Traction Sub Station
 - ✓ It can produce approximately 25 lakhs units of energy annually which will result in the saving of around 1.37 crore for Railway every year.

- ✓ Further, the ministry has already started working on energy procurement from various solar projects
- ✓ About 100 MWp rooftop solar systems have been commissioned on various buildings and stations of Indian Railways.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 10, new cases of Covid-19 - rose by over 69,000 across the United States, setting a new record for the third consecutive day**
 - ✓ A total of nine US states — Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Ohio, Utah and Wisconsin — also reached records for single-day infections.
 - ✓ A global record for daily infections was also reached a day earlier on July 9, as the WHO reported that 228,102 new cases had surfaced.
 - ✓ Other nations with big spikes were Brazil, Mexico, and South Africa.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Amazon reversed its earlier decision asking its employees to delete the Chinese-owned video app TikTok from their cellphones, saying the email to workers was sent in error.
 - ✓ TikTok is owned by Chinese tech giant Byte-Dance
 - ✓ Amazon is the second-largest U.S. private employer after Walmart.
- **The United Arab Emirates - has decided to send a probe to Mars, in a first for the Arab world.**
 - ✓ The probe aims to provide a comprehensive image of the weather dynamics in Mars' atmosphere and pave the way for new scientific breakthroughs.
 - ✓ Earlier, UAE's Hazza al-Mansouri had become the first Emirates citizen to travel to space and visit the International Space Station (ISS)
 - ✓ He was a part of a three-member crew that took off on a Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan in September 2019 for an eight-day mission.
 - ✓ The nation plans to mark the 50th anniversary of its unification by launching "Hope", an unmanned spacecraft on July 15 from Japan's Tanegashima Space Centre.
 - ✓ The spacecraft is expected to reach its destination in February 2021.
 - ✓ The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) is spearheading the Mars project with more than half of the people working on the project being Emirates nationals.
 - ✓ If UAE is successful in sending a probe to Mars, it will become the first Arab nation to do so and the fifth nation in the world, after India, former Soviet Union, the US and the European Space Agency.
 - ✓ Dubai has hired architects to imagine and recreate a Martian city in its desert as "Science City", at a cost of around \$135 million.
 - ✓ China is currently preparing to launch its first Mars rover later this month.
 - ✓ India had created history by becoming the first country to successfully insert its Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan, in the Martian orbit in its first attempt.

- ✓ India's Mangalyaan had entered Mars orbit on September 24, 2014.

COMMITTEES

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT), principal bench, New Delhi - has constituted an independent committee to probe into the blast at NLC India Limited power plant in Cuddalore**
- ✓ The committee comprises Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Cuddalore district magistrate, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (Neeri) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras
- ✓ It will submit the report within three months
- ✓ The recent boiler blast on the premises of NLC on July 1 killed 13 workers and injured 10 others
- ✓ NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, judicial member Justice S P Wangdi and expert members Dr Satyawan Singh Garbyal and Dr Nagin Nanda directed the committee members to visit the accident site, ascertain the facts and submit an independent report.
- ✓ The report will outline the sequence of events, causes of failure and people and authorities responsible for the accident.
- ✓ It must include details on the compliance as per the norms laid down in technical guidance manual for thermal power plants and compliance with statutory safety norms, including hazard risk management.
- ✓ It must also furnish the extent of damage to life, public health and environment – including, water, soil and air -- besides listing out the steps to be taken for compensation of victims and restoring the damaged property and environment and the cost involved.
- ✓ The report must include remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such accident.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On July 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the global audience virtually at India Global Week 2020.**



- ✓ The three days event is being organised in the United Kingdom and will take place from July 9 to July 11.
- ✓ The virtual event will focus on India's Trade and Investment prospects.
- ✓ The event will have 5000 global participants from 30 nations.
- ✓ They will be addressed by 250 global speakers across 75 sessions.
- ✓ The sessions at the India Global Week 2020 will cover diverse topics including business, geopolitics, banking and finance, technology, defence and security, arts and culture, and pharma.
- ✓ Prince Charles will also make a special address at an event
- ✓ The event will be attended by senior members of PM Modi's cabinet which includes Railways and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Skill Development Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey.
- ✓ Sadhguru of ISHA Foundation, Indian-Origin Hollywood Actor Kunal Nayyar and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar among others will also participate in the event.
- ✓ India Inc. group is a United Kingdom-based media house which is organising this annual event.

PERSONALITIES

- **Reliance Industries Chairman, Mukesh Ambani - has become the world's 7th richest person after surpassing legendary investor tycoon Warren Buffett in terms of net worth.**



- ✓ The new standings were released by the Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires rankings, which tracks the daily fluctuations of the fortunes of the world's richest people.
- ✓ The Indian billionaire's net worth currently stands at \$69.9 billion, while Warren Buffett's net worth stands at \$69.1 billion
- ✓ Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is ranked at the top of the world's richest individuals list with a net worth of \$189.2 billion.
- ✓ He is followed by Bill Gates who has a net asset of \$111.1 billion.

- ✓ Mukesh Ambani's net worth has seen a massive spike due to the rapid rise in the share price of Reliance Industries, after a series of investments in Reliance Jio platforms within three months starting with Facebook in April.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) - is all set to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite in August 2020 onboard The Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV).**
- ✓ However, there is no confirmed date yet and the launch will be dependent on ISRO's schedule.
- ✓ The Brazilian satellite has been locally designed and tested in Brazil.
- ✓ It will be the first satellite for Earth observation and will be the primary payload of the rocket.
- ✓ The launch is the result of an agreement signed by India and Brazil in 2014 at the 6th BRICS Summit which mentioned about setting up a Brazilian earth station to receive data from the Indian satellites.
- ✓ The Amazonia-1 satellite will help in monitoring and observing the deforestation of the Amazon region.
- ✓ The images sent by the satellite will also provide help in the vegetation and agricultural areas.
- ✓ The space cooperation between India and Brazil goes back to the early 2000s when the two countries had an agreement at the government level.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Brazil had started receiving data from the Indian Resourcesat-1 satellite from October 2009 to September 2013 and later from Resourcesat-2 since October 2014
- ✓ In return, India gets tracking support from ground stations located in Cuiaba and Alcantara in Brazil.
- ✓ This support is for Indian satellites and other space programmes which include MOM, Chandrayaan-1, Megha Tropiques, and ASTROSAT.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Indian American scientist, Dr Parag Chitnis - has been appointed as the Acting Director of top US agriculture research firm, the prestigious National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).**
- ✓ The NIFA is the main consolidator of all federally funded agricultural research in the United States.
- ✓ Parag brings more than 31 years of experience in scientific research to the present profile.
- ✓ Parag Chitnis was named Associate Director for Programmes earlier this year.
- ✓ He leads the implementation of many of NIFA's approximately \$1.7 billion worth research projects in the United States

**Parag Chitnis appointed as
Acting Director NIFA**



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



- ✓ Earlier, he has played a leading role on NIFA's CAFE initiative (Collaboratively Achieving Functional Excellence).
- ✓ Parag Chitnis had done his BSc in botany from Maharashtra's Konkan Agricultural University and MSc in genetics and biochemistry from New Delhi-based Indian Agricultural Research Institute.
- ✓ The National Institute of Food and Agriculture was created under the mandate of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.
- ✓ It is functioning under the US Department of Agriculture.

RANKINGS

- **India - has been ranked 34th globally in Jones Lang LaSalle's biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI).**



- ✓ The higher ranking is because India's real estate industry has registered one of the largest improvements regionally and globally in the index.
- ✓ This new 11th edition of GRETI covers 162 city regions and 99 countries and territories.
- ✓ Since 1999, JLL has been tracking real estate transparency.
- ✓ The latest survey done by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) has been extended across 210 separate parameters of transparency.
- ✓ It includes additional coverage on health and wellness, sustainability and resilience, alternative sectors, and proptech.

CORONAVIRUS SPREAD – A REPORT

UP IN THE AIR

Are aerosols as dangerous as droplets? How big is the risk of airborne transmission of coronavirus? Are masks and social distancing enough? The debate continues

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A VIRUS TO BE AIRBORNE?

The virus can be carried through the air in a viable form

HOW WHO CAME ON BOARD

- WHO has long held that coronavirus is spread primarily by large respiratory droplets that, once expelled through coughing and sneezing, fall quickly to the floor
- In early April, a group of 36 experts on air quality and aerosols urged WHO to consider growing evidence on airborne transmission
- But WHO even in its latest update, released June 29, said airborne transmission is possible only after medical procedures that produce aerosols, or droplets smaller than 5 microns (A micron is one millionth of a metre)
- In the first week of July, in a letter to WHO, 239 scientists from 32 countries outlined evidence showing that smaller particles can infect people



- The Geneva-based body's technical lead on infection control said the evidence for the virus spreading by air was unconvincing
- But scientists maintained there is growing evidence that people can spread the virus even in the absence of symptoms and aerosols might explain that phenomenon. Coronavirus seemed to be most infectious when people were in prolonged contact at close range, especially indoors, and even more so in superspreader events – exactly what scientists would expect from aerosol transmission
- On July 7, WHO accepted that the possibility of airborne transmission, especially in "crowded, closed, poorly ventilated settings, cannot be ruled out"



Text: PREETU NAIR

Illustration: GIREEESH

HOW ARE AEROSOLS DIFFERENT FROM DROPLETS?

They do not differ except in size. Scientists sometimes refer to droplets fewer than 5 microns in diameter as aerosols

ARE AEROSOLS MORE DANGEROUS THAN DROPLETS?

- Aerosols are smaller and contain much less virus than droplets do
- But they are lighter and can linger in the air for hours, especially in absence of fresh air
- In a crowded indoor space, a single infected person can release enough aerosolized virus over time to infect many people

WHAT DOES IT MEAN NOW?

Not just coughing and sneezing, but the droplets we expel when we talk, breathe, shout, and sing can stay afloat in enclosed, indoor environments and perhaps move across the room increasing risk of spreading the infection

DOS & DON'TS

- Avoid closed, poorly ventilated spaces and crowds
- Wearing masks is mandatory and needed indoors too, even in socially distant settings
- Physical distancing is still very important. The closer you are to an infected person the more aerosols and droplets you may be exposed to
- Washing your hands often is still a good idea

AT HOME:

- Keep windows open and ensure optimal ventilation
- Avoid AC rooms and overcrowding
- If senior citizens at home, wear a mask even indoors



IN OFFICES/BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS:

- Ensure proper ventilation systems to minimize recirculating air and add powerful new filters
- Switch off AC and open doors and windows. If AC needs to be switched on,

- ensure that temp is set at 28 degree Celsius or more
- Everyone should compulsorily wear face masks as it will still greatly reduce risk
- Avoid overcrowding



PH: JASON SIKHARA

PROACTIVE STEPS KERALA HAS TAKEN

- Even as this debate raged, Kerala made wearing mask mandatory, even in offices
- Mask violation will invite a fine of ₹10,000 or imprisonment of up to two years. Police can charge fine on the spot and matter needn't go to court
- Violation of norms for areas of mass gathering at meetings, religious functions, funeral, etc, will attract ₹500 fine
- Fine for violation of quarantine norms set at ₹1,000. For expats, passports can be impounded
- Not observing social distancing and spitting in public to attract a fine of ₹200

SUPERSPREAD VS COMMUNITY SPREAD

- Kerala government has used the word "superspread" to describe the spread of infection in the densely populated coastal wards of Poonthura, Puthenpally, Manikkavilakom and Ambalathara within Thiruvananthapuram corporation limits
- The word has been used by the government to describe the situation just before community transmission and after clustering of cases, where most cases of local transmission are linked to chains of transmission
- WHO now believes that countries should ultimately decide on their own transmission classifications

“WHO has accepted that the possibility of airborne transmission of Covid-19 but it is still primarily considered to be spread by large respiratory droplets. It is too early to jump to any conclusion. Wearing mask, social distancing and hand hygiene remain the key, even now”

– Dr Amar Fettle | STATE NODAL OFFICER (PUBLIC EMERGENCY), CURRENTLY IN-CHARGE OF ANTI-COVID-19 EFFORTS IN KERALA