

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 9, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **On April 8, the Tamil Nadu government - announced new measures to check the second wave of Covid-19 cases in the state**
- ✓ The new guidelines urges industries, shopping complexes, offices and restaurants to ensure people wear masks and follow other pandemic protocols.
- ✓ The public is barred from all places of worship, which can follow essential rituals with only staff in attendance but will have to shut by 8 pm from April 10.
- ✓ Retail fruit and vegetable shops at the Koyambedu complex will also remain shut.
- ✓ The government has urged people aged above 45 years to get vaccinated in government hospitals and recognized private hospitals within two weeks.
- ✓ Industries are permitted to arrange for vaccination of their employees based on the guidelines issued by the Centre and in accordance with the standard operating procedures.
- ✓ The government also set up field-level teams of IAS officers, supported by revenue, police and health officials for each of the 15 zones in Chennai, and also engaged monitoring officers for each district, to intensify containment measures.

#### ONUS ON OFFICES, RESTAURANTS

- No religious congregations
- Cap of **100 people at marriages, 50 at funerals** and 200 for events in closed spaces

- No spectators at stadiums and playgrounds and only sports training at pools

- **Film shoots allowed** but with all undergoing tests/vaccination

- **E-pass must** for all coming to state, except from Pondy, AP and Karnataka

#### ALLOWED WITH 50% CAPACITY

- **Restaurants & tea shops**, including takeaway service, till 11pm

- **Veg shops, malls, showrooms & other stores** till 11pm

- ✓ Public and private intrastate buses, including Metropolitan Transport Corporation services in Chennai, would be permitted with the passengers restricted to seating capacity.

- ✓ This applies to buses being operated to Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka too.
  - ✓ Round-the-clock monitoring will be done in containment zones by officials drawn from police, local bodies and health departments to check the movement of people.
  - ✓ Volunteers will also be engaged to cater to the essential needs of people in containment zones, besides taking control measures such as spraying disinfectant.
  - ✓ Police, health, revenue and local body staff have been directed to intensify the fever camps, surveillance of people with symptoms of fever, cold and cough daily and contact tracing.
  - ✓ The district collectors and commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation have been directed to enforce the measures strictly.
- **The National Investigation Agency (NIA) - has opened its branch office in Chennai**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu-born Assam cadre IPS officer Sreejith T will be heading the agency.
  - ✓ The office has been set up at Purasawalkam, and the appointments of police officials to the agency have also been made.
  - ✓ Until now, NIA officers from Delhi have followed the cases registered in Chennai, and officers from Kochi assisted them.


## STATES

- **On April 8, the Punjab government - agreed to launch the online direct cash transfer of the 'Minimum Support Price' (MSP) to bank accounts of farmers instead of the accounts of 'middlemen'.**
- ✓ This will start from the current rabi marketing season (RMS), which will kick off in Punjab from April 10.
  - ✓ With this, the MSP payment to farmers across the entire country will become online.
  - ✓ The new system will become operational for the wheat procurement (RMS) starting from April 10, 2021
  - ✓ The MSP will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the farmers within 48 hours on the basis of physical document of the land duly counter signed by the village head
  - ✓ However, the 'middlemen' will continue to get their commission of 2.5% separately

## NATIONAL

- **A Varanasi court – allowed excavation of Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the adjacent Gyanvapi Masjid by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**
- ✓ The ASI is likely to set up a five-member team that will visit the campus soon.

- ✓ The committee will comprise of eminent persons who are experts and well-versed in the science of archaeology, two of whom should preferably belong to the minority community
- ✓ In its order, the court also directed to appoint an eminent and highly experienced person, who can be regarded as expert in the science of archaeology, to act as observer.
- ✓ The five-member committee shall submit a report of its survey work to the observer on a daily basis.
- ✓ The ASI survey will find out “whether the religious structure standing at the present and disputed mosque site is a superimposition, alteration or addition, or there is structural overlapping of any kind”.

<b>FIRST PETITION FILED IN 1991</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Court directed UP govt to bear cost of survey. ASI likely to set up a 5-member team that will visit the campus soon</li> <li>➤ Petitioner contended that Kashi Vishwanath temple was built by Maharaja Vikramaditya about 2,050 years ago, but Mughal emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the temple in 1664 and used its remains to construct a mosque, which is known as Gyanvapi masjid</li> <li>➤ Demanded that the land entailing the mosque be</li> </ul>	<p>restored to Hindus. Gyanvapi mosque management committee had opposed petition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ First petition was filed in Varanasi civil court in 1991 seeking permission for worship in Gyanvapi. It contended that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act was not applicable to suit as the mosque was constructed over a partly demolished temple and many parts of temple still exist</li> <li>➤ In 1998, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee moved the</li> </ul>
	 <p>HC contending that the mandir-masjid dispute could not be adjudicated by a civil court as it was barred by law</p>

- ✓ A petition was filed in December 2019 by advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi on behalf of Swayambhu Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar in the court of civil judge.
- ✓ The petitioner had contended that the Kashi Vishwanath temple was built by Maharaja Vikramaditya about 2,050 years ago, but Mughal emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the temple in 1664 and used its remains to construct a mosque, which is known as Gyanvapi masjid, on a portion of the temple land.
- ✓ The petitioner requested the court to issue directions for the removal of the mosque from the temple land and give back its possession to the temple trust.
- ✓ The first petition was filed in the Varanasi civil court in 1991 on behalf of Swayambhu Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar seeking permission for worship in Gyanvapi.
- ✓ The Sunni Central Waqf Board, meanwhile, has decided to move the high court against the order of Varanasi civil judge.
- ✓ The Gyanvapi mosque shares a boundary wall with Kashi Vishwanath temple.
- **The Ministry of Education – to announce the Central Universities Common Entrance Test or CUCET soon, for admission to undergraduate courses in 41 central universities**

- ✓ In this regard, a seven-member committee set up by the University Grants Commission in December 2020 submitted its report recently
- ✓ The committee was set up to define the modalities for the “high quality aptitude test” for admission to undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes in central universities.
- ✓ The committee’s report recommended that the CUCET should be introduced from the coming academic year, and that the exam should be conducted at least twice a year.
- ✓ The CUCET is part of the new National Education Policy 2020, which states that the National Testing Agency will facilitate a single entrance exam for admission to universities across the country.
- ✓ The CUCET score will be the basis for admission to multiple central universities including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University and Delhi University among others.
- ✓ The first CUCET is likely to be conducted around the end of June and the results are likely to be announced in July so that the admission cycle isn’t delayed.

#### TEST TO HAVE 2 PARTS

► UGC panel's report had recommended a central universities common entrance test be introduced for admission to all programmes in central universities. Exam to be held twice a year

► With finalisation of plan, applicants will have to fill an online form and appear for the test. First CUCET, comprising 2 parts, likely by June-end

- ✓ The three hour-long computer-based bilingual (Hindi and English) multiple choice test, CUCET will consist of two parts – Section A and Section B
  - ✓ The Section A will be an aptitude test of 50 questions on reading comprehension, verbal ability, quantitative reasoning, logical and analytical reasoning, general awareness and ICT
  - ✓ The Section B will have 50 domain-specific questions.
- ✓ The NTA will announce an all-India merit list and candidates will get their percentile score and percentile rank.

## AWARDS

- **Forest range officer S Sathish - has won the International Ranger Award 2021 in recognition of his global conservation efforts**
- ✓ He has been guarding the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park’s Ramanathapuram sub-division
- ✓ The award is given jointly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA),

International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the Global Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Allies.



- ✓ Sathish and his team are carrying out various conservation activities including coral reef restoration, conservation of Olive Ridley turtles and growing new mangrove plantations
- ✓ The 35-year-old officer is among the 10 range officers from across the world and two from India to receive the IUCN award
- ✓ A total of nearly 600 nominations were made from more than 100 countries for the award.
- ✓ The award includes a special badge and certificate for the officer and a cash prize of ₹7.25 lakh (\$10,000) to the forest department
- ✓ The prize money is to be utilised towards development activities to be carried out in the Gulf of Mannar.
- ✓ Sathish has registered more than 60 cases for poaching of Schedule I protected sea species such as sea cucumber, sea horses, pipe fishes and sea turtle and at least 40 cases against wild bird hunters in Ramanathapuram district.
- ✓ He also plays an important role in Olive Ridley turtle conservation along the Dhanushkodi Beach by collecting 13,000 to 15,000 eggs every year between 2017 and 2019.
- ✓ On other days, the team scuba dives to clear plastics from the sea bed near Mandapam
- ✓ They also promote Karangadu community based eco-tourism and involved in rescue operations when turtles and big fish are entangled in the nets of fishermen or hurt by propellers of fishing vessels.
- ✓ Sathish has also taken an initiative to grow new mangrove plantations on more than 100 acres at Palk Bay and rejuvenate older plantations.
- ✓ This apart the team has been involved in restoration of coral reefs in islands at the Gulf of Mannar along with other departments.
- ✓ To ensure a long-term impact, Sathish ensures regular activities to create awareness among local communities and students on wildlife conservation.
- ✓ Apart from Sathish, other awardees are from Cambodia, Myanmar, Russia, Georgia, Zambia, Madagascar and Ivory Coast

- ✓ Usually, the 'International Ranger Award' will be given at the awards ceremony in Switzerland
- ✓ This year, Sathish received the award in a virtual ceremony on April 7 due to the pandemic situation and dedicated the award to rangers across the country.

## SPORTS

- **Four Indian sailors, Nethra Kumanan (Laser Radial Class), Vishnu Saravanan (Laser Standard), the duo of KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar in men's 49er Class - qualified for the Tokyo Games.**
- ✓ They clinched their berths on April 8 at the Mussanah championships in Oman which is an Asian qualification event.



- ✓ This will be the first time that India will have four sailors across three events at the Olympics.
- ✓ Nethra became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics.
- ✓ While nine Indian sailors have made the Olympics cut before courtesy quotas and wild cards, this quartet is the first to earn direct qualification.
- ✓ At the medal race on April 8, Nethra finished second to clinch silver.
- ✓ Emma Charlotte Jeanne Savelon of the Netherlands won gold in the event.
- ✓ Nethra, Varun and Ganapathy represent the Tamil Nadu Sailing Association (TNSA) while Vishnu is part of the Indian Army.
- ✓ In the 49er Class, the Varun-Ganapathy pair topped the charts with 61 points to win gold in the event and also book their ticket for the Tokyo Games.
- ✓ Ganapathy partnered with Varun to win bronze in the same event in the 2018 Asian Games.
- ✓ Vishnu, a Naib Subedar with the Indian Army, won the medal race on the final day to move into the second place in the overall standings in the Laser Standard Class.
- ✓ The event in Oman offered a Tokyo berth each in the 49er, 49erFX, RSX Men, RSX women's Class.
- ✓ However, there were two spots each in the Laser Standard and Laser Radial.

- **Former captain of Indian Kabaddi team, Ajay Thakur - has become the country's first athlete to be provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) for his repeated failures to disclose his whereabouts information to the anti-doping watchdog**
- ✓ Ajay is the country's 2016 Kabaddi World Cup-winning team member and a gold medallist at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games
- ✓ This is the first time that an athlete has been provisionally suspended for this offence.



- ✓ Thakur was served the anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) notice on March 19 last month under the World Anti-Doping Agency's (Wada) article 2.4.
- ✓ He is facing a two-year suspension.
- ✓ Thakur, a Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee, is a celebrated kabaddi player with several laurels in his nearly decade-and-a-half professional career.
- ✓ He was the captain of the national team which finished on top of the podium at the 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championship in Gorgan, Iran.
- ✓ At the Ahmedabad kabaddi World Cup, which India won by defeating Iran.
- ✓ He was part of the Incheon Asiad gold and Jakarta bronze-winning teams, besides representing three franchises across seven editions of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL).
- ✓ The 34-year-old is currently posted as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) with Himachal Pradesh police.
- ✓ In other doping offences, multiple-time national champion weightlifter Rakhi Halder and greco-roman wrestler Manish Kundu are among the four sportspersons who have been provisionally suspended by the Nada.

## **VACCINE STATUS IN THE COUNTRY - REPORT**

- **Maharashtra - has administered the highest number of daily Covid-19 vaccine doses at 3.9 lakh/day since April 1, 2021**
- ✓ At this rate of Covid-19 vaccination, its remaining stock of 15 lakh doses is not enough for four days.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh has just 1.4 lakh doses of vaccine stock remaining, or for a little over a day, given that it has averaged over 1.1 lakh doses a day since the start of this month.

## WHO'S GOT, CONSUMED HOW MUCH, WHAT'S LEFT

State/UTs	Delivered	Consumed	Remaining	In pipeline	Avg daily doses since Apr1	Remaining	
						(In days)	+ Pipeline (in days)
Andhra Pradesh	3,794,920	3,657,290	137,630	1,458,170	112,117	1.2	14.2
Bihar	4,644,080	4,379,200	264,880	1,096,890	170,290	1.6	8.0
Uttar Pradesh	9,209,330	8,324,950	884,380	4,798,450	349,848	2.5	16.2
Uttarakhand	1,336,100	1,166,930	169,170		59,304	2.9	2.9
Odisha	4,344,140	3,787,520	556,620	200,000	172,363	3.2	4.4
Madhya Pradesh	5,819,530	5,013,300	806,230	3,376,220	230,962	3.5	18.1
Maharashtra	10,619,190	9,118,350	1,500,840	1,943,280	391,460	3.8	8.8
Rajasthan	10,495,860	9,031,550	1,464,310	383,260	366,647	4.0	5.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1,351,600	1,180,830	170,770	160,240	41,703	4.1	7.9
Jharkhand	2,474,340	2,129,810	344,530	2,047,610	69,126	5.0	34.6
West Bengal	8,383,340	7,055,520	1,327,820	2,105,970	260,765	5.1	13.2
Chhattisgarh	4,666,550	3,537,040	1,129,510	—	212,249	5.3	5.3
Delhi	2,370,710	1,935,240	435,470	200,000	76,251	5.7	8.3
Gujarat	10,519,330	8,465,990	2,053,340	—	349,645	5.9	5.9
Punjab	2,236,770	1,606,640	630,130	—	90,833	6.9	6.9
Assam	1,781,080	1,451,120	329,960	818,740	42,276	7.8	27.2
Karnataka	7,057,900	5,401,880	1,656,020	1,377,560	202,805	8.2	15.0
Himachal Pradesh	1,116,990	785,020	331,970	193,160	35,193	9.4	14.9
Haryana	3,042,220	2,261,930	780,290	1,992,150	63,542	12.3	43.6
Kerala	5,606,790	4,149,420	1,457,370	974,710	106,785	13.6	22.8
Telangana	2,599,230	1,831,190	768,040	362,280	55,633	13.8	20.3
Chandigarh	180,930	106,280	74,650	—	3,451	21.6	21.6
Goa	264,370	150,180	114,190	—	4,918	23.2	23.2
Tamil Nadu	5,428,950	3,758,190	1,670,760	221,440	37,211	44.9	50.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,355,690</b>	<b>91,604,930</b>	<b>19,750,760</b>	<b>24,515,320</b>	<b>3,582,968</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>12.4</b>

As of 12.30pm on Thursday, Apr 8, 2021 | The highest and lowest values are marked in colour

- ✓ Of the large states, Tamil Nadu seems to be most comfortably placed with stocks of nearly 17 lakh doses — and that's because its average vaccination level in the last week has been a very low 37,000.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (2.5 days), Uttarakhand (2.9), Odisha (3.2) and Madhya Pradesh (3.5) are the other states that have less than four days' stocks in hand.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with chief ministers to discuss the rapid rise in Covid-19 cases and claims of vaccine shortages
- ✓ The PM indicated that lockdowns may not be the preferred option unlike last year when there was no option.
- ✓ He said "smaller containment zones" and "corona curfew" were useful in reminding people that they were living in the time of coronavirus.




- ✓ The PM also said the forthcoming anniversaries of Jyotiba Phule and B R Ambedkar could be “tika utsav (vaccination festivals from April 11 to 14)” to boost coverage.

**PRIORITISE JABS, STOP VAX WASTAGE: PM TO CMs**

- Focus on micro-containment zones and 'corona curfews' at night, PM Modi told all CMs
- Aim for 70% of the total tests to be RT-PCR; identify asymptomatic patients
- Need to bring positivity rate in country below 5% and lower mortality rate too
- Prioritise jabs, stop vaccine wastage. Hold a 'vax fest' from April 11 to 14
- Address people who are becoming too casual and fix sluggish administration

**“ I appeal to you all to stress on testing. Let the number of positive cases come high, but do maximum testing. Proper sample collection is very important**

**—PM Modi**



The PM gets his second shot on Thursday

- ✓ He urged state governments to hold all-party meetings and utilise the office of the governor to involve people from various walks in awareness towards vaccinations and proactive testing.
- ✓ The PM suggested that states should form committees under the governor to focus equally on proactive testing and improve governance structures .

