



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 9,

TAMIL NADU

- On May 8, the Tamil Nadu Government - announced a complete lockdown across Tamil Nadu from 4am on May 10 to 4am on May 24
- ✓ While announcing the decision, Chief Minister M K Stalin said that more than 23 districts in the State had reported a positivity rate of more than 10%.
- ✓ The decision has been taken following the views expressed by collectors, medical experts and recommendations of the Union government.
- ✓ The number of active cases in the state has crossed 1.35 lakh — a sharp increase compared to the same period in March.

Pic: C Suresh Kumar

TASMAC LIQUOR OUTLETS CLOSED



IN TUNE: RPF organised a flash mob at MGR Central on Saturday as part of a Covid-19 awareness drive

- Metro rail, public & private transport, taxis, autos not allowed. People with documents to prove travel for marriages, deaths/job

interviews & hospitals allowed

- Grocery, veg shops, chicken, meat & fish stalls permitted till noon with 50% customers. All others closed
- Hotels, lodges not allowed
- Only takeaways in hotels. Tea shops allowed till noon
- Beaches, parks, zoo, monuments & museums closed
- Tourist spots shut
- Theatres, gyms, yoga institutes, clubs, bars, parks/meeting halls not permitted
- Pools, sports academies shut
- All shrines closed; staff can hold daily rituals

- ✓ All government offices, except essential departments like secretariat, medical and family welfare, revenue, police, electricity and drinking water supply, will remain closed.

- ✓ Central government offices, autonomous/subordinate offices and public corporations will also remain closed.
 - ✓ All private offices, IT and ITES establishments too will remain shut and so will industries other than exempted ones.
 - ✓ Several states, including Kerala, Karnataka and New Delhi, have announced varying degrees of lockdown.
 - ✓ The permitted activities during the lockdown include supply of milk, newspapers, courier service, hospitals, medical labs, pharmacies, ambulance, hearse and allied medical activities, goods vehicles, vehicles carrying agricultural produce, oxygen and fuel.
 - ✓ Shops selling fertilisers, pesticides, seeds and fodder outlets will be allowed to function between 6am and noon.
 - ✓ Takeaway service will be permitted in restaurants, hotels, bakeries and mess between 6am and 10am, noon and 3pm and 6pm and 9pm.
 - ✓ Ecommerce activities will be allowed only during this permitted time.
 - ✓ Roadside eateries cannot open for business.
 - ✓ Pavement vendors selling vegetables and fruits will be permitted till noon.
 - ✓ PDS outlets will function between 8am and noon.
 - ✓ Volunteers and caregivers attending to people with special needs and elderly citizens will be allowed to travel with ID cards and permission letters issued by employers.
 - ✓ Judiciary and courts, ongoing construction activities and media will be allowed.
 - ✓ The government has already permitted continuous process industries and industries manufacturing essential commodities.
 - ✓ The staff/ workers will be allowed to travel either in company vehicles or own vehicles with display of ID cards.
 - ✓ There is no bar on conducting wedding ceremonies with a maximum of 50 people.
 - ✓ For funeral and performance of last rites, there is a cap of 20 people.
 - ✓ Maintenance and other critical IT infrastructure needed for medical, financial, transport and other critical services will be permitted.
 - ✓ Banks, ATMs, and insurance services will be allowed with 50% workforce.
- **Shankar Jiwai, the newly appointed commissioner of police - took charge at a low-key function at the commissioner's office in Vepery on May 8**



- ✓ The additional director-general of police-rank officer belonging to 1990-batch took charge from the outgoing commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal
 - ✓ Hailing from Uttarakhand, Shankar Jiwal is a polyglot, one who knows several languages
 - ✓ During his six-year stint as south zone director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the zone had confiscated maximum quantity of heroin for six consecutive years.
 - ✓ He has worked as DIG and then IG of internal security.
 - ✓ He was awarded the President's medal twice for his concept-based technical approach to issues.
 - ✓ Jiwal introduced an SMS-based monitoring scheme to track locked houses while he was the Trichy city police commissioner.
 - ✓ He has had stints as additional director-general of police, Armed Police, Chennai and headed the Special Task Force (STF), which is headquartered at Sathyamangalam in Erode district for six years and also in armed reserve unit.
 - ✓ Jiwal, during his tenure as Madurai rural district SP, introduced digitization of daily situation report, and digitized vehicle management system so that police could locate any vehicle and get details based on registration numbers
 - ✓ This was decades before the central government came out with its Vaahan scheme of tracking vehicles with the help of number plates
 - ✓ Due to the initiative, police were able to seize a lot of stolen vehicles and those with fake registration number plates.
 - ✓ Many sold vehicles still bearing old owners' vehicles were also identified
 - ✓ City police commissioner S Davidson Devasirvatham was transferred and appointed as additional director general of police (ADGP), intelligence, Chennai.
 - ✓ Inspector general of police (west zone) A Amalraj would now hold the additional charge of the Chennai police commissioner.
 - ✓ Davidson was appointed the city police commissioner by the Election Commission of India in March and he had made many reforms in the city police force in a short span of time.
- **The DMK's former Rajya Sabha member and designated senior lawyer R Shanmugasundaram – has been appointed as the new advocate-general of Tamil Nadu.**



- ✓ The veteran prosecutor had served as state public prosecutor from 1996 to 2001.

- ✓ This is the first of a series of appointment of law officers to be made in Tamil Nadu in coming weeks, to represent the newly elected DMK government in the high court, lower courts and tribunals.
- ✓ Shanmugasundaram is likely to assume charge immediately, while a swearing in is also expected on May 10.
- ✓ A second generation lawyer born in Tirunelveli in 1953, Shanmugasundaram was among the distinguished juniors of legendary senior lawyer N Natarajan.
- ✓ His father S Rajagopal was public prosecutor and special prosecutor for the CBI in Madurai.
- ✓ Shanmugasundaram has worked as a prosecutor since 1989
- ✓ He represented the government before several forums, including MC Jain Commission of inquiry which probed the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2002 for a full six-year term.
- ✓ Shanmugasundaram has given scores of lectures and participated in international conferences such as Commonwealth Law Conference in Hong Kong.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 8, the Supreme Court – constituted a 12-member National Task Force to distribute oxygen to states, after faulting the centre’s allocation methodology during the recent surge in Covid-19 cases**
- ✓ The task force would devise a scientific formula for rational and equitable allocation of oxygen to states, audit utilization and suggest means to augment production.
- ✓ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah asked the cabinet secretary to be the convenor of the group

<p>MEMBERS: Rajiv Gauba, Bhabatosh Biswas, Devender Singh Rana, Devi Shetty, Gagandeep Kang, J V Peter, Naresh Trehan, Rahul Pandit, Saumitra Rawat, Shiv Kumar Sarin, Zarir F Udwardia and Rajesh Bhushan</p>	<p>into account evolving home quarantine and ambulance usage. It also called for accountability once stocks are released. It also asked if Centre was prepping for a possible third Covid wave, which could further worsen shortfall in oxygen, medicines and beds</p>
<p>WHY THE TASK FORCE: SC told Centre on Friday that oxygen allocation, till now based on no. of beds and ICU usage, needs complete revamp that takes</p>	<p>HOW IT'LL WORK: May constitute one or more sub-groups; co-opt or seek assistance of other experts</p>
<p>“ The rationale for constituting a task force at a national level is to facilitate public health response to the pandemic based on scientific and specialised domain knowledge –SC</p>	

- ✓ The expert body will, within a week, provide the formula for need-based, dynamic allocation of medical oxygen to states and UTs.
- ✓ A more comprehensive plan, including other aspects of healthcare, will be submitted in six months.

- ✓ The decision of setting up a task force is to devise “an effective and transparent mechanism” for allocation of oxygen during the Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ The situation turned into a crisis after Delhi government complained that it is not receiving the SC-mandated 700 tonnes of oxygen daily
- ✓ In this situation, the SC accepted the Centre’s suggestions for a broad-based expert committee to decide on allocation of oxygen to the states
- ✓ The bench said the Centre had no option but to maintain a daily supply of 700 tonnes oxygen to the national capital.
- ✓ Members of the NTF are Bhabatosh Biswas, ex-VC of West Bengal University of Health Sciences, Kolkata; Devender Singh Rana and Saumitra Rawat, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi; Devi Prasad Shetty, Narayana Healthcare, Bengaluru; Gagandeep Kang and J V Peter, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu; Naresh Trehan, Medanta, Gurgaon; Rahul Pandit, Fortis Hospital, Mumbai; Shiv Kumar Sarin, Institute of Liver and Biliary Science, Delhi; Dr Zarir F Udawadia, Mumbai; and Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan.
- ✓ The Justice Chandrachud-led bench, in its order, gave a six-month tenure to the task force, which could be extended further if the need be.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first India-EU Leaders’ meeting, with the participation of PM Narendra Modi – was held on May 8**



- ✓ The meeting is expected to provide a major boost to trade ties with the two sides agreeing to resume negotiations, which had remained suspended since 2013
- ✓ Further, the sides agreed for a balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi sought support for a TRIPs waiver for vaccine production-related patents.
- ✓ EU leaders also urged the US to first remove its curbs on vaccine export before getting into any discussion on patent waiver that may augment production in future.
- ✓ The Indian government said it was the first time the leaders met in a EU+27 format with PM Narendra Modi as special invitee at the EU Council.

- ✓ The summit saw PM Modi calling for EU's support for India's joint proposal with South Africa for a TRIPS waiver.
- ✓ External affairs minister S Jaishankar said the two sides agreed to resume negotiations on Trade, Investment Protection and Geographical Indications.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **DRDO – has repurposed a potential cancer drug - 2-deoxy-Dglucose (2-DG) — for the treatment of Covid-19 infection**
- ✓ The new drug has received Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) nod for emergency use as adjunct therapy for moderate to severe hospitalised Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ The anti-Covid-19 application has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- ✓ The drug, which comes in a powder form, must be taken orally by dissolving it in water.
- ✓ It works by accumulating in the virus infected cells and prevents growth of the virus by stopping viral synthesis and energy production.
- ✓ According to DRDO, the results of clinical trials on Covid-19 patients showed that 2-DG helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces their dependence on supplemental oxygen.
- ✓ Being a generic molecule and an analogue of (similar to) glucose, it can be easily produced and made available in plenty in the country
- ✓ The drug is an inhibitor of glucose transport and glycolysis
- ✓ It was originally being developed for cancer as it cuts the supply of glucose molecules to cancer cells, which require higher glucose than normal cells to survive, thereby killing them.

DEFENCE

- **The first-ever batch of 83 women jawans - have now been inducted into the Corps of Military Police (CMP) in the 13-lakh strong Army**

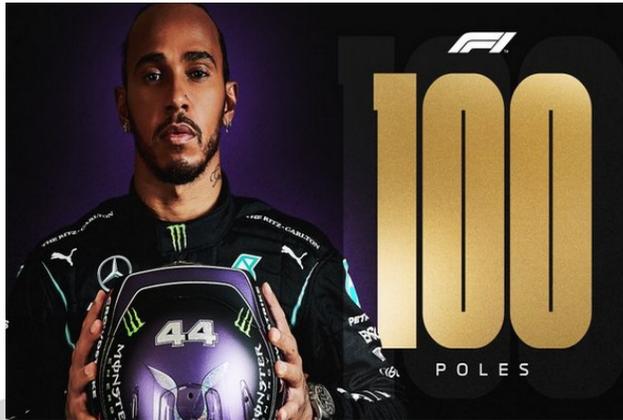


- ✓ The attestation parade of the 83 women soldiers was held at the CMP Centre & School at Bengaluru on May 8

- ✓ The women soldiers have underwent 61 weeks of intensive basic military and provost training
- ✓ The training included all forms of policing duties and management of prisoners of war, ceremonial duties, skill development and signal communications.
- ✓ Army has proposed to induct 1,700 women in the PBOR (personnel below officer rank) category over the next 16-17 years

SPORTS

- **On May 8, Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton - became the first driver in the history of Formula 1 racing to make it to 100 pole positions**



- ✓ The British driver had claimed the phenomenal feat at the Spanish Grand Prix
- ✓ The seven-time world champion took the pole at the Spanish Grand Prix after setting the fastest lap.
- ✓ Legendary Michael Schumacher is second on the list with 68 pole positions
- ✓ Hamilton's first pole came in his debut season in F1 with McLaren in 2007 at the Canada GP race, which he had won after sealing pole position

