

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 19, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - reported its second positive case of Covid-19 on March 18**
- ✓ A youth from Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh who came to Chennai from Delhi on March 12 was found to be the second person in the state to test 'positive' for the deadly coronavirus.
- ✓ The 20-year-old hairdresser is now in the stable condition in the isolation ward at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital

TOTAL COUNT 171

States With Highest No. Of Covid-19 Cases		
	New	Total
M'rajhtra	4	45
Kerala	0	27
UP	2	17
K'taka	3	14
T'gana	8	13

- ✓ He developed symptoms on March 16 and came to the hospital on March 17.
- ✓ After two tests, on March 18, the state-run King Institute for Preventive Medicine confirmed that he was positive for novel coronavirus infection.
- ✓ The state's first Covid-19 patient, a 45-year-old resident of Kancheepuram, who tested negative after treatment at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, was discharged on March 16.
- ✓ The total number of samples lifted for testing increased to 222 on March 18 in the state.
- ✓ As per the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, 54 of these samples are under process.
- ✓ Of the 168 samples already processed, 166 samples were negative for COVID-19 and two positive.

- ✓ Thirty-two are under observation in isolation wards of government hospitals, while 2,984 persons are under home quarantine in the State.
- ✓ The Chennai collectorate has announced telephone and WhatsApp numbers for public to share information and complaints relating to Covid-19.
- ✓ People can dial toll-free 1077 or 044-25243454 to share their details.
- ✓ The public has also been advised to use the number 9384056232 for WhatsApp.
- ✓ Moreover, public can also register their complaints with numbers in control room such as 044-29510400, 9444340496, 044-29510500, 8754448477 and tollfree number 104

STATES

- **Odisha - became the first state in the country to allocated funds to fight against Corona Virus.**
- ✓ The Odisha State government has allocated Rs 200 crore to fight against the deadly disease.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government has also allocated Rs 60 crore to provide funds to be utilized in tackling the deadly coronavirus.
- ✓ The Government of India has still not allocated funds to contain the spread of the disease.
- ✓ Rather, the Union Government has made the state disaster funds available by notifying COVID-19 virus spread as “disaster”
- ✓ As per the notification, the State Disaster Response (SDR) Funds can be used only for notified Disasters under Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ✓ The SDR fund was constituted based on the recommendation of 13th Finance Commission
- ✓ In case of SDR fund, 75% of the funds are shared by the Centre for the states under General Category
- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs is the sole managing head of these funds.

NATIONAL

- **Rajya Sabha – passed two bills on March 18, that seek to provide for a quality medical education system in homoeopathy and promote Indian systems of medicines, along with setting up national commissions for them.**
- ✓ The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill and the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill were passed in the upper house through a voice vote.
- ✓ These bills have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in January 2019
- ✓ Then, they were sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970

- ✓ It provides for the setting up of a medical education system to ensure availability of quality professionals and adoption of the latest medical research, among other objectives.
- ✓ The National Commission for Homoeopathy is entrusted to frame policies for regulating medical institutions and professionals, and assess requirements of healthcare-related human resources and infrastructure, among other things
- **The Government - has given the approval to Roche Diagnostics and seven other private companies for conducting performance evaluation studies for Covid-19 tests**
 - ✓ But, these companies cannot commercialise or conduct the tests in open market till the regulator gives a final approval following the validation process
 - ✓ Following this approval, these companies can now test samples that have already been tested by National Institute of Virology, Pune.
 - ✓ If their results match with that of NIV, it will indicate the completion of the validation stage
 - ✓ Further, these firms will have to seek approval from the regulator before they are allowed to sell these tests in open market
 - ✓ The test licence granted to Roche Diagnostics India would enable it to initiate steps to import select quantities of the cobas SARS CoV-2 diagnostic test for product performance evaluation.
 - ✓ Following successful completion of the evaluation, the final decision will be taken by the government authorities to commercialise the kits in the country
- **The Ministry of Human resource development - announced that all ongoing exams, including board exams, are to be rescheduled as a precautionary measure due to the Covid-19 breakout in the country.**
 - ✓ Following the HRD ministry's directions, CBSE postponed all exams between March 19 and 31.
 - ✓ A new schedule is likely to be announced on March 31.
 - ✓ As per the directions issued by the ministry of HRD, university exams will also be postponed.
 - ✓ The JEE (Main) exams, scheduled for April 7 to 12, will also be rescheduled.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation - launched the 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign on March 17, 2020.**
 - ✓ The initiative has been launched in partnership with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and other departments.
 - ✓ The major objective of 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign is to empower people with disabilities with the latest tools and technology.



- ✓ Innovate for Accessible India campaign will use Microsoft cloud, AI and other latest technologies to sort out the issues faced by the people with disabilities.
- ✓ There are 21 officially recognized disabilities and this campaign is working on all of them.
- ✓ The initiative aims to provide better employment opportunities, education, rehabilitation and other government services to the people with disabilities.
- ✓ As per Microsoft's information, some key areas of the campaign are - mobility, e-governance, and access, education, skilling and livelihood, and health.
- ✓ According to the data of the Indian Census 2011, the total population of disabled people in the country is 26810557 i.e. about 2% of the total population.
- ✓ The NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) is a non-profit organization that was set up in 1988
- ✓ In 2013, NASSCOM initiated "10,000 startups" in the country, which aims to launch 10,000 startups in the country by 2023.

DEFENCE

- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) - accorded approval for the procurement of 83 indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-1A from the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)**
 - ✓ The deal is expected to cost around ₹39,000 crore
 - ✓ The procurement order will give a huge boost to the country's 'Make in India' campaign
 - ✓ The proposal will now be placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Security.
 - ✓ The DAC had given initial clearance for 83 aircrafts in November 2016 and the IAF issued the Request For Proposal in December, 2017.
 - ✓ The 83 aircrafts are in addition to the 40 LCA already ordered by the IAF in two batches of 20 each in the Initial Operational Clearance and the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) configurations.



- ✓ The Tejas fighter aircraft is indigenously-designed by the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ They will be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ The Defence Acquisition Council operates under Ministry of Defence
- ✓ It is the highest decision making body on policies, acquisition and capital for the three services.
- ✓ It was formed in 2001 after the Kargil war in 1999.
- ✓ The Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh, is the chairman of the council.

ECONOMY

- **The moratorium on Yes Bank - was lifted at 6 p.m. on March 18**
- ✓ It came into effect from March 5 with the capping of cash withdrawals at ₹50,000 by the RBI.
- ✓ Following the lifting of moratorium, the bank allows the lender to resume all operations including digital payment channels such as Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), among others.
- ✓ According to Yes Bank CEO-designate Prashant Kumar, complete normalcy will be restored in the bank's operations across its entire 1,132 branches immediately.
- ✓ This means that users will be able to use their credit and debit cards and access their net banking immediately.
- ✓ Following the moratorium, RBI announced a reconstruction scheme on March 13
- ✓ The plan involves SBI and other investors including ICICI, HDFC, Axis and Kotak Mahindra investing in Yes Bank and effectively owning at least 49% stake in the bank.
- ✓ Under Yes Bank's rescue plan, the authorized capital of the reconstructed bank will be altered to Rs 6200 crore

SPORTS

- **Chennai's Janani Narayanan and Mumbai's Vrinda Rathi - were named in the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires on March 18.**



- ✓ The announcement comes soon after the launch of 100% Cricket, a 12-month campaign to build on the momentum of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020.
- ✓ With the announcement, the number of women match officials across different ICC panels has gone up to 12 now.

- ✓ A software engineer, Janani wrote her umpiring exams in 2015 before officiating in the TNCA league.
- ✓ She has been umpiring in Indian domestic tournaments since 2018.
- ✓ Janani, 34, idolizes the late David Shepherd of England and retired India umpire Srinivas Venkatraghavan
- ✓ Vrinda, 31, a former varsity player who has kept scores in international matches, has also been umpiring in Indian domestic cricket from 2018.
- ✓ Her inspiration to take up umpiring was retired woman umpire Kathy Cross of New Zealand, who officiated at the Women's World Cup in 2013.

COVID-19 – AN UPDATE AS ON MARCH 18

