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MARCH – 2020

TAMIL NADU

1) **CoBuddy App:** *Tiruvallur Police* have launched an app *to provide a platform between people on home quarantine for Covid-19 and the state government*.

2) **Chalo App:** The bus passengers in Chennai can now 'live' track government buses using 'Chalo' app

3) The Tamil Nadu government has announced a complete lockdown of the state from 6 pm on 24th March to 31st March 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID - 19

4) The Chief Minister announced the creation of a **new 38th district** of *Mayiladuthurai on 24th March 2020*

5) The Chief Minister announced the *creation of an Information Centre Park, Nemili and Mannur villages in Sriperumbudur taluk*

6) Greater Chennai Corporation launched the "massive containment plan" *to ensure that the virus doesn't spread within the city*

7) The State has constituted **an expert committee comprising 19 members** *to track the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the state*

8) The excavation works at archaeological sites at **Adichannallur and Sivakalai in Tuticorin district and Kodumanal in Erode district** will commence soon said by minister for Tamil culture and archaeology Ma Foi K Pandiarajan

9) **C. Ponnaiyan** assumed office as the *Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission*

10) The Tamil Nadu government is planning to set up *a new solar park project in Kamuthi*, 30km from Kadaladi, in Ramanathapuram district

11) The **Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration** has made it mandatory for the *temple administrators to obtain BHOG certificate from FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).*

12) The Chief Minister launched *the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme* in Chennai on 4th March 2020

13) The Chief Justice of Madras High Court Amreshwar Pratap Sahi constituted the *first-ever all-women Full Bench (comprising three judges)* to decide on a reference made to the High Court by a Division bench (comprising two judges).

Three Judges:
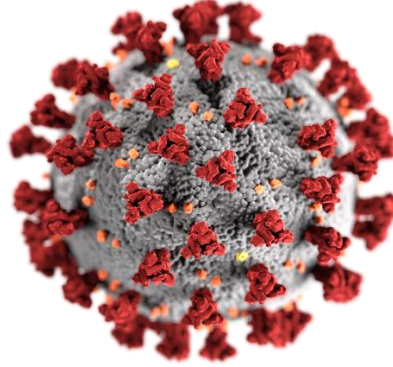
✓ Pushpa Sathyanarayana,

✓ Anita Sumanth and

✓ P.T. Asha

COVID – 19 NEWS

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson	Tests positive
Spain's Princess Maria Teresa	Died of COVID -19
USA	Tops in CORONA cases followed by china and Italy
www.covid19-sdmc.org	The SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Disaster Management Center has launched a website www.covid19-sdmc.org to provide information about COVID-19 pandemic in the region.
New epicentre	World Health Organisation announced on 13th March 2020 that **Europe** is the new "epicentre" for the global coronavirus pandemic.
COVID Action Platform	WEF, WHO and Wellcome Trust developed the platform
SARS-Cov-2 Structure	Pune National Virology Research Institute released the **"SARS-Cov-2 Structure"**
COVID – 19 Hospital	India's biggest COVID – 19 hospital will be planned to open at **"ODISHA"**
Kids, Vaayu & Corona: Who wins the fights?	The central government has released **a comic series** for Covid-19 awareness 'Kids, Vaayu & Corona: Who wins the fights?' *to spread awareness among children in the age group of 9-12 years.*

Sepsis - a common cause of *death from coronavirus*	It is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by the body's immune system overreacting in response to an infection. This overactive, toxic response can lead to tissue damage, multiple organ failure and death
Hydroxychloroquine - *The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*	The drug was declared as an essential drug to treat COVID-19 patients
"CoNTec"	The Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched 'CoNTec', COVID-19 Telecommunication Centre
Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri	Chosen for FIFA's COVID – 19 campaign.
Mylab PathoDetect COVID -19 Qualitative PCR kit	Mylab is the first Indian company to get commercial approval for its testing kits named as *Mylab PathoDetect COVID - 19 Qualitative PCR kit*; the testing kit is approved by Indian FDA/CDSCO and ICMR evaluation
Star Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) (COVID-19) Insurance Policy	Star Health and Allied Insurance has launched its Star Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) (COVID-19) Insurance Policy *to provide insurance cover to individuals for medical treatment in case of coronavirus infection.*
COVA Punjab	The Punjab government has launched a mobile app called *COVA Punjab to cause awareness to general public about corona virus (COVID-19) and its prevention and precautions*
Operation Namaste	✓ Operation Namaste is launched by Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane. ✓ This Operation is started to fight COVID-19. ✓ Operation will cooperate in this operation and security forces have been started to avoid this epidemic.
Corona Kavach	The Government of India has launched the Coronavirus tracking app "Corona Kavach"

CORONA VIRUS

The first case of a coronavirus in India was identified from **Thrissur, Kerala**, on 30th January 2020

The name "coronavirus" is derived from **Latin word** meaning *"crown" or "wreath"*

World Health Organization (WHO) declared ***COVID -19 an official name for* Co**rona **VI**rus **D**isease.

WHO declared it is a ***"PANDEMIC DISEASE"***

The **scientific name** for coronavirus is *Orthocoronavirinae or Coronavirinae*

Coronavirus belongs to the ***family of Coronavirida***

The morphology of coronaviruses is the ***club - shaped viral spike peplomers, colored red***, ***create the look of a corona surrounding the virion***

They are enveloped viruses with a positive - sense single - stranded RNA genome and a nucleocapsid of helical symmetry.

It is a ***single stranded RNA Virus***

The diameter of the virus particles is around **120 nm**

The genome size of coronaviruses ranges from approximately ***27 to 34 kilobases***

The viral envelope consists of a lipid bilayer where the membrane, envelope and spike structural proteins are anchored.

Coronaviruses have a shorter spike-like surface protein called ***hemagglutinin esterase (HE)***

It Spreads mainly through:

✓ Droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes

✓ Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

✓ Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.

✓ Maintain at least 1 meter distance between you and people coughing or sneezing.

✓ Avoid touching your face.

✓ Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

✓ Stay home if you feel unwell.

✓ Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.

✓ Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

Symptoms:

✓ fever

✓ tiredness

✓ Dry cough

✓ shortness of breath

✓ aches and pains

✓ sore throat &

✓ Very few people will report diarrhoea, nausea or a runny nose.

4 Stages of PANDEMIC:	STAGE 1:	STAGE 2:	STAGE 3:	STAGE 4:
	Transmitted and imported from affected countries	Local transmission from positive cases	Disease spreads in community, large area gets affected	Disease takes shape of an epidemic with no clear endpoint.

NATIONAL

1) The Prime Minister called on citizens to observe a **"Janata Curfew"** by staying indoors **on 22nd March 2020** between 7am and 9pm to express their resolve in avoiding public interaction to the bare minimum

2) The **6th International Day of Yoga** will be held in **Leh, capital of Ladakh** on 21st June 2020

3) **Beary language** is set to be introduced as an optional third language across state schools from the 2020-21 academic years in the state of **Karnataka**

4) **Uttarakhand** Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced in the state assembly that his government will make *"Gairsain" the summer capital of Uttarakhand*

5) The Union Cabinet approved the proposal *to set up major port at Vadhvan in Maharashtra*

6) Internet has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir, but the connectivity will be made available "with **mac – binding**".

7) **Kishori shakti karyakram:** Campaign started by 14 teenage girls from **Odisha**'s Berhampur *to empower young girls living in slums of the city*.

8) **The Ministry of AYUSH** released digital platform called **AYUSH GRID**

9) **Women Transforming India Awards** are NITI Aayog's initiative *to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and changemakers.*

10) **Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WISTEMM) program** is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

11) **Union Home Minister launched Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)** to share information between various police forces on heinous crimes.

12) **Restaurant for vultures:** a feeding station for vultures in the Pong Dam Lake Wild Life sanctuary in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

13) The Supreme Court has upheld the right of *serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers of the Navy to be granted permanent commission (PC)* on a par with their male counterparts.

14) **Google** announced the launching of *India's next cloud region in Delhi by 2021.*

15) The Haryana cabinet has approved the draft bill **"The Haryana Scheduled Castes (Reservation in Admission in Educational Institutions) bill, 2020"**. This bill provides quota within quota for SCs in the state

16) **IIT Guwahati** is setting up a *research centre for analysing the coronavirus disease in its campus*.

17) Odisha Chief Minister launched **"Mo Jeeban Programme"** *to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the state*

18) **Indian Railways re-introduced special parcel service**, discontinued in 1974, to ensure supply of commodities across India

19) Finance Minister instructed the state governments *to utilise DMF (District Mineral Foundation) funds to fight against COVID-19*.

20) The Union government set up *"Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund" (PM CARES Fund)* seeking contributions from public to combat situations like Covid-19 pandemic

21) The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) has launched **"Project Isaac"** to engage students in creative projects during the COVID-19 lockdown.

22) India has decided to conduct **antibody tests** to *confirm whether a person has previously been infected with the COVID – 19 virus.*

23) **Uttar Pradesh Government** banned the manufacture and sale of pan masala from 26th March 2020

24) The Health ministry has issued the *telemedicine guidelines on 25th March 2020*

25) **The Election Commission** allowed usage of **indelible ink** for stamping persons for home quarantine by the health authorities

26) **The Election Commission** decided *to postpone the Rajya Sabha Elections*, which were scheduled to be conducted on 26th March 2020.

27) The **Telangana legislative assembly** adopted a resolution **against** the Citizenship Amendment Act **(CAA)** National Population Register **(NPR)** and the National Register of Citizens **(NRC)** on **16th March 2020**

28) The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the proposal to **rename Mumbai Central Station to Nana Shankarsheth**.

29) The Rajya Sabha passed two Bills **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill**, 2020 on 12th March 2020.

30) The Government is planning to provide **a unique disability ID (UDID)** to over three lakh persons with disabilities.

31) The **Gujarat** has *topped solar roof top plant installations across the country*

32) Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **production facility of Light Combat Helicopter** at the HAL campus in Bengaluru

33) The **Maharashtra government** has approved the implementation of the "**happy hour**" for the *autorickshaws in the state*.

34) The Centre government is planning to issue *private driving licences to those with colour blindness*

35) The **Andhra Pradesh** has been ranked *1st for the overall implementation of Poshan Abhiyan*, as per a report by NITI Aayog

36) The **Union government** declared the *National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh an eco-sensitive zone* on 2nd March 2020

37) Indian Railways started its first railway restaurant "*Restaurant on Wheels*" at Asansol railway station for the usage of its passengers and common people.

38) **Realme and Xiaomi** have announced that they are going to launch a new range of smartphones with **ISRO's NavIC**

INTERNATIONAL

1) **India** is ranked as **the world's second-largest arms importer** after Saudi Arabia

2) The *first case of Hantavirus* was reported in China's Yunnan Province on **23rd March 2020**

3) World Health Organisation announced the threat of coronavirus can be characterized as a **"Global Pandemic"** as the killer disease has already spread across more than 100 countries

4) *Bangladesh* celebrated **100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** on 17th March 2020

5) The **Scottish Parliament** passed the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill that *aims to make sanitary products free for women of all age groups*.

6) **Bangladesh and India** share a **4,156-kilometre-long international border**, the fifth-longest land border in the world.

7) The Indian government has **suspended visas for foreign nationals from all across the globe owing to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak**. The decision will come into effect from 13th March 2020.

8) **Luxembourg in Europe** has become the first country to make *all forms of "public transport free"*

9) **China** has assumed the *Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for March 2020*

10) **Pakistan's Peshawar historic Sunehri Masjid** has opened its doors to *female worshippers for the first time since 1996*

ECONOMICS

1) **India's thermal coal imports** rose 12.6 percent to nearly 200 million tonnes in 2019. This is the second straight year of growth in shipments of the fuel.

2) The **Finance Bill 2020** was passed by *Lok Sabha in a record 29 minutes on 23rd March 2020 without any discussion or debate.*

3) The **Lok Sabha** passed *the Appropriation Bill 2020 - 21 on 16th March 2020*

4) The Lok Sabha passed the bill to implement the *"Direct Tax Vivaad se Vishwas"* scheme on 4th March 2020

5) The **Parliament was adjourned sine die on 23rd March 2020** in view of the drastic nationwide measures **to encourage social distancing to combat the coronavirus.**

6) **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has announced to setting up the *India's first dedicated COVID -19 hospital in Mumbai*

7) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has announced the launch of '**Swavalamban Express**' on 5th June 2020, *to promote aspiring and budding business entrepreneurs*.

8) TRIFED, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India launched **"Tech for Tribal"** aims *at providing entrepreneurship skills to around 3 lakh tribal people*

9) The **39th GST Council meeting**, chaired by the Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman was held in New Delhi on 14th March 2020

SPORTS

1) The **32nd Olympic Games** will be postponed to **next year (2021)**

2) The **Manipur government** has announced two new schemes *(CMAST & CMAT)* to provide benefits to the exemplary sportspersons and artistes in the state

3) **Saurashtra** won their **maiden Ranji trophy** title against Bengal

4) **Tiger Woods** will be inducted into the **World Golf Hall of Fame** in its class of 2021

5) **Shivpal Singh** became the second Indian javelin thrower after Neeraj Chopra **to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
Pragyan Conclave 2020	Two-day Indian Army International Seminar, organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)	New Delhi
G-20 virtual summit	✓ The summit will bring together the world's 20 major economies, including India to discuss measures and guidelines in addressing the COVID 19 Pandemic ✓ Saudi Arabia is the current chair of G – 20, which took the decision of conducting a virtual summit.	
International Conference on Nano-Science and Nano Technology	It dealt with 5Ms in the field of nano technology, namely Material, Mechanical, Manufacturing, Manpower and Machines	Kolkata

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana	✓ a maternity benefit scheme ✓ Under the scheme ₹6,000 will be offered for the birth of the second child ✓ State scheme will complement the Central government's **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** which offers **₹5,000 for the birth of the first child**	Rajasthan
Suposhit Maa Abhiyan	The main objective of this campaign is to keep adolescent girls, pregnant women and newborn 'healthy'.	Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA's / Tamil Nadu's RANKING	TOP RANKING
Gender Social Norms Index	UN Development Programme (UNDP)		Pakistan
World Happiness Report	United Nations	144	Finland

MILITARY EXERCISES

EXERCISE NAME	HELD BETWEEN	TYPE OF EXERCISE	HELD AT
African Lion	USA & Africa	Annual Military Exercise	Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia

FESTIVALS

S.No.	FESTIVAL	STATE
1.	Attukal Pongala	Kerala

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
YUva VIgyani KAryakram	Special programme for School Children, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan"	ISRO
Elon Musk	Will Send astronauts to the International Space Station for the first time in May month	SpaceX
Perseverance	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - has named its Mars rover 2020 'Perseverance' after a nationwide competition.	NASA
RaIDer-X	Unveiled a new explosive detection device	DRDO and IISC Bangalore

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SPECIES / NEW DISCOVERIES	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
SWAYAM Portal	Online education platform covering both school (class IX to XII) And Higher Education (under graduate, post graduate programs) in all subjects including engineering, humanities and social sciences, law and management courses.	The Ministry of Human Resource Development
SAMADHAAN Portal	To facilitate online registration of references related to delayed payments.	The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Eurasian Otter	**IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened	Spotted in Chilika lake
Red Panda	**IUCN status** - endangered	State animal of Sikkim
Sahyadri Megha	New variety of paddy resistant to blast disease and rich in nutrients	University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga
Oculudentavis khaungraae	It is the smallest dinosaur discovered yet from the Mesozoic era — about 250 million to 65 million years ago.	
"MyGov Corona Helpdesk"	The MyGov Corona Helpdesk aims to eliminate all misinformation, fake news and rumours being spread through WhatsApp	The Union government
"SUMMIT" – a supercomputer	The world's fastest supercomputer and IBM's massive machine, called 'Summit' - identified 77 unique chemicals that can keep the coronavirus from infecting a host	
MACS 4028	High Protein Wheat has been produced	Agharkar Research Instiute

Bhoomi Rashi Portal	Land Acquisition Portal	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
NIGHA APP	To ensure 'clean and healthy' elections by curbing the use of money and alcohol in the upcoming local body elections.	Andhra Pradesh

COMMITTEES

NK Singh Committee	The Finance Commission has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of NK Singh in order to create a road map for fiscal consolidation for the Center and the States

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Justice Ranjan Gogoi	nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha
Bimal Julka	Chief information commissioner
Ajay Bhushan P Pandey	Finance secretary

S. No.	Current Rajya Sabha Members	Field
1)	Ranjan Gogoi	Law
2)	Subramanian Swamy	Economics
3)	Mary Kom	Sports
4)	Roopa Ganguly	Art
5)	Narendra Jadhav	Economics
6)	Suresh Gopi	Art

7)	Ram Shakal	Social Work
8)	Swapan Dasgupta	Journalism
9)	Sambhaji Raje	Social Work
10)	Sonal Mansingh	Art
11)	Raghunath Mohapatra	Art
12)	Rakesh Sinha	Literature

Chief Minister	State
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Madhya Pradesh

WOMEN IN NEWS

P.V. Sindhu	BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year
P.T. Usha	Lifetime Achievement Award
Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter Amrit Kaur	among TIME Magazine's 100 greatest women of the year
Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar	new deputy chief of integrated defence staff (medical)

AWARDS

Abel Prize 2020	Hillel Furstenberg & Gregory Margulis
	Contribution: "for pioneering the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics"

IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	**THEME:** "Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls"
March 3	World Hearing Day	**THEME:** "Hearing for life, don't let hearing loss limit you"
	World Wildlife Day	**THEME:** "Sustaining all life on Earth"
March 4	Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas / National Security Day	The Day is celebrated to honour the work of Indian Security Forces, which includes every security personnel, policemen, para military forces, guards, commandos, army officers, etc.
March 8	International Women's Day	**THEME:** "Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights"
March 14	Pi Day	The idea originated in the United States, where the convention is to write dates in a format that expresses March 14 as 3/14. Value of pi is 3.14.
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	**THEME:** "The Sustainable Consumer"
March 20	World Sparrow Day	The observance of the day aims to raise awareness about this bird and to conserve it.
	International Happiness Day	**THEME:** "Happiness for all, together"
March 21	International Day of Forest	**THEME:** "Forests and Biodiversity"
March 22	World Water Day	The main purpose of World Water Day is to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6, which includes Water and Sanitation for all by 2030
March 23	World Meteorological Day	**THEME:** "Climate and water"
	Shaheed Diwas / Martyr's Day	The day is to remember the sacrifice of great freedom fighters of India - Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev

March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	THEME: "It's Time: END TB"
March 28	Earth Hour	The Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March.