

## Reading Comprehension\_40

Direction (1 – 5): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

In Wednesday's BMC order, addressed to the assistant municipal commissioners of all 24 wards, Pardeshi said many "essential and lifesaving medical equipment, IT systems related to health systems and machines/vehicles are in the state of disrepair due to closing down of the electronics and hardware shops and there is an urgent need to keep such shops open to some extent".

Minister Aslam Shaikh said he had pushed for opening some shops selling nonessentials like hardware, electronic goods in a meeting with Pardeshi on Wednesday. "Though these items are not considered essential, in this heat electronic goods shops are not less than essential. In summer, these shops should be opened so that people can buy or repair fans, air-conditioners or other electronic items," Shaikh told TOI. The final decision on which electronics and hardware shops should open will be with the local authorities.

The confusion continues in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, where the order on opening standalone nonessential shops was tweaked by local authorities and saw uneven implementation. On Wednesday, Thanemunicipal commissioner Vijay Singhal revoked the permission to open non-essentials shops citing breach of lockdown norms.

The issue of opening shops selling non-essential items was discussed by the state cabinet on Wednesday. It decided to leave it to the local authorities to take a call on opening such shops, including liquor outlets, in their respective districts, considering the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This was despite most ministers complaining about the local administration changing rules without consulting any minister. "There is a lot of confusion among traders and shopkeepers. Even people do not know what is allowed and when. There is a need for better communication between ministers, guardian ministers and the district administration," said a minister, on the condition of anonymity.

1. What is the name of the Thane municipal commissioner?

- a) Vijay Singh
- b) Vijay Singhal
- c) Karanveer Singh
- d) None of the above

2. According to the passage, which statement(s) is / are true?

- a) This was despite most ministers complaining about the local administration changing rules by consulting any minister.
- b) The confusion continues in the Delhi Metropolitan Region, where the order on opening standalone nonessential shops was tweaked by local authorities and saw uneven implementation.
- c) The final decision on which electronics and hardware shops should open will be with the local authorities.

d) All of the above

3. What were the shops that the local authorities decided to open?

a) Garments

b) Confectionery

c) Liquor

d) Bakery

4. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

a) Now, BMC allows only 2 shops in a lane: Hardware and electronic

b) Confusion prevails in Mumbai's Metropolitan Region

c) Thane municipal commissioner Vijay Singhal revoked the permission to open non-essentials shops citing breach of lockdown

d) None of the above

5. Minister Aslam Shaikh pushed for opening some shops selling non-essentials like?

a) Hardware

b) Electronics

c) Both A and B

d) Neither A nor B

**Direction (6-10):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

One of Kashmir's most-wanted terrorists, HizbulMujahideen commander RiyazNaikoo, was on Wednesday killed along with an aide in a five-hour gunbattle with security forces at his native Baighpora in Pulwama district, bringing the curtain down on an eighty-year run that saw him go from a mathematics teacher to a terror mastermind with a Rs 12-lakh bounty on his head.

As news of Naikoo's death spread, the Union Territory administration again suspended mobile internet across the Valley and voice communication over all networks barring that of BSNL. Incidents of stone-pelting at security forces were reported in parts of south Kashmir and downtown Srinagar.

Although Naikoo joined the outfit only in 2012, his rise up the ranks was apparently meteoric. Known to be close to BurhanWani, who used to be HizbulMujahideen's poster boy till his death in an encounter in 2016, Naikoo stepped in to fill the void after Burhan's immediate successor, Zakir Rashid Bhat alias Zakir Musa, was expelled from the outfit.

A senior official of J&K Police said there was a tip-off about Naikoo visiting Baighpora, less than 10km from Khrew, to see his ailing mother.

6. Who were the most wanted terrorists according to the passage?

- a) HizbulMujahideen
- b) RafzuddinNayak
- c) RiyazNaikoo
- d) Both A and C

7. For how long did the battle last?

- a) Two hours
- b) One hour
- c) Five and a half hour
- d) Five hours

8. What is the name of the place and district, where the battle took place?

- a) Baighpora, Pughwalna
- b) Baighpora, Pulwama
- c) Baighpora, Naiopara
- d) None of the above

9. What is the name of HizbulMujahideen's poster boy?

- a) BurhamWasim
- b) BurhanWani
- c) BimWami
- d) BhashaWani

10. What is the most suitable title for to the passage?

- a) Hizb`s India chief, on run for 8 years, killed in J&Kshootout
- b) Union Territory administration again suspendedmobile internet across the J&K Valley
- c) Riyaz`s India chief, on run for 8 years, killed in J&Kshootout
- d) None of the above

**Direction (11-15):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

When the first train from Tamil Nadu after the Covid-19 lockdown rolled out of Katpadi railway station in Vellore on Wednesday night carrying 1,130 patients and their caregivers, thousands from across the country who throng the medical town saw the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

K VikashMahto, 22, and his brother Sandeep, 29, a chronic heart patient from Ranchi in Jharkhand, reached Vellore in Tamil Nadu on March 21 for a two-daytreatment at Christian Medical College

Hospital. They were to fly back home on March 23. But the Covid-19 outbreak and the ensuing lockdown stopped them. “We planned to stay for three days. By the 15th day after the lockdown, we could barely manage our daily needs,” said Vikash.

The lodge owner harassed them for rent and they did not have enough money to buy food. “My brother had breathing problems because of his heart condition and needed a bed,” said Vikash. They got the district superintendent of police to persuade the lodge owner to allow them to stay on. With the help of district officials and volunteers, the Mahto brothers got their daily ration. And, as arrangements were made to take them back home by train on Wednesday night, along with hundreds of other patients, the brothers finally had a smile on their face.

The special train, arranged on the request of the Jharkhand government will reach Hatia railway station in Ranchi early on Friday morning. Arrangements had been made by the Tamil Nadu government to take the patients and their attenders from private marriage halls and lodges to the Katpadi railway station in sanitized vehicles.

For the patients, it is not a one-way ticket; many said they would return. “I underwent an orthopaedic surgery four years ago at CMC hospital. I have to visit the hospital once a year for follow-up treatment,” said A Vikas Kumar Shaw, 31, a native of Dhanbad in Jharkhand, Vellore district revenue officer J Partheebantold TOI, “We provided them free accommodation and food in three private marriage halls. Those who needed cots and attached toilet facilities were put up in lodges.”

11. The special train, arranged on the request of the Jharkhand government will reach which station in

Ranchi?

- a) Katia
- b) Patia
- c) Hatia
- d) Latia

12. What is the name of the person from Dhanbad, in Jharkhand?

- a) Vijay Kumar Shaw
- b) Sandeep
- c) A Vikas Kumar Shaw
- d) None of the above

13. The first train from Tamil Nadu after the Covid-19 lockdown rolled out of which station?

- a) Katpadi
- b) Chennai
- c) Hathpadi

d) Katiapadi

14. How many patients were being carried by the train that rolled out of Vellore?

- a) 1210
- b) 1310
- c) 1130
- d) 1030

15. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) 1,130 sick people & their caregivers board train from Vellore to Ranchi
- b) Chronic heart patients from Ranchi in Jharkhand, reached Vellore in Tamil Nadu for a two-day treatment at Christian Medical College Hospital.
- c) Many will come back to Vellore for follow-up treatments
- d) None of the above

**Direction (16-20):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

India went past two grim Covid-19 milestones on Wednesday—crossing the 50,000 mark overall and breaching the 3,000-figure in its daily tally for the first time. With 3,602 new cases—the most in a day till now—country’s tally rose to 52,935. Alarmingly, while it took five days to go from the 30,000-mark to the 40,000-mark, the next 10,000 cases were added in just three days. It was on May 3 that the country had crossed 40,000 cases while the 30,000-mark was breached on April 28.

However, at 93, the death toll on Wednesday was less than half of the 199 casualties recorded across the country the previous day. Maharashtra alone accounts for 36.6% of the total 1777 casualties in India so far.

Delhi recorded its maximum number of cases in a day (428), pushing its count to 5,532. With one more death, the toll in the national capital now is 65.

Gujarat reported 28 more deaths, 25 of these from Ahmedabad alone, taking the toll to 396. With 380 fresh cases, the state’s count is 6,625. As the situation remained grim in Ahmedabad, the administration banned sale of grocery, vegetables and fruits till May 15. Only milk and medicines sale will be allowed.

Municipal commissioner Mukesh Kumar said in a notification: “Super spreaders like those working in shops like vegetables, fruits, grocery, provisions, supermarkets, ice-cream parlours and people engaged in home delivery of these items as well as app based food delivery services become a potent source of infection for many.”

Tamil Nadu saw another big surge in infections (771). As many as 324 of the cases were in Chennai and 188 in Ariyalur, with the Koyambedu cluster spreading across nearly two dozen districts.

16. Tamil Nadu saw a big surge in infections by how much?

- a) 171
- b) 770
- c) 771
- d) 155

17. How many deaths were reported by Gujarat?

- a) 24
- b) 26
- c) 28
- d) 23

18. What is the total number of cases reported in Gujarat?

- a) 380
- b) 6652
- c) 6625
- d) 6605

19. What percent of the total casualties in India does Maharashtra account for?

- a) 35.3%
- b) 36.2%
- c) 36.6%
- d) 34.2%

20. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) India breaches 50,000-mark, hits new peak of 3,600 cases in 1 day
- b) India breaches 51,000-mark, hits new peak of 3,600 cases in 1 day
- c) India breaches 50,000-mark, hits new peak of 3,610 cases in 1 day
- d) None of the above

**Direction (21-25):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

The number of active Covid-19 cases are growing faster at 6.6%, leading to a shorter doubling time of 11 days, as compared to 15 days on May 2 when the growth rate of such cases was 4.8%, data analysis by economist Shamika Ravi, earlier part of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, shows.

Ravi tweets daily updates that are widely followed on social media and her slides have on occasion been used by the government too. The trend is driven by concerns regarding states like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, where the infection is at worrying levels.

In these states, mortality rates are increasing and there is no specific strategy for contact-tracing and testing, Ravi says. Pointing to varying rates of testing, Shamika said in Kerala's Kasargod when 100 people came out positive, 20,000 samples were tested while in Mumbai 6,000 samples were tested against 100 positive cases. According to her, there is a big second wave in several states with growing concerns in Gujarat, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, along with Maharashtra where the case load is alarmingly high.

"It is a combination of containment, contact-tracing and testing that will help flatten the curve. If containment and contact-tracing is poor, active cases will keep rising. States have to formulate a strategy and ensure it is strictly implemented," she said. So far, the government has said the doubling rate is rising with the figures taken for all cases and not only active ones as in Ravi's analysis.

21. In which states is the infection at worrying level?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) West Bengal
- c) Gujarat
- d) All of the above

22. The growing rate of the active Covid-19 cases is at how much percent, according to the passage?

- a) 6.3%
- b) 6.6%
- c) 6.7%
- d) 6.4%

23. According to economist Shamika Ravi, a second wave of Covid-19 is likely to occur in which states?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Kolkata
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Both A and C

24. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) Active cases growing faster, doubling rate falls to 11 days
- b) Second wave in several states with growing concerns in Gujarat, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, along with Kolkata

- c) It is a combination of containment, contact-tracing and testing that will help flatten the curve.
- d) None of the above

25. What was the growth rate of such cases on May 2nd?

- a) 3.4%
- b) 4.4%
- c) 4.8%
- d) 5.0%

**Direction (26-30):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

The state reported its highest number of Covid deaths in a single day—43—on Thursday as the outbreak entered its 60th day in Maharashtra. The total count of people who have lost their lives to the virus reached 694, and with 1,216 new cases, the cumulative number of people affected by the infection went up to 17,974.

Mumbai, the epicentre of the pandemic in the state, accounted for 24 of the 43 deaths. On a day a team from the Centre came to the city to analyse the situation within the hotspots, 680 cases were added to the daily count, taking Mumbai's overall case tally to 11,394, the highest for any city in the country. BMC officials said of the new positives, 170 cases were from May 3 to May 5.

Public health minister Rajesh Tope said the central team said there was a need to increase institutional quarantine facilities. He said the BMC has been asked to acquire grounds and halls to set up the facilities.

26. What was the state's highest number of Covid-19 deaths?

- a) 42
- b) 44
- c) 43
- d) 40

27. Which place was the epicenter of the pandemic?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Chennai
- c) Mumbai
- d) Gujarat

28. According to the passage what is the name of the public health minister?

- a) Raja Topia

- b) Rajesh Tope
- c) Rajesh Khanna
- d) None of the above

29. What is the total number of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai as per the passage?

- a) 11,394
- b) 11934
- c) 11349
- d) 12395

30. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) With record 43 deaths, state toll soars to 694
- b) Mumbai, the epicenter
- c) Highest cases of Covid-19 in Mumbai
- d) None of the above

**Direction (31-35):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

In a predawn disaster on Thursday that revived the horrors of the Bhopal gas tragedy 36 years ago, at least 11 people died and hundreds fell sick — many of them collapsing on roads and pavements — as they tried to escape toxic styrene vapours leaking from a chemical plant owned by South Korean firm LG in the densely populated Gopalapatnam area of Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.

Two of the victims in the gas leak, which started between 2.30am and 3am, were children. Ten more kids are among the 22 people said to be in a critical condition, leading government officials to fear the toll might rise. The state government evacuated 10,000 people living within a radius of 5km of the LG Polymers plant, whose holding company LG Chem was later booked for culpable homicide based on a complaint filed by the revenue officer of Venkatapuram village. Around 800 people were taken to hospitals, many of whom have since been discharged. "I woke up with a start at 4.30am and felt some uneasiness in breathing," said Dipankar Banerjee, an insurance executive who lives in the area.

There was a peculiar stench in the air, as if something was burning in kerosene. My wife woke up, too, and immediately started vomiting," he added.

Three women in an apartment next door became unconscious even as Banerjee, his wife and 11-year-old son scurried out of their house to join a crowd of people outside covering their noses and mouths to keep out the noxious stench of styrene, a liquid hydrocarbon that can leak at high temperature and evaporate easily into the atmosphere as vapour.

As the fumes spread, many breached the Covid-19 containment zones to take shelter in safer places. Gopalapatnam Society, a red zone, is barely a kilometre from the LG plant.

Thousands of people sprinted till they could breathe without inhaling the vapours. Those who could not run called police and disaster response teams for help. Some fell to the ground and lost consciousness. A few fainted inside their homes. Animals and plants didn't escape the toxic gas assault either. Cattle, dogs, cats and birds were found whimpering or lying still on roads and open spaces. Tree leaves sported a burnt look.

31. The Bhopal Gas tragedy occurred how many years ago?

- a) 32 years
- b) 33 years
- c) 36 years
- d) 35 years

32. What caused the recent gas tragedy?

- a) toxic styrene vapours
- b) Alkaline styrene vapours
- c) Tyranol Vapours
- d) Methane gas

33. Where did the recent gas tragedy take place?

- a) Bhopal
- b) Cuttack
- c) Gopalapatnam area of Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam
- d) None of the above

34. According to the passage which of the following statement is true?

- a) Gopalapatnam Society is a green zone
- b) Gopalapatnam Society is a red zone
- c) Gopalapatnam Society is an orange zone
- d) None of the above

35. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) 11 killed, 1,000 fall sick in pre-dawn disaster as gas leaks at Vizag plant
- b) 22 Critical, Many From Red Zone Rush Elsewhere
- c) Bhopal Gas Tragedy once again after 36 years
- d) None of the above

**Direction (36-40):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

After weeks of improvement, India's doubling rate for Covid-19 cases worsened to 10.2 days in the last seven days with cases rising in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi. On the other hand, the recovery rate has improved to 28.8%, and the fatality rate, at 3.3%, is among the lowest, health ministry data show.

On Tuesday, the health ministry had reported a doubling time of 12 days, just as the country saw the highest jump in cases and deaths. The deterioration of the rate is attributed, at least in part, to reporting gaps in certain states, such as Bengal, which are now being corrected. Compared to the rest of the world, India's fatality rate is lowest," health minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday, pointing to efforts to ensure timely reporting and efficient clinical management in combating Covid19. The data also shows the disease in India to be of less in severity with just 1.1% of all Covid-19 patients on ventilators, 3.3% on medical oxygen and 4.8% in ICU beds.

India's testing capacity has also increased to 95,000 per day from around 75,000 daily at the beginning of the week. This is spread out in 327 government laboratories and 118 private laboratories. Cumulatively, over 13.57 lakh tests have been done so far.

As on Thursday, the health ministry reported a total of 52,952 Covid-19 cases. Of this, 15,266 persons have been cured and 1,783 deaths reported. In the last 24 hours, 3,561 new confirmed cases have been added and 1,084 patients cured. The current recovery rate is 28.8%. Flagging challenges in combating Covid-19 at a time when the disease graph has been gradually peaking instead of regressing as the government had hoped amid the lockdown, Harsh Vardhan said the challenge was to prevent the disease from making its way to unaffected districts. There are currently 319 unaffected districts in the green zone, 130 red districts and 284 orange ones. However, more and more districts, the minister said, were now managing to prolong the period of reporting of new infections, with 180 districts having no case between seven and 13 days; 164 districts with no case between 14 and 20 days; and 136 districts with no case from 21 to 28 days.

36. As of Thursday how many cases did the Health Ministry report?

- a) 52,952
- b) 52,592
- c) 25,952
- d) 52,925

37. According to the passage, how many cases were reported in the last 24 hours?

- a) 3,561
- b) 3,651
- c) 3,165
- d) None of the above

38. Who is the Health Minister of India?

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- b) Smriti Irani
- c) Harsh Vardhan
- d) Piyush Goyal

39. What is the suitable title for the passage?

- a) Doubling time worsens to 10.2 days in 1 week
- b) Testing capacity rises to 95,000 per day
- c) As on Thursday, the health ministry reported a total of 52,952 Covid-19 cases
- d) None of the above

40. Which of the following statement(s) is/ are true according to the passage?

- a) There are currently 319 unaffected districts in the green zone, 130 red districts and 248 orange ones.
- b) India's testing capacity has also increased to 95,000 per day from around 75,000 daily at the beginning of the month.
- c) After weeks of improvement, India's doubling rate for Covid-19 cases worsened to 10.2 days in the last seven days with cases rising in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi.
- d) All of the above

**Direction (41-45):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

States across India reported more than 3,000 fresh Covid-19 cases for the second day running as the country's coronavirus count raced past the 55,000 mark on Thursday, taking just four days to reach the number after crossing 40,000 on May 3.

While Maharashtra recorded over 1,200 fresh cases on Thursday, the coronavirus infection touched a new high in Delhi, where 448 more cases were detected. The capital's previous single-day peak was 428 on Tuesday. The country also saw 106 fatalities from the virus, the second time that more than 100 patients have died in a day. Adding some cheer amid the gloom, the number of recoveries across India has been going up steadily. As per the latest data, more than 16,600 people have recovered across the country, which is nearly 30% of the total cases so far.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 infection continued to surge in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat as well, with the two states reporting 580 and 388 new cases, respectively, adding to fears that the disease was leaping towards its peak in these states.

The coronavirus count in Gujarat, the second-most affected state, crossed 7,000 on Thursday. Out of the new cases, Ahmedabad district recorded 275, or 71% of the total.

41. Covid-19 infection continued to surge in which state/states?
- a) Tamil Nadu
  - b) Mumbai
  - c) Gujarat
  - d) Both A and C
42. How many cases were reported in Maharashtra on Thursday?
- a) 1100
  - b) 1200
  - c) 1250
  - d) 1000
43. According to a data, how many people recovered across the country?
- a) 16,600
  - b) 16,002
  - c) 16,100
  - d) 13000
44. How many cases were detected in Delhi on Thursday?
- a) 448
  - b) 484
  - c) 345
  - d) 143
45. What is the most suitable title for the passage?
- a) India count tops 3000 for 2nd day in a row, Gujarat continues to surge
  - b) India count tops 3000 for 2nd day in a row, Mumbai continues to surge
  - c) India count tops 3000 for 3rd day in a row, Gujarat continues to surge
  - d) None of the above

**Direction (46-50):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Dharavi recorded 50 new Covid cases on Thursday, as a central team was on a visit there, and the tally went up to 783, including 21 deaths. The doubling of cases in Dharavi, one of the biggest slum pockets in the country, in six days indicates the seriousness of the situation. The team told BMC that considering Dharavi's population, the authorities have to arrange for more quarantine beds. They also

told BMC to clean community toilets more frequently. BMC has set up 3,000 beds at seven quarantine centres which are also being used as mini-clinics after providing round-the-clock doctors, nurses and oxygen cylinders for any emergency, and scanning those having fever and cough. The team was accompanied by civic chief Pravin Pardeshi, and Maharashtra school education minister and local MLA Varsha Gaikwad. The team examined quarantine facilities and clinics, and discussed the situation.

Civic officials took the team to a slum room, where over 12 persons were sleeping in a small space and there was no social distancing. A civic official explained the challenge to keep people inside congested rooms. They said many skilled labourers from the area desperately wanted to return to their home states.

Assistant municipal commissioner (G-North ward) Kiran Dighavkar said, "We are focussing on a containment strategy, comprehensive testing and uninterrupted supply of essentials. We tested 2,400 persons in the area, and are encouraging maximum to visit our clinics or quarantine facilities, if they have fever or cough for screening."

Civic officials said they are doing their best to provide groceries and other essentials in the high-risk zone so that people do not visit other areas. Dharavi is spread over 2.5 sq km and there are 202 containment zones there. There are 2,480 persons at BMC-managed institutional quarantine facilities, and 3,950 in home quarantine. Officials said there are 10 slum pockets in Dharavi, from where half the cases are.

46. What is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a) Dharavi sees 50 fresh cases as central team wants more beds
- b) BMC arranges for 3k hotel rooms
- c) Civic officials said they are doing their best to provide groceries and other essentials in the high-risk zone
- d) None of the above

47. How many new cases were recorded by Dharavi on Thursday?

- a) 45
- b) 46
- c) 50
- d) 52

48. BMC has set up how many beds in quarantine centres?

- a) 2500
- b) 3000
- c) 2800
- d) 3100

49. How many deaths have taken place in Dharavi due to the pandemic?

a) 11

b) 21

c) 12

d) 31

50. What is the name of the local MLA as per the passage?

a) Pravin Pardeshi

b) Varsha Gaikwad

c) Kiran Dighavkar

d) None of the above

# Answer

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. A
11. C
12. C
13. A
14. C
15. A
16. C
17. C
18. C
19. C
20. A
21. D
22. B
23. D
24. A
25. C
26. C
27. C
28. B
29. A
30. A
31. C
32. A
33. C
34. B
35. A
36. A
37. A
38. C

39. A
40. C
41. D
42. B
43. A
44. A
45. A
46. A
47. C
48. B
49. B
50. B