

## **Phased Easing of Lockdown**

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## Why in News

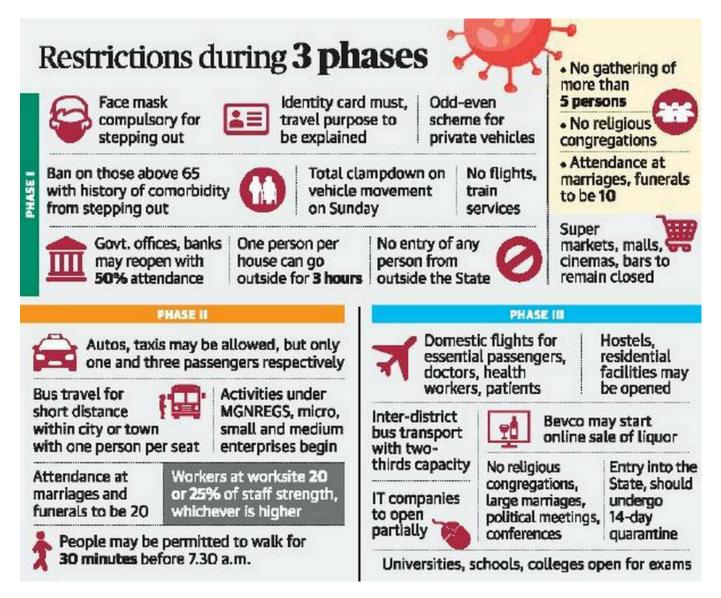
An **expert committee headed by former Chief Secretary K.M. Abraham** has **recommended a phased relaxation of the lockdown** to contain <u>COVID-19</u> for areas outside the seven hotspot districts in the **State of Kerala** from April 15, 2020.

## **Key Points**

- The committee said that the **phased withdrawal (in three phases) is sustainable only** if there is a **steady recovery and decline in the number of cases** leading to initial flattening of the infection curve and then gradual tapering of the curve to zero infection cases.
- It has asked the government to advise the people that in the event of a resurgence, they should be **ready and willing to undergo the rigours of a complete** <u>lockdown</u> **once again.**
- The committee has also come up with **health-related and non-health-related objectives** for the withdrawal strategy and steps for management of hotspots and vulnerable populations.
- The Committee has also set **criteria for moving into three phases of lockdown withdrawal.**

For example, for qualifying for Phase I relaxation,

- there has to be not more than one new case in the district for the entire week prior to the date of review on April 14.
- No increase of more than 10% of the number of persons under home surveillance in the district and no hotspots of COVID-19 anywhere in the district.



Source: TH