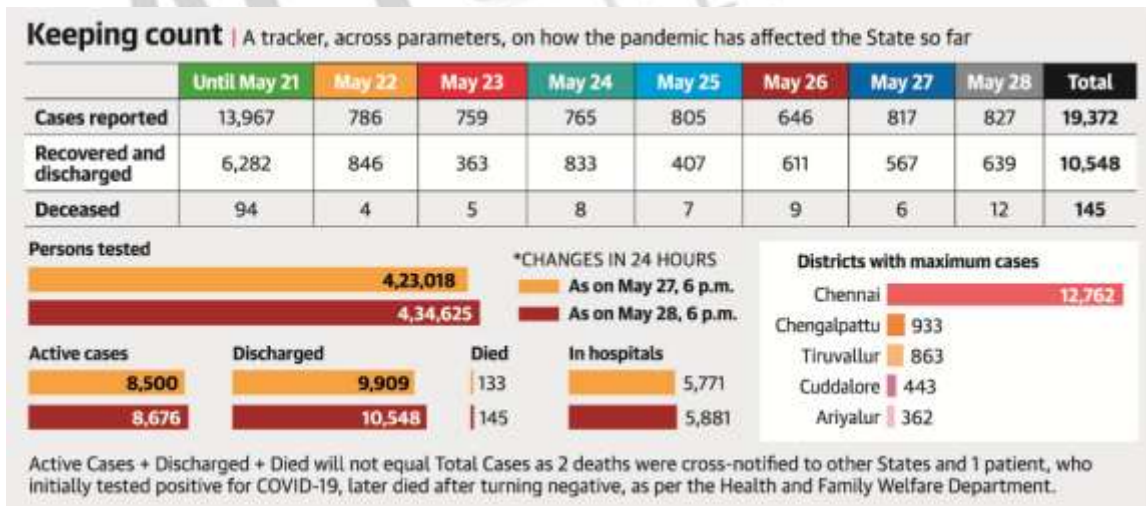




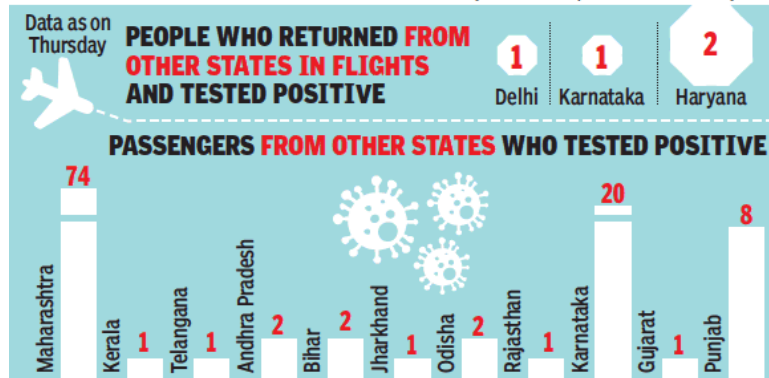
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 29, 2020

TAMIL NADU

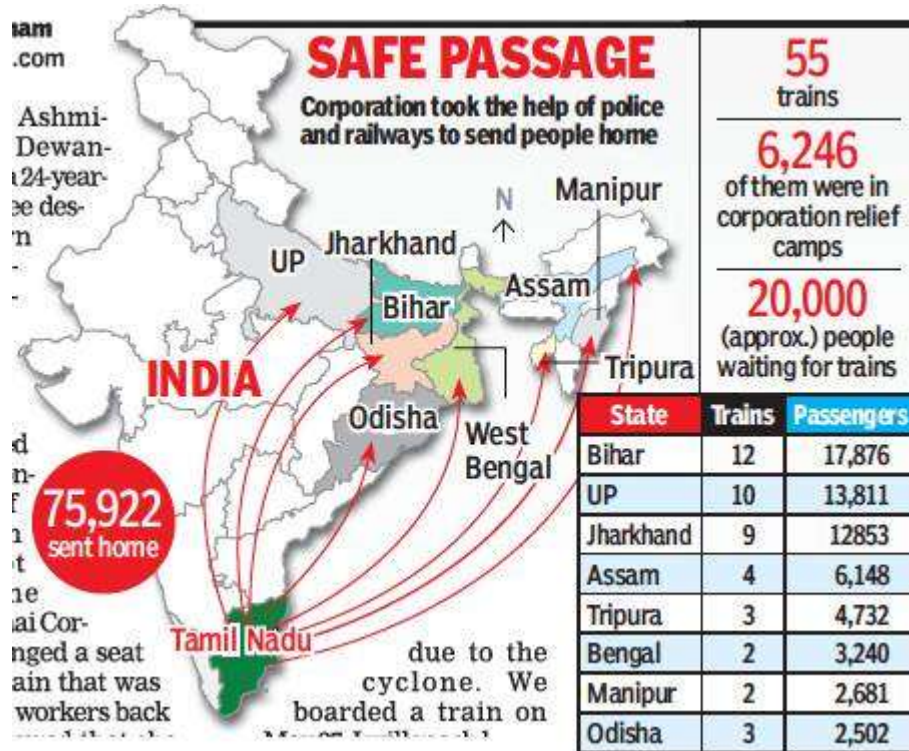
- On May 28, Tamil Nadu - recorded 12 deaths, its highest single-day Covid-19 toll, taking its total death toll to 145.
- ✓ The number of new infections also continued to rise with the reporting of 827 cases, taking the total tally to 19,372.
- ✓ Among these, 117 of them were migrants coming into the state by air and rail, which includes 74 from Maharashtra and 20 from Karnataka
- ✓ Chennai accounted for 599 of the fresh cases, while its three neighbouring districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattur and Tiruvallur reported 102.



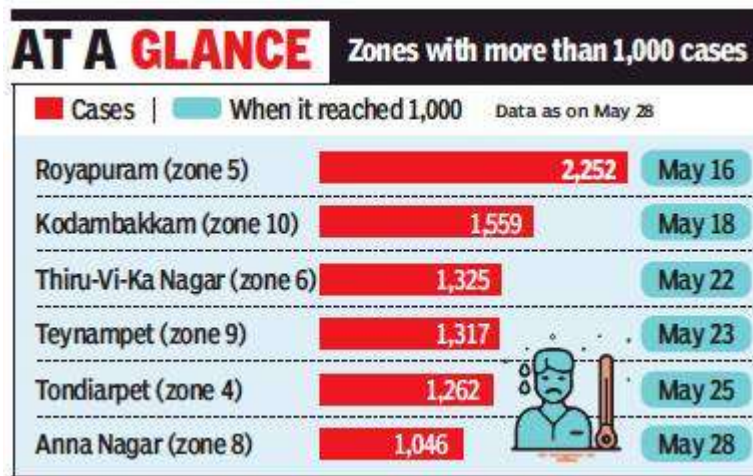
- ✓ Eleven out of twelve deaths reported on the day took place in Chennai.
- ✓ As on date, the city's total number of cases stands at 12,762, while the casualties remain at 106.
- ✓ The state has a mortality rate of 0.7% and a recovery rate of around 55%
- ✓ A total of 639 patients were discharged on the day, taking the number of people cured to 10,584.



- ✓ Meanwhile, at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, which has started ICMR's trials for convalescent plasma therapy, seven patients had received plasma and were making a recovery
 - ✓ Apart from this, a patient received remdesivir is also doing well and the treatment is as part of the ICMR solidarity trial protocol
 - ✓ So far, 936 passengers from Maharashtra, 27 from Gujarat, 26 from Karnataka, 19 from West Bengal, 17 from Delhi and 10 each from Kerala and Rajasthan have tested positive.
 - ✓ Of the 12 deaths reported on the day, six patients died with 48 hours of admission.
 - ✓ The youngest was a 36-year-old man while the oldest was a 78-year-old person.
 - ✓ At the end of the day, there were 8,676 patients still undergoing treatment in various hospitals and Covid-care centres.
 - ✓ At least 18 passengers who landed at different airports across the state over the last four days have tested positive for Covid-19
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami- inaugurated the Rs 230-crore Noyyal river restoration project through video conferencing from Chennai on May 28.**
- ✓ The project will focus on renovation of the river flowing through Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Karur.
 - ✓ Under the project, the encroachments on the river bank will be removed apart from other activities including repair and desilting of 18 anaicuts, strengthening of the river bund and construction of four new anaicuts.
 - ✓ The project is expected to be completed within the next two years.
 - ✓ The Noyyal River originates in Coimbatore and then flows through Tirupur, Erode and Karur districts.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation, along with the police department and Southern Railways - has so far arranged the return of 75,000 guest workers to their respective states.**
- ✓ However, another 20,000 people are still waiting for trains to be transported to their states.



- ✓ About 55 trains have left Chennai Central and Egmore railway stations carrying these migrant workers
- ✓ The Shramik special trains were started in Chennai from May 9
- **On May 28, Anna Nagar - became the sixth zone in the city corporation limits to record 1,000 Covid positive cases.**
- ✓ Royapuram, Kodambakkam, Thiru-vi-ka Nagar, Teynampet and Tondiarpet had reached 1,000 cases early this month.
- ✓ Royapuram, the city's hottest Covid-19 spot, has already registered 2,000 cases.



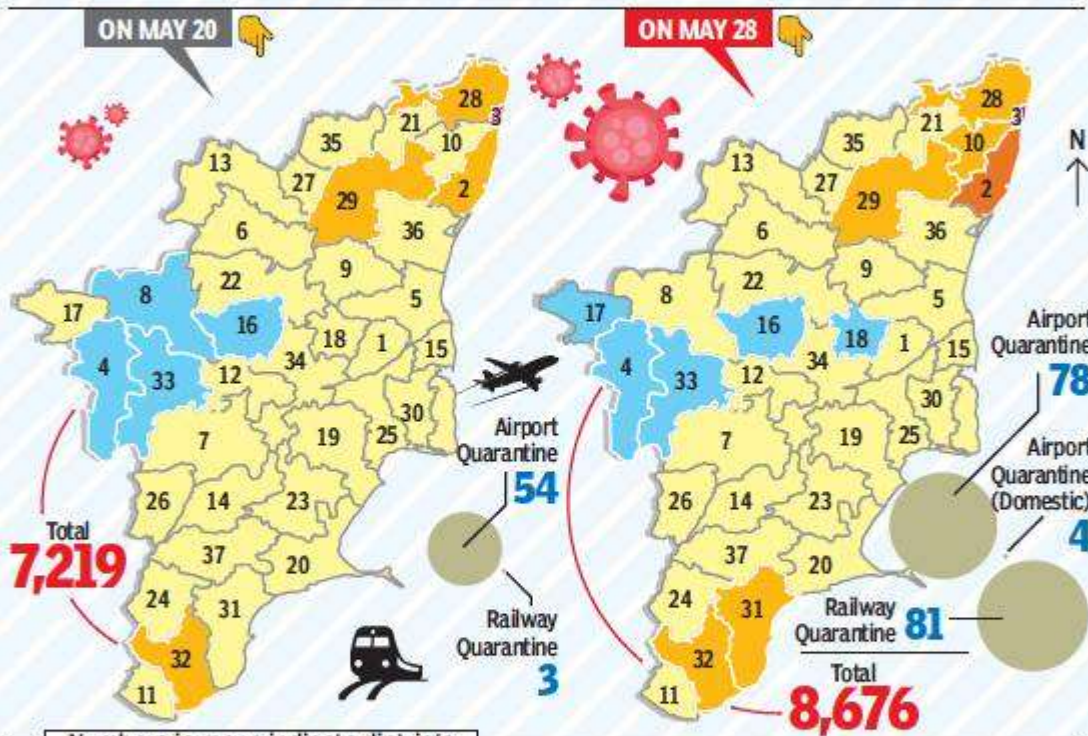
- ✓ No other district in Tamil Nadu has recorded 1,000 positive cases.
- ✓ Chengalpeta with 933 cases comes second next to Chennai, which has already crossed 12,500 cases

- ✓ On May 28, Anna Nagar recorded 71 cases, the third highest in the city after Royapuram with 107 cases and Tondiarpet with 102 cases.
- ✓ Moreover, the 13 deaths in Anna Nagar zone is the third highest number so far after 24 in Royapuram and 16 in TVK Nagar
- **Anna University – has secured the fifth rank in EducationWorld India Government Universities Rankings 2020-21 among 150 reputed government universities.**
 - ✓ IISc Bangalore was ranked as the top university in the country
 - ✓ Anna University has performed well in competence of faculty (141 out of 150) and research and innovations (282 out of 300) and range of diversity of programmes offered (89 out of 100).
 - ✓ But the university has got least points for curriculum and pedagogy (68 out of 100).
 - ✓ Totally, it has finished with 1127 points out of 1300.
 - ✓ EW India along with C fore conducted the survey among final year students and industry representatives.
 - ✓ The data also considered papers published by the university faculty in peer reviewed journals.
- **The School education department – to commence the online crash course for NEET aspirants from government and government-aided schools from June 15.**
 - ✓ The Government has tied up with Amphisoft Technologies E-box to conduct crash course for more than 8,000 students this year.
 - ✓ The course can be taken up by students from both English and Tamil-medium schools.
 - ✓ Students enrolling for this crash course will be trained to solve more than 6,500 questions covering all concepts in physics, chemistry, botany and zoology.
 - ✓ Everyday students would observe 4-hour video lectures and do 4-hour practice tests in online mode.
 - ✓ There will be 80 chapterwise practice tests, 80 formative tests, five unit tests, two half portion tests and 10 full portion tests before the NEET exam on July 26.
 - ✓ The course will be conducted from 8.30am to 5.30pm with breaks in between.
 - ✓ The progress of individual students during the crash course would also be monitored through intelligent dashboard.
 - ✓ Students can register till June 8 for the course.
- **The districts of Coimbatore, Tirupur, Namakkal and Nilgiris – all from western TN – have been remaining Covid-free run for several weeks**
 - ✓ Now, Perambalur in central TN has joined them, after completing 12 days without any cases of Covid-19

A FEW BETTER, FEW WORSE

Five districts across Tamil Nadu haven't seen fresh Covid cases for at least 10 days. Of them, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Namakkal and Nilgiris on the western belt have not had fresh cases for weeks

COVID-19 ACTIVE CASES
(Data as on May 28)



TAMIL NADU DISTRICTS

1 Ariyalur
2 Chengalpet
3 Chennai
4 Coimbatore
5 Cuddalore
6 Dharmapuri

7 Dindigul
8 Erode
9 Kallakuruchi
10 Kancheepuram
11 Kanyakumari
12 Karur
13 Krishnagiri
14 Madurai

15 Nagapattinam
16 Namakkal
17 Nilgiris
18 Perambalur
19 Pudukottai
20 Ramanathapuram
21 Ranipet
22 Salem

23 Sivaganga
24 Tenkasi
25 Thanjavur
26 Theni
27 Tirupattur
28 Tiruvallur
29 Tiruvannamalai
30 Tiruvarur

31 Tuticorin
32 Tirunelveli
33 Tirupur
34 Trichy
35 Vellore
36 Villupuram
37 Virudhunagar

- ✓ All those undergoing treatment have also been discharged leaving the district with zero active cases.
- ✓ Coimbatore and Tirupur have completed 25 and 26 days without any fresh cases
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Nilgiris person has completed 18 days without fresh cases.

STATES

- On May 28, Karnataka - sought to restrict the flights from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
- ✓ The state has cited a rapid surge in its Covid-19 cases due to the arrival of a large number of people from these states.

- ✓ The state government also extended indefinitely restrictions on the entry of people by road from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The state's request is based on two aspects –
 - ✓ first, the majority of Covid-19 cases reported in Karnataka in the past 10 days have travel histories to these states and
 - ✓ second, institutional quarantine facilities in the state are likely to be overburdened if there is a sudden surge in the number of passengers.
 - ✓ Initially, Karnataka stipulated a mandatory seven days' institutional quarantine for passengers coming from seven states — including Maharashtra, Gujarat, TN, Rajasthan and MP — which have a high prevalence of cases.
 - ✓ The government will decide on trains to these three states - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat - once services resume on June 1, as entry from these states has been barred since May 18.
 - ✓ Earlier, the centre has resumed domestic flight services from May 25.
- **The UP government - is set to sign an MoU with IIA, National Real Estate Development Council and CII on May 28**
 - ✓ The MoUs were intended to provide employment to 9.5 lakh workers in the state each year.
 - ✓ The MoU to be signed with IIA and NAREDCO will bring about 7.5 lakh jobs, while CII has also announced to provide an additional 1.5 lakh job offers to the state workers
 - ✓ The Government has already mapped the skill set details of the workers to provide them suitable jobs as per their skill mapping.
 - ✓ IIA has offered to provide about five lakh jobs each year.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh government is also planning to introduce an MSME Act which would resolve concerns of the industry in post-lockdown phase.
 - **The Southwest monsoon – could make its onset over Kerala by June 1, as the conditions have become favourable for the same.**
 - ✓ June 1 is the normal date of monsoon's arrival over Kerala, the first stop in its journey into the Indian mainland.

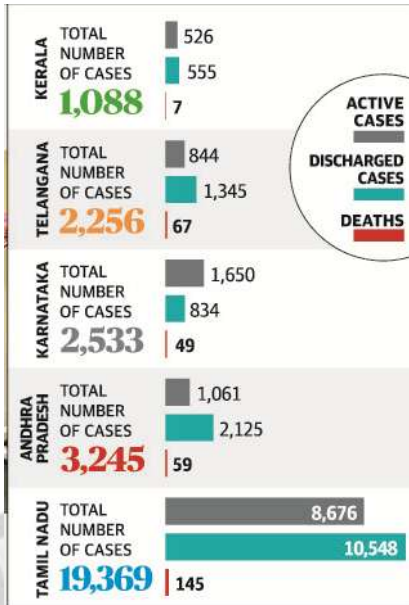
HEAT WAVE MOSTLY OVER, WET WEEK AHEAD	
<p>NORTH, CENTRAL INDIA Rain in many places from May 28 to 31. Main activity on May 29-30</p> <p>EAST, NORTHEAST Heavy rains to continue in many areas, including Assam, Bengal</p> <p>SOUTH, EAST COAST Heavy, very heavy rains in several areas, including Kerala</p>	<p>Monsoon's likely arrival in Kerala June 1/2</p> <p>Normal date June 1</p> <p>IMD's forecast June 5 (±4 days)</p> <p>FURTHER PROGRESS Depends on direction of storm over Arabian Sea</p> 

- ✓ In its onset forecast earlier this month, the India Meteorological Department had put monsoon likely arrival at June 5, with an error margin of four days.
- ✓ Currently, a low pressure system has been forming over Arabian Sea today and set to turn into a depression and reach Kerala by June 1 or 2.
- ✓ The arrival of the rain-bearing system signals the arrival of four month-long monsoon season in the country
- ✓ Cyclone Amphan had already advanced the southwest monsoon into Andaman & Nicobar Islands on May 17.

NATIONAL

- **On May 28, India - posted a fresh peak of 6,926 new cases in a single day, to take its total Covid-19 count to 1,61,067.**
- ✓ India now has the highest number of cases in Asia
- ✓ Further, India climbed to the ninth spot among countries with the highest Covid-19 caseloads, overtaking Turkey (1,60,979 cases), according to the Johns Hopkins Hospital website
- ✓ The death toll continued to rise, as 177 fatalities were reported during the day, the third highest number so far.
 - ✓ With this, the total deaths in the country rose to 4,708 deaths, passing the China's official count of 4,634 fatalities
- ✓ On the happier side, 70,900 people recovered from the infection, as per data from state governments.
- ✓ While Maharashtra continued to contribute the highest number of cases — 2,598 on the day with Mumbai alone recording 1,467 — several other states reported a big spike in cases.
- ✓ Among the states that reported their highest single-day count of cases were Delhi (1,024), Bengal (344), Telangana (158), Haryana (123) and Kerala (84).
- ✓ Besides, Tamil Nadu (827), Gujarat (367), Andhra Pradesh (128), J&K (115) and Assam (82) were among several other states where the surge in infections was continuing.
- ✓ Maharashtra's Covid-19 tally has now risen to 59,546 and thus inching close to the 60,000 mark.
 - ✓ Also, the state reported 85 deaths on the day, its third highest count for a day so far.
 - ✓ With this, the total deaths in Maharashtra were 1,982, very close to the 2,000 mark.
 - ✓ In the last three days, the state has seen 287 deaths
- ✓ Meanwhile in Uttar Pradesh, the total number of active cases jumped to 2,758 on May 28, as against 2,173 on May 21 — an increase of 21.2% in 7 days.
 - ✓ The total number of guest workers who have tested positive so far is 1,926, which is over 65% of the total active cases in the state

- ✓ Kerala reported 84 positive cases, its highest single-day spike yet, which is more than twice the cases it reported on a day earlier.
 - ✓ Of the new positive cases, 48 people returned from other States, while 31 were expatriates
 - ✓ Of the 1,088 cases reported in Kerala, 555 had recovered.
- ✓ Meanwhile, 115 new cases were reported in Karnataka on the day, taking the total number of cases to 2,533.



- ✓ With another death and 128 fresh COVID-19 positive cases, the tally in Andhra Pradesh went up to 3,245 and the toll rose to 59.
- ✓ Telangana's 117 new cases marked a record daily tally, after 107 reported a day earlier.
 - ✓ Four more COVID-19 patients succumbed to the virus on the day.
- ✓ As Lockdown 4.0 nears an end, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba held a meeting with Municipal Commissioners and District Magistrates of 13 regions which account for 70% of the total COVID-19 cases in the country.
 - ✓ The areas of focus are Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Thane, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata/Howrah, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur.
- ✓ In another development, the Ministry of Railways increased the advance reservation period for the special passenger trains to 120 days from the 30 days now.
 - ✓ They include the 30 trains operational since May 12, as well as the 200 trains that will commence operations on June 1.
 - ✓ Booking of parcel and luggage will be permitted.
- **On May 28, the Centre - removed restrictions on the export of paracetamol APIs making it export free**

- ✓ About 40% of the paracetamol Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) manufactured in the country is consumed in the domestic market, while the rest is meant for exports.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Government had imposed export restrictions on 26 pharma ingredients and medicines, including Paracetamol and Hydroxychloroquine on March 3, 2020
 - ✓ The move was aimed to keep enough stocks for local use after the coronavirus outbreak disrupted the industry's supply chain globally.
 - ✓ Later on April 6, the government lifted the ban on 24 APIs and formulations, except Paracetamol.
 - ✓ India will be supplying 1,000 tonnes of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) of paracetamol to Europe.
 - ✓ In 2018-19, India exported 5.8 billion USD worth paracetamol.
 - ✓ The export of paracetamol in FY 2019-20 (till January 2020) was 5.41 billion USD.
- **A novel coronavirus vaccine being developed in India - will likely begin to be tested in people in October 2020**
- ✓ This was announced by K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government
 - ✓ Another vaccine group had developed a promising protein that would be ready to be tested by next February
 - ✓ In the development of vaccines, India was looking at both indigenous as well as foreign collaborations
 - ✓ So far, India has identified at least six local vaccine candidates with 30 groups trying to develop a vaccine for Covid-19.
 - ✓ Apart from this, around 10 drugs are being re-purposed for use in treatment of the disease and are under different stages of trials

'VACCINE PRODN WILL COST \$2-3 BN'

<p>➤ 4 categories of vaccines — mRNA vaccines, attenuated vaccines, inactivated vaccines and adjuvant vaccines — being looked at. Some companies in India at late pre-clinical stage</p> <p>➤ A vaccine won't be available to everyone at once, besides taking time to</p>	<p>develop, government says</p> <p>➤ Drugs like favipiravir, itolizumab, phyto-pharmaceutical, microbacterium W, convalescent plasma, arbidol, ACQH, hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir and BCG vaccine under various stages of trials</p>
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“ We have to speed up regulatory processes, expand manufacturing capacities and build distribution systems. So, instead of \$200-300 million, it (a vaccine) will cost \$2-3 billion — K VIJAYRAGHAVAN | Principal scientific adviser

- ✓ Four categories of vaccines — mRNA vaccines, attenuated vaccines, inactivated vaccines and adjuvant vaccines — were being studied currently.
- ✓ Some companies in India are at late pre-clinical stage.

- ✓ Drugs like favipiravir, itolizumab, phytopharmaceutical (a plantbased drug), microbacterium W, convalescent plasma, arbidol, ACQH, HCQ, remdesivir and BCG vaccine were under various stages of trials in India.
 - ✓ The government said there were three lines of research and development.
 - ✓ Earlier in April, the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech announced that it was part of an international collaboration of virologists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and U.S. vaccine company FluGen to develop 'CoroFlu,' a nasally administered inoculant.
- **The Civil Aviation Ministry - has given permission to the Agriculture Department of the Rajasthan government to use remotely piloted aircraft systems (drones) for anti-locust operations in the state**



- ✓ The locust attack has affected about 90,000 hectares in 20 districts of the State.
- ✓ However, the conditional use of drones would be limited to aerial surveillance, aerial photography, public announcements and aerial spray of insecticide.
- ✓ The drones shall not be flown over eco-sensitive zones around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ✓ Moreover, the drone operations will be restricted between sunrise and sunset.
- ✓ They will also not be used in adverse weather conditions such as heavy winds, rain, dust storms and low visibility.
- ✓ The deployment of a drone was already initiated on a trial basis in Jaipur district's Samod village to reach out difficult and inaccessible terrains.
- ✓ Though the drones were not as effective as sprayers, they would be useful as an "additional support" for spraying the chemicals on the locust swarms at places like foothills and sand dunes.
- ✓ A drone can spray pesticide on a nearly 2.5-acre area during a flying time of 15 minutes.
- ✓ Over 800 sprayers-mounted tractors and 50 fire tenders have been pressed into service for locust control in the state.
- ✓ About 200 teams were involved in daily survey of the affected areas
- ✓ The farmers were being supplied with high-intensity insecticide free of cost.

- **The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology - has now been renamed as Central Institute of Petrochemicals, Engineering and Technology.**
- ✓ The new name was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- ✓ CIPET mainly contribute towards the development of plastics and focuses on education and research programme in the field of plastics.
- ✓ The institute also works on the design and development of innovative plastic-based solutions.
- ✓ The CIPET receives the support of various international institutions including United Nations Development Programme, OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Corporation), World Bank and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization).

INTERNATIONAL

- **The U.S. COVID-19 death toll - passed 1,00,000 on May 28, as the pandemic worsens in South America and started overtaking Europe and the U.S. in daily infections.**
- ✓ The number is more than the total of Americans lost in the Vietnam and Korean wars combined, and more than 33 times the death toll on 9/11.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, an estimated 2.1 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week alone, taking the total to about 41 million.
 - ✓ US has already allowed the gradual reopening of businesses around the country
- ✓ In another development, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a new legislation by 413-1 majority on May 27 calling for human rights sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for repression of Uighur Muslims
 - ✓ Now, the Bill will be sent to the White House for President Donald Trump to veto or sign into law.
 - ✓ The Bill also calls for sanctions against those responsible for oppression of Uighurs and other Muslim groups in China's Xinjiang province
 - ✓ In Xinjiang province, the United Nations estimates that more than a million Muslims have been detained in camps.
 - ✓ The Bill also calls on U.S. firms operating in Xinjiang region to ensure their products do not include parts made by using forced labour.
- ✓ Meanwhile, global cases have surged to more than 5.7 million, with nearly 3,57,000 deaths.
- ✓ The deaths in Brazil topped 25,000, and its caseload is second only to the US
- ✓ In the UK, PM Boris Johnson allowed groups of up to 6 people to meet outside in England from June 1 if they maintain social distancing.
- ✓ In the meantime, Russia is planning to go ahead with a high-priority referendum on constitutional amendments that could allow President Putin to remain in power through 2036.

- ✓ The referendum was earlier postponed in April.
- ✓ South Korea reported 79 new virus cases on May 28, the most in nearly eight weeks, initiating the return of tougher social distancing restrictions
- **On May 28, China's Parliament - passed new legislation for Hong Kong that will empower China to draft national security laws for the Special Administrative Region (SAR).**



- ✓ The draft legislation was passed with a majority of 2878-1 at the closing session of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing
- ✓ The law is called the "NPC Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to Safeguard National Security"
- ✓ The passing of new national security laws for Hong Kong could happen as early as June, when the NPC Standing Committee, which convenes every two months, holds its next sitting.
- ✓ As per the draft legislation, the scope of the laws could cover any activity that "seriously endangers national security".
- ✓ It was aimed at enabling "measures to counter, lawfully prevent, stop and punish foreign and overseas forces' use of Hong Kong to carry out separatist, subversive, infiltrative, or destructive activities".
- ✓ Since 1997, Hong Kong has been governed by the Basic Law, which gives the SAR "executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication".
- ✓ Apart from these, matters of defence and foreign affairs are handled by the central government.
- ✓ The new law could also block foreign judges from sitting on national security cases, following the example of Macau, which has been doing so since 2018
 - ✓ Hong Kong's court of final appeal has 15 foreign judges, under a system aimed to ensure judicial independence for a global financial centre.

- ✓ On May 28, U.S. said that Hong Kong could no longer enjoy the special economic privileges of U.S. because of the erosion of its autonomy, a move that could hurt the SAR's economy.
- ✓ Meanwhile, China for the first time has not set an annual GDP growth target citing the economic uncertainty
- ✓ Its economy has contracted by 6.8% in the first quarter, the first contraction since 1976.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) – has recently launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based chatbot named PAi**
- ✓ The new chatbot was designed to create awareness about the NPCI products like RuPay, FASTag, AePS, UPI on a real-time basis.
- ✓ Through the chatbot, customers can raise their queries via voice or text messages on the websites of RuPay, NPCI, and UPI Chalega.
- ✓ The chatbot is currently available in Hindi as well as in English languages.
- ✓ It will be available 24x7 to provide accurate information about NPCI products to the users.
- ✓ PAi will also be accessible to global RuPay cardholders.
- ✓ The launch of PAi marks another initiative by NPCI that aims at improving the digital financial inclusion among its consumers.
- ✓ PAi has been developed by a Bengaluru based start-up CoRover Private Limited.
 - ✓ Its AI/ML powered 'NLP chatbot technology' has been accessed by over 20 crore consumers.
- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was established in 2008
 - ✓ It operates the retail payments and settlement systems in India.
 - ✓ It has created several retail payment products which includes Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), RuPay card, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BHIM Aadhaar, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), Bharat BillPay and National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC Fastag).

ECONOMY

- **The Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India - grew by 13% to a record of \$49.97 billion in the 2019-20 financial year**
- ✓ This was announced by Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal on May 28
- ✓ The Union minister further said that the total FDI has doubled up from 2013-14 when it was only \$36 billion.
- ✓ Earlier, the nation had received an FDI of \$44.36 billion during the period of April-March 2018-19.

- ✓ The topmost sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include services (\$7.85 billion) and computer software and hardware (\$7.67 billion)
 - ✓ It was followed by the fields of telecommunications (\$4.44 billion), trading (\$4.57 billion), automobile (\$2.82 billion), construction (\$2 billion), and chemicals (\$1 billion)
- ✓ These details were generated from the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ✓ Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI in India during the last fiscal with \$14.67 billion investments.
 - ✓ It was followed by Mauritius (\$8.24 billion), the Netherlands (\$6.5 billion), the U.S. (\$4.22 billion), Caymen Islands (\$3.7 billion), Japan (\$3.22 billion), and France (\$1.89 billion).
- ✓ FDI serves the main purpose of providing major investments in the country to support its infrastructure sector and boost growth.

SPORTS

- **On May 28, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board – postponed the decision on the organizing of this year’s T20 World Cup till June 10.**
- ✓ The World Cup is scheduled to be held in Australia from October 18 to November 15
- ✓ During the meeting, the long-standing issue involving the tax dispute between the ICC and BCCI became the talking point
- ✓ According to ICC, an independent investigation led by its ethics officer needs to be commenced to look into the matter surrounding the World Cup tax solutions and the “confidentiality” of its functioning
- ✓ Meanwhile, Cricket Australia announced their itinerary as per the FTP, which included three T20 matches against India in October 2020
- ✓ Apart from this, both the teams will also play 3 ODIs in January 2021 and 4 Tests in December-January slot
- **The much-delayed 36th National Games - was postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic by the National Games organising committee (NGOC)**
- ✓ The postponement follows the decision of the Goa government that they were not in a position to host the multi-discipline event later this year.
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) recently asked the Goa government that it must host the National Games as scheduled from October 20 to November 4 this year, after several postponements.
- ✓ Allotted in 2008, the National Games were originally scheduled to be held in 2011.

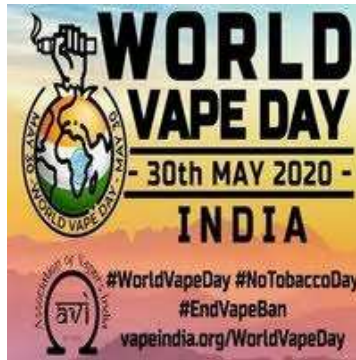
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day of UN Peacekeepers - May 29.



- ✓ Theme 2020 - Women in Peacekeeping: A key to Peace
 - ✓ The day is celebrated by the United Nations to honour more than 3,900 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under various missions in different places of the world.
 - ✓ There are more than 1 million persons, including women, who are serving 72 UN peacekeeping operations in several countries.
 - ✓ Among them, more than 95,000 police, military and civilian personnel were deployed by the United Nations in around 13 operations.
 - ✓ This year's theme marks the 20th anniversary of adoption of UN Security Council resolution No. 1325 on women, peace and security.
 - ✓ The day marks the establishment of the first UN Peace Keeping mission on May 29, 1948.
 - ✓ It was established to monitor the Armistice Agreement that was signed between Israel and Arab.
 - ✓ Armistice Agreement is an agreement that aims to stop fighting between the two countries.
 - ✓ Armistice Day is observed on November 11.
 - ✓ The day marks the signing of treaties between allies of World war I and German Empire.
- **The World Vape Day - is to be observed on May 30 all over the world, including in India.**
- ✓ The observance of the day aims to increase awareness on e-cigarettes and help smokers who are unable to quit smoking
 - ✓ The number of vapers in the world has increased from 7 million in 2011 to 41 million in 2018.
 - ✓ In general, vaping reduces smoking related sickness

- ✓ As per WHO, there are more than 80,000 young people becoming addicted to tobacco every year.

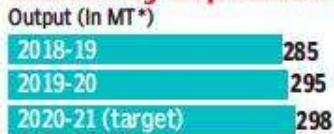


- ✓ The Electronic Cigarette is a battery-operated device, which converts liquid nicotine into mist, vapor.
- ✓ The smoke exhaled by the E-cigarette user is similar to that of the regular cigarette user, but it is harmless.
- ✓ The liquid that is filled in the cartridge of the e-cigarette is ethylene glycol.

REPORT

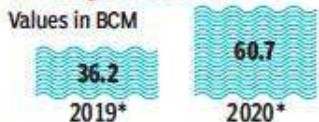
How Agriculture Stayed Resilient Despite Covid Shock

India's foodgrain production



*Million Tonnes (MT); *Figures are rounded off; *Crop Year: July-June cycle

Status of water storage in 123 major reservoirs



BCM: Billion Cubic Meter; *As on May 21

Sowing area coverage of pre-monsoon summer crops



L ha: lakh hectares; *As on May 22; Figures are rounded off; Corresponding period sown area is 34% higher in 2020 compared to 2019

Wheat procurement



Procurement in 2020-21 is still going on

Sale of Fertilizer



*As on April 1-22

What The States Did

UP | Issued unified licence to processors for direct purchase from farmers

➤ Allowed Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to undertake procurement of wheat and trading through e-NAM from farm gate

TAMIL NADU | Exempted market fee on all notified agricultural produce

KARNATAKA | Exempted cooperative institutions and FPOs for wholesale trade outside agri market yards

RAJASTHAN | Allowed direct marketing by traders, processors and FPOs

➤ Large-area multipurpose cooperative societies declared as deemed markets

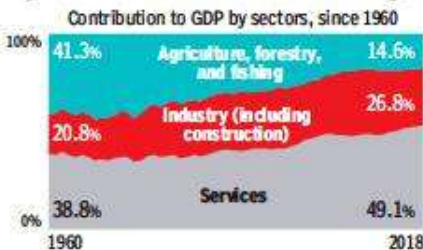
MADHYA PRADESH | Allowed setting up of private purchase centres outside market yards to purchase directly from farmers

GUJARAT, HIMACHAL PRADESH | Allowed direct marketing without requirement of any licence

UTTARAKHAND | Declared warehouse, cold storage and processing plants as sub-mandis

Two trends that Covid-19 may change this fiscal

Agri's Share In GDP Has Been Shrinking...



...And Also Its Share Of Employment

