

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 11, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu - reported nearly 2,000 new Covid-19 infections on June 10, its highest single-day count
- ✓ On the day, it crossed the grim milestone of 36,000 cases in the state, nearly 26,000 in Chennai alone
- ✓ Nineteen deaths were reported - 12 in government hospitals and seven in private hospitals, taking the toll to 326

**Keeping count** | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has affected the State so far

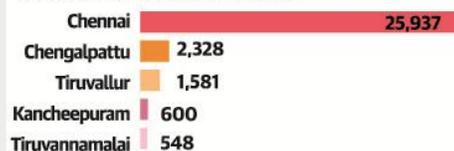
	Until June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	Total
Cases reported	25,872	1,384	1,438	1,458	1,515	1,562	1,685	1,927	36,841
Recovered and discharged	14,316	585	861	633	604	528	798	1,008	19,333
Deceased	208	12	12	19	18	17	21	19	326

Persons tested



\*Changes in 24 hours    As on June 9, 6 p.m.    As on June 10, 6 p.m.

DISTRICTS WITH MAXIMUM CASES



Active Cases + Discharged + Died will not equal Total Cases as 2 deaths were cross-notified to other States and 1 patient, who initially tested positive for COVID-19, later tested negative after death, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

- ✓ Chennai's tally of 25,937 cases account for nearly 70% of the state's tally
- ✓ On the day, the State touched 36,841 cases, with the reporting of 1,927 cases in the last 24 hours
- ✓ Of the 1,927 new cases, 30 persons had returned from abroad and other States.
- ✓ So far, 19,333 people have been cured and discharged from various hospitals across the state.
- ✓ The state has 17,179 people under treatment as 'active' cases.

PASSENGERS ENTERED TAMIL NADU			NEW CASES (Wednesday)		
	MODE OF TRAVEL	NO. OF PASSENGERS	NO. POSITIVE	TAMIL NADU	1,897
	Airport - Domestic flights (Since 26 May)	35,063	60	Passengers from	
	Airport - International Flights (Since 09May)	5,954	152	Kuwait 2, Saudi Arabia 1	3
	By train (Since 14May)	11,862	294	Delhi (Domestic Airport)	4
	By road - Own vehicle (Since 19May)	80,042	1,438	Maldives (Seaport)	1
	By road - Bus (Since 19May)	36,624		Maharashtra 8, Kerala 4, Karnataka 4, AP 3, Jammu & Kashmir 1, Rajasthan 1, UP 1	22
	By Sea Ports (Since 01 June)	1,546	3	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,927</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,71,091</b>	<b>1,947</b>		

Source: Dai

- ✓ Comparing the progress of the state ever since the detection of first case on March 7, it took two months to record the first 5,000 cases

**31,000 NEW CASES IN 34 DAYS**



**DRESSED TO SAVE:** These mannequins at a city showroom show that masks have become part of our everyday fashion wear

DATE	TN TOTAL	ACTIVE CASES	DEATHS	TIME (DAYS)	
7 May	5,409	3,822	37	1*	Since May 7, when the state had 5,409 positive cases, 5,000 new cases have been reported on an average every 5.2 days in Tamil Nadu
15 May	10,108	7,435	71	8	
23 May	15,512	7,915	103	8	
29 May	20,246	8,776	154	6	
3 June	25,872	11,345	208	5	
6 June	30,152	13,503	251	3	
10 June	36,841	17,179	326	4	

\*2 months since case 1

- ✓ Further, it took 16 more days to cross 15,000 and another 11 days to surpass 25,000-mark.
  - ✓ Since then, the state has added another 10,000 cases in just a week.
  - ✓ The state has reported 14,518 cases since June 1, and the doubling period during the time has dropped from 16 days to two weeks.
  - ✓ During the same time Chennai accounted for 11,095 cases and the doubling period further dropped to 13 days.
- ✓ On June 10, Chennai's neighbouring districts, Chengalpet reported 182 cases while Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram registered 108 and 33 cases, respectively.
  - ✓ Vellore reported 11 cases, while Ranipet had 25 and Tiruvannamalai reported 26 fresh cases.
  - ✓ In the south, Tuticorin recorded the highest increase of 23 cases, followed by Madurai which had ten fresh cases.

- ✓ In the western region which was Covid free for a long time, Coimbatore reported one person positive, while Dharmapuri and Namakkal has reported four each.
- ✓ Nilgiris and Tirupur, however, have no cases.
- ✓ A total of 17,675 samples were tested on the day — the highest number of samples tested on a single day so far.
  - ✓ With this, a total of 6,38,846 samples and a total of 6,09,856 individuals have been tested in the State.
- ✓ DMK MLA J Anbazhagan, who passed away on his 62nd birthday at a hospital in Chennai on June 10, became the first legislator in the country to succumb to the Covid-19 viral infection.
  - ✓ The Chepauk constituency member was admitted to a private hospital on June 2 after he complained of breathing difficulties.
  - ✓ A three-time MLA, Anbazhagan was DMK's Chennai west district secretary.
- ✓ On June 10, the Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami ordered appointment of 1,239 doctors and 2,834 healthcare workers on a contract basis for a three-month period.
  - ✓ This is in addition to the 530 doctors, 4,893 nurses, 2,715 health inspectors appointed earlier.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Greater Chennai Corporation has decided to extend the contract of more than 13,000 health workers appointed to conduct door-to-door survey until further orders.
  - ✓ These health workers, many from self-help groups and NGOs, were appointed on April 3 for a three-month contract
  - ✓ These workers visit 70-100 houses each every day and help the GCC in detecting 10% of the total cases in Chennai so far, according to corporation data.
  - ✓ As on June 7, they have helped detect 3,455 cases with the highest detection in Tondiarpet (1,300), Royapuram (1,119) and 203 in Tiruvotriyur.
  - ✓ They have reported more than 30,000 people with influenza like symptoms and collected more than 10,000 samples.
- ✓ In another development, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to distribute two free reusable cloth masks, per person, among the 13.48 crore ration cardholders in the State, as a preventive measure to tackle the spread of COVID-19.
- **Five dams in Tamil Nadu, including the Mettur dam - would be repaired and rehabilitated at a cost of around Rs 210 crore under the Centre's dam rehabilitation and improvement projects (DRIP).**
  - ✓ The dams were among the 36 listed in the second and third phase of the World Bank-funded project.
  - ✓ Earlier before the lockdown, the experts' panel inspected the structures, studied its stability and then forwarded their suggestions and recommendations.

- ✓ The experts' panel recommended on replacing the existing shutters with hydro mechanical based automated shutter systems in all the reservoirs.
- ✓ Apart from this, it has suggested taking up civil and earthen works to further strengthen the reservoirs
- ✓ The experts' panel comprised of hydrologists, dam design experts, geologists and seismic experts
- ✓ Based on the report, the state's public works department has prepared a detailed project report (DPR) for the necessary repair and rehabilitation works.
- ✓ As per the DPR, a budget of Rs 90 crore is estimated to rehabilitate the Sathanur dam in Tiruvannamalai district, while a cost of Rs 55 crore and Rs 11 crore was required to improve the stability of Solaiyar and Upper Nirar reservoirs respectively.
- ✓ Similarly, repair works would be taken up at Kelavarapalli in Krishnagiri district at Rs 27 crore and Mettur at Rs 26 crore.
- ✓ The proposals would also cover the construction, repair, and renovation of quarters, apart from the beautification of the parks in the dam sites to improve tourism potential
- ✓ The prepared proposals will be submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC), which in turn, will forward it to the World Bank for fund allocation
- ✓ As of now, the panel has postponed its inspection in 31 other dams due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ In the first phase of the project, a total of 69 dams in the state had been taken up for repair and renovation works at the cost of Rs 803 crore.
  - ✓ Out of these, works on 67 dams have been completed, while the work in Pechiparai dam in Kanyakumari district and Krishnagiri reservoir's shutter replacement are nearing completion.
  - ✓ In phase-I, renovation work such as strengthening and standardising the earthen bunds, toe drain, rehabilitating shutters, and sluices were completed.
- **On June 10, the Cauvery water management authority (CWMA) - directed Karnataka to release 9.19tmcft of water for June and 31.24tmcft for July as per the tribunal award later modified by the Supreme Court.**
- ✓ This was the sixth meeting of the CWMA, which was conducted via video conferencing, following the Supreme Court order with the representations of all riparian states.
- ✓ It also deferred the Karnataka government's proposal to construct a multi-crore reservoir at Mokedatu across river Cauvery, after strong protests from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments.
  - ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, requesting him to instruct the Jal Shakti ministry to not bring in the Mokedatu agenda for the authority meeting, since the matter was subjudice.

- ✓ However, in the meeting, Karnataka demanded that the project clearance will have to be granted, as a detailed project report was submitted to CWC last year itself.
  - ✓ The agenda has been deferred in the last three meetings due to protest from Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ In the meeting, Tamil Nadu proposed to open the Mettur reservoir on June 12, which was agreed upon by all the riparian states.
  - ✓ The authority also agreed that Karnataka will have to deliver 40tmcft water at Biligundulu (the inter-state border) for the month of June and July during normal flow in Cauvery river, as per the Supreme Court order
  - ✓ Due to good rainfall last year, the state government received 98tmcft over and above the stipulated 177.25tmcft by the Supreme Court in its modified order in 2018.
  - ✓ Rajendra Kumar Jain is the present Chairman of CWMA
  - ✓ The CWMA was constituted in 2018.
- **Tamil Nadu archaeological department – have commenced excavations in the Kodumanal village near Chennimalai in Erode district**
- ✓ Five teams of 10 people each from the department have been working in the village for a week now.
  - ✓ The teams have unearthed ancient artefacts from a site in the Kodumanal village, indicating a robust trade relationship between Tamil Nadu and Afghanistan.



- ✓ In the past, many archaeologists had carried out several excavation drives at Kodumanal, as the village was home to a civilised culture
- ✓ The trade links between Islamic countries and Tamil Nadu had been traced to Kodumanal village, similar to Keeladi and Adhichanallur villages.
- ✓ The teams had unearthed an ancient pot cemetery in this village, which had unearthed mud pots with engravings that indicate links to Afghanistan.
- ✓ According to historical sources, people from Afghanistan came to Tamil Nadu to polish ornamental stones and later took them back with them
- ✓ The team had also unearthed items such as iron material, bangles, mirrors, bones, mud pots, roof tiles and other materials used for weaving.

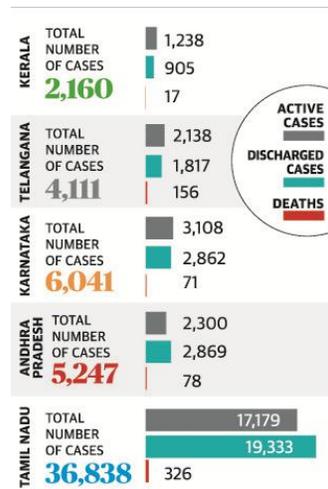
## STATES

- **On June 10, Karnataka government - banned 'with immediate effect' online classes from LKG to Class V across all boards.**
  - ✓ However, it permitted the schools to conduct classes using pre-recorded videos.
  - ✓ Already, internet-based teaching has been started in private schools across Karnataka
  - ✓ In this regard, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) set up an expert committee comprising educationists, health experts, child psychologists and other stakeholders to submit a report on engaging the children amidst the pandemic.
  - ✓ The committee is expected to submit its report in 10 days
  - ✓ It will also focus on modalities for online classes for Classes VI-XII, including the amount of screen time permitted per age group.
  - ✓ According to a study from NIMHANS, online classes for pre-primary children are not advisable and the WHO advises only one hour of screen time for them.
- **On June 10, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot – announced a complete ban on the movement of people and vehicles across the state borders.**
  - ✓ The restrictions, which come into effect from June 11, will be in place for the next seven days.
  - ✓ The order is not applicable for intra-state movement.
  - ✓ A no-objection certificate (NOC) has to be obtained from a competent authority by the persons who enter the state
  - ✓ Similarly, those moving out of the state must get a pass issued either from the district collector or an authorised government officer.
  - ✓ Rajasthan shares borders with Punjab, Haryana, NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
  - ✓ The move has been taken after a recent surge in number of cases, especially among guest workers and in rural areas

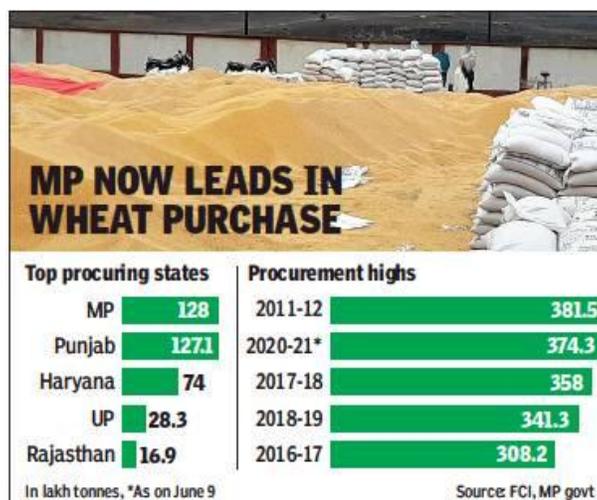
## NATIONAL

- **On June 10, India - crossed two grim Covid-19 milestones**
  - ✓ The country had reported 359 casualties — breaching the 300-mark in its daily death count for the first time — as the cumulative toll crossed the 8,000-mark to reach 8139.
  - ✓ Further, the highest daily caseload was reported on the day at 10911, pushing the cumulative number of positive infections to 2,87,025, as per the data obtained from States/
  - ✓ On the day, at least four states — Maharashtra (3254), Tamil Nadu (1927), Gujarat (510) and Andhra Pradesh (218) reported record number of highest single-day cases.

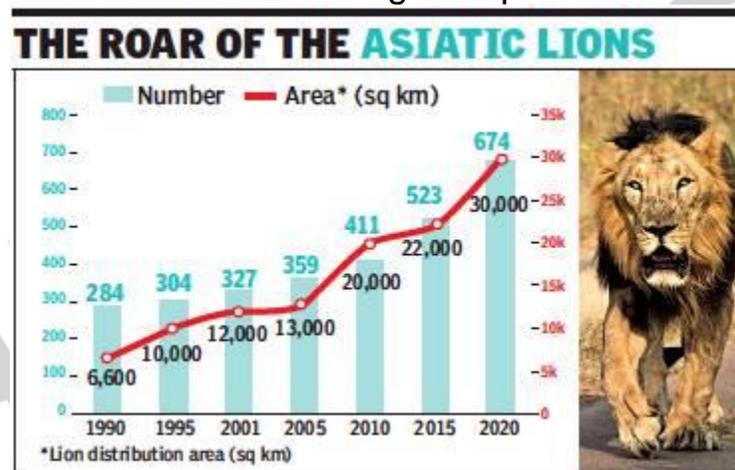
- ✓ Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad have accounted for nearly 1,25,000 cases and 4,193 deaths, close to 43% of the overall cases and more than half of the total number of fatalities in India
- ✓ On June 10, Delhi and Mumbai registered their highest single-day casualties at 79 and 97, respectively.
- ✓ Due to this, Maharashtra reported its highest single-day toll at 149, taking the state's cumulative toll to 3,438.
  - ✓ The previous highest toll in the state was 139 on June 5.
  - ✓ Mumbai alone witnessed 1,855 of Maharashtra's total 3,438 deaths.
  - ✓ Maharashtra saw an exponential surge in cases and deaths a week after the first phase of 'Mission Begin Again' took off.
  - ✓ Mumbai's single-day toll of 97 is way ahead of the previous highest figure of 64 deaths which was recorded on June 8.
  - ✓ Maharashtra's cumulative cases now stand at 94,041.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Delhi's death toll is nearing the 1,000 mark at 984 after the reporting of 79 deaths
  - ✓ Delhi recorded 1,501 new cases on the day, taking the total caseload beyond the 32,000-mark to 32,810.
  - ✓ This is the second time when over 1,500 cases have been reported in a day in Delhi.
  - ✓ Earlier, the highest single day count of 1,513 was recorded on June 3.
- ✓ In another day of high casualties, Uttar Pradesh recorded 20 deaths - its highest single-day tally.
- ✓ It had recorded its previous high of 18 deaths, just a day earlier.
- ✓ Elsewhere in the country, 34 deaths were reported from Gujarat, 19 from Tamil Nadu, 17 from Bengal, seven each from Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, four from Rajasthan, three each from J&K and Karnataka, two each from Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh and one each from Bihar, Himachal, Kerala and Puducherry.
- ✓ Meanwhile in South India, eight more COVID-19 patients died in Telangana, taking the toll to 156.



- ✓ Three deaths were reported in Karnataka, raising the toll to 69, while in Andhra Pradesh the toll rose to 78 after the reporting of a single death.
  - ✓ In Karnataka, only 120 cases were detected, following the cutting down of the number of tests by half in the last two days.
    - ✓ With this, the total number of positive cases in Karnataka touched 6,041.
    - ✓ On an average the State was testing 15,000 samples a day in the last one week.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported 218 fresh COVID-19 cases on the day, the highest single-day tally.
    - ✓ The State's 'tests per million' ratio at 9,339, was one of the highest testing rates among States
  - ✓ Kerala reported 65 new cases and 57 recoveries on the day, taking the active cases in hospitals to 1,238
    - ✓ It had reported one death, taking the toll to 17
  - ✓ The number of fresh cases in Telangana touched 4,111 as 191 more tested positive for coronavirus on the day.
  - ✓ For the first time since the Covid-19 outbreak in India, the number of recovered patients has exceeded the total active cases
    - ✓ According to the data of the health ministry, the country has recorded 1,33,632 active cases on June 10, whereas 1,35,205 people have been cured so far, taking the total recovery rate to 48.99%.
  - ✓ The number of samples tested by ICMR crossed 50 lakh on the day.
  - ✓ In the last 24 hours, ICMR tested 1,45,216 samples and has continued to ramp up testing capacity to detect more infected persons.
- **Madhya Pradesh – has become the top wheat procurer in the entire country, displacing the traditional food bowl, Punjab for the very first time.**
- ✓ The wheat purchase from MP farmers this year is nearly 67% higher than its own estimate



- ✓ Against the estimate of 80 lakh tonnes, MP has procured around 128 lakh tonnes, slightly higher than Punjab's purchase of 127.1 lakh tonnes.
  - ✓ It is expected to close this season with another 2 lakh tonnes.
  - ✓ India too is moving towards record wheat purchase as per the FCI data, which shows a procurement of 374.3 lakh tonnes.
  - ✓ Apart from MP, another 2-3 lakh tonnes are expected from Rajasthan, which has also surpassed its estimate
  - ✓ Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which have been below par, will purchase another 3 lakh tonnes.
  - ✓ By July 1, stock of grains with Food Corporation of India (FCI) are estimated to be around 920-930 lakh tonnes, more than twice the buffer norm of 412 lakh tonnes.
- **India - has recorded a 29% increase in the population of Asiatic lions in the past five years**
- ✓ The population of the Asiatic lions has gone up from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.



- ✓ The period also saw a 36% increase in the distribution area of the lions from 22,000 sq km in 2015 to 30,000 sq km in 2020.
- ✓ Currently, Asiatic lions are found in the protected areas of Gir forests and in Saurashtra, covering nine districts in Gujarat.
- ✓ The increase in Asiatic lions is due to the community participation, emphasis on technology, wildlife healthcare, proper habitat management and steps to minimise human-lion conflict
- ✓ As per Forest Department data, there are 161 male, 260 female, 45 sub adult male, 49 sub adult female, 22 unidentified and 137 cubs.
- ✓ The Gujarat forest department conducted an exercise titled 'Poonam Avlokan of Asiatic Lions' to compile the data on the population of Asiatic lions based on the block count method in the cluster of villages.
  - ✓ The forest department deployed 1,400 personnel for the exercise.
  - ✓ They used GPS location, number of individual identification marks, radio-collar numbers and statistical software to arrive at the final figures.

- ✓ The increase in the lion count this year is one of the highest growth rates reported so far.
  - ✓ Last year, India had reported similar encouraging figures on tiger population.
  - ✓ The country had recorded the highest ever increase, 33%, in its tiger population — from 2,226 in 2014 to 2,967 in 2018.
  - ✓ The Asiatic Lion is listed under Endangered in IUCN red list, mainly because of their small population size and area of occupancy.
  - ✓ In India, the Asiatic Lions are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - ✓ The Asiatic Lions are found in western and middle Asia.
- **Post-Covid, the Centre - may revise the National Disaster Risk Index, as it failed to foresee any pandemic outbreak like coronavirus that can have disastrous consequences than many calamities and wars.**
- ✓ The National Disaster Risk Index, prepared by the Union home ministry in 2018, assigns each state a score out of 10 on the vulnerability scale.
  - ✓ Maharashtra was at the top being most vulnerable, followed by West Bengal, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Assam, AP, Gujarat and Bihar.
  - ✓ Surprisingly, the worst-affected top 10 states from coronavirus pandemic remain almost the same.
  - ✓ Maharashtra remains at the top with 91,000 confirmed Covid-19 cases as on June 10, followed by Tamil Nadu (35,000), Delhi (31,000), Gujarat (21,000) and Rajasthan & UP with 11,000 cases each, among others.
  - ✓ Among states, only TN has come into the top ten, with Assam and Andhra dropping out from the National Disaster Risk Index (NDRI) list.
  - ✓ Top ranked states like UP, MP and Rajasthan were considered high-risk despite facing fewer natural hazards due to their high vulnerability and low capacity to deal with disasters and mitigation.
  - ✓ The disaster risk index was designed after a detailed study of different calamities hitting states and the resultant economic losses, loss of lives and capacity building.
  - ✓ Earthquakes, floods, drought, cyclone, landslide, heat wave, cold wave, coastal erosion, lightening, forest fire and industrial hazards were among the hazards assessed, but a pandemic outbreak like Covid-19 is not considered.
  - ✓ The disaster risk index was prepared after studying vulnerabilities across 640 districts in the country.
  - ✓ The index ranked Himalayan states like Uttarakhand, Himachal and some in the northeast fairly 'low risk' considering their efforts in capacity building in disaster risk reduction and mitigating economic losses.
  - ✓ Exposure of population, agriculture, livestock and environmental risk were assessed in estimating the risk profile of a state.

- **The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) - will classify railway stations under the red, orange and green categories based on the quantity of waste water generated and the disposal of untreated water into the municipal drain systems.**
- ✓ As per the initiative, railway stations generating waste water equal to or more than 100 Kilo Litres per Day (KLD) would be categorised under red category
- ✓ Those greater than 10 KLD but less than 100 KLD would come under the orange category, while railway stations with less than 10 KLD waste water generation would be labeled as green.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Railway Board urged the need to identify quantity of sewage/non-sewage waste water separately to plan installation of water recycling plants accordingly.

## **HIGH COURT VERDICT**

- **On June 10, a division bench of Justice Vineet Kothari and Justice R Suresh Kumar in Madras High Court - refused to pass any interim orders against the conduct of online classes by schools and colleges**
- ✓ Earlier, the Tamil Nadu government told the Madras high court that it has not permitted conduct of online classes by schools and colleges
- ✓ It has, however, issued a government order restraining educational institutions from demanding fee for online academic activities
- ✓ On its part, the Centre objected to any interim order against online classes saying the Union government must be given time to get instructions from competent authorities.
- ✓ The order of the Madras High Court was passed in a public interest writ petition filed in HC that opposed online classes without the state framing appropriate guidelines under the Information Technology Act.
- ✓ The PIL contended that Indian digital education had several fundamental flaws and serious lapses.
- ✓ Also, only 8% of homes with children in TN have computer with internet connection
- ✓ Further, during the online session, several advertisements with explicit content were shown, disturbing the students' mind and lives.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Pakistan – conducted an air combat exercise called “High Mark” in its skies**
- ✓ The exercise includes manoeuvres to defend against cross-border aerial strikes like the one conducted by IAF against the JeM facility at Balakot in February last year.

- ✓ It also involves extensive nighttime flying by F-16, JF-17 and Mirage-3 fighters of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) as well as landing jets on motorways near Lahore and other cities.
- ✓ It's a large-scale exercise conducted by the PAF every few years
- ✓ During the exercise, the country will close the commercial airspace over several regions
- ✓ The PAF also tests its entire air defence network geared towards the Indian borders during the exercise.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Isro – announces that the first unmanned flight as part of the preparations for the ambitious Gaganyaan project will now happen only in 2021**
  - ✓ The mission was originally scheduled for later this year.
  - ✓ Further, the overall timeline of Gaganyaan, which envisages sending humans to space by 2022, will also get affected.
  - ✓ This year, Isro is planning to send about five to six missions, including the Gi-SAT-1 whose launch was postponed earlier this year.
  - ✓ As per Isro's preparation plans for Gaganyaan, the manned flight is to be preceded by two unmanned flights that will test all the systems before sending humans onboard.
  - ✓ Now, after the postponement of the first unmanned flight, Isro will have to launch two unmanned missions next year to meet the target date set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - ✓ The first unmanned flight — whenever it is scheduled next — is likely to carry 'Vyommitra', the womanoid prototype deemed for the mission
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the four astronaut-elects are continuing to train in Russia after a brief suspension in training due to Covid-19
  - ✓ Further, even Chandrayaan-3, which was originally planned for end of this year or January 2021, will also be postponed.
  
- **Leading Indian vaccine manufacturer Panacea Biotec - has joined hands with US firm Refana Inc to make a potential vaccine against Covid-19**
  - ✓ The new vaccine will be developed with a whole inactivated virus and is expected to work even in case of mutation of the virus
  - ✓ Panacea is on talks with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the department of biotechnology to take the vaccine research forward
  - ✓ It is planning to launch the vaccine over the next 12-18 months, following regulatory filings and approvals
  - ✓ The vaccine is intended to work on immune therapy.
  - ✓ As per the partnership, Panacea Biotec will be responsible for product development and commercial manufacturing of an inactivated virus-based vaccine.

- ✓ The company will complete pre-clinical studies over the next four weeks, following the successful trial in animals
  - ✓ After that, it will start phase 1 human trials in October and complete by January
  - ✓ In general, whole inactivated viral vaccines have a higher probability of being safe and high efficiency, given their long lasting effect and better understanding of their mechanism of action
  - ✓ The vaccine, once developed, was likely to be more promising than many other candidates under research because of its whole-virus property which means the vaccine will be effective even if the strain changes in future as it would be developed based on all activities of the virus.
  - ✓ As of now, there is no specified drug or vaccine to treat Covid-19
  - ✓ Panacea and Refana have formed a joint venture company which will undertake clinical development and make regulatory submissions globally.
  - ✓ The two firms aim to manufacture over 500 million doses of the Covid-19 candidate vaccine, with over 40 million doses expected to be available for delivery early next year.
  - ✓ India has identified at least six local vaccine candidates with 30 groups trying to develop a vaccine.
  - ✓ Apart from Panacea, Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute of India, Zydus Cadila and India Immunologicals are also working on their own vaccine candidates.
  - ✓ Globally, there are over 130 vaccines under various stages of development, including 10 which are undergoing clinical trials.
  - ✓ Of the 10, four are inactivated vaccines.
- **In a startling revelation, researchers at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad - have found that about 50% of Covid-19 positive samples tested through the standard RT-qPCR test may not yield the correct result.**
- ✓ Real-time quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) test has been recommended by the WHO and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - ✓ It is used globally to detect the coronavirus.
  - ✓ The CCMB scientists found a high percentage of false negative cases while comparing the RT-qPCR with a new test method developed by them.
  - ✓ The new test - RT-nPCR - is not only cost-effective but can be conducted on a large number of people in a short time, thereby expanding testing capacity
  - ✓ Moreover, the RT-nPCR test was able to correctly identify 90% of samples detected as 'positive' by RTqPCR.
  - ✓ It also detected 13% samples as positive among samples that were detected 'negative' by the standard RT-qPCR test
  - ✓ The new method uses RT-nested PCR and is equally sensitive as RT-qPCR.
  - ✓ This method needs a simple PCR machine, whereas RT-qPCR requires an expensive qPCR machine, which is not found in many labs in the country.

- **Kathy Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space - has become the first woman to reach the deepest known spot in the ocean.**



- ✓ On June 7, 68-year old Kathy Sullivan, a Nasa astronaut and oceanographer visited Challenger Deep, which is located at a depth of 10,928 metres in the western Pacific Ocean
- ✓ This was revealed by EYOS Expeditions, a company coordinating the logistics of the mission.
- ✓ The Challenger Deep is the lowest of the many seabed recesses that crisscross the globe.
- ✓ Sullivan was first American woman to walk in space during a Space Shuttle Challenger mission in 1984.

## ECONOMY

- **On June 10, the Centre released ₹6,195 crore to 14 States, as part of the third equated monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.**
  - ✓ This was announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
  - ✓ The assistance is expected to provide the states additional resources during the Corona crisis
  - ✓ Kerala received the highest amount of almost ₹1,277 crore
  - ✓ It was followed by ₹952 crore for Himachal Pradesh and ₹638 crore for Punjab.
- **On June 10, Global ratings agency S&P - retained India's sovereign credit rating at BBB (minus), its lowest investment grade, with a stable outlook for the 13th year in a row**
  - ✓ According to S&P, the ongoing economic reforms, if executed well, should keep the country's growth rate ahead of other countries, although risks to the country's long term growth rate are rising.
  - ✓ Earlier this month, Moody's downgraded the country's rating to Baa3 — which was also the lowest investment grade — while maintaining negative outlook.
  - ✓ However, S&P added that the country's economy will contract in fiscal 2021, largely owing to the impact of the pandemic.

- ✓ Further, the country is forecasted to witness a 5% decline in real GDP growth, the worst economic performance in recent history
- ✓ Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings forecast a 5% contraction in GDP in the current fiscal
- ✓ Further, it forecasts a sharp growth rate of 9.5% next fiscal, provided the country avoids further deterioration in financial sector health
- ✓ The rating from S&P brings a huge relief for the economy, which is facing a deep contraction in growth, as the Covid-19 induced lockdown has hurt key sectors of the economy.
- ✓ Recently, the government has unveiled a series of measures including a Rs 20 lakh crore package to revive the economy and provide relief to the vulnerable sections.
- ✓ Further, RBI has also cut rates sharply and unveiled measures to boost liquidity and help shield the economy from the global recession.

## SPORTS

- **On June 10, weightlifter Sanjita Chanu - was cleared of the doping charges after more than two-and-a-half years.**



- ✓ This was communicated to the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) in a mail by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
- ✓ The IWF has decided to withdraw the charges” due to “non-conformities” in the handling of her sample
- ✓ The 26 year old Chanu has now demanded an apology and compensation for the “trauma” endured by her due to the doping charges.
- ✓ Sanjita’s urine sample had tested positive for testosterone in an out-of-competition test conducted by the USA Anti-Doping Agency on Nov. 18, 2017.
- ✓ The IWF provisionally suspended her on May 15, 2018, before lifting the suspension on January 22, 2019.

- ✓ Chanu had won gold medals at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in the women's 48 kg and 53 kg weight category respectively.

## COVID DEATH PROTOCOL IN TAMIL NADU – A REPORT

- Tamil Nadu - has constituted an 11-member expert committee under the chairmanship of DPH (OSD) Dr P Vadivelan to analyse and streamline the death reports with regard to Chennai Corporation
- ✓ Agencies such as WHO and ICMR have provided codes for Covid-19 deaths - U07.1 for all Covid deaths and U07.2 for probable Covid deaths.
- ✓ While the state has recorded 326 deaths under -- U07.1, there has been none under U07.2 so far.

### PROTOCOLS TO DECLARE DEATH

ICMR guidance for appropriate recording of Covid-19 related deaths in India prepared by National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research

TEST	SYMPTOMS	DIAGNOSIS	CODE
Positive	None	Confirmed Covid-19	U07.1
	Present	Confirmed Covid-19 documented as UCOD	U07.1
	Present with comorbid conditions like heart disease, asthma, COPD, Type 2 diabetes	Confirmed Covid-19 documented as UCOD	U07.1
Negative	Present	Clinically - Epidemiologically diagnosed Covid -19	U07.2
Awaited		Suspected Covid-19	
Inconclusive		Probable Covid-19	

UCOD: Underlying cause of death | COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease



**FINAL JOURNEY:** An ambulance takes the body of a Covid-19 positive to a cemetery in Chennai

#### DEATH TOLL

Tamil Nadu **326**  
Chennai **260**

Chennai deaths missing from TN registry **236**

U07.1 deaths in state: **326** | U07.2 deaths in state: **0**

#### WHO REPORTS TO WHOM

- Covid deaths are reported to the sanitary inspector and local health officer for safety and sanitation purpose and for adding into the case tally
- Civic authorities report deaths every day to the DPH

#### SARI CASES

