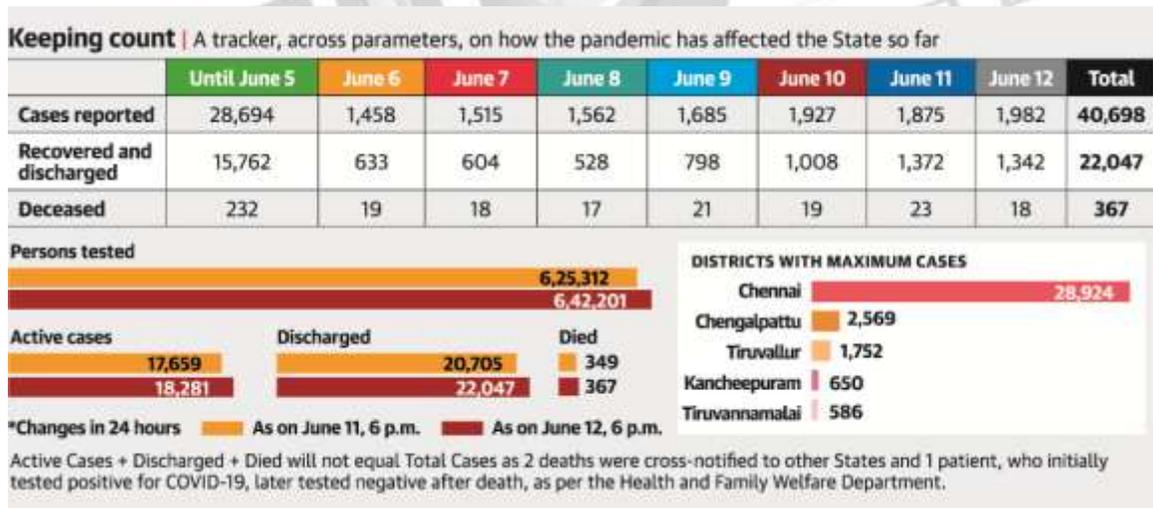




# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 13, 2020

## TAMIL NADU

- On June 12, Tamil Nadu - recorded an all-time high of 1,982 Covid-19 cases, taking its total caseload past the 40,000-mark.
- ✓ Out of the total cases, Chennai accounted for 1,479, taking its tally to 28,924
- ✓ The state reported 18 deaths on the day, when its count reached 40,698 cases.
- ✓ Among the fresh cases, 49 persons had returned from abroad and other States.



- ✓ The doubling period — time taken for infections to double — is now 14 days for Tamil Nadu and 13 days for Chennai.
- ✓ Of the 18,281 active cases in the state, Chennai is treating 13,906 patients in various hospitals
- ✓ To manage the emergencies, at least 25 exclusive Covid care ambulances have been brought from various districts to Chennai.
  - ✓ The fleet now has 80 exclusive Covid care ambulances for the city alone.
- ✓ Since June 1, the state has added 18,375 cases to the tally – which is almost 45% of the total cases reported in the state.
- ✓ The state has reported its first case on March 7.

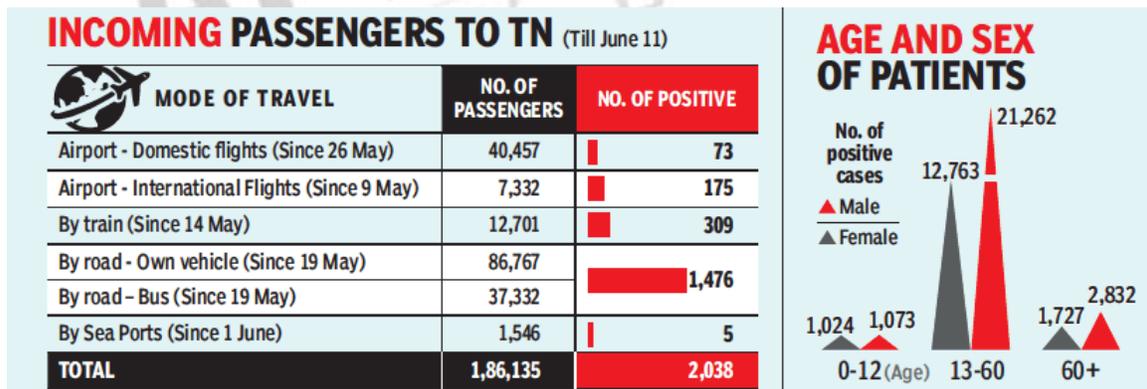
- ✓ After that, the first 10,000 cases were touched after a period of 69 days.

### STATE TALLY ZOOMS PAST 40,000

Date	Total	Cured	Active	Toll*	Time taken to add 5,000 case (days)	Time taken to add 10,000 cases (days)
7 May 2020	5,409	1,547	3,822	37	Two months since first case was reported on 07/03/2020	
15 May	10,108	2,599	7,435	71	8	69
23 May	15,512	7,491	7,915	103	8	
29 May	20,246	11,313	8,776	154	6	14
3 June	25,872	14,316	11,345	208	5	
6 June	30,152	16,395	13,503	251	3	8
10 June	36,841	19,333	17,179	326	4	
12 June	40,698	22,047	18,281	367	2	6

\*236 deaths recorded by city corpn yet to be reconciled with state data

- ✓ Two weeks later, a tally of 20,246 was reached on May 29 and in another eight days, it reached 30,152.
  - ✓ Since then, it has taken just six days to add another 10,000 to reach 40,698 cases.
- ✓ As there is no exit test, the number of people getting out of the hospitals and isolation has also steadily increased.
- ✓ For the third consecutive day, 1,000-plus persons were discharged from hospitals
- ✓ On June 12, 1,342 patients were discharged and the number of people recovered rose to 22,047



\*Does not include 236 deaths not counted in Chennai | Source: Daily bulletin from dept of health & family welfare

- ✓ With a total of 367 deaths, the State's mortality rate stands at 0.9% as on date.
- ✓ On the day, at least 30 districts in the State reported fresh cases.
  - ✓ After Chennai, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur continued to report most number of cases.
  - ✓ With 128 more cases, Chengalpattu's tally crossed the 2,500-mark.
  - ✓ Tiruvallur reported 92 cases, taking its tally to 1,752.
  - ✓ Further, there were 31 cases in Madurai, 26 in Kancheepuram, 22 in Tiruvannamalai, 18 in Thoothukudi, 16 in Villupuram, 15 in Tirunelveli and 12 in Sivaganga.

- ✓ Barring six districts – Erode, Nilgiris, Krishnagiri, Salem, Tirupur and Tirupattur – all other districts shared the remaining 246 cases.
- ✓ One more government laboratory was approved for COVID-19 testing — the Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Chennai — was approved for COVID-19 testing.
  - ✓ With this, there are a total of 78 testing facilities — 45 in the government and 33 in the private sector — in the State.
- ✓ On June 12, the state government brought back senior IAS officer **J Radhakrishnan** to replace Beela Rajesh as the health secretary, against the backdrop of dangerously rising Covid-19 positive cases in Chennai

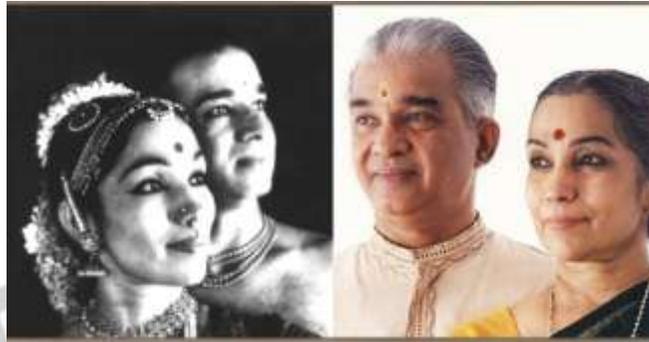


- ✓ Early last month, as Chennai turned a hotspot for COVID-19, the government appointed him as a Special Nodal Officer to co-ordinate COVID-19-related issues with the Commissioner of GCC and other teams formed to tackle the spread of the disease.
  - ✓ Radhakrishnan has been regularly assisting the state government in disaster management activities, ever since his effective handling of tsunami relief and rebuilding works in coastal Nagapattinam during 2004-05.
  - ✓ He has also served as the Chennai corporation commissioner in the late 90s and has done notable work during the 2015 floods and the Gaja cyclone
  - ✓ He also held a long tenure as the state's health secretary between 2012 and February 2019
  - ✓ He will continue to hold additional charge as Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Revenue Administration.
- ✓ Beela Rajesh was posted as Secretary, Commercial Taxes and Registration Department.
- **On June 12, Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - opened sluice gates of Mettur dam at the Stanley Reservoir for kuruvai cultivation in the Cauvery delta**



- ✓ Later, the chief minister announced that the rate of release of the water would further be increased from 3,000 cusecs to 10,000 cusecs within a day.
  - ✓ On an average, about 125 tmcft [thousand million cubic feet] of water is required for kuruvai cultivation
  - ✓ The water from the dam would be released for the next 90 days.
  - ✓ This year, the kuruvai cultivation would be taken up over an area of 3.25 lakh acres.
  - ✓ The CM said that ₹67.02 crore had been allotted for the removal of silt in the delta region and 3,480 kilometres of canal would be desilted.
  - ✓ He added that 80% of works had been completed already.
  - ✓ As for kudimaramathu works, the CM said that over the last four years, ₹1,433 crore was allotted and 6,278 waterbodies were covered.
  - ✓ The outflow from the mettur dam would be later increased up to 16,000 cusecs in July and up to 18,000 cusecs in August, subject to the requirements of farmers.
  - ✓ The release of water from the Mettur reservoir will help fill the Veeranam lake in Cuddalore district — one of the main water sources of Chennai.
  - ✓ Water from Mettur is expected to reach Veeranam lake in 11 days in the current water year, which extends from June 2020 to July 2021
  - ✓ The lake had a storage level of just 187 mcft (million cubic feet) against its capacity of 1,465 mcft, as on June 12.
  - ✓ In 2018 and 2019, the Veeranam lake reached its capacity on three occasions
  - ✓ Already, the Mettur reservoir has a storage level of 100 ft against the full capacity of 120 ft.
  - ✓ After the dam was commissioned 86 years ago, the release of water for irrigation on the customary date of June 12 happened only on 16 instances.
- **The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University (TNMGRMU) and the Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (TANUVAS) – have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to identify a vaccine candidate against COVID-19**

- ✓ Both the institutions are studying the anti-viral activity of select Siddha medicines such as kabasura kudineer and nochi kudineer by conducting animal studies and cell line studies.
  - ✓ They would share expertise and facilities to jointly work in various areas of healthcare research.
  - ✓ The two universities will jointly work towards promoting excellence in basic and advanced research in healthcare, particularly in epidemics and zoonotic diseases.
  - ✓ They will also be associated together in collaborative research projects funded by national and international agencies in other areas.
- **Acclaimed Bharatanatyam couple from Chennai, VP Dhananjayan and Shanta Dhananjayan - has been conferred with the Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan award.**



- ✓ The award is conferred by Mumbai-based Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha, one of the oldest cultural organisation in the country.
- ✓ The lifetime achievement award carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a citation, a bronze lamp, a memento and a shawl

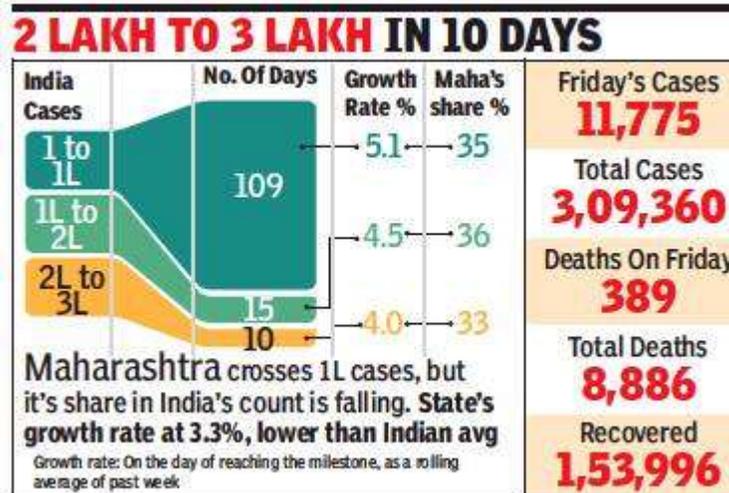
## STATES

- **The Karnataka government - has withdrawn a controversial notification that extended the maximum working hours from 8 to 10 per day and from 48 to 60 per week for establishments registered under the Factories Act, 1948.**
- ✓ Earlier, the notification announced by the state government on May 22 extended the working hours for three months, till August 21
  - ✓ The Union government, too, raised objections to the notification and directed the government to withdraw it.

## NATIONAL

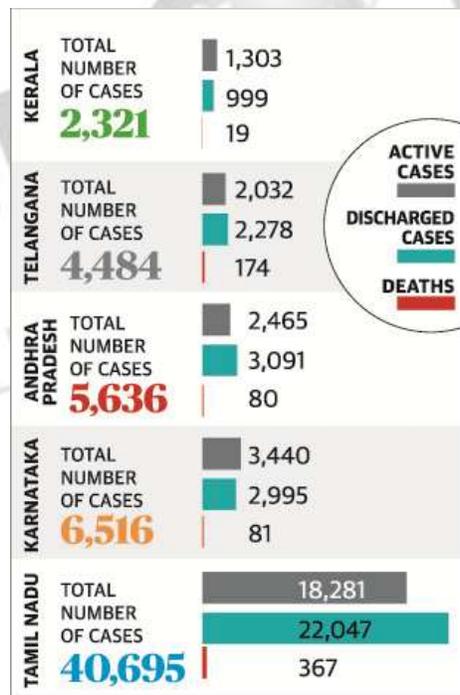
- **On June 12, the Covid-19 pandemic in the country - crossed another grim milestone of 3 lakh cases even as fresh infections soared to a new record of 11,775**

- ✓ It was the second straight day when the tally of new cases topped 11,000, ranking India in the third place after Brazil and the US in the list of countries currently with the highest daily caseloads.
- ✓ On June 11, 11,442 positive cases were recorded.
- ✓ With this, the total coronavirus cases went up to 3,09,360, as per data from state governments.
- ✓ It took just 10 days for the count to reach the count of 3 lakh after crossing the 2 lakh mark on June 2.
- ✓ The day reported 389 deaths, taking the casualties to 8,886.



- ✓ The Covid-19 count in the worst-hit state of Maharashtra also topped the 1 lakh-mark during the day
- ✓ The state has so far accounted for one-third of total cases and nearly 42% of deaths reported in the country.
- ✓ Maharashtra again accounted for the highest number of new cases at 3,493
  - ✓ It was the second highest daily count in the state after a peak of 3,607 reported a day earlier
- ✓ Meanwhile, Delhi reported 2,137 fresh cases, breaching the 2,000 mark for the first time.
  - ✓ It reported 129 fatalities, higher than 127 by Maharashtra, thus becoming the first state in over a month to report a higher daily death toll than Maharashtra.
  - ✓ The total tally of the Covid cases in Delhi stands at 36,824.
  - ✓ The number of deaths due to the viral infection had reached 1,214, the third highest after Maharashtra (3,717) and Gujarat (1,416).
  - ✓ More worryingly, about 741 (61%) deaths have been reported in the state in the last 12 days, from June 1 to June 12.
  - ✓ In March, April and May, Delhi reported 2, 57 and 414 Covid-19 fatalities respectively
- ✓ Meanwhile, Haryana crossed the 6,000-mark, after adding 366 Covid-19 cases, and became the 11th state in the country to do so.

- ✓ The state has taken 93 days to get to its first 3,000 cases, while the next 3,000 was reached in the last seven days.
- ✓ Gurgaon, with 2,922 cases, alone accounts for 46% of these cases.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh's Covid-19 cases also recorded its highest single-day spike with 538 cases, pushing the overall tally beyond 12,700-mark.
- ✓ In the last fortnight, Chennai and Delhi have added coronavirus cases twice as fast as Mumbai and three times as fast as Ahmedabad
  - ✓ Together, they account for 44% of India's nearly 3 lakh cases and 43% of all deaths reported till June 11.
  - ✓ Mumbai, in the preceding two weeks, added 890 deaths and 18,600 new positive cases; Delhi added 17,301 cases and 687 more deaths; Ahmedabad 4,038 new cases and 319 deaths and Chennai 14,036 cases and 166 deaths.
- ✓ Meanwhile, in the south, Karnataka reported seven deaths, the biggest spike in Covid-19 deaths recorded on a single day
  - ✓ With this, the state's toll reached 79, while the state added 271 cases on the day, taking the total number of positive cases to 6,516.



- ✓ Kerala reported one death and 78 new cases on the day, taking the toll to 19 and the active cases to 1,303
- ✓ There were 207 fresh cases of viral infection in Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✓ The virus has so far claimed 80 lives but no fresh death was reported.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the doubling time of cases has improved to 17.4 days now from 15.4 days on May 30, according to the health ministry estimates.
  - ✓ This indicates that the incidence of the disease is not rising fast and remains on an even curve with only three-four states contributing a bulk of the cases.

- ✓ Further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold interactions with chief ministers through video conferencing on June 16-17.
  - ✓ Earlier, the PM has held five interactions with CMs since promulgation of the countrywide lockdown on March 25
  - ✓ On June 16, Modi will exchange views with chief ministers of 21 states/UTs — Punjab, Assam, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Goa, Manipur, Nagaland, Ladakh, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, Sikkim and Lakshadweep

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 12, Beijing - shut six major wholesale food markets and delayed plans for some students to return to school after China's capital reported new coronavirus infections for a second day running.**
  - ✓ The new cases involved two men working at a meat research centre who had recently visited the markets
  - ✓ The coronavirus is believed by many to have emerged at a seafood market in Wuhan in December.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the coronavirus crisis in Pakistan deepened with the country's Covid tally reaching 129,182, while the toll stands at 2,495.
  - ✓ Further, a research study has confirmed that airborne transmission of the coronavirus is highly virulent, and could be the dominant route for Covid-19 spread
  - ✓ It was conducted by scientists, including Mario J Molina — 1995 chemistry Nobel winner
  - ✓ The researchers, including those from the University of California San Diego, expressed concern that the WHO only emphasised the prevention of contact transmission.

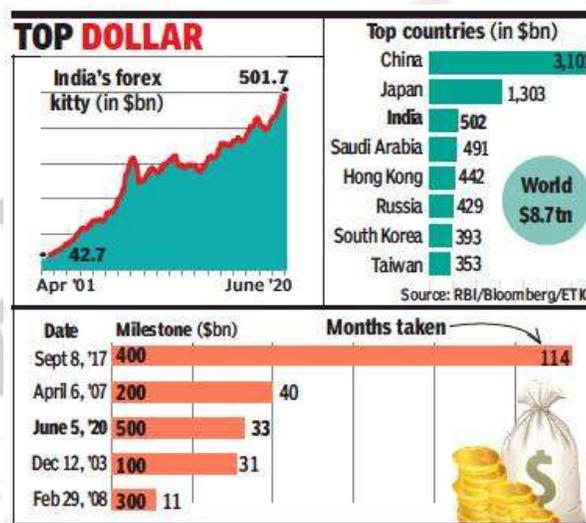
## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On June 13, the Lower House of Nepal's Parliament - will vote on the Second Constitution Amendment, which gives legal status to the updated map of the country.**
  - ✓ The map claims the areas of Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Pithoragarh district in India's Uttarakhand as the territories of Nepal.
  - ✓ The amendment bill for revising the map in Nepal's national emblem is important to validate the new map
  - ✓ The outcome of the voting seems to be a foregone conclusion as all major parties have said they will vote in favour of the amendment.

- ✓ On June 11, recalling India's strong civilization and cultural ties with Nepal, India had reminded Kathmandu that it had ensured uninterrupted supplies of essentials to Nepal even in the middle of the lockdown in both countries.
- ✓ Nepal though justifies its action saying it has been calling for talks on the border issue since November last year.
- ✓ According to Nepal's PM KP Sharma Oli, the immediate provocation for Nepal's decision to issue a new map was India's inauguration of a road to the strategic Lipulekh Pass which is among the areas Nepal has shown as its own in the map.
- ✓ Nepal also claims Kalapani area and Limpiyadhura which it describes as where the Kali river, that acts as Nepal's western border, originates.

## ECONOMY

- **India's forex reserves - crossed the half-a-trillion-dollar mark for the first time, after raising by \$8.2 billion during the week ended June 5**



- ✓ The country's forex reserves rose to \$501.7 billion from \$493.5 billion a week earlier.
- ✓ The increase is attributed to an \$8.4-billion jump in foreign currency assets to \$463 billion.
- ✓ Of the other components of the reserves, the value of gold declined by \$329 million to \$3.2 billion, and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund rose by \$832 million to \$4.2 billion.
- ✓ The increase in reserves can be pointed towards the dollar inflows arising out of deleveraging by Indian corporates.
- ✓ Reliance Industries has been selling major chunks of its holding in Jio Platforms to several global investors and has received a commitment of ₹97,885 crore.
- ✓ Bharati Telecom raised \$1 billion selling stake through a block deal, while GSK sold \$3.3 billion in Unilever.

- ✓ Further, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been buying dollars since the governor Shaktikanta Das took charge in 2018
- ✓ However, India is the only country among the top five countries — in terms of forex reserves — to have a current account deficit.
- **On June 12, 2020, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman - chaired the 40th GST Council Meet held via video conferencing**
- ✓ This was the first meeting of the GST Council during the lockdown in which the impact of Covid-19 on revenue collection was also discussed.



- ✓ The council will again meet in July to work out a strategy to compensate states for revenue loss, including exploring the possibility of market borrowings.
- ✓ During April and May, GST collections have only reached 45% of the average
- ✓ The council decided to provide relief to small businesses, who could not file their returns for the pre-Covid period.
  - ✓ Small taxpayers with an aggregate turnover of ₹5 crore or less will not be charged any interest for late filing of returns for the tax period of February, March and April 2020 until July 6.
  - ✓ Businesses who have not filed their GSTR-3B returns from July 2017 to January 2020 can avail of a reduced late fee of ₹500 if they have tax liabilities
  - ✓ As a one-time measure, those with nil tax liability up to January 2020, can now file returns between July and September, without paying late fee.
  - ✓ For late filing of returns for May, June and July, interest charges will be waived for small tax payers if filing is completed by September.
  - ✓ For returns filed after that but before the end of September, the rate of interest has been reduced from 18% to 9%.
- ✓ A one-time extension is also being granted to those seeking to revoke cancelled GST registrations.
- ✓ The GST Council secretariat postponed the discussion on the inverted duty structure — where the tax on the finished product is higher than those on inputs

- for fertilisers, footwear, fabrics, renewable energy devices, tractors and pharma products, on the insistence of states
- ✓ Last week, the Centre paid pending compensation dues for the December 2019 to February 2020 period
- ✓ Under GST law, the Centre must pay the States full compensation for any shortfall in revenue collections until 2022.
  
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has set up a five- member internal working group to review private bank's ownership guidelines and corporate structures.**
- ✓ It had recently proposed to cap the tenure for promoter-CEOs in banks at 10 years
- ✓ The panel will be headed by RBI director P K Mohanty
- ✓ It will review licensing guidelines and recommend new rules, considering the issue of 'excessive concentration of ownership and control'
- ✓ It will also study the current regulations and suggest the manner of migration of all banks to a uniform regulation.
- ✓ The working group has been asked to submit its report by September 2020

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Renowned constitutional expert, K K Venugopal - has agreed to continue as attorney general for India for one more year**



- ✓ The 89-year old senior Advocate declined the government's offer of a full three-year term, citing his old age.
- ✓ Venugopal was appointed as the 15<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of India on June 30, 2017
- ✓ He replaced Senior Counsel Mukul Rohatgi, who stepped down as the Attorney General of India in 2017, completing a year of his 3 year tenure.
- ✓ The tenure of Venugopal will come to an end on June 30.
- ✓ According to Article 76 of the constitution, the Attorney General is the highest law officer of India.

- ✓ As a Chief Legal advisor to the government of India, he advises the union government on all legal matters.
- ✓ Earlier, he was appointed as the Additional Solicitor General under Morarji Desai's Government
- ✓ Venugopal has appeared in a variety of high profile cases, ranging from 2G Spectrum case to appearing on behalf of BJP leader LK Advani in the Babri Masjid Demolition Case.
- ✓ He was appointed by the Government of Bhutan to serve as the Constitutional adviser for drafting of the Constitution of Bhutan.
- ✓ Venugopal was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015
- ✓ MC Setalvad was the First Attorney General of India, who was appointed on January 28, 1950.



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