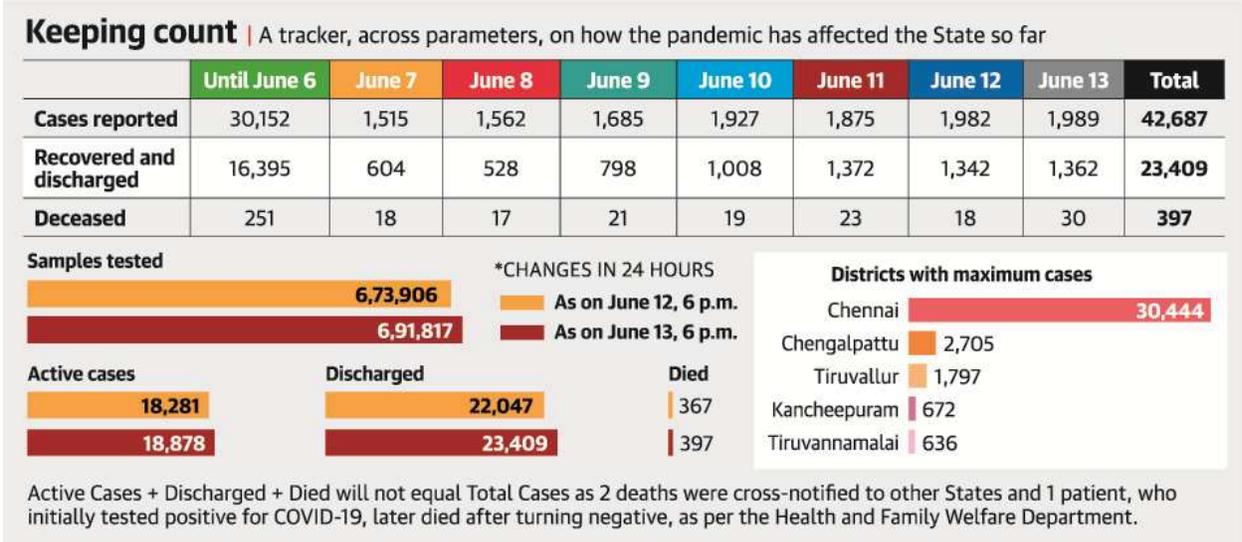




# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 14, 2020

## TAMIL NADU

- **On June 13, Tamil Nadu - reported another 1,989 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 30 deaths.**
- ✓ With this, the State's death toll rose to 397, while the overall tally went up to 42,687.
- ✓ Chennai accounted for 1,487 of the new cases, taking its overall tally above the 30,000-mark.
- ✓ As on date, the capital city accounts for 30,444 Covid-19 cases and 316 deaths.
- ✓ Out of the 30 deaths, some of them occurred between May 23 and June 7, and were not included in the official records.
- ✓ While 18 deaths had occurred in government hospitals, including nine at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, the remaining 12 had occurred in private hospitals.



- ✓ On the day, the state discharged 1,362 patients from hospitals, taking the total number of recoveries to 23,409
- ✓ The state has 18,878 persons admitted in various hospitals as 'active cases'
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, Chengalpattu recorded 136 cases, Tiruvallur reported 78.
  - ✓ Further, there were 49 new cases in Tiruvannamalai, 28 in Thoothukudi, 22 in Kancheepuram, 15 each in Madurai and Tirunelveli, 14 in Tiruvarur and 13 in Vellore.
  - ✓ On the day, barring eight districts, all other districts reported spike in cases.
- ✓ Apart from this, 33 persons who had returned from abroad and other States also tested positive for the viral infection.
- ✓ A total of 17,911 samples were tested on the day, taking the total figure to 6,91,817.
- ✓ Another private testing facility has been approved for Covid-19 testing — Anderson Diagnostics and Labs, Chennai.
- ✓ With this, there are a total of 79 testing facilities approved for Covid-19 testing in the state.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar said that Government hospitals in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu will get 2,000 additional nurses, who have been recruited on a temporary basis for six months
- ✓ Already, 4,893 nurses have been recruited across the State,
- ✓ In another related development, the Greater Chennai Police has started installing CCTV cameras in containment areas to check if people under quarantine are leaving their houses.
  - ✓ Under the Greater Chennai Corporation, there are 360 containment areas as on June 12.
- ✓ Further, the Greater Chennai Corporation has decided to deploy 5,000 "quarantine monitors" to help and monitor quarantined residents who have tested positive for the viral infection.
  - ✓ All the 15 zones of the Corporation will have the help of "quarantine monitors", who will be paid for their services.
  - ✓ Each worker will be in charge of five to ten streets in the city
  - ✓ They will support the residents in all aspects of Covid-19 recovery and prevention.
  - ✓ With these 'quarantine monitors', all the 40,000 streets in the city would be monitored, generating report on violations by persons on quarantine.
  - ✓ The report will be segregated and sent to COVID-19 response team of 200 wards of the Corporation.
- **In a major policy decision, the Tamil Nadu government - has instructed revenue officials to immediately stop issuing 'income and asset' certificates for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in general category.**
- ✓ It has also withdrawn circulars issued last year permitting the officials to issue certificates for reservation under EWS.

- ✓ According to the government circular dated June 4, all district collectors have been asked to instruct tahsildars not to issue such certificates for EWS applicants.
  - ✓ Incidentally, the state cabinet led by Edappadi K Palaniswami will meet on June 15 to give its approval for promulgation of an ordinance providing for 10% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical courses.
  - ✓ Earlier, the Centre has introduced the quota for the poor in the general category, who were not covered by any reservation, under 103rd constitutional amendment
  - ✓ However, the validity of the quota has been challenged in the Supreme court.
  - ✓ Further, in its affidavit before the Supreme Court in January, the Centre said the states were free to decide on implementing the quota system.
  - ✓ The state government has also decided to provide reservation to poor persons in the open category, which is less than 4% of the population in the state
  - ✓ It has issued a separate guidelines in May last year in line with the constitutional amendment
  - ✓ As per the norms, the state government said persons not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for the SCs, the STs, and the socially and educationally backward classes and whose family had a gross annual income below Rs 8 lakh are to be identified as EWSs for the benefit of reservation.
- **Chennai airport – has installed a new ‘thermal imaging sensor’ to screen the temperature of passengers walking into the departure terminal.**

<b>ABOUT THE PROCESS</b>		
<p><b>HOW THERMAL IMAGING WORKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is a camera that has face detection and heat sensor attached to it</li> <li>➤ As passengers walk in through the entry gate, it captures the face and reads temperature and sends the feed to a monitor</li> <li>➤ If temperature is higher than the permitted level, the image of the person will be displayed in red</li> </ul>		<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every passenger need not be stopped to take temperature readings</li> <li>➤ It is faster and can read temperature of multiple passengers</li> <li>➤ Will not slow down passenger flow into the terminal</li> </ul>
<p><b>BETTER, FASTER:</b> A thermal scanner (the camera mounted on the tripod) and the monitor behind it have been installed at the domestic terminal at the city airport</p>		

- ✓ The camera-based sensor with face-detection feature is being tried out on a trial basis at gate 3 of domestic departure terminal.
- ✓ It has been installed inside the terminal facing the entry gate
- ✓ The scanner detects faces of passengers and also uses a sensor to read the temperature.
- ✓ If people have high temperatures, they will be shown in red on the monitor.
- ✓ The thermal imaging scanner is also one of the many contactless new technologies or procedures that is being tried out at the airport.

- ✓ The UV ray baggage disinfecting mechanism was another such innovation that is also being tried out
  - ✓ The government has recently permitted the airport to increase the number of flights from the cap of 25 arrivals per day.
  - ✓ The airport is currently handling around 30 departures every day.
  - ✓ Earlier, it was using thermal imaging scanners to check passengers' arriving from abroad, where SARS and H1N1 spread was rampant
- **Following in the footsteps of Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), the Avadi Corporation - has also started source segregation of waste from June 12.**
- ✓ The Avadi Corporation covers around 1.5 lakh homes in the suburban area, located west of Chennai.
  - ✓ For the purpose, the local body had procured 85 vehicles
  - ✓ With this, it has 100 vehicles now, using which it plans to gradually collect segregated waste from all homes.
  - ✓ Residents have been urged to segregate their waste into wet waste, dry waste as well as biomedical waste like sanitary napkins, baby napkins and gloves and masks.
  - ✓ This is part of the corporation's initiative to make it a garbage free local body.
  - ✓ Conservancy workers will arrive in light compact vehicles (LCVs) and collect the garbage from homes.
  - ✓ In a period of one month, all the houses would be covered by the initiative.
  - ✓ As on date, 100 tonnes of waste is generated in the corporation everyday
  - ✓ Of this, five tonnes will be segregated and converted into organic manure in 17 material recovery centres (MRC) which are already working.
  - ✓ Other dry waste would also be segregated and sold, similar to what Greater Chennai Corporation does

## NATIONAL

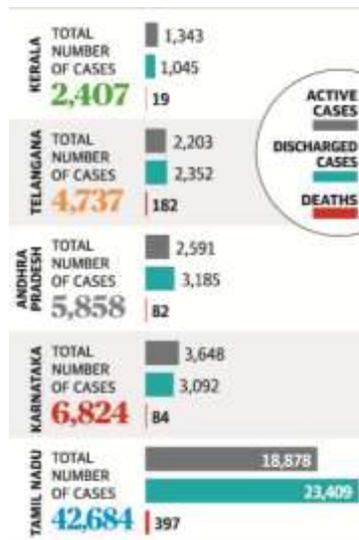
- **On June 13, India's Covid-19 death toll crossed 9,000-mark and reached 9,195 after reporting 310 fatalities**
- ✓ It is the ninth highest number of deaths from the virus in the world
  - ✓ The country reported as many as 12,368 fresh cases, the first time that the single-day count has crossed 12,000.
  - ✓ It was the sixth single-day peak in the past eight days.
  - ✓ India's Covid-19 caseload has surpassed 3.21 lakh, just a day after crossing the 3 lakh milestone.
  - ✓ Since India has the world's fourth largest Covid-19 caseload, the mortality rate is quite low compared to most of the worst-hit nations.
  - ✓ However, deaths from the viral disease have seen a surge in the past 10 days, when 312 people on average have died due to the infection every day.

- ✓ That's more than double the average of 137 daily deaths seen during the month of May.



- ✓ The last 10 days have accounted for more than a third of all deaths from the virus since the first death occurring on March 12.
- ✓ The surge is also reflected in India's Case Fatality Rate, the percentage of patients dying from the disease
- ✓ The CFR, which had been gradually but consistently dropping since May 10, has shown a slight increase since June 12, rising from 2.8% to 2.9%
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra reported a massive 3,427 new infections, with Mumbai alone reporting 1,380 cases.
  - ✓ With another 113 deaths, a slight drop from the toll in the past three days, the state has recorded 3,830 deaths in all.
  - ✓ Its CFR remains significantly higher than the national average at 3.66%.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the state government has shifted its strategy from checking 'Covid numbers' to a strategy of curbing 'Covid mortality'.
  - ✓ Maharashtra has so far accounted for more than 40% of India's total deaths.
  - ✓ The state government has reduced the rates of the Covid-19 tests conducted by private laboratories from ₹4,500 to ₹2,200
  - ✓ However, it would cost ₹2,800 for collection of swab from home.
  - ✓ Earlier, the charges were ₹4,500 and ₹5,200 respectively
- ✓ Delhi remained a major source of worry, as the city reported another record 2,134 new infections, the second straight day when the count has crossed 2,000.
- ✓ With this, the total tally of Covid-19 in Delhi has reached 38,958, third highest in the country after Maharashtra (1,04,568) and Tamil Nadu (42,687).
  - ✓ In terms of active cases, Delhi is second only to Maharashtra.
- ✓ Besides Delhi, Telangana (253 new cases), Andhra Pradesh (222), Odisha (225), Ladakh (198) and Sikkim (33) reported their single-day highest count of cases.
- ✓ Infections also continued to soar in Tamil Nadu (1,989 cases), Gujarat (517), Uttar Pradesh (503), Bengal (454), Haryana (415) and Rajasthan (333), among others.
- ✓ Ladakh recorded a massive surge in cases on the day, taking the total tally in the Union territory to 437
- ✓ The UT has reimposed a strict lockdown till June 30 in Kargil which has the most active cases.

- ✓ Odisha reported its biggest single-day surge in Covid-19 cases so far with 225 infections, taking the total number of infections to 3,723
- ✓ Downsouth, Andhra Pradesh witnessed a new high in daily Covid-19 cases with the reporting of 222 more people



- ✓ It also recorded two more deaths taking the Covid-19 toll to 82.
- ✓ The fresh cases pushed the state's cumulative Covid-19 caseload to 5,858
- ✓ Karnataka reported 308 new cases and three deaths.
- ✓ Telangana recorded 253 positive cases, its highest daily number yet.
  - ✓ With this, the total cases stood at 4,737.
  - ✓ Eight more Covid-19 patients died in Telangana, taking the toll to 182.
- ✓ Kerala reported 85 new cases, taking its total caseload to 2,407
- ✓ It had discharged 46 persons on the day, taking its number of active cases to 1,342.

➤ **India - has revised the protocol for clinical management of Covid-19 on June 13 to guide treatment of patients across the country.**

- ✓ It has now included "loss of smell and taste" to the list of nine other symptoms, which include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, myalgia, rhinorrhea, expectoration, sore throat and diarrhoea
- ✓ Further, it has also allowed use of investigational therapies like Remdesivir and off-label use of Tocilizumab and convalescent plasma therapy on specific groups of patients.
- ✓ The new protocol suggests that the drug Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) should not be used in severely sick patients.
- ✓ However, it can still be used for frontline workers as a repurposed drug.
- ✓ Further, the new protocol dropped antibiotic Azithromycin which was earlier suggested along with HCQ for serious Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ Remdesivir was a drug originally developed for Ebola, while Tocilizumab was an immune suppressive drug used in autoimmune disorders

- ✓ Convalescent plasma therapy (CPT) involves transfusion of the blood plasma of a recovered patient into a sick patient
- ✓ They have been recommended for treatment of moderately-ill Covid-19 patients after taking into account special considerations.
- ✓ For instance, Remdesivir is not to be used in severe renal impairment or administered to kids below 12 years or pregnant or lactating mothers.
  
- **The Centre - set up an expert group at the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, to provide clinical advice to various states in managing Covid-19 cases.**
- ✓ A WhatsApp group has also been created consisting of nodal officer/doctor from each state
- ✓ The Centre has also asked states to form similar expert groups and clinical management hubs at state levels to efficiently manage severe cases in ICUs and reduce deaths.
- ✓ It has also been suggested that states can set up their own expert groups of doctors for tele-consultations on how to handle ICU cases.
- ✓ Earlier, states requested centre to create such an expert group in the meeting with the cabinet secretary
  
- **The Centre – has announced restrictions on the import of tyres used in cars, two-wheelers and heavy vehicles, as part of a strategy to help domestic industry.**
- ✓ It has moved these items from the list of “free imports” to the “restricted” category
- ✓ The commerce department had identified tyre among several categories of non-essential imports and proposed restrictions, instead of free imports to boost local manufacturing
- ✓ Further, tyres were identified as one of the sectors, along with furniture, for local production.
- ✓ The government also raised the import duty on furniture, in a separate move
- ✓ According to a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, tyres used for cars, SUVs, racing cars, including tubeless and radials, are being put on the restricted list.
- ✓ The import of new pneumatic tyres was estimated at around \$450 million during the last financial year (data available for April-February)
- ✓ China surpasses Thailand to remain as the largest source of shipments into the country.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The Xinfadi market, one of the largest agricultural wholesale markets in Asia - has been put under lockdown with 24-hour guards in place, amid concerns about a second wave of the pandemic**

- ✓ The Xinfadi market is located at Beijing's Fengtai district.
- ✓ On June 13, a cluster of novel coronavirus infections centred on the Xinfadi wholesale market triggered fears of a new wave of Covid-19.
- ✓ As many as 53 people out of 517 tested with throat swabs at the market had tested positive for the Covid-19
- ✓ Seven of the 53 people who tested positive over the previous three days had shown symptoms, while 46 were asymptomatic.
- ✓ China does not include asymptomatic cases in its case count.



- ✓ After the incident, the district put itself on a “wartime” footing and the capital banned tourism and sports events
- ✓ Further, market entries were blocked and police stood guard.
- ✓ Earlier, the authorities had stopped beef and mutton trading at the market and had closed other wholesale markets around the city.
- ✓ They plan for more than 10,000 people at the Xinfadi market to take nucleic acid tests.
- ✓ According to the Xinfadi site, over 1,500 tonnes of seafood, 18,000 tonnes of vegetables and 20,000 tonnes of fruit are traded daily in the market.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Brazil's Covid-19 outbreak passed a grim landmark on the day, surpassing UK to record the second-highest death toll in the world after the US'.
- ✓ As on June 13, Brazil had recorded 41,828 deaths, while the figure for the US was 114,784, and for UK 41,566
- ✓ Sao Paulo is one of the hot spots in the nation, with 5,480 deaths are recorded in the city of 12 million people, as on June 11.

## **INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **On June 13, India - rejected Nepal's constitutional amendment to change its map on the national emblem to include Indian territories**
- ✓ The Lower House of Nepal parliament unanimously passed the constitutional amendment on the day

- ✓ The total votes cast in favour were 258 and no one voted against the bill, though 11 members remained absent or abstained.
- ✓ Nepal's passage of a constitutional amendment to Schedule 3 to "update" the national emblem intends to include Indian territories Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura under its map
- ✓ The legislation will now move to the National Assembly for its approval, which is expected to happen without a hitch.



- ✓ In a strongly-worded statement after the constitutional amendment, India said the move was not "tenable" and amounts to an artificial enlargement of its claims, which is not based on historical fact or evidence and also violates the understanding that talks should sort out boundary issues.
- ✓ India says it has discussed the outstanding boundary issues with Nepal at the joint working group in 1997 and 1998.
- ✓ As India has already clarified its position, India told Nepal it would refuse to hold boundary talks after the passage of this amendment.
- ✓ The territorial dispute arises from the fact that Nepal claims the land to the east of river Kali, which forms the country's western border.
- ✓ As per Nepal's understanding, the river originates from Limpiyadhura in the higher Himalayas, giving it access to a triangular-shaped land defined by Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh and Kalapani.
- ✓ India opposes the notion and says the origin of the river is much further down, which reduces Nepal's territorial demand.
- ✓ Nepal unveiled the new map on May 20 after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Darchula-Lipulekh link road on May 8.
- ✓ Nepal had earlier strongly protested when the updated Indian map published in November last year, showing the region as part of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Nepal claims right to the region and says India was allowed to station troops there in the 1950s and that Delhi has refused to remove forces from the region ever since.

- ✓ In reality, Nepal renounced all claims to territories lying west of the Kali river under Treaty of Sugauli (Article V) of 1815.
- ✓ In 1817, Nepal made a claim to the area and demanded return of villages of Tinkar, Chhangru, Nabhi and Kuthi.
- ✓ Lying east of Kali, first two were returned to Nepal.
- ✓ But the Governor General of India rejected its claim to Nabhi and Kuthi as they lay west of Kali.
- ✓ The question of source of Kali river was also settled by the same ruling.
- ✓ Nepal's current claims are also incompatible with its own boundary treaty with China, where the current territorial sovereignty is maintained.
- ✓ In fact, India has repeatedly accused Nepal of encroaching on Indian territory in Narsahi and Susta areas in Bihar "by settling its own population and through various construction activities."

## PERSONALITIES

- **Second Lieutenant Anmol Narang - created history by becoming the first observant Sikh to graduate from the prestigious US Military Academy at West Point on June 13.**



- ✓ Second-lieutenant Anmol Narang, who grew up in Georgia, has graduated from a 2020 class of 1100 cadets to join the US Army
- ✓ Apart from a record 230 women, the class consists of diverse communities consisting of 12% African-American, 9% Asian, 9% Hispanic and less than 1% Native American.
- ✓ Lieutenant Narang will now attend a basic officer leadership course before assuming her first post in Okinawa, Japan
- ✓ There is a long history of Indian-Americans serving in the US military going back nearly 80 years.
- ✓ Recently, Simratpal Singh became an army captain in the US military
- ✓ As far back as the 1940s, Sabu Dastagir, a young mahout from Mysore who came to America to act as Mowgli in the first version of "The Jungle Book", eventually became a US citizen and served in the air force as a tail gunner in World War II, winning a Distinguished Flying Cross.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On June 13, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories - said it has signed a non-exclusive licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences to register, manufacture and sell the U.S. biopharmaceutical firm's antiviral drug Remdesivir that has emerged as a potential treatment for COVID-19.**
- ✓ Further, Biocon firm Syngene and Zydus Cadila Healthcare have also entered into similar agreements with Gilead, under which they get to manufacture the product for distribution in 127 countries.
- ✓ Last month, Hetero Labs, Jubilant Lifesciences and Mylan had signed the agreement with Gilead.
- ✓ An investigational antiviral therapy, Remdesivir has received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to treat COVID-19.
- ✓ Currently, the phase 3 clinical studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the drug are underway.
- ✓ In India, the Union Health Ministry had recently cleared Remdesivir for treatment of COVID-19 patients under emergency use.
- ✓ The licenses are royalty-free until the World Health Organization (WHO) declares the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding Covid-19 or until a pharmaceutical product other than Remdesivir or a vaccine is approved to treat or prevent COVID-19, whichever is earlier
- ✓ As part of the agreements, the drugmakers receive technology transfer of the manufacturing process for Remdesivir and get to set their own prices for the generic product they produce

## ECONOMY

- **Global alternative assets firm TPG - has agreed to invest ₹4,546.80 crore in Mukesh Ambani-led Jio Platforms Limited**
- ✓ With the investment, it has bought a 0.93% equity stake in the company
- ✓ The deal pegs an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore to the Jio Platforms

S No	Investor	Investment Amount (Rs Crore)	% Stake
1	Facebook, Inc.	43,573.62	9.99%
2	Silver Lake Partners	5,655.75	1.15%
3	Vista Equity Partners	11,367.00	2.32%
4	General Atlantic	6,598.38	1.34%
5	KKR	11,367.00	2.32%
6	Mubadala	9,093.60	1.85%
7	Silver Lake Partners - Additional Investment	4,546.80	0.93%
8	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority	5,683.50	1.16%
9	TPG	4,546.8	0.93%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,02,432.15</b>	<b>21.99%</b>

- ✓ Further, L Catterton, one of the world's largest consumer focused private equity firms, has also announced its decision to invest ₹1,894.50 crore in Jio Platforms Limited to buy 0.39% equity stake.
- ✓ With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised ₹1,04,326.95 crore from leading global technology investors including Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, and ADIA since April 22, 2020.

## SPORTS

- **Vasant Raiji, who was the world's oldest First-Class male cricketer at 100 - passed away at his residence in Walkeshwar on June 13**



- ✓ Born in Baroda on Jan 26, 1920, Raiji opened the batting for Bombay and Baroda in the Ranji Trophy.
- ✓ In 9 first class games, he scored 277 runs at an average of 23.08, with 68 being his highest score.
- ✓ He made his first class debut for CCI against Central Provinces and Berar in Nagpur in 1939.
- ✓ He was a reserve for the Hindus team in the 1941 Bombay Pentangular.
- ✓ His made his Mumbai debut in 1941 when the team played Western India under the leadership of Vijay Merchant.
- ✓ He shared the dressing room with India's greatest players like Lala Amarnath, Vijay Merchant, CK Nayudu and Vijay Hazare.
- ✓ After his playing days were over, Raiji took to writing, and authored several important books on early days of Indian cricket.
- ✓ He became a prominent historian and statistician thereafter.
- ✓ He was an accountant by profession and authored two books on accountancy.
- ✓ A well-known chronicler of cricket, he has written books on C.K. Nayudu, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, L.P. Jai and Victor Trumper.

- ✓ Nari Contractor, Sachin Tendulkar and Steve Waugh were among those who had personally wished him on his 100th birthday.
- ✓ The cricketer-historian was also a founding member of Jolly Cricket Club in Mumbai.
- ✓ He also set up CCI's Legends Club during the tenure of Raj Singh Dungarpur as president.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Blood Donor Day - June 14.



- ✓ The day is observed to thank voluntary blood donors and also raise awareness about the need for regular blood donations.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Safe Blood Saves Lives
- ✓ The World Blood Donor Day event was established in 2004.
- ✓ It is one of the eight official campaigns that are celebrated by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- ✓ The others are - World Tuberculosis Day, World Health Day, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World AIDS Day, World Hepatitis Day and World Immunization Week
- ✓ The Day is celebrated on June 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner.
- ✓ Karl won Nobel prize for discovering ABO blood group

