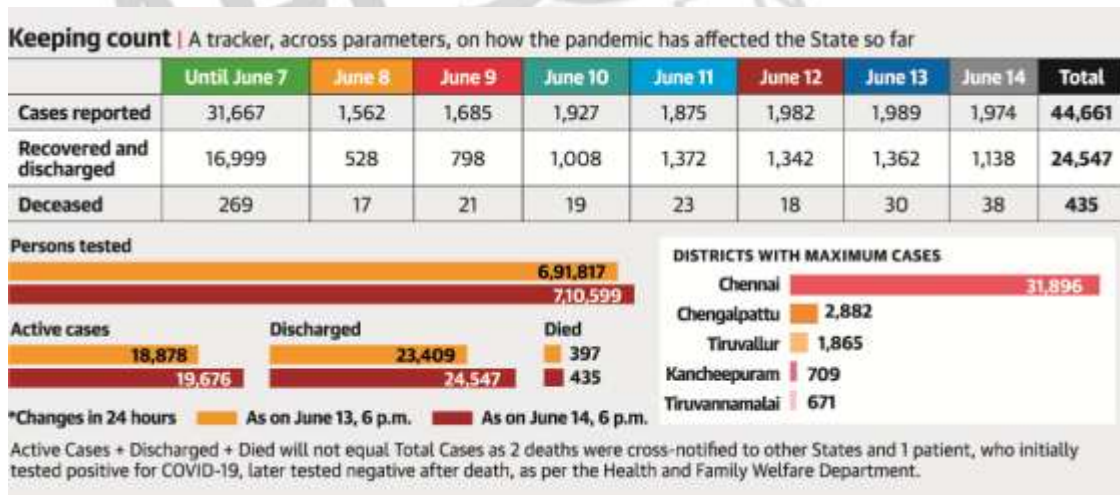




## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 15, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- On June 14, Tamil Nadu reported a death toll of 38, the highest in a single-day so far, taking the casualties in the state to 435.
- ✓ On the day, the state also reported 1,974 fresh cases, taking the state's caseload to 44,661.
- ✓ In Chennai, 1,415 patients tested positive, taking its tally to 31,896.
- ✓ Out of this, 16,881 patients were discharged so far, while the capital city's number of active cases stands at 14,667.



- ✓ Among those who tested positive for the viral disease, 33 were returnees, including 10 from abroad.
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, its neighbours Chengalpet reported 178 cases, Tiruvallur 81 and Kancheepuram 32.
  - ✓ Further, ten other districts reported fresh cases in double digits - Tiruvannamalai (35), Ramanathapuram (23), Tirunelveli (21), Madurai (16), Tenkasi (16), Villupuram (16), Sivaganga (15), Kallakurichi (14), Dindigul (11) and Salem (10).

- ✓ Moreover, Salem and Krishnagiri have recorded their first Covid related deaths.
- ✓ Salem district had a total of 229 Covid cases, recording the highest incidence in western region now
- ✓ On the day, 1,138 persons were discharged from hospitals
- ✓ With this, a total of 24,547 persons have recovered in the state, while the number of active cases stood at 19,676.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the personal safety measures of the Chief Minister has been tightened, following the 'positive' testing of staff moving closely around with him



- ✓ The working hours of the CM has been reduced from 10am to 4pm to 10am to 1.30pm
- ✓ Further, the CM has also reduced the number of public events and restricted the occasions for which he would have to step out of his Greenways Road residence in Chennai.
- ✓ While meeting the CM, the ministers have been instructed to leave behind their PSOs (Personal Security Officers) and PAs (Personal Assistants) and senior officers their OAs (office assistants), who carry their bulky files.
- ✓ Ten zones of the Greater Chennai Corporation have reported more than 1,000 COVID-19 cases each.
  - ✓ Among the zones, Royapuram continues to report the largest number, with cases in the zone crossing 5,000.
  - ✓ To tackle the increasing cases in these zones, the civic body has deployed 61 mobile medical units for Covid-19 containment activities in the city.
- ✓ The units will conduct fever camps and help those in home isolation.
- **On June 14, the Greater Chennai Corporation – has unveiled several measures as part of its new Covid-19 management strategy called 'micro plan' to monitor and tackle the spread of Covid-19 in the city.**
- ✓ In this regard, it is buying 13,000 handheld 'infrared' thermometers to record temperature of every symptomatic person in the city
- ✓ Further, the officials and fever surveillance workers were given the app -- GCC corona monitoring app -- to enter details of patients from June 15
- ✓ The app will be monitored in real time by officials at all levels in the civic body.

- ✓ Till now, the civic body has been recording the information on symptomatic people in a register.

<b>NEW MEASURES TO TRACK CASES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 13,000 door-to-door survey workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assistant engineers and sanitary officials part of the Covid response team</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Infra-red thermometers to record temperatures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Data will be recorded on a daily basis and sent to senior officials</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mobile application to enter contact details, symptoms, address, family contacts, photograph and temperature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One volunteer will be employed for every five streets that have Covid patients</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This will be monitored by</li> </ul>	

- ✓ The App was introduced to ensure workers visit houses every day and the data is available at all levels for supervision.
- ✓ Apart from this, another new strategy called FOCUS (Friend of Covid citizen under surveillance) volunteer will also be commenced
- ✓ Further, home quarantine and isolation management will be implemented strictly.
  - ✓ Under these initiatives, every Covid-19 positive patient, train and flight passengers, road travellers from Covid hotspot districts and states and other individuals under mandatory home quarantine will be monitored on a daily basis.
  - ✓ For every five streets, one volunteer would be employed who will be checking on them every day, like their 'friend'.
  - ✓ Further, Assistant revenue officials at zonal level and tax collectors and license inspectors will be appointed at ward level to collect details of homes under quarantine and isolation for daily surveillance by volunteers.
  - ✓ Moreover, the discharged patients under 14-day quarantine will also be covered
- ✓ In a related move, Chennai Corporation has appointed 200 doctors for each ward in the city, on a temporary basis to ensure effective fever surveillance and care and protection of the vulnerable population.
  - ✓ The doctors were designated as Divisional Health Officers (DHO)
  - ✓ They will be part of the ward level Covid-19 response team, headed by assistant engineers.
  - ✓ The DHOs will ensure all symptomatic people are identified, screened and tested as per the protocol, in association with assistant engineers
  - ✓ Apart from fever surveillance, the DHOs are also required to conduct medical camps and follow up on patients in home quarantine
  - ✓ The door to door surveillance was started in April to identify people with symptoms of fever, cough, breathlessness etc.
  - ✓ There are 12,000 surveillance workers across the city, who are supervised by either a nurse or anganwadi worker

- ✓ The whole process is monitored by the assistant engineer
- **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) – has launched a new Covid-19 response force, as part of the micro-containment plan in Chennai city**
- ✓ The response force will be led by the Assistant engineers in each of the 200 wards of the city
- ✓ Health workers, conservancy workers and others will be part of every response team at the ward level.
- ✓ These teams will be conducting fever camps, door-to-door screening and ensuring that elderly in every household remains safe and protected.
- ✓ Already 11,500 staffers are part of the door-to-door fever survey across 15 zones of the city.
- ✓ The teams will also be in-charge of informing the headquarters in case of any complications.
- ✓ These response teams would also provide Kabasura kudineer to residents and handle spraying of disinfectants, providing essentials to people in containment zones, checking on pregnant women and patients with hypertension and diabetes.
- ✓ They will also spread awareness about precautions to be taken against Covid-19
- ✓ As on June 14, the total number of active cases in Chennai remains at 13,742 with Royapuram having the maximum of 2155 cases, while Teynampet has 1905, Tondiarpet 1859, Anna Nagar 1617, Kodambakkam 1314 and Thiru-vi-ka Nagar 1111.

#### **Duties and Composition of Covid response team**






- ✓ Assistant engineer - Door-to-door active surveillance, distribution of protective items, containment management, disinfection
- ✓ UPHC (Urban primary health center) medical officer - Fever clinics and camps
- ✓ Divisional health officer - Care for old-age and co-morbid people and fever clinics (with UPHC medical officer), follow up of patients in home quarantine
- ✓ Sanitary Inspector - Admission of positive patients, contact tracing (with DHO), testing
- ✓ Tax Collector, License Inspector and Conservancy Inspector - Quarantine monitoring.
- **Tamil Nadu Government – has announced the setting up of a new drumstick powder making unit in Aravakurichi of Karur district**
- ✓ This was announced by the state Transport minister M R Vijayabaskar at a party meeting in Aravakurichi on June 12.
- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has approved the proposal for the construction of the unit at a cost of ₹3.25 crore.
- ✓ The farmers in Aravakurichi undertake drumstick cultivation over 5,000 acres, as the crop is draught resistant and requires less water and maintenance.
- ✓ Hence, a processing unit to produce value-added products out of drumstick was a long-pending demand.

- ✓ The Minister also announced formation of a seller's welfare association to help farmers get good price for their produce.

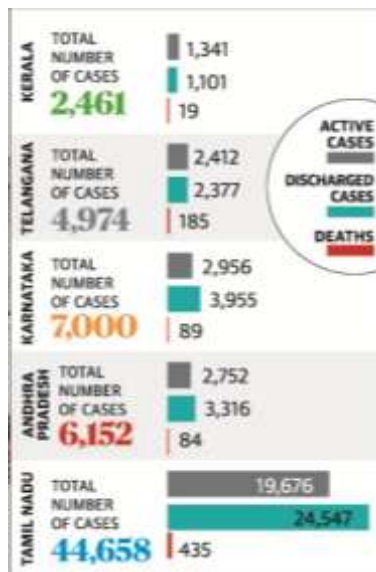
## NATIONAL

- **On June 14, India - reported more than 12,000 fresh Covid-19 cases for the second consecutive day**
- ✓ There were 12,156 new Covid-19 cases reported on the day, marginally lower than the record count of 12,368 reported a day earlier.
- ✓ Further, as many as 324 deaths from the virus were reported, taking the total toll past 9,500
- ✓ The daily toll from the virus has remained over 300 for fifth straight day in a row.
- ✓ The country's recovery rate stands at 51%, as on date.
- ✓ India's coronavirus caseload soared to 3.33 lakh on the day, as per data collated from the states, while the number of recovered patients was over 1.69 lakh.
- ✓ India now ranks third, behind Brazil and the U.S. in the daily increase in Covid-19 cases (7-day rolling average) across the world.
- ✓ In the number of deaths registered every day, India ranks fourth below Brazil, the U.S. and Mexico.
- ✓ It again ranks fourth in terms of total number of cases behind the U.S. (with nearly 2.1 million), Brazil (8,50,514) and Russia (5,28,267)
- ✓ Further, India is ranked as the ninth worst-hit nation in Covid-19 deaths with 9,195 fatalities so far.
- ✓ Maharashtra tops the list with 3,830 fatalities, followed by 1,448 in Gujarat and 1,271 deaths in Delhi.
- ✓ Several states, including Delhi (2,224 fresh cases), Andhra Pradesh (294), Assam (331) and Chhattisgarh (199) reported their highest number of infections in a day.
- ✓ Besides, Maharashtra (3,390), Tamil Nadu (1,974), Gujarat (511), Uttar Pradesh (499), Haryana (459) and Bengal (389) were among states that reported a consistency in number of cases.
- ✓ The sparsely population high-altitude Union territory of Ladakh witnessed one of the most dramatic surges of the infection over the weekend.
- ✓ The UT reported 198 new cases on June 13, which was followed by 112 on June 14, taking the total cases to 549.
- ✓ The three worst-hit states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi continue to contribute a majority of new cases in the country
  - ✓ The share of these three states ranged between 57% and 59% during this period.
- ✓ As per data from the Union health ministry, the country recorded 311 new deaths on June 14.
- ✓ Maharashtra again reported the highest fatalities at 120, followed by Delhi with 56 deaths.

- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, the coronavirus tally increased by 499, taking the cumulative tally to 13,715
- ✓ The state also recorded 14 fresh fatalities, taking the total death toll to 399.
- ✓ In Rajasthan, 10 people persons died, while 293 others tested positive for Covid-19 in the state
  - ✓ This brings the Covid-19 tally to 12,694 in the state, while the state's toll stands at 292.
- ✓ Meanwhile, to urgently address increasing number of Covid-19 cases in Delhi, home minister Amit Shah had a lengthy discussion with Delhi LG Anil Bajjal and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal
  - ✓ After the meeting, it was decided to double the number of testing in the next two days and triple in six days
  - ✓ Further, 500 railway coaches with 8,000 beds will be made available as care centres and a house-to-house survey will be conducted in the city's containment zones.

<b>PANEL TO FIX TREATMENT RATES</b>		<b>New guidelines for funerals to reduce waiting period</b>
 <p>➤ Centre to immediately give <b>500 rail coaches</b> to set up fully equipped Covid care centres to add <b>8,000 beds</b></p>	 <p>➤ AIIMS docs to guide small hosps on Covid-19 guidelines and best practices. Helpline no. 9115444155</p>	<p>➤ Government to rope in scout guides, NCC, NSS and other NGO volunteers for health services</p>
<p>➤ Testing will be increased two-fold in next two days and three times after 6 days</p> 	<p>➤ A panel to ensure availability of <b>60% of beds in pvt hosps</b> for Covid-19 patients at lower rates, fix rates for Covid-19 testing and treatment. Report on Monday</p> 	<p>➤ Five more senior officers to be given to Delhi govt</p>
 <p>➤ House-to-house health survey in containment zones. Aarogya Setu to be must for them</p>		<p>➤ Union health ministry sets up 3 teams of 4 doctors to inspect major dedicated Covid-19 facilities proposed &amp; make recommendations for improvement</p> <p>➤ Centre to help with oxygen cylinders, ventilators, pulse oximeters, etc</p>

- ✓ Meanwhile, among the southern districts, Andhra Pradesh reported a new daily record high of 294 Covid-19 cases on the day
  - ✓ This takes the cumulative caseload of the state to 6,152, while the toll reached 84.
- ✓ In Telangana, three more people died from the virus, taking the total to 185
  - ✓ The number of Covid-19 cases touched 4,974 as 237 more samples tested positive on the day.
- ✓ The death of five people was reported by Karnataka, taking the total number of deaths to 86.
  - ✓ With 176 new cases being recorded, the total number of positive cases in the State stood at 7,000.
- ✓ Kerala reported 54 new cases on the day, taking its number of 'active cases' to 1,340
- ✓ According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the total number of samples tested on the day was 1,51,432, up from 1,43,737 samples tested a day earlier.



- ✓ While India's infection rate in terms of cases per million people was much lower, the country has conducted fewer tests per million (3,000) than others with the most infections, according to data maintained by the website Our World in Data.
- ✓ The comparable testing rates for the U.S., Russia and the U.K. are 70,000, 99,870 and 55,860 respectively
- ✓ Five states — MP, Rajasthan, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab — and the Union territory of Chandigarh have managed to slow the incidence of Covid-19 cases with the positivity rate (confirmed cases per 100 tests) over the last three 14-day periods showing a downward trend.
  - ✓ All the states have kept the positivity rate in the green zone, below 3%, while Chandigarh has remained at 5% through the three fortnights.
  - ✓ States that maintain a positivity rate below 5% over a period of two weeks are considered to be ready for easing of lockdown measures.
  - ✓ For India, the positivity rate has gone up from 5% (during May 7-21) to 6.4% (May 19-Jun 1) to 7.4% (May 31-Jun 13) in the three two-week periods
- ✓ Meanwhile, researchers at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have identified at least 29 drugs that have the potential of being repurposed to treat Covid-19 patients
  - ✓ Further, the team has identified nine other investigational drug molecules.
  - ✓ These drugs belong to diverse therapeutic areas such as antiviral, anticancer, antibacterial agents etc.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 14, China - reported 57 new confirmed infections, its highest single-day tally in two months, taking the total to over 75 cases in the last two days.**
  - ✓ Of the 38 locally transmitted cases, 36 were reported in the capital, Beijing
  - ✓ The other 19 cases involved travellers arriving from overseas.

- ✓ Following this, the authorities are conducting mass testing at a major seafood and produce market that appears to be the source of a new outbreak.
- ✓ All the infected people had either worked or shopped inside Xinfadi, said to be the largest food market in Asia, or had been in contact with someone who was there.
- ✓ The market was closed on June 13 and the district was put on a “wartime” footing.
- ✓ The Beijing wave has already spread to the neighbouring province of Liaoning, where two new cases were reported.
- ✓ China’s capital city Beijing has overall reported 499 confirmed coronavirus cases till June 14 since January 2020
- ✓ In the US, hospitals in Arizona have been urged to activate emergency plans to cope with a flood of patients.
  - ✓ On June 13, Florida saw its largest single-day count of cases, while cases are swiftly rising in Texas, including Houston, San Antonio and Dallas.
  - ✓ Oregon’s governor has paused a gradual reopening.
  - ✓ The virus has caused over 115,000 deaths in the US, and is also rampant in Latin America — most notably in Brazil, causing 42,720 deaths.
- ✓ Iran’s daily toll exceeded 100 for first time in 2 months, taking toll to 8,837.
- ✓ South Korea has confirmed 34 new cases in Seoul.
- ✓ Pakistan has recorded its highest number of infections in a single day with 6,825 new cases, taking the tally to 1,39,230.
- ✓ Tokyo confirmed 47 new cases, the highest since the government lifted the state of emergency nationwide in late May.

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **For the first time, an Indian military contingent comprising members of all three services will march on a Russian parade through Moscow’s Red Square on June 24.**
- ✓ Earlier, the Indian forces joined the military parade in 2015, but the participation was restricted to the Indian Army.
- ✓ The Russian parade is held every year on the Victory Day (May 9), but has been delayed this year because of the coronavirus
- ✓ The parade will showcase Russia’s military might
- ✓ The Victory Day marks the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945
- ✓ A tri-service contingent comprising about 75-80 will depart for Moscow on June 19. President Vladimir Putin had invited PM Narendra Modi for the Victory Day celebrations on May 9 during their meeting in Vladivostok last year.
- ✓ Russia, in fact, has invited several others heads of state and government for the parade as the event this year marks the 75th anniversary of the “Victory over Nazism”.



- ✓ The parade, depending upon the time available, was likely to include a mention of the contribution made by Indian soldiers in the Great Patriotic War.

## DEFENCE

- **India is looking to post Navy Liaison Officers at the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and also at the European maritime surveillance initiative (EMASOH) in the Strait of Hormuz in Abu Dhabi for improved Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**
- ✓ It has to be recalled that India has joined the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as Observer in March 2020
- ✓ The RMIFC functions under the aegis of the IOC, along with Japan and the United Nations.
- ✓ The IOC is a regional forum in the Southwest Indian Ocean, comprising five nations — Comoros, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
  - ✓ China and the European Union (EU) have been Observers in the IOC since 2016 and 2017, respectively.
- ✓ The Navy Liaison Officers are expected to be posted at EMASOH by July and at the RMIFC by September or October
- ✓ India has a Liaison Officer at the IFC in Singapore for over four years now.
- ✓ The EMASOH headquarters consists of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and French officers and based at the French naval base in Abu Dhabi.
  - ✓ The aim of EMASOH is “to monitor maritime activity and guarantee freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.”
  - ✓ On February 5, the initiative was declared operational by the French Ministry of Armed Forces.
- ✓ The Indian Navy had set up the Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in December 2018
  - ✓ The Centre was established within the premises of the Information Management and Analysis Centre in Gurugram to track maritime movements in the region.
  - ✓ The Centre will also become the repository for all maritime data in the IOR
- ✓ France became the first country to deploy a Liaison Officer at the IFC-IOR, followed by the U.S
- ✓ Several other countries including Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom have announced their intention to post Liaison Officers

