

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 16, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On June 15, the Covid-19 death toll in Tamil Nadu - rose to a new single-day high of 44, while the number of fresh cases dropped marginally to 1,843 from 1,974 reported a day earlier.
- ✓ This takes the State's overall tally of cases to 46,504 and the toll to 479.
- ✓ The State's mortality rate stands at 1.03%.
- ✓ On a brighter side, a total of 797 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total recovered to 25,344.
- ✓ As on date, 20,678 persons were undergoing treatment.

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

	Until June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	Total
Cases reported	33,229	1,685	1,927	1,875	1,982	1,989	1,974	1,843	46,504
Recovered and discharged	17,527	798	1,008	1,372	1,342	1,362	1,138	797	25,344
Deceased	286	21	19	23	18	30	38	44	479

Samples tested



Active cases



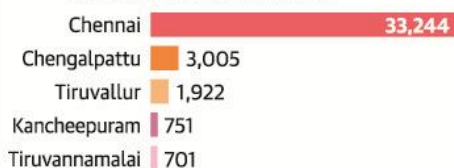
Discharged



Died



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 died after turning negative, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

- ✓ Chennai continued to record the most number of new cases with 1,257 fresh infections on the day.
 - ✓ With this, the capital city's case count reached 33,244
- ✓ This includes 17,476 who had been discharged, while there are 15,385 active cases and 382 deaths.

- ✓ Its neighbours, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpet together reported 210 fresh cases.
 - ✓ With 120 new infections, the overall case count in Chengalpattu surpassed the 3,000-mark.
 - ✓ Further, there were 50 cases in Tiruvallur, 39 in Kancheepuram, 34 each in Ranipet and Thoothukudi, 33 in Madurai, 32 in Tiruvannamalai and 27 in Cuddalore.
- ✓ Fifty-four of the fresh cases were persons who had returned from abroad and from other States.
- ✓ A total of 18,403 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested so far in the state to 7,29,002.
- ✓ As per the data available, Chennai has reported 4,233 Covid cases per million population, while the state has reported 520 cases and the country as a whole has 233 cases.
- ✓ In Chengalpattu, it was 1,290, Tiruvallur had 512 and Kancheepuram 425.
 - ✓ Barring Ariyalur, which had 485, the incidence of Covid cases per million was less than 270 per million in other districts.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the number of streets in Chennai with five or more cases increased to 712 from around 500 last week.
 - ✓ The city also had more than 1,000 streets with four or more cases and 1,700 three or more cases
- ✓ In another move, the State government has reiterated its instruction to private hospitals to report COVID-19 deaths within an hour of occurrence, under the Clinical Establishments Act
 - ✓ Already, a rapid response team has been analysing the deaths in medical college hospitals.
 - ✓ The team comprises of a microbiologist and doctors from the fields of general medicine and social and preventive medicine
 - ✓ The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine had also constituted a separate committee to reconcile COVID-19 death reports of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).
- **On June 15, the Tamil Nadu government - announced another intense lockdown in Chennai and adjoining parts of three neighbouring districts for 12 days starting June 19.**
 - ✓ The relaxations, however, will be confined to vegetable and grocery shops and fuel pumps.
 - ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the lockdown after a meeting with health experts and later with cabinet members
 - ✓ The CM also announced ₹1,000 support to all 'rice' ration card holders in areas under intense lockdown and to the members of unorganised welfare boards and other welfare boards.
 - ✓ There will be full lockdown on June 21 and 28 (Sundays) with no relaxation.

- ✓ Barring milk supply, hospitals, pharmacies, ambulance services, emergency and funeral hearse vans, no other activity will be permitted on Sundays.
- ✓ Private vehicles will be allowed only for emergency medical needs.

WHAT WILL WORK, WHAT WON'T

A stringent lockdown will be in force in Greater Chennai Police limits, Tiruvallur municipality, Gummidipoondi, Ponneri and Minjur town panchayats between June 19 and June 30

Pic: B A Raju



- > Vegetable, grocery shops and fuel pumps allowed between 6am and 2pm
- > Only takeaway services in restaurants between 6am and 8pm. Tea shops to be shut; food aggregators permitted
- > Rental auto, taxi and pvt vehicles allowed only for emergency medical services
- > State, central govt offices to revert to 33% strength
- > Banks to work with 33% strength on June 29 and 30. ATMs to be functional
- > PDS outlets to remain open between 8am and 2pm
- > E-pass to other districts only for marriage, medical purpose and deaths
- > Courts and media to function

VIRUS EFFECT: A health care worker at a testing centre in Pudupet, Chennai

TWO FULL LOCKDOWNS
From 00.00 hrs on June 20 to 06.00hrs on June 22 and 00.00hrs on June 27 to 06.00hrs on June 29 without any relaxation

- ✓ The intense lockdown will be in effect in Greater Chennai Police limits, Tiruvallur municipality, Gummidipoondi, Ponneri and Minjur town panchayats, and all panchayats of Poonamallee, Ekkadu and Cholavaram panchayat unions.
- ✓ Chengalpet and Maraimalai Nagar municipalities, Nandivaram-Guduvanchery town panchayats, all panchayats of Kattankulathur panchayat unions in Chengalpet and
- ✓ Parts of Greater Chennai Police limits falling in Kancheepuram district too would be under intense lockdown.
- **On June 15, the Tamil Nadu cabinet - granted approval to promulgate an ordinance to give horizontal reservation of 7.5% to government school students for admission to medical courses from this academic year**
- ✓ The prerequisite for qualification is that students of government schools should have qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).
- ✓ The government opted for the ordinance route since the assembly is not in session
- ✓ The “quota within quota” covers government seats in private colleges too
- ✓ The proposed ordinance would be sent to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for assent.
- ✓ The state government proposed to extend 10% horizontal quota within the vertical quota extended to categories available to SC/ST, OBC and open category.

- ✓ The decision comes in the wake of recommendations by the former judge of the Madras High Court, P. Kalaiyaran-led committee
 - ✓ The committee has filed its report last week after an in-depth empirical study.
 - ✓ The committee suggested that students who had passed the higher secondary exam after having studied for seven consecutive years in government schools be provided the reservation.
 - ✓ However, it had left the quantum of reservation to the government's choice
 - ✓ The panel was set up in March 2020
 - ✓ It had analysed the reasons for the less number of government school students getting admission in medical courses and recommended measures to the government.
 - ✓ The secretaries of health and family welfare, school education and law departments, besides two educationists, were part of the committee
 - ✓ The committee also studied the data from CBSE, ICSE and directorate of medical education before concluding the need for horizontal reservation.
 - ✓ They cited the case of Karnataka, where there is a scheme of horizontal reservation of 15% of State government seats for rural students in admission to professional courses.
- **The Tamil Nadu government – has decided to procure remdesivir, the antiviral drug for all its government medical colleges**
 - ✓ The state health department has ordered the drug through its purchase arm, Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC)
 - ✓ The TNMSC has ordered 42,500 vials of remdesivir from Hyderabad-based Hetero Drugs at ₹3,100 a vial.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu was part of the trial on the drug's effectiveness in select patients.
 - ✓ On June 13, ICMR revised its treatment protocol allowing remdesivir for patients with moderate disease (those on oxygen).
 - ✓ As per the revised guidelines, doctors are permitted to use remdesivir for five days — 200mg on the first day and 100mg on each of the remaining days.
 - ✓ However, the drug cannot be used on those with kidney disease, children below 12 and pregnant women/lactating mother.
 - ✓ The drug was approved for emergency use by Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) on June 1.
 - ✓ USA's Gilead Sciences had developed the drug widely used for treatment of Ebola and then it was found to be useful against coronaviruses like SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome)
 - ✓ It has signed nonexclusive voluntary licensing agreements with desi generic pharma manufacturers including Hetero Labs recently.
 - ✓ TNMSC is also in talks with another firm to procure immune modulator Tocilizumab for those requiring high flow oxygen or ventilation

- ✓ The orders for the drug, which costs ₹45,000 in the market, will be placed by the government at ₹29,000 excluding GST
 - ✓ As on June 14, less than half of the 1,559 patients had mild infection at the four city government medical college hospitals
 - ✓ Moreover, at least 165 were classified 'severe' and another 701 (45%) were under the 'moderate' category.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - has intensified screening of residents by conducting fever camps in all the 15 zones of the city as part of its 'microplan' to manage Covid cases**
- ✓ Residents have been asked to share their mobile numbers to civic officials during the screening.
 - ✓ The civic corporation plans to conduct 680 fever camps everyday across the city against the usual 150
 - ✓ The corporation recently appointed one doctor, called divisional health officers (DHO), for each of the 200 wards.
 - ✓ The DHOs will ensure effective fever surveillance and care and protection of the vulnerable population - the elderly and people with co-morbidities.
 - ✓ Till June 14, the civic body has conducted 2,584 fever camps across the city, screening 1.6 lakh people.
 - ✓ Such fever camps will be conducted in streets where there is clustering or high number of cases.
 - ✓ As part of fever surveillance, DHOs are expected to coordinate with assistant engineer to ensure that all symptomatic people and those showing ILI (Influenza-like Illness) are identified, screened and tested as per the protocol.
 - ✓ The Covid response team formed at the ward level has been tasked to give enough publicity about the fever camps one day in advance
- **The school education department - plans to reduce the content of textbooks for Classes I to X by at least 30% to 50% to compensate for the working days lost in the academic year 2020-21, due to the Covid-induced lockdown**

HOW TEXTBOOK CONTENT WILL BE REDUCED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > School education department is planning to reduce the contents of textbooks depending on loss of working days due to Covid-19 > To scrutinise textbooks, a team of more than 100 teachers and experts have been formed > They have been asked to identify the contents to be removed without affecting learning outcomes 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > They are likely to submit their recommendations before the third week of June > Basics like grammar exercises to be retained while repeated and less important concepts to be removed > Students will receive full textbooks as distribution took place in April and May > Teachers would be intimated on removed contents

- ✓ A committee of teachers, book authors and faculty members from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) has been set up to identify and recommend the areas to be omitted in each and every subject
 - ✓ The group includes teachers who taught the new textbooks last year.
 - ✓ The subject 'expert' groups would make their recommendations to the school education department which will take a final decision based on the possible date of reopening.
 - ✓ Students, however, will receive full books and the exam pattern also will remain the same.
- **The Public Works Department - will begin the work on building a museum at Konthagai village in Sivaganga district within the next week**
- ✓ The museum will display artefacts excavated from the Keeladi archaeological site
 - ✓ It will be designed to reflect the culture of the region and domestic architectural character of the region



- ✓ The museum spread over about 30,000 sq.ft and would be built with traditional construction materials.
- ✓ The ₹ 12.21 crore project will be managed by the Heritage wing of the PWD.
- ✓ The museum would have eight blocks, which would include galleries, an audio visual hall and an administration block.
 - ✓ The first block would house the administrative office, ticket counters and information spaces for visitors
 - ✓ Four blocks would be dedicated to galleries for display of artefacts excavated from the Keeladi site.
 - ✓ Two blocks would have mezzanine floors
- ✓ The museum would have sloped terracotta roofs, stone pillars, landscape with local flora and hand-made Athangudi tiles to reflect the traditional architectural style of the region.
- ✓ It would also house semi-open and open spaces, including an open air theatre
- ✓ These spaces would be used for art performances, crafts workshops and traditional games

- ✓ The design replicas of the excavation trenches would also be part of the collection.
- ✓ Further, there are plans to screen documentaries of Keeladi excavation at the audio visual hall, which would accommodate up to 100 people.
- ✓ The museum would also have a Chettinad block with courtyards and employ elements of local craftsmanship in facades.

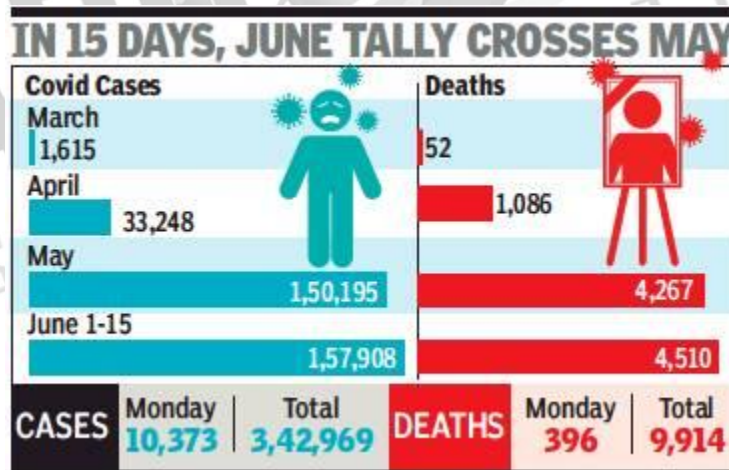
STATES

- **On June 15, Telangana – fixed the prices for testing and treatment of Covid-19 patients in private hospitals in the state**
 - ✓ The RT-PCR swab test for Covid-19 virus has been capped at ₹2,200 in private labs
 - ✓ In case, the samples are collected from home, a charge of ₹2,800 may be levied.
 - ✓ Treatment charges without ventilator facility in the private hospitals have been capped at ₹7,500 per day, while that for treatment with ventilator has been set at ₹9,000 per day.
 - ✓ These tariffs include monitoring charges and charges for investigations like CBC, urine, HIV spot, anti HCV, Hbs Ag serum creatinine, USG, 2D echo, X-ray, ECG, consultations, bed charges, meals and procedures like Ryles tube insertion and urinary tract catheterization.
- **On June 15, the Karnataka government – announced yet another change in its standard operating procedure on returnees from other states**
 - ✓ As per the new norms, the travellers from Chennai and Delhi will have to undergo three days of institutional quarantine followed by 11 days of home isolation
 - ✓ The guidelines have been revised following the surge in positive cases in these two cities.
 - ✓ It was announced by state chief minister B S Yediyurappa after a meeting with ministers and officials
 - ✓ Until now, only those arriving from Maharashtra had to mandatorily undergo seven days of institutional quarantine, followed by seven days of home quarantine.
 - ✓ Those travelling from other States would have 14 days of home quarantine as earlier.
 - ✓ Of the total 7,000 cases in the state, 4,386 are returnees from Maharashtra while 1,340 are their contacts.
- **Karnataka - has the highest number of ventilators in south India and the second highest in the country**
 - ✓ This was revealed by the estimates compiled by the New Delhi-based 'Center For Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy' (CDDEP).
 - ✓ Karnataka has 6,553 ventilators and 4,810 of these or 73% are in the private health sector.

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has the most number of ventilators in the country with 7,035
- ✓ Maharashtra has 5,793 ventilators, out of which 4,507 are in private hospitals.
- ✓ The CDDEP, a public health research organisation, is based in Washington DC and New Delhi.
- ✓ The estimates, compiled in April, are part of a study in association with Princeton University
- ✓ The study puts the total number of ventilators in the country at 47,481.
- ✓ Of these, 17,850 (38%) are in government facilities.

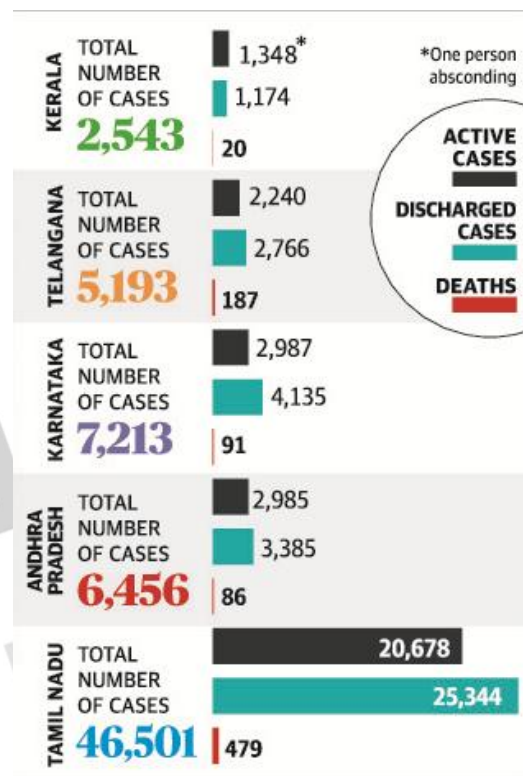
NATIONAL

- **On June 15, India - reported its sharpest single-day rise in casualties from the Covid-19 pandemic with 396 deaths recorded across the country**
- ✓ It was the sixth consecutive day of more than 300 deaths being reported and the highest so far
- ✓ The previous highest single-day toll was 393 on June 11.
- ✓ This takes the death toll closer to the 10,000 mark, which is pegged at 9,914.
- ✓ The country also reported 10,373 cases on the day, taking the cumulative caseload to nearly 3.43 lakh
- ✓ The daily tally dropped below the 11,000 mark for the first time in five days.



- ✓ With this, the first 15 days of June have seen more cases and fatalities than the entire month of May
- ✓ The country has reported more than 1.5 lakh infections and 4,267 deaths during May.
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra reported its highest one-day toll of 178, along with a surge in fatalities in Delhi (73), Tamil Nadu (44) and Gujarat (28)
- ✓ While Maharashtra reported 2,786 new cases of the viral infection, Tamil Nadu's count was 1,843 and Delhi's 1,647 — all three substantially lower than the previous day's respective figures.

- ✓ However, two states — Haryana (514 new cases) and Andhra Pradesh (304) — reported their highest single-day count of cases.
- ✓ Besides, the caseload remained high in Gujarat (514), Uttar Pradesh (480), Bengal (407), Karnataka (213), J&K (182), Odisha (146) Punjab (127) and Assam (109) too.
- ✓ The Covid-19 tally for Uttar Pradesh crossed the 14k-mark with 480 fresh cases in the past 24 hours.
- ✓ On a positive side, the state's recovery rate touched a new high of 61%.
- ✓ Meanwhile, among the southern states, Kerala reported one more death, taking its death toll to 20.



- ✓ In Kerala, Covid-19 was confirmed in 82 more persons, while the number of active cases in the State remains at 1,348 out of 2,543 infected persons.
 - ✓ The state had launched Anti-Covid Health Plus Mats, which are made by the Kerala State Coir Corporation at Alappuzha
 - ✓ The anti-Covid mat is sold as a set comprising coir mat, a tray and sanitising solution.
- ✓ Further, 213 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Karnataka, taking the total to 7,213. The state registered two deaths, taking the total number of deaths to 88.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh registered a record 304 fresh Covid-19 cases and two deaths on the day
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to interact with the Chief Ministers of 21 states and union territories on June 16 at 3 pm through video conferencing.

- ✓ The meeting will include Chief Ministers of Kerala, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Goa, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura among other states.
- ✓ Further, the PM will be meeting Chief Ministers of worst-affected states on June 17 including Delhi CM, Maharashtra CM and Tamil Nadu CM.
- ✓ This is the 6th meeting of the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers since the outbreak of coronavirus in March 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 15, a section of Beijing city - was locked down completely as the government rushed to contain a new coronavirus outbreak**
- ✓ Thousands of people queued in a Beijing stadium as mass testing was carried out, and a strict lockdown was extended across 21 Beijing neighbourhoods.
 - ✓ A total of 79 infections were tracked down in Beijing over the previous four days, including 36 on June 14.
 - ✓ All appeared traceable to the Xinfadi food market, asia's largest wholesale market.
 - ✓ To tackle the outbreak, authorities have put about 90,000 people under lockdown in the city of 20 million
 - ✓ The administration has also suspended planned restart of some primary schools from June 15
 - ✓ Inspectors found 40 samples of the virus in the closed market, including on a chopping board for imported salmon (fish)
 - ✓ That prompted some supermarket chains to take salmon off their shelves over the weekend, and inspect markets, stores and restaurant.
 - ✓ However, Beijing health officials said gene sequencing showed the virus strain causing the new outbreak was related to that in Europe, although it wasn't clear if it was being spread by the movement of people or transportation of food.
- ✓ Until the infections from the market began to emerge on June 11, Beijing had gone 56 days without new, locally borne cases.
- ✓ Meanwhile, South Korea is also among those countries seeking to prevent a resurgence of the outbreak, reporting 37 new cases on June 15.
- ✓ On June 14, the U.S. — by far the hardest-hit country with more than 1,15,700 recorded fatalities — reported its lowest 24-hour death toll since its infection rate peaked in mid-April.
- ✓ However, the pandemic is gathering pace in Latin America and Iran, which have reported worrying increases in deaths and infections
- ✓ West Asia's worst-hit country, Iran, reported a surge, recording more than 100 new virus deaths in a single day for the first time in two months.

- ✓ There have also been two new outbreaks in Rome, with 109 infections including five deaths diagnosed at a hospital and 15 cases detected at a building inhabited by squatters.
- ✓ China, where the virus emerged late last year, was the first country to implement extreme restrictions on movement early this year, forcing human-to-human transmission down to near-zero
- ✓ Meanwhile, in contrast, European nations reopened their borders after a three-month shutdown
 - ✓ Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Ukraine were among those lifting border restrictions on June 15
 - ✓ Further, shops and outdoor attractions in England were set to welcome their first customers since March and in Paris, cafes and restaurants were allowed to fully reopen.
- ✓ More than 4,30,000 people worldwide have died from Covid-19, as on date.
- **On June 14, Pakistan's Punjab province governor - issued a notification making it mandatory for all the students in the universities (except non-Muslims) to learn the Quran with Urdu translation.**
- ✓ As per the notification, University graduates will be awarded degree only if they study the Quran with translation
- ✓ It further says - Lecturers in all the universities — public and private — of Punjab will teach Quran with translation to all students
- **On June 15, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - said that it was cancelling emergency authorisation of two malaria drugs to treat Covid-19 except for clinical trials, saying that they are “unlikely to be effective”**
- ✓ The two drugs are hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine
- ✓ They were heavily promoted by President Donald Trump after a few studies showed that they may work in treating the disease
- ✓ Trump even took hydroxychloroquine after he was exposed to two people who had tested positive for the coronavirus.
- ✓ As per the USFDA, after reviewing some data, it had determined that the drugs, particularly hydroxychloroquine, did not demonstrate benefits that outweighed their risks.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the FDA had also issued a warning that the drugs could cause alarming heart arrhythmias.
- ✓ In March, the FDA authorised the drugs to be used in hospitals to treat patients with the coronavirus.
- **For the fourth time in its history, the Oscars - are being postponed this year.**
- ✓ The Oscar awards were announced every year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in US

- ✓ On June 15, the academy said that the 93rd Academy Awards will now be held April 25, 2021, eight weeks later than originally planned due to the pandemic's effects on the movie industry.



- ✓ The Academy's board of governors also decided to extend the eligibility window beyond the calendar year to February 28, 2021, for feature films.
- ✓ Oscars' nominations will be announced on March 15.
- ✓ Earlier, for the first time, the Oscars' was pushed back a week because of flooding in Los Angeles in 1938.
- ✓ In 1968, it was delayed two days following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.
- ✓ Further in 1981, it was put off for 24 hours after President Ronald Reagan was shot.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The government's apex research body, ICMR - has recommended use of the first 'antigen-based' testing kit to enable faster diagnosis, at lower rates and without laboratory examinations of Covid-19 samples**
- ✓ In an advisory, the ICMR recommended the use of Standard Q Covid-19 Ag detection kit in combination with the gold standard RT-PCR test.
- ✓ The Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit is a rapid chromatographic immunoassay for qualitative detection of specific antigens to SARS-CoV-2.
- ✓ It has been developed by SD Biosensor, a South Korea based company, which has its manufacturing unit in Manesar, Gurugram.
- ✓ The antigen test has also been validated by AIIMS-Delhi
- ✓ It can detect presence of SARS CoV-2 in swab collected from the nose alone.
- ✓ While no confirmatory tests are required for samples testing positive, ICMR said those who test negative should undergo a RT-PCR test to completely rule out infection.

- ✓ The test can detect presence of molecules of the pathogen that triggers immune response in Covid-19- infected persons.
- ✓ Maximum duration for interpreting a positive or negative test is 30 minutes through the antigen-based kit.
- ✓ Also, the antigen test will be much cheaper compared to RT-PCR kits
- ✓ Just like the RT-PCR test of COVID-19, the antigen testing also looks for virus rather than the antibodies.
- ✓ Antigens are foreign substances that induce immune system in the body.
- ✓ Currently, around 1.5 lakh RT-PCR tests have been conducted in the country every day.
- ✓ Last month, the US Food and Drug Administration approved an antigen-based test called sofia 2 SARS Antigen kit, noting it is a new type of diagnostic test
- ✓ The main drawback with the antigen tests is that they may not detect all active infections and are not as sensitive as molecular PCR tests.
- ✓ Hence, positive results are highly accurate, but there is a higher chance of false negatives.
- ✓ So negative results do not rule out infection, as per the USFDA
- ✓ Similarly, ICMR has said negative results need to be confirmed with a PCR test prior to making treatment decisions or to prevent the possible spread of the virus.
- ✓ The agency has also said the testing kits be used for all symptomatic people with influenza-like illness (ILI) in containment zones or hotspots and asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts with co-morbidities of confirmed cases

RANKINGS

- **The latest assessment report of the Swedish think-tank ‘Stockholm International Peace Research Institute’ (SIPRI) on “world nuclear forces” - was released on June 15 as part of SIPRI Yearbook 2020**



- ✓ As per the report, Pakistan continues to be slightly ahead of India in the number of nuclear warheads, while China has more than double the quantity
- ✓ China now possesses 320 nuclear warheads, while Pakistan has 160 as compared to India's 150

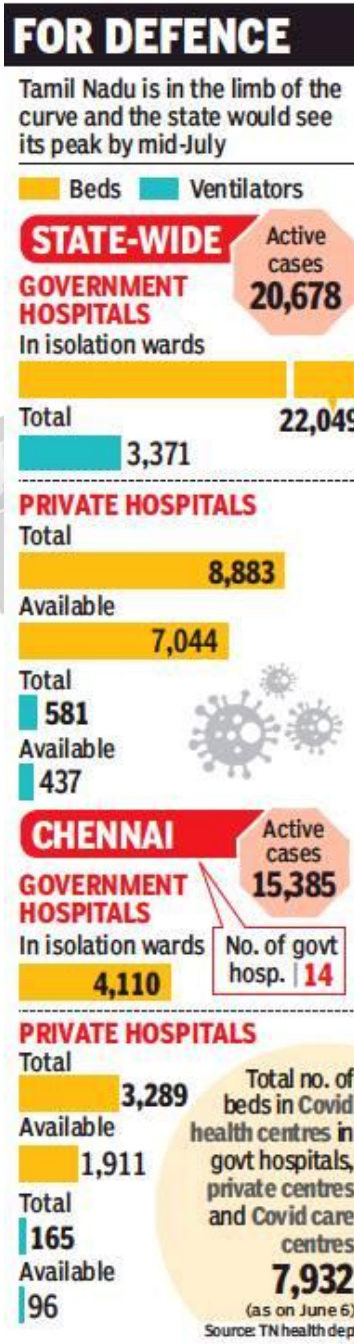
- ✓ China's nuclear arsenal had gone up from 290 warheads in 2019 to 320 in 2020, while India's went up from 130-140 in 2019 to 150 in 2020.
- ✓ Pakistan's arsenal was estimated to be in the range of 150-160 in 2019 and has reached 160 now in 2020.
- ✓ Together the nine nuclear-armed states — the U.S., Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea — possessed an estimated 13,400 nuclear weapons at the start of 2020
 - ✓ It marked a decrease from an estimated 13,865 nuclear weapons at the beginning of 2019.
- ✓ The US and Russia has 5,800 and 6,375 nuclear warheads respectively, together accounting for over 90% of the total nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Arsenals of the other nuclear-armed states – France (290), UK (215), Israel (90) and North Korea (30-40), apart from China, Pakistan and India — are considerably smaller
- ✓ The U.S. and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals under the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) but it will lapse in February 2021 unless both parties agree to prolong it.
- ✓ India is continuing to progressively modernise its nuclear arsenal for assured, effective and swift second-strike capability
 - ✓ Among its arsenal, it already has the long-standing “land vectors” (700-km Agni-I to the over 5,000-km Agni-V ballistic missiles) and “air vectors” (Mirage-2000 and Jaguar fighters jury-rigged to deliver nuclear gravity bombs)
 - ✓ Currently, India is now slowly but steadily strengthening the third leg of its nuclear triad (N-triad).
 - ✓ The country's second nuclear-powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, INS Arighat, is all set to become operational after the first one, INS Arihant, undertook its first deterrence patrol in late 2018.



- ✓ Moreover, the 3,500-km range K-4 submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) was tested twice in January this year, paving the way for its serial production.
- ✓ The solid-fuelled K-4 will eventually replace the existing 750-km range K-15 missiles on board the submarines

TAMILNADU'S HOSPITAL RESOURCES AS ON DATE

- On June 15, Tamil Nadu health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar - said Tamil Nadu has 75,000 beds for Covid patients, of which 17,500 in Chennai alone.
- ✓ According to the state health department, as on June 15, Chennai had 3,526 people in home care monitored by government hospitals, 1,716 in government medical college hospitals, 408 in other government hospitals, 1,516 in Covid care centres and another 714 in government health centres



REVISED NAMES OF TAMILNADU'S DISTRICTS

