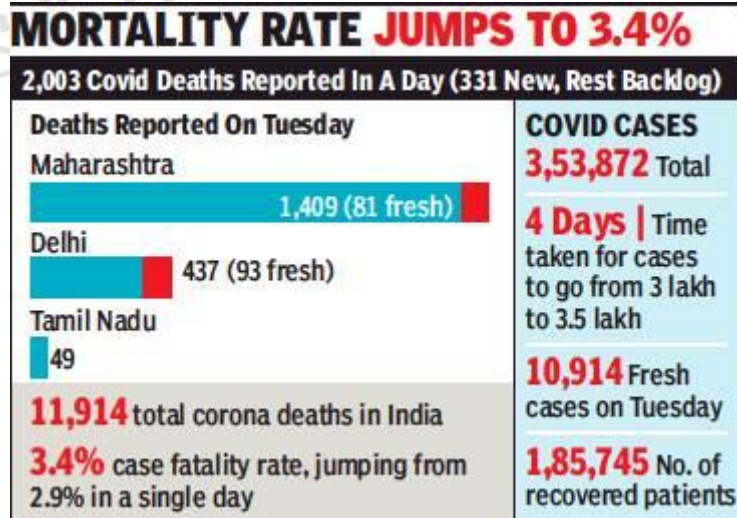


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 17, 2020

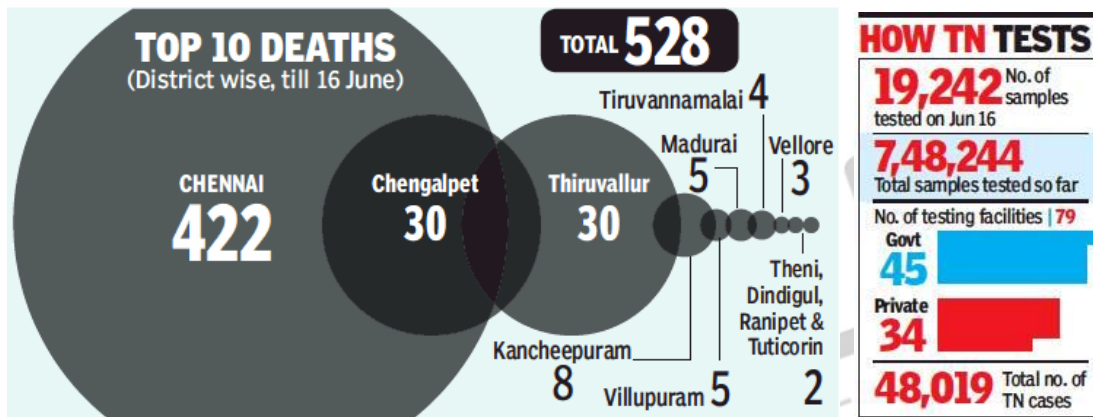
TAMIL NADU

- On June 16, Tamil Nadu – reported 1,515 cases, taking its overall caseload to 48,019
- ✓ Out of the total cases, Chennai alone accounted for 919 cases, taking its total count to 34,245
 - ✓ Out of the 34,245 cases in the capital city, 18,565 persons have already been discharged.
- ✓ For the first time since June 3, Chennai saw its daily tally of fresh cases fall below the 1,000-mark.
- ✓ Of the 1,515 new cases in the state, 1,451 were from within and 61 were people who returned from other countries and states



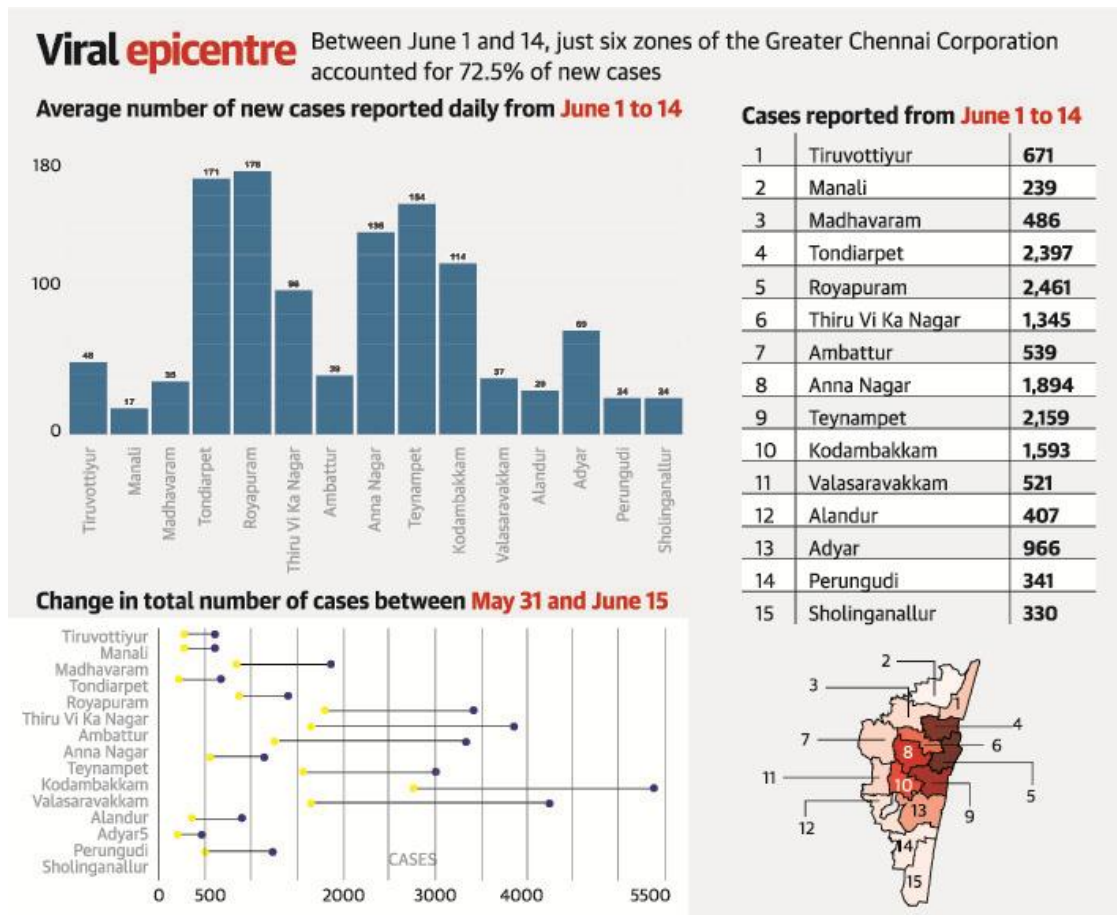
- ✓ On the day, another 1,438 persons were discharged, taking the total recovered to 26,782.
- ✓ There were 20,706 active cases in the state including 15,257 in Chennai alone.

- ✓ The deaths of 49 persons took the State's toll to 528, out of which Chennai alone reported 422 casualties.
- ✓ While the State's recovery rate is around 55%, its case fatality rate has been increasing over the past two weeks, reaching 1.1%.
 - ✓ On June 16, the case fatality rate went up to 1.23% in Chennai.
 - ✓ The positivity rate in Chennai is 20% compared to 6.8% across TN.
- ✓ The day also marked the highest number of samples to be tested on a single day.
- ✓ A total of 19,242 samples were tested on the day, taking the overall number of samples tested to 7,48,244.
- ✓ Till date, a total of 2,221 persons who returned from other countries and States have tested positive for COVID-19.



- ✓ Districts adjoining Chennai – Tiruvallur (52), Chengalpattu (88) and Kancheepuram(47) -- together reported 187 cases.
 - ✓ Tiruvannamalai, which has also been witnessing an increasing number of cases, reported 64 new cases.
 - ✓ There were 60 cases in Ranipet, 52 in Tiruvallur, 46 in Kancheepuram, 38 in Nagapattinam and 20 cases in Madurai.
 - ✓ Further, Villupuram, Vellore, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Ramanathapuram and Dindigul reported more than 10 cases each.
- ✓ Under the Greater Chennai Corporation limites, six zones in the city — Tondiarpet (zone 4), Royapuram (5), Thiru Vi Ka Nagar (6), Anna Nagar (8), Teynampet (9) and Kodambakkam (10) — are contributing the bulk of COVID-19 cases.
- ✓ Of the 31,896 positive cases, 23,011 are just these six zones, constituting, as on June 14, a massive 72% of cases in Chennai
- ✓ Of the six zones, Royapuram tops with the maximum number of cases — nearly 5,300.
- ✓ On June 16, the Tamil Nadu government sanctioned ₹21.43 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to various agencies for carrying out COVID-19 containment and precautionary measures.
 - ✓ ₹10 crore was sanctioned for the Greater Chennai Corporation towards COVID-19 containment and prevention measures for the period between May and August

- ✓ 9.08 crore was sanctioned to the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine for purchasing corona care drug kits.



- ✓ With more than 19,500 people being tested per million, the incidence of Covid-19 in Chennai was 4,233 per million in Chennai against 520 per million across the entire state.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State has witnessed an increase in the number of containment zones this week.
- ✓ As on June 12, the state has 503 containment zones in 15 districts as against 300-odd containment zones last week.
- **The state government – has commenced ‘online’ Neet crash course for more than 9,000 medical aspirants from government and government-aided schools on June 16.**
- ✓ The crash course is conducted by the state school education department in association with Amphisoft Technologies E-box
- ✓ During the course, students are expected to solve more than 6,500 questions covering all concepts.
- ✓ The online coaching consists of four-hour video lectures and four-hour practice tests.
- ✓ In Chennai, more than 500 teachers have also registered for the crash course

- **The state government - has launched an exclusive portal for MSMEs and small companies to upload job vacancies for skilled labourers.**
- ✓ This will serve as an 'exclusive' platform to integrate the 'skilled' youth with the manpower requirements of the industry.
- ✓ All members of industry including MSMEs and other establishments can register their vacancies in the portal ([http:// www.tnprivatejobs.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnprivatejobs.tn.gov.in)) and avail the services.
- ✓ The portal will assist in 'labour matching' and assess the labour market demand on a real time basis and creating a platform for labour matching
- ✓ Till now, there is no such facility for the MSMEs and small industries in the state.

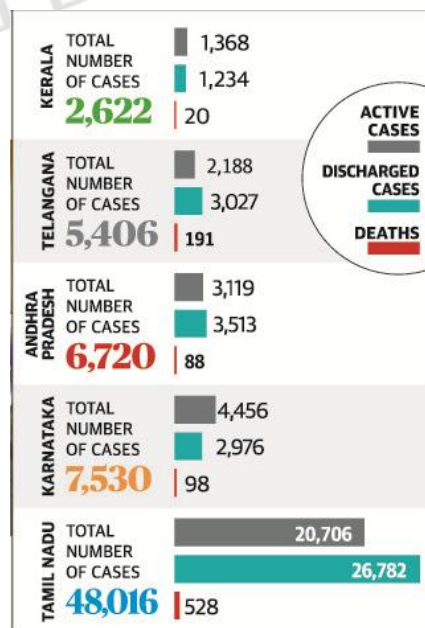
- **On June 16, the Tamil Nadu government – announced a new norm to permit the interstate movement of workers across the state borders without testing and quarantine, in case they come from their destination within 48 hours of leaving the state.**
- ✓ State chief secretary K Shanmugam issued an order in this regard to all the district collectors.
- ✓ The order will be applicable for the 'to and from' inter-state movement of workers and executives engaged in industrial and other economic activities with the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry
- ✓ However, any movement of from or to in containment zones may remain prohibited and this has to be done with mutual consent of both the district administration
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu e-governance agency (TNeGA) shall make the arrangements to provide e-passes for such cases.

STATES

- **Haryana – has proposed to introduce a bill on right to freedom of religion as a “deterrent against forced conversions.”**
- ✓ This was announced by state chief minister ManoharLal Khattar on June 16.
- ✓ The state government has decided to pass the Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, after taking note of such conversions taking place in the state.
- ✓ As per the provisions of the bill, strict action would be taken against those involved in illegal conversions
- ✓ Further, the Haryana government has also decided to hold trials against accused in cow slaughter cases in fast-track courts in a bid to curb incidents of cow slaughter in the state.
- ✓ The state will also make amendments to the Haryana GauSanrakshan and GauSamvardhan Act, 2015, to ensure protection of cows, if needed.
- ✓ Besides, the state is also planning to constitute a Dharmada Board to look after religious estates in Hindu-minority areas

NATIONAL

- **India – has reported a massive 2,003 fatalities from the Covid-19 pandemic on June 16, most of which happened earlier and were unreported so far**
- ✓ The massive jump in deaths has increased the country's death toll by 20% in a single day, taking it to 11,914
 - ✓ Maharashtra and Delhi accounted for a major chunk of the fresh deaths reported now
 - ✓ The case fatality rate (%age of patients succumbing to the virus) also rose to 3.4% from 2.9% reported a day earlier
- ✓ On the day, the country reported 10,914 fresh cases, taking the country's Covid-19 cases above 3.5 lakh (ending at 3,53,872).
- ✓ The count has risen from 3 lakh to 3.5 lakh in just four days
- ✓ Out of the 2,003 fresh deaths reported, Maharashtra accounted for 1,328 with Mumbai alone contributing 862 among them.
 - ✓ With these additions and another 81 deaths registered on the day, the death toll in the state jumped to 5,537 from 4,128 reported a day earlier
- ✓ Similarly, Delhi's Covid-19 toll surged by 437 to 1,837 on the day, with the state reporting as many as 344 back-dated deaths and 93 fresh deaths on the day.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh reported 516 fresh cases of Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, registering the second highest spike so far in a single day.
 - ✓ With this, the state's cumulative casecount has risen to 14,607.
- ✓ Karnataka reported seven more fatalities on the day, taking its death toll to 94
 - ✓ The day also saw 317 new cases being added, raising the cumulative count to 4,456



- ✓ Andhra Pradesh recorded two deaths and 264 new cases on the day.
 - ✓ With this, the state's tally rose to 6,720 and 88 casualties.

- ✓ In Kerala, 79 new coronavirus cases and 60 recoveries were reported, keeping active number of cases at 1,366
 - ✓ A total of 2,622 persons had tested positive and 1,234 persons had recovered till date.
- ✓ Meanwhile, India has stepped up testing capacity significantly for the viral infection
 - ✓ The country is planning to test three lakh samples per day with a network of 907 laboratories – 659 in the government sector alone – spread across the entire nation.
 - ✓ At present, India is testing around 1.5 lakh samples every day
 - ✓ The total number of samples tested so far is 59,21,069 with 1,54,935 samples tested in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ In this regard, the ICMR has recently recommended use of antigen detection testing kits in the containment zones as well as in hospitals in combination with RT-PCR testing.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held interactions with state chief ministers to review the Covid-19 situation and management strategies of respective states.
 - ✓ During the interaction, the PM praised Punjab's microcontainment and house-to-house surveillance strategy in tackling the spread of Covid-19 in the state
 - ✓ The PM intervened and suggested that all states should follow the same strategic approach to effectively counter the virus.
 - ✓ He will be holding a similar meeting with the chief ministers of the other states on June 17.
- **India – is all set to be chosen one among the five non-permanent members at the UN Security Council for 2021-22.**
 - ✓ The country is expected to be selected during the voting of 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which is scheduled to take place on June 17
 - ✓ India is standing unopposed as the nominee for the Asia-Pacific seat and needs two-thirds of UNGA members, or 129 votes, to be confirmed.
 - ✓ Mexico is also unopposed in its bid for the Latin American and Caribbean seat
 - ✓ However, there is a straight contest between Kenya and late entrant Djibouti for the African seat.
 - ✓ Also, there will be a contest between Canada, Ireland and Norway for the two seats allotted to the Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

INTERNATIONAL

- **Beijing's coronavirus situation – is categorized as “extremely severe”, as 27 new infections were reported on June 16 in the Chinese capital from a market cluster that has initiated a huge trace-and-test programme.**

- ✓ The fresh wave of coronavirus infections was believed to have started at the city's sprawling Xinfadi wholesale food market.
- ✓ The new cases took the number of infections in Beijing over the past five days to 106
- ✓ This has prompted the authorities to lock down almost 30 communities in the city and test thousands of people.
- ✓ The country has also slapped sharp restrictions on people leaving the capital to prevent spreading to other cities and provinces.
- ✓ Beijing has banned highrisk people from leaving and restricted public transport.
- ✓ Shanghai demanded some travellers from the capital city be quarantined for two weeks.
- ✓ Beijing's emergency response level was rolled back to II from III following the outbreak of fresh infections
- ✓ The WHO had already expressed concern about the cluster, pointing to Beijing's size and connectivity.
- ✓ Earlier, China had largely brought its outbreak in Wuhan under control through mass testing and draconian lockdowns.
- ✓ The virus found in Beijing is probably more contagious than that found in Wuhan considering the number of infections in just few days.
- ✓ Wuhan started recording cases at the end of December, and by January 17 had reported 62 cases, which is less than the number of Beijing's cases in just 4 days.
- ✓ Fresh meat and seafood in Beijing and elsewhere in China was also being inspected
- ✓ In another related move, New Zealand reported its first coronavirus case, just after eight days of declaring corona-free
- ✓ The country has reported two women as 'positive' for the virus after arriving from abroad.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Twenty Indian soldiers, including a colonel - were killed and several others injured seriously in violent physical clashes with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley region of eastern Ladakh on the night of June 15-16.**
- ✓ The Indian casualties are expected to go up as several soldiers have been injured in the clashes, while a few are still reported to be missing
- ✓ Some Indian soldiers were also taken captive by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), but were later released after high-level military talks
- ✓ The Chinese troops were present in far greater numbers and armed with nail-studded iron rods and stones during the prolonged clashes
- ✓ From the Chinese side, there were 43 casualties in the PLA ranks, which include both the dead and seriously injured.

- ✓ The Indian casualties are the first in the last 45 years, after the killing of four Assam Rifles jawans in an ambush by Chinese soldiers at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh in October 1975
 - ✓ Before this, the bloodiest clashes took place at Nathu La in 1967 in which 80 Indian soldiers and around 400 Chinese soldiers were estimated to have been killed.

1ST CLASH INVOLVING FATALITIES SINCE 1975

Triggered by Chinese troops, who came back to erect a temporary post on Indian side and were challenged by Indian troops

➤ Brawl broke out in evening, went on till midnight. Many men from both sides fell into rivulet

➤ Col Babu, Havildar K Palani and sepoy Kundan Kumar Ohja died on spot. Others succumbed later to injuries, hypothermia

➤ Violent face-off result of attempt by Chinese to unilaterally change status quo in the region, says MEA

➤ Senior commanders had productive meeting on June 6 and agreed on process for such de-escalation. Ground commanders had series of meetings thereafter

➤ An Indian Army statement said Indian and Chinese troops have disengaged in Galwan areas where they clashed on June 15-16

BUILD-UP

➤ Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged since May 5 following a clash at Pangong lake

➤ Aggressive posturing by Chinese troops in disputed areas of Pangong, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldi in eastern Ladakh along LAC

➤ Both countries moved soldiers & equipment as LAC situation continued to be volatile

➤ China has been opposed to Indian construction of air strips and roads in the area, including one Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road in Galwan Valley

➤ After weeks of face-off resulting in injuries, friction eased following talks between Indian and Chinese military commanders in Galwan Valley area and Hot Springs



1967 A total of 80 Indian soldiers and about 400 Chinese soldiers were killed in action at Nathu La in Sept 1967, during the bloodiest clashes since the 1962 war

1975 4 Assam Rifles jawans were killed when their patrol was ambushed by Chinese soldiers at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh on Oct 20, 1975

Border on the boil | Here is a timeline of the latest stand-off on the LAC

May 5/6: Indian and Chinese troops scuffle at Pangong Tso in Ladakh resulting in injuries in large numbers on both sides. Over 70 Army personnel including a Commanding Officer injured

May 9: Clash between troops at Naku La in North Sikkim resulting in injuries on both sides

May 18: China accuses India of "trespass", building "illegal" infrastructure on LAC

May 21: MEA says Chinese troops "hindering normal patrols"

May 27: China says border situation "stable and controllable"

June 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh says Chinese troops present at LAC "In large numbers"

June 6: Military commanders talk on Chinese side of LAC. Identify five areas of conflict, Pangong Tso, Patrolling Point 14, 15 and 17A and Chushul

Agree on limited "disengagement" from some of the areas

June 10: Major General level talks held. Chinese MFA says positive consensus reached at June 6 talks and two sides are following this "consensus to take actions to ease the situation along the border."

June 15/16: Twenty killed after violent face-off with PLA troops in Galwan during the "de-escalation" process

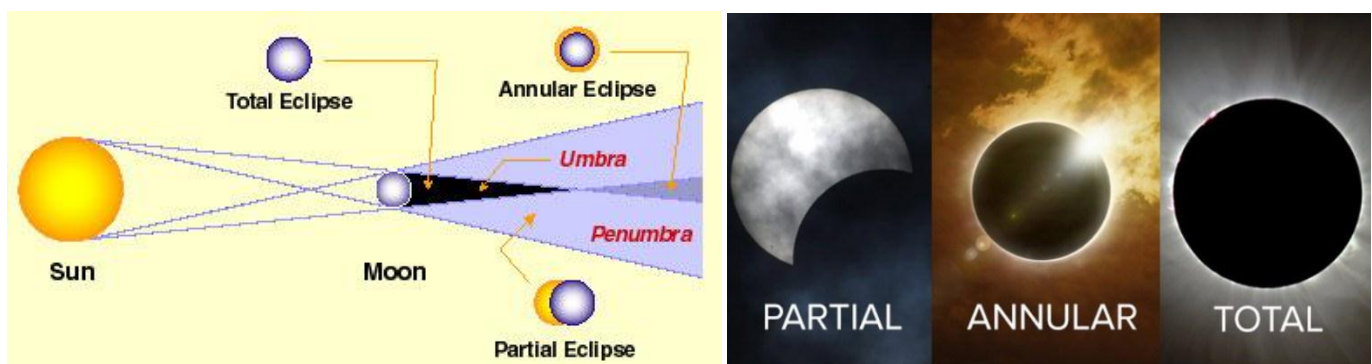


- ✓ The clashes represent a huge setback after high-level discussions between Indian and Chinese military leaders resulted in a de-escalation plan.

- ✓ Further, they have dealt a big blow to bilateral ties which have improved considerably after two “informal” summits between PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in 2018 and 2019
- ✓ The clashes were initiated by Chinese soldiers, who after initially pulling back a little, came back to erect a ‘temporary post’ near ‘Patrolling Point 14 (PP-14)’ on the Indian side of the Galwan region along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on June 15.
 - ✓ They were then challenged by a small Indian troop contingent led by Colonel B Santosh Babu, for violating the phased disengagement agreement
 - ✓ Colonel B Santosh Babu was the commanding officer of 16 Bihar Regiment, who had led the disengagement talks with his Chinese counterpart in the area
 - ✓ The PLA soldiers started attacking the contingent of Indian troops on the face of resistance.
 - ✓ In the “free-for-all” attack that began in the evening of June 15 and went on till around midnight, rival soldiers targetted and chased each other, with many falling into the Galwan rivulet in the area located at an altitude of over 14,500 feet with steep ravines and gorges.
- ✓ Telangana’s Colonel B Santosh Babu and two other soldiers, Havildar K Palani from Tamil Nadu and sepoy Kundan Kumar Ohja from Jharkhand, died on the spot.
- ✓ Earlier, the stand-off between both sides had begun with a clash in the Pangong Tso area on the intervening night of May 5 and 6, resulting in serious injuries to both sides.
- ✓ There was a second scuffle on May 9 at Naku La.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **An annular solar eclipse - will be visible on June 21, 2020, the longest day of the year**



- ✓ This is the first annular solar eclipse for this year and the only one visible in India.
- ✓ It can be viewed through a pinhole projector, as Sun project a crescent shadow with the passing Moon blocking it

- ✓ The eclipse is expected to last more than three hours
- ✓ However, only a small crescent could be seen in Chennai during the eclipse
- ✓ But, a ring of fire can be seen in many parts of North India including Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Haryana
- ✓ According to the ministry of earth sciences, around 98.6% of the Sun will be hidden by the Moon at the time of the greatest phase of the annular eclipse
- ✓ In Chennai, only 34% — partial eclipse — will be visible as the eclipse will begin at 10.22am and end at 1.41pm with the maximum eclipse at 11.58am.
- ✓ There may not be any change in the Sun's brightness during the eclipse.
- ✓ An annular solar eclipse occurs when the angular diameter of the Moon falls short of that of the Sun, as it comes in between the Earth and the Sun.
 - ✓ As a result, it cannot cover up the Sun completely leaving a ring of the Sun's disk visible around the Moon.
- ✓ In Partial solar eclipse, only a part of the sun is not visible from the Earth.
 - ✓ As per its name, a partial solar eclipse takes place when the sun, the moon, and the earth are not in the straight line.
 - ✓ Because of this only the part of the sun is blocked by the moon, making the other part completely visible.
- ✓ In case of a total solar eclipse, when the Moon blocks the Sun, all three celestial objects — the Earth, the Moon and the Sun — will be aligned, and hence, the Moon will be completely covering the Sun.
- ✓ Unlike the Lunar eclipse, an eclipsed Sun should not be viewed with the naked eye, even for a very short time, as it will cause permanent damage to the eye leading to blindness even when the moon covers a large portion of the Sun.
- ✓ The safe way to observe the solar eclipse is either by using proper filter like aluminised Mylar, black polymer, welding glass of shade number 14 or by making projection of Sun's image on a white board by telescope or through a pinhole projector made out of a cardboard.
- ✓ In a release, the MoES said obscuration of the Sun by the Moon at the time of greatest phase of partial eclipse will be around 94 % in Delhi, 80 % in Guwahati, 78 % in Patna, 75 % in Silchar, 66 % in Kolkata, 62 % in Mumbai, 37 % in Bengaluru, 34 % in Chennai, 28 % in Port Blair etc.
- ✓ Considering the Earth as a whole, the partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 9.16am, while the annular phase will begin at 10.19am.
- ✓ Later, the annular phase will end at 2.02pm, while the partial phase will end at 3.04pm.
- ✓ The annular path passes through Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, northern parts of India and China.
- ✓ There are three types of solar eclipses namely total solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, and the annual solar eclipse.
- ✓ The annual solar eclipse takes place only when the moon is farthest from the Earth.
- ✓ In this, the sun will look like a ring of fire.

- ✓ In 2020, June-July eclipse season will see the three spectacular eclipses in line.
- ✓ There was a penumbral lunar eclipse on June 5, there will be an annual lunar eclipse on June 21 and there will be a penumbral eclipse once again on July 5, 2020.
- ✓ In 2019, the annual solar eclipse had occurred on July 2.
- ✓ The next solar annual eclipse will occur on June 10, 2021.

- **In a major breakthrough, Oxford University scientists - have identified the drug 'dexamethasone' as significantly reducing risk of death from Covid-19 among patients with severe respiratory complications.**
- ✓ It is a low-cost and widely available steroid drug widely used to treat asthma, allergies and rheumatoid arthritis
- ✓ The drug was found to reduce death by up to onethird among those hospitalised with severe respiratory complications of Covid-19
- ✓ The drug was part of Oxford University's randomised controlled trial called as the Recovery trial.
- ✓ The Recovery trial includes testing a range of potential treatments for Covid-19 in UK's National Health Service (NHS) hospitals.
- ✓ According to UK health secretary, the NHS treatment for Covid-19 will include dexamethasone henceforth.
- ✓ In India, the drug is used to treat life-threatening sepsis and is widely available in injectables and tablets with annual sales of Rs 100 crore.
- ✓ Ahmedabad-based ZydusCadila is its largest manufacturer, while it is also produced by small scale manufacturers.
- ✓ Its price is regulated under the Drug Price Control Order, and is around Rs 5-6 per injection.
- ✓ Another drug, Tocilizumab is also being tested as part of the RECOVERY trial and is an injectible.
- ✓ Dexamethasone and tocilizumab are not anti-virals but modulate the immune response of the body when confronted by a viral infection such as Covid-19.
- ✓ Last week, the Indian Council for Medical Research revised the protocol for clinical management of Covid-19 and allowed the use of remdesivir, tocilizumab and convalescent plasma therapy (CPT) on certain groups of patients.
- ✓ Remdesivir, a patented drug by U.S.-based Gilead Life Sciences, reduced hospital stays for very sick Covid patients but has not been shown to improve recovery itself.

