APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 19, 2020

TAMIL NADU

➢ **On June 18, Tamil Nadu - reported 2,141 cases, including 1,373 cases in Chennai, taking the total to 52,334.**
✓ This was the second consecutive day the state recorded more than 2000 cases.
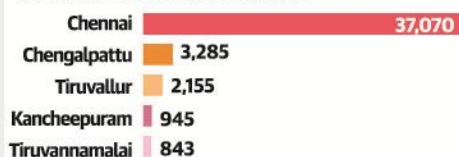✓ With the fresh cases, the capital city's tally climbed to 37,070.

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

	Until June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	Total
Cases reported	38,716	1,982	1,989	1,974	1,843	1,515	2,174	2,141	52,334
Recovered and discharged	20,705	1,342	1,362	1,138	797	1,438	842	1,017	28,641
Deceased	349	18	30	38	44	49	48	49	625

Persons tested
7,37,787
7,63,506

Active cases	Discharged	Died
21,990	27,624	576
23,065	28,641	625

DISTRICTS WITH MAXIMUM CASES
Chennai — 37,070
Chengalpattu — 3,285
Tiruvallur — 2,155
Kancheepuram — 945
Tiruvannamalai — 843

*Changes in 24 hours   As on June 17, 6 p.m.   As on June 18, 6 p.m.

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 tested negative after death, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

✓ Of this, 16,882 persons are undergoing treatment, while the city witnessed 500 casualties so far.
✓ The state has also recorded 49 deaths on the day, pushing the death toll to 625, of which Chennai accounted for 501 deaths.
  ✓ With this, the overall mortality rate in the state has increased from 0.97% on June 9 to 1.31% as on June 18
✓ The number of active cases stood at 23,065.
✓ A total of 1,017 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of recoveries in the State to 28,641.
  ✓ The State's recovery rate stood at 54%

- ✓ On the day, the state tested 25,719 people, significantly reducing the positivity rate to 8% as against 11% on June 11, when the state was testing just 16,000 people.
- ✓ On June 9, when 13,000 people were tested, the positivity rate touched nearly 13%
- ✓ The number of samples tested in the State so far crossed eight lakhs and stands at 8,00,443.
- ✓ On the day, both Chengalpet and Tiruvallur reported over 100 cases each, while nine other districts reported more than 20 cases each.
    - ✓ Apart from Chennai, neighbouring districts -- Tiruvallur (123), Chengalpet (115), and Kancheepuram (55) -- together reported 293 cases.
    - ✓ With this, Tiruvallur's total count stands at 2,155, while Chengalpet has 3,285 cases
    - ✓ Further, there were 55 cases in Vellore, 28 cases in Ramanathapuram, 27 cases in Tiruvannamalai and 26 cases each in Thoothukudi and Villupuram.
    - ✓ Barring Krishnagiri and Namakkal, all other districts recorded a spike in cases.
    - ✓ While Erode recorded three cases, Nilgiris reported four.
- ✓ Two private laboratories — Aarthi Scans and Labs in Vannarpet, Tirunelveli, and Velammal Medical College Hospital and Research Institute, Anuppanadi — have been approved for Covid-19 testing.
- ✓ With this, there are now a total of 81 testing facilities in the State.
- ✓ On June 18, Chief ministerEdappadi K Palaniswami announced free supply of food at Amma canteens during the intense lockdown in Chennai and suburbs till June 30.
    - ✓ Earlier, the state government had offered free food at all Amma canteens in the state till May 31.
    - ✓ The government also provides food to elders, sick and destitute through community kitchens.

- ➢ **On June 18, the Tamil Nadu government - has withdrawn the G.O. changing the anglicised names of 1,018 places in the state, following inconsistencies reported in the change of names.**
- ✓ This was announced by the Tamil official language and Tamil culture minister K Pandiarajan
- ✓ The Minister said the government would absorb all feedback and reissue an order soon.
- ✓ Before reissuing an order, the government would also be releasing a transliteration protocol.
- ✓ The new names were released in the public domain last week, following the two-year old initiative of the government
- ✓ The names were finalized after extensive consultations among linguists and scholars at the district and state level, resulting in an order on April 1.

- ✓ The new names were released in the public domain last week.
- ✓ They were coined based on the recommendation of the task force, represented by six departments, including Tamil development, revenue, rural development, municipal administration and registration.

- ➢ **The Tamil Nadu government - appointed 33 IAS officers as district monitoring officers to oversee Covid-19 containment and relief measures in various districts**

ELABORATE EFFORTS

The officers will ensure that Centre and state government norms are followed in every aspect of Covid management

➤ The monitoring officers will keep tab on every Covid control measure such as **testing, contact tracing and treatment**

➤ They will study the local Covid situation and **convey it to the state government to devise better containment strategies**

➤ They will take up district level issues like **paucity of testing** with state government

NEW TASK: Most of the officers were the districts' collectors and get them **addressed**

➤ The officers are expected to **hold daily meetings with district authorities** – conventional or online – to **take stock of the situation** and give appropriate instructions

- ✓ Going forward, each district will have one veteran bureaucrat supervising Covid control measures.
- ✓ The decision has been taken following the surging Covid count in several districts and various discrepancies in Covid data.
- ✓ Former health secretary, Beela Rajesh, who is currently Commercial taxes and registration secretary, would be supervising Covid management work in Krishnagiri district
- ✓ Other veteran bureaucrats like Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Santhosh Babu and Supriya Sahu will take care of Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Nilgiris districts respectively
- ✓ The bureaucrats will also oversee implementation of government welfare schemes, besides functioning as district monitoring officers.
  - ✓ They would also be supervising containment measures and convey to the state government any additional measures required in a district, so that district specific strategies could be adopted.
  - ✓ Most of these bureaucrats have served as collectors in the respective districts and are well versed with the topography and demography of the districts.
- ✓ On June 16, chief secretary K Shanmugam asked the monitoring officers to coordinate with the district authorities to ensure effective containment zone
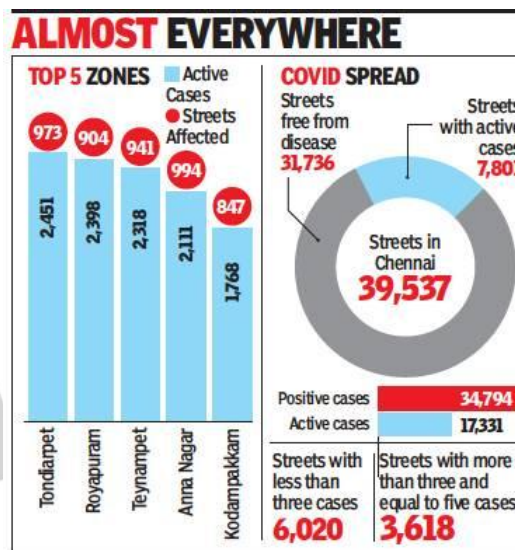
management, focused testing, effective contact tracing, isolation and quarantine management for preventing the further spread of disease.

➢ **Tangedco - is all set to purchase 500MW of solar power at Rs2.78 per unit from Solar Energy Corporation of India for the next 25 years to fulfill its renewable (solar) purchase obligation (RPO).**
✓ According to the ministry of new and renewable power (MNRE), about 9,000MW of solar power is required for 2021-22 to meet Tamil Nadu's solar purchase obligation
✓ As on January 31, 2020, approximately 4,000MW of solar power capacity has been commissioned in the state and another 5,000 MW of solar power is required within the next two years.
✓ However, considering the on-going projects, only 250MW capacity can be added for the year 2019-20
✓ Hence, Tangedco sought the permission of Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission for purchasing 500MW of solar power from SECI.
✓ Each year, the solar power obligation within the RPO has been increasing.
✓ In 2016-17, the state purchased 1,983MW and this year it is going to be 8,051MW and next year it will be 9,398MW.
✓ Tangedco's 500MW Kadaladi solar park project hasn't started, while another floating solar project with 250MW is also not ready for commissioning

➢ **Among all zones under the Greater Chennai Corporation, Tiruvottiyur (zone 1) - has recorded the sharpest increase in mortality rate.**
✓ As on June 18, the mortality rate of the zone stands at 1.73%, as against just 0.34% with three deaths on June 9

VICE GRIP

Zone	JUNE 9		JUNE 18	
	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage
Tiruvottiyur	3	.34	23	1.74
Manali	3	.87	6	1.19
Madhavaram	2	.31	5	.52
Tondiarpet	26	.86	63	1.38
Royapuram	46	1.14	83	1.48
Thiru-vi-ka Nagar	39	1.72	68	2.15
Ambattur	7	.85	13	1.05
Anna Nagar	23	1.11	45	1.24
Teynampet	34	1.28	64	1.48
Kodambakkam	16	.63	35	.92
Valasaravakkam	6	.55	11	.73
Alandur	6	1.46	11	1.49
Adyar	11	.83	22	1.06
Perungudi	1	.24	6	.88
Shollinganallur	0	.00	2	.30
Total	**223**	**0.97**	**457**	**1.31**

- ✓ The zone recorded 20 deaths in 10 days.
- ✓ The highest mortality rate of 2.15% in the city was reported in Thiru-vi-ka Nagar zone.
- ✓ The zone also has the second highest number of deaths in the city (68)
- ✓ Royapuram, which has the highest deaths in the city (83) has a mortality rate of 1.47%
- ✓ Teynampet, which has the third highest number of deaths in the city (64) has a mortality rate higher than that of Royapuram at 1.48%.
- ✓ Tondiarpet has the highest number of active cases in Chennai now surpassing Royapuram
- ✓ However, it is Anna Nagar that has the most number of infected streets in the city.

ALMOST EVERYWHERE

TOP 5 ZONES — Active Cases ● Streets Affected

Zone	Active Cases	Streets Affected
Tondiarpet	2,451	973
Royapuram	2,398	904
Teynampet	2,318	941
Anna Nagar	2,111	994
Kodampakkam	1,768	847

COVID SPREAD
Streets free from disease 31,736
Streets with active cases 7,801
Streets in Chennai 39,537

Positive cases	34,794
Active cases	17,331

Streets with less than three cases	Streets with more than three and equal to five cases
6,020	3,618

- ✓ As on June 17, Tondiarpet has reported 2,451 active cases across its 973 streets while Royapuram has 2,398 active cases across 904 streets
- ✓ The second zone with the highest number of streets affected is Tondiarpet followed by Teynampet.

- ➤ **The state government - has introduced a new science group with chemistry in Class XI**

TESTING TIMES

NEW COMBINATION OF CORE SUBJECTS

PART I | Language (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Urdu, Sanskrit, Arabic, French and German – any of one language)

PART II | English

PART III | Three core subjects (The student needs to select any one group with combination of three subjects)

NEW COMBINATION OF CORE SUBJECTS IN SCIENCE STREAM
- ➤ Physics | Chemistry | Maths
- ➤ Physics | Chemistry | Biology
- ➤ Maths | Physics | Computer Science
- ➤ Chemistry | Biology | Home science

THE PRESENT COMBINATION OF FOUR SUBJECTS
Physics | Chem | Computer Science | Mathematics
Phy | Chem | Bio | Maths (majority of students opt for bio maths group which offers choices to pursue higher studies in both engineering and medicine)
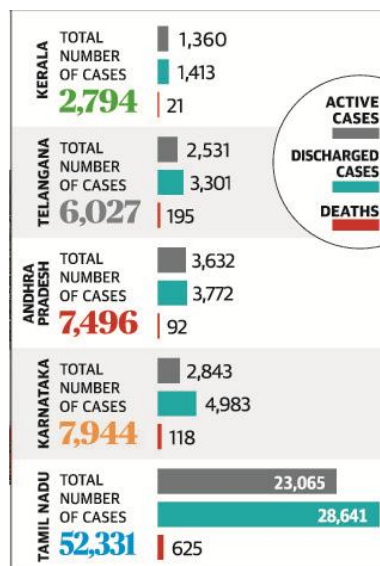Phy | Chem | Botany | Zoology

- ✓ The new group will have maths, physics and computer science groups.
- ✓ However, the drawback is that, those who opt for a group with computer science will not be able to join engineering courses.

NATIONAL

- ➢ **On June 18, the Centre - announced a Rs 50,000 crore new plan 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana' to provide immediate jobs to returning guest workers spread across 116 districts in six states, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Jharkhand and Odisha**
- ✓ This was unveiled by Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a news conference
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the massive rural public works scheme under the government's Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana through video conference on June 20 from a village in Khagaria district in Bihar.
    - ✓ Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi will join the event.
    - ✓ The Chief Ministers of all other concerned States and the Union Ministers of the Ministries concerned will also take part at the launch of the scheme.
- ✓ Out of an estimated 1 crore migrant workers who have returned to their villages, 67 lakh workers are expected to benefit from this scheme
- ✓ The districts have been selected based on surveys conducted by states, with a minimum number of 25000 migrants to qualify under the proposed mission
- ✓ The Government is planning to bring nearly 25 different types of works together under the scheme within 125 days.
    - ✓ Workers will be employed in rural housing, rural connectivity including the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, national highways, railway works, community sanitation complex, gram panchayats, anganwadis, water conservation, digging of wells, plantation and horticulture
    - ✓ The scheme will see coordination between 12 different Ministries/Departments, such as Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Road Transport and Highways, Mines, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Environment, Railways, Petroleum and Natural Gas, New and Renewable Energy, Border Roads, Telecom and Agriculture.
- ✓ The plan will involve "intensified and focused implementation" to provide employment to guest workers and create infrastructure in the rural areas of the country.
- ✓ Earlier, as per the FM, the Centre along with the state governments carried out mapping of skill sets of these guest workers and majority of them were skilled in some kind of work.
- ✓ Based on this and to mitigate their difficulties in the next four months, the Centre has decided to launch this massive rural public works scheme
- ✓ This scheme will empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the guest workers and rural citizens who have returned from big cities to their native places.

- ✓ Bihar tops the table with 32 districts under the proposed mission, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 31.
- ✓ These 116 districts are estimated to cover two-thirds of the guest workers.
- ✓ Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan is a part of the relief package of 20 trillion announced by the Central Government in the month of May 2020.
- ✓ On 18th June 2020, the Finance Minister has announced that a total of Rs 50,000 crore will be infused in the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan from the already approved Rs 61,500 from the Central Budget.

- ➢ **India - is back in the UN Security Council for the eighth time, after securing 184 out of the total 192 votes on 17th June 2020**
- ✓ This was far in excess of the 128, or two-thirds minimum, required for the new term
- ✓ India's term will begin on 1st January 2021 and will last for the next two years.
- ✓ Apart from India, Norway, Ireland, and Mexico were also elected for a period of 2 years as non-permanent members.
  - ✓ Mexico won with 187 votes, Norway secured 130, while Ireland got 128, and defeated Canada, which won 108.
  - ✓ Neither Kenya (113 votes) nor Djibouti (78), both contesting for one seat from Africa, won a two-thirds majority.
  - ✓ The two are contesting a second round
- ✓ On June 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his gratitude on India's election to the UNSC
  - ✓ He said India would want to "reform" the multilateral system based on the following principles — samman, samvad, sahyog, shanti and samriddhi (respect, dialogue, cooperation, peace and development).
- ✓ For ensuring peace and security across the world, the United Nations has a total of six principal organs
  - ✓ One among them, the United Nations Security Council, was formed in the year 1945.
  - ✓ It has a total of 15 member states of which 5 are permanent members (United States, France, China, Russia, and the United Kingdom),
  - ✓ These 5 permanent members only have the right to use the power of veto against any resolution.
  - ✓ The remaining 10 non-permanent members are elected among the other member states of the United Nations for a period of 2 years.
- ✓ The post of the presidency of the UN Security Council is rotated among the 15 member states (5 permanent, 10 non-permanent) every month
  - ✓ Based on that, India will have the presidency of the UN Security Council in the month of August 2021 and again for a month in the year 2022.
  - ✓ India was last elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the years 2011-2012.

- ✓ Earlier in June, Minister for External Affairs Jaishankar gave India's overall objective during its forthcoming UNSC tenure as an acronym **'NORMS'** — New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System, making it clear that U.N. reforms, including the push for expanding the UNSC permanent membership, would be high on agenda when it assumes the UNSC seat.
- ✓ T.S. Tirumurti is the current Indian ambassador to U.N.

- ➢ **On June 18, India – reported its biggest single-day spread of Covid-19 infections, after reporting 14,052 new cases across the country**
- ✓ The previous record for the highest number of new cases was set just a day earlier, when 13,219 cases were reported.
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra reported 3,752 cases and Delhi 2,877, both highest numbers in the respective states.
- ✓ With this, the country's Covid-19 caseload stood at over 3.81lakh, with active cases rising to more than 1.64 lakh, as per data from state governments.
- ✓ The day also saw the number of people who have recovered from the infection cross the 2-lakh mark.
- ✓ UP too recorded its highest surge in cases, with 630 recorded on the day.
- ✓ The twin states of Andhra Pradesh (425 fresh cases) and Telangana (352) recorded their highest single-day numbers so far.
- ✓ The country has also reported 343 deaths on the day, taking the overall death toll to 12,602
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra reported 100 deaths, while Delhi had 65, Tamil Nadu 49 and Gujarat 31.
- ✓ The total coronavirus count in Delhi was just short of 50,000 at 49,979, while the toll is closer to 2,000, at 1,969

- ✓ Maharashtra added 3752 new Covid-19 cases in a day, the highest so far, pushing its total case tally to 1,20,504 cases.

- ✓ It also added 100 deaths to its cumulative toll, taking the total deaths due to Covid-19 to 5,751
- ✓ Karnataka recorded 12 more Covid-related deaths, the highest on a single day, taking the state's toll to 114
  - ✓ Meanwhile, 210 new cases were reported on the day, taking the total number of positive cases to 7,944.
- ✓ Telangana reported 352 more fresh infections, taking total cases to 6,027.
  - ✓ Three more people died on the day, taking the toll to 195.
- ✓ In Kerala, there were 97 new viral infection cases and one more death
  - ✓ With this, a total of 2,794 persons were diagnosed with the viral disease since the outbreak began, the number of recoveries were high at 1,413.
- ✓ In Andhra Pradesh, 425 fresh cases and two deaths were reported taking the case tally to 7,496 and toll to 92

- ➤ **Ahmedabad - has the highest case fatality rate, while Mumbai has reported the highest number of cases and deaths per million among the country's nine largest metro cities.**
- ✓ However, the growth of cases and deaths over the last fortnight has been sharpest in Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the case fatality rate (CFR) or the number of deaths for every 100 positive cases has worsened over this period in six of the nine cities.

MUMBAI HAS MOST DEATHS/MILLION

Urban Agglomeration	CFR	Cases/ million	Deaths/ million	Growth rate (14 days)	
				Deaths	Cases
Ahmedabad	7.6	2,083	157	2.3	1.7
Kolkata	5.4	599	32	2.7	4.1
Bengaluru	5.2	69	4	9.7	5.0
Mumbai	4.8	3,869	187	6.2	2.8
Pune	4.7	1,865	87	3.6	3.2
Delhi	4.0	2,332	94	8.5	5.0
Surat	4.0	371	15	2.6	2.9
Chennai	1.3	3,496	46	8.0	5.1
Hyderabad	0.6	407	3	0.0	5.7
Total (9 cities)	4.2	1,899	79	5.5	3.7

As on June 18

- ✓ The jump in CFR in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, to a significant extent, is because of the addition of pre-dated deaths.
- ✓ However, even without any such exercise, Ahmedabad has the highest deaths per million after Mumbai.
- ✓ The highest CFR of 7.6 is reported in Ahmedabad, followed by Kolkata, Bangalore and Mumbai.
- ✓ This ratio is lowest for Hyderabad.
- ✓ Chennai, despite the addition of older deaths, continues to have a low CFR of 1.3 against the national average of 3.3.

- ✓ More than half of the cases (57.3%) and deaths (71.4%) are confined to these nine largest urban agglomerations with 5 million plus populations.
- ✓ Urban agglomerations are defined as continuous urban habitation like Chennai UA, which includes its neighbouring areas from Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalpet

- ➤ **On June 18, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan - launched the country's first mobile I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic lab) for last mile Covid-19 testing access.**

- ✓ The lab will be deployed in interior, remote and inaccessible parts of the country
- ✓ It has the capability to perform 25 RT-PCR tests a day, 300 ELISA tests a day and additional tests for TB, HIV as per CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) rates.
- ✓ The lab has double set of machines, which can help increase the capacity to about 500 a day in 8 hours shift.
- ✓ It can be lifted from automotive chassis and put on goods train for sending to any location in the country
- ✓ The Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab (I-LAB) is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, under the Covid Command strategy
- ✓ The number of government labs had now increased to 699 and private labs to 254 as on June 18.
- ✓ The government has tested 1,65,412 samples in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ With this, the total number of samples tested thus far is 62,49,668

- ➤ **On June 18, the government - cancelled a Rs471-crore signaling contract given to a Chinese company for a World Bank-funded railway project, without waiting for World Bank's approval.**
- ✓ DFCCIL (Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd), an entity under the Railways ministry, decided to terminate the contract with Beijing National Railway Research & Design Institute of Signal & Communication

- ✓ The contract was given to the Chinese company for installing signals and communications system in the 417-km Kanpur – Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. (formerly Mughal Sarai Jn.) section of the eastern freight corridor.
- ✓ The decision follows the violent clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh couple of days before.
- ✓ The move also comes a day after the Department of Telecom decided to ask the two state-run telecoms — BSNL and MTNL — not to use gear by Chinese firms in its 4G upgrade.
- ✓ The company was awarded the contract in 2016 through the World Bank's bidding process.
- ✓ According to the Indian Railways, despite passage of four years, only 20% of the work has been completed.
- ✓ In April 2020, the DFCCIL wrote to the Bank, saying it was not interested in continuing with the Chinese company due to poor project progress and failures in meeting contractual obligations

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ➤ **On June 18, the Supreme Court - stayed one of the biggest festivals of the world — the annual Jagannath Rathyatra in Puri in Odisha - amid novel coronavirus outbreak, considering the safety of people.**

- ✓ The annual procession was scheduled to begin from June 23 from Jagannath Temple of Puri, Odisha.
- ✓ During the procession, the chariots of the deities Balabhadra, Jagannath and Subhadra will be taken out in the streets
- ✓ The festival has been happening every year, except for some years in the 16th, 17th centuries during attacks by Muslim kings.
- ✓ However, a bench of CJI Bobde and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, A S Bopanna remained firm that the rathyatra would not be permitted this year.
- ✓ The apex court also refused to permit rituals and ceremonies associated with the rathyatra.

- ✓ Earlier during 1733-1735, the Yatra could not be held as the then deputy governor of Odisha, Mohammed Taqi Khan attacked the Jagannath temple.
- ✓ The yatra has been halted now after around 285 years.
- ✓ The Puri Rathyatra is considered as one of India's biggest chariot procession which is held for around 10-12 days.
- ✓ The festival is celebrated every year to commemorate Lord Jagannath's annual visit to the Gundicha Temple in Puri
- ✓ The construction of chariot requires around 4,000 pieces of wood, which are supplied by Odisha government free of cost.
- ✓ The Odisha Government started plantation program in 1999 to plant more trees in forests, as the government provides free logs by cutting trees of the forests.

INTERNATIONAL

- ➢ **US President Trump - signed into law a bill that would allow him to impose sanctions on Chinese officials involved in the mass captivity of more than 1 million Uyghurs and members of other largely Muslim minorities in the region of Xinjiang.**
- ✓ The Uyghur Human Rights Policy bill aims to halt the human rights abuses, the detainment, torture and harassment of the Uyghur Muslim communities in China.

- ✓ Since 2016, over a million Uyghur Muslims have been detained in Xinjiang re-education camps by the Chinese Government.
- ✓ The main purpose of these re-education camps was to ensure strict adherence to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party
    - ✓ The detainees are kept in captivity for at least 12 months depending on their performance in the ideology tests.
    - ✓ They are not permitted to leave the camp till the government decides to free them.
    - ✓ Almost 1 in 10 Uyghurs are being detained in re-education camps as of November 2019, as per reports.
    - ✓ The Human Rights Watch had released a report in 2017 asking the Chinese government to immediately free the detainees and shut down the political education centres.

- ✓ The Uyghurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins belong to Central and East Asia.
  - ✓ Their native region is considered to be the tightly controlled 'Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region' in the People's Republic of China.
  - ✓ The Uyghurs are considered to one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China
  - ✓ Further, Uyghurs also reside in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
  - ✓ The Uyghurs speak Turkic and they are one of the most persecuted Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, including the Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz and Hui.

- ➤ **On June 18, China's capital Beijing - reported a decline in number of coronavirus cases after bringing a recent outbreak under control**
- ✓ A total of 158 cases were reported in Beijing in the past week, most of which are related to Xinfadi, the city's largest food market.
- ✓ The city reported 21 cases of Covid-19 on the day, down from 31 reported a day earlier.
- ✓ One case was also recorded in the neighbouring city of Tianjin and two more in Hebei province — which surrounds Beijing — prompting travel restrictions on Anxin county, home to nearly half a million people, banning most traffic.
- ✓ Meanwhile, New Zealand recorded its third new case this week, days after it declared itself free of the virus.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- ➤ **On June 18, Nepal - completed the legislative process for validation of its controversial new map, which shows parts of India's Uttarakhand as belonging to Nepal.**
- ✓ The upper house of Parliament, National Assembly, unanimously approved the constitution amendment bill for revising the map in the national emblem.

- ✓ All 57 members of the house voted in favour of the bill.
- ✓ This legitimises the new map which shows Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and the strategic Lipulekh Pass located near the tri-junction with China and Nepal as Nepali territory.
- ✓ The Nepal president Bidhya Devi Bhandari now has to provide the final seal of approval, seen as a mere formality.
- ✓ After the bill was approved last week by the lower house, House of Representatives, the Indian government had said that the artificial enlargement of claims by Nepal was not based on historical facts or evidence and was not tenable.
- ✓ Nepal's lower house of the Parliament had taken up the controversial amendment bill for discussion on June 9, 2020
- ✓ The controversial amendment bill sought to incorporate an updated political map in the Constitution of Nepal- 2072.
- ✓ The constitution amendment bill was brought in to amend Schedule 3 of Nepal's constitution to update the nation's political map in the national emblem

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➤ **The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) - has granted license of the manufacturing know-how of a PPE (personal protective equipment) suit named — 'NavRakshak' — to five MSME clients to meet the ongoing country-wide demand for quality PPE kits.**

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT- PPE KIT

COVERALL SPUNBOND POLY LAMINATED WITH HOOD	1 PC
SHOE COVER	1 PAIR
PROTECTING GOGGLES	1 PC
NITRILE GLOVES	1 PAIR
BOUFFANT CAP	1 PC
3 PLY SURGICAL MASK	1 PC

ISO, GMP, CE CERTIFIED COMPLIANT

- ✓ These five manufacturers put together are planning to produce more than 10 million PPEs a year on a mass production scale.
- ✓ The manufacturing technology of NavRakshak was developed at the Innovation Cell of the Institute of Naval Medicine, INHS Asvini Hospital (Mumbai) of the Navy, based on which the name was derived

- ➤ **The Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, a constituent lab of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - has received permission for carrying out Phase III trials for the use of Umifenovir against Covid-19.**
- ✓ The randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial will test the efficacy, safety and tolerability of the drug, Umifenovir
- ✓ Umifenovir is mainly used for the treatment of influenza
- ✓ It is available in China and Russia, and has recently come into prominence due to its potential use for the treatment of coronavirus patients.
- ✓ The trial will be carried out at King George's Medical University (KGMU), Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS) and Era's Lucknow Medical College & Hospital.
- ✓ Further, the CDRI has licensed the economical process technology for manufacturing and marketing the drug to M/s. Medizest Pharmaceuticals Private Ltd. Goa, who have already received test license from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)
- ✓ Moreover, all the raw materials for the drug are indigenously available and if the clinical trial is successful, Umifenovir can be a safe, efficacious, affordable drug against COVID-19
- ✓ The clinical trial was an integral part of the CSIR strategy of repurposing drugs for COVID-19.

ECONOMY

- ➤ **India's economy - is forecast to contract by 4% in 2020-21 financial year, and will rebound to 5% growth in 2021-22, as per the latest forecast of the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
- ✓ Apart from ADB, several investment banks, economists, brokerages and multilateral agencies expect the Indian economy to contract sharply in the current financial year
- ✓ The decline is attributed to the impact of the national lockdown to tackle the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ ADB had forecast the Indian economy to grow by 4% in its April estimate, but the outbreak of Covid-19 has prompted the multilateral agency to drastically revise the outcome
- ✓ The ADB expects China to grow at 1.8% this year and 7.4% in 2021, compared to the April estimates of 2.3% and 7.3%, respectively
- ✓ For the countries in Developing Asia, ADB forecasts growth of 0.1% in 2020.
  - ✓ This is a decline from the 2.2% forecast in April and would be the slowest growth for the region since 1961.
  - ✓ 'Developing Asia' refers to a group of over 40 countries that are members of the ADB.

✓ In its annual flagship ADO published on April 3, ADB had projected that India's economic growth rate would slip to 4% in the current fiscal on account of the global health emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

➢ **On June 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled the auction process of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining through video-conference.**

✓ A two-stage e-auction is being adopted for the allocation of mines.
✓ The decision was part of the announcements made by the Centre under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
✓ The auction for commercial mining was a major step towards making India self-reliant in the energy sector.
✓ According to the PM, the launch marked not only the implementation of reforms to the coal mining sector but also the beginning of creation of lakhs of jobs.
✓ The government had decided to spend ☐50,000 crore on creating infrastructures for coal extraction and transport.
✓ This would also create job opportunities for locals closer to their homes.
✓ The PM also said 16 'aspirational' districts had a huge stock of coal, but still the locals had to migrate to other cities for jobs.

➢ **On June 18, Global ratings agency Fitch - revised the outlook on India's sovereign rating to 'negative' from 'stable' but retained the rating at BBB (minus)**
✓ The agency has cited that the coronavirus pandemic has significantly weakened India's growth outlook for this year and exposed the challenges associated with a high public-debt burden.
✓ Fitch expects economic activity to shrink by 5% in the fiscal year ending March 2021 (FY21) due to the strict lockdown measures, before rebounding by 9.5% in FY22

WHAT THEY SAY	RATING	OUTLOOK
Fitch	BBB (minus)	Negative
Moody's	Baa2	Negative
S&P	BBB (minus)	Stable

❝ India's medium-term GDP growth outlook may be negatively affected by renewed asset-quality challenges in banks and liquidity issues in NBFCs | FITCH

- ✓ According to Fitch, India's fiscal metrics have deteriorated significantly due to the impact of the severe growth slowdown on revenue, the fiscal deficit and public-sector debt ratios
- ✓ It expects general government debt to jump to 84.5% of GDP in FY21 from an estimated 71% of GDP in FY20.
- ✓ Earlier, another ratings agency Moody's had downgraded the country's sovereign rating to its lowest level and retained the outlook as negative, while S&P has affirmed the rating at BBB (minus) and has a stable outlook.

➢ **For the first time in the bank's 116 years history, private lender City Union Bank - reported a quarterly loss of Rs 95 crore for the March ended quarter, 2020**
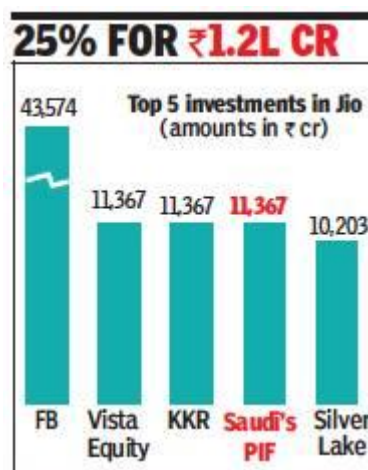

- ✓ The loss is attributed to higher provisioning to future issues arising from Covid-19 pandemic and spike in bad loans.
- ✓ The bank has allotted covid-19 related provisions to the tune of □102 crore.
- ✓ The bank's return on assets (ROA) usually stands at 1.5%- 1.6%.
    - ✓ But, for FY21, the bank has decided to retain ROA at 1% to calculate future provisioning, while the balance amount will be used to cover future defaults occurring due to Covid-19
- ✓ The gross non-performing assets rose to 4.09% from 2.95%, while net NPAs rose to 2.29% from 1.81%.
- ✓ Net interest income contracted to □4,195 crore from □4,206 crore, while the net interest margin dropped to 3.91% from 4.4%
- ✓ The provisions for contingencies has increased by over 400% at Rs 450 crore for the March quarter, compared to Rs81 crore in the December quarter, and Rs91 crore in the previous year.
- ✓ The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood comfortably at 16.76%, well above the statutory minimum.
- ✓ Last year, the bank had posted a net profit of □175 crore.

➢ **Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) – has decided to invest Rs. 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms Ltd., marking its largest investment in India.**

✓ The infusion will give the authority a 2.32% stake in Jio, the telecom-cum-digital services arm of Reliance Industries (RIL).

✓ PIF will be the 10th foreign entity to invest in Jio, which has mobilised ☐1,15,693.95 crore since April 22, 2020

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	4546.8	0.93%
10	L Catterton	1894.5	0.39%
11	PIF	11367	2.32%
	Total	**₹ 1,15,693.95**	**24.70%**

✓ Apart from PIF, the other leading global investors include Silver Lake, Facebook, General Atlantic, Vista Equity Partners, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, L Catterton, and TPG.

✓ About 25% of Jio will be controlled by the external investors once all the deals are approved by the regulating agencies.

✓ The money earned will be utilised by RIL to meet its net debt, which had reached Rs1.61 lakh crore before March 2021.

25% FOR ₹1.2L CR

Top 5 investments in Jio (amounts in ₹ cr)

| 43,574 | 11,367 | 11,367 | 11,367 | 10,203 |
| FB | Vista Equity | KKR | Saudi's PIF | Silver Lake |

✓ PIF's investment has assigned Jio a valuation of Rs 5.16 lakh crore, which is similar to the valuation given by the other financial investors of the company, such as General Atlantic, Mubadala and L Catterton.

✓ The Jio transaction follows PIF's stake-sale in petrochemicals company SABIC to Saudi Aramco.

- ✓ PIF is the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia, which was founded in 1971
- ✓ It is among the top 10 sovereign wealth funds in the world and has assets worth $400 billion.

INDIA VS CHINA – MILITARY CAPABILITIES - REPORT

MILITARY ASYMMETRY

China: $179 billion	ANNUAL DEFENCE BUDGET:	India: $45 billion
Armed Forces: 2.2 million troops		Armed Forces: 1.5 million troops
Missile Arsenal: Large Long Range Missiles: Land-based Dong Feng-31A (11,200-km) & Submarine-launched JL-2 (7,400-km)		Missile arsenal: Small Long Range Missiles: Agni-III (3,000-km). Agni-V (over 5,000-km) being inducted
Nuclear Warheads: 320		Nuclear Warheads: 150
Fighters/Bombers: Over 2,100		Fighters/Bombers: Over 500
Tanks: Over 7,000		Tanks: Over 3,300
Big Warships: Over 110 (2 aircraft carriers & 33 destroyers)		Big Warships: 37 (1 aircraft carrier & 11 destroyers)
Submarines: Over 60 (10 nuclear-powered)		Submarines: 17 (2 nuclear-powered)

WATCHING THE WESTERN THEATRE COMMAND

➤ PLA has significant numerical advantage over Indian Army. But India will have to mainly deal with China's Western Theatre Command (WTC)

➤ WTC (largest of 5 in China) handles 3,488-km LAC

➤ With no theatre command, India has 4 Army & 3 IAF commands for 'northern borders' with China

➤ India and China have over 2 lakh soldiers each available for deployment along LAC, though more can be brought in

➤ China has built 14 airbases, rail network & 58,000-km of roads in Tibet. PLA can swiftly induct & sustain 30-32 divisions (with over 12k troops each) along LAC