

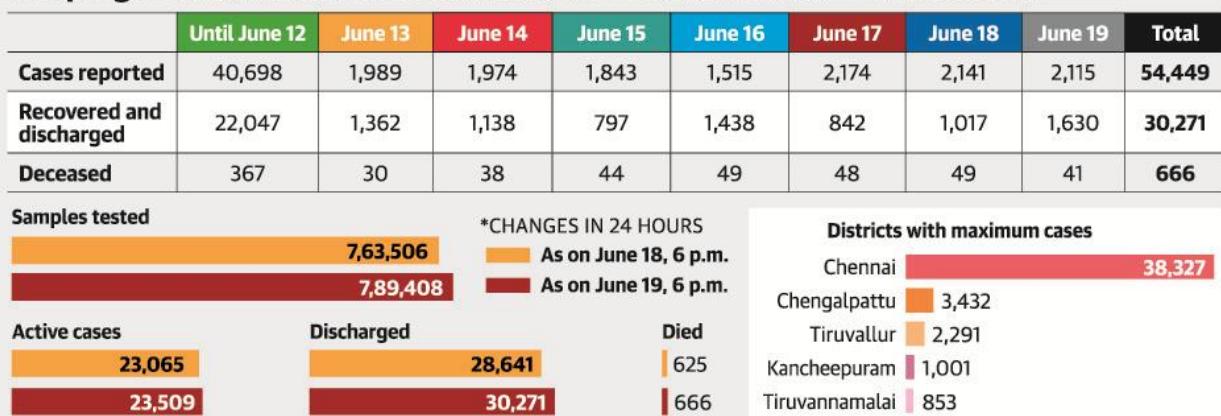


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 20, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On June 19, Tamil Nadu – reported 2,115 fresh cases of Covid-19, taking the state's total to 54,449
- ✓ The death toll rose to 666 with 41 deaths reported on the day, with Chennai alone contributing 529 casualties

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



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.

- ✓ The state has 23,509 active cases, after the discharge of 1,630 persons on the day, with 16,699 taking treatment in Chennai alone
- ✓ This takes the total recovered persons in the state to 30,271
- ✓ A total of 27,537 samples were tested during the last 24-hour period, taking the total number of samples tested to 8,27,980.
- ✓ A total of 7,89,408 individuals have been tested so far.
- ✓ Among the new cases reported, Chennai reported 1,322 cases, Vellore 103, Chengalpet 95, Thiruvallur 85, Madurai 58 and Kancheepuram 39 cases.

- ✓ Two more private labs — PrimeGen Healthcare Laboratories Private Limited, Nanganallur, and Suriyaa Diagnostics — have been approved for Covid-19 testing.
- ✓ With this, there are a total of 45 testing facilities in the government sector and 38 in the private sector.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu higher education minister K P Anbazhagan and four of his staff have tested positive for Covid-19
- ✓ He is one of the six ministers overseeing coordination and relief work in city corporation limits, handling Adyar, Perungudi and Sholinganallur zones.

- **The State Government – has announced that all Class X state board students for the 2019-20 academic year will be promoted irrespective of their marks in quarterly and half-yearly exams**
- ✓ As per the earlier directive of the Government, the half yearly and quarterly exam marks carry 80% weightage while attendance will be given 20% weightage.
- ✓ Further, the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations has sought records, including answer sheets, mark registers and progress reports, from headmasters to award marks to Class X students.

- **On June 19, the government - appointed Pankaj Kumar Bansal as the Chairman and Managing Director of Tangedco and Chairman of Tantransco.**



- ✓ He replaces Pradeep Yadav, who was appointed recently
- ✓ Bansal will continue to hold the post of Commissioner of Land Administration in full additional charge until further orders.
- ✓ He was the former Managing Director of Chennai Metro Rail Ltd.,
- ✓ Bansal was recently appointed as a Special Coordinator for Covid-19 operations for the Greater Chennai Corporation
- ✓ Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department commissioner K Phanindra Reddy has been posted as Commissioner of Revenue Administration in the place of J Radhakrishnan, who was holding additional charge.
- ✓ J Radhakrishnan has been recently posted as Health Secretary.
- ✓ Phanindra Reddy will also remain Commissioner, HR&CE until further orders

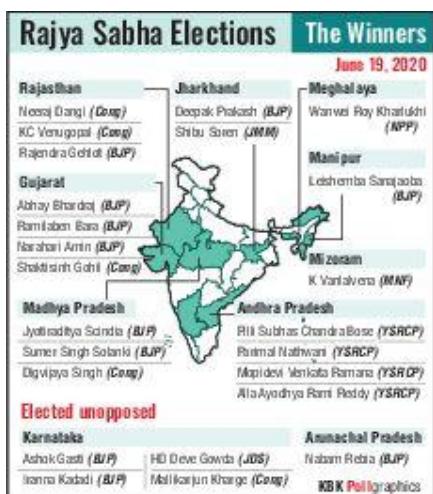
STATES

- **Jharkhand government - approached the Supreme Court challenging the centre's decision to kick off the auction process of coal blocks for commercial mining**
- ✓ On June 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the auction process of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining through video-conference
- ✓ Jharkhand had challenged the decision on the ground that the current Covid-19 situation would not fetch market price and tribals would be affected by commercial exploitation of coal mines.
- ✓ As per the state government, the auction decision was illegal as there was no law to guide mining activities because of the legal vacuum created by lapse of the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020, on May 14
- ✓ The centre's decision was based on making the country self-reliant in energy and boosting industrial development
- ✓ The auction process was kept open for domestic as well as international firms under the 100% FDI route.
- ✓ India is the world's fourth largest coal producer
- ✓ According to the Coal Ministry, the commercial mining of these coal blocks is expected to generate approximately ₹33,000 crore of capital investment in the country over the next five to seven years.
- ✓ Further, they will also contribute a revenue of ₹20,000 crore annually to the state governments
- ✓ India has committed to ensuring that fossil fuels contribute no more than 60% of its energy production by 2030 as per the 2015 Paris Agreement.

NATIONAL

- **On June 19, India's Covid-19 caseload – is all set to cross the 4 lakh mark, as fresh cases hit another record high of 14,574**
- ✓ The states of Delhi (3,137) and Maharashtra (3,827) posted their highest daily numbers, taking the total to over 3.95 lakh
- ✓ The previous highest single-day rise in cases was recorded just a day earlier, when the count crossed 14,000 for the first time, at 14,052.
- ✓ The total Covid-19 cases reported in the month of June so far had crossed the 2 lakh mark, and stood at 2,10,655, as per data from state governments.
- ✓ On the day, Delhi became the only state apart from Maharashtra to record over 3,000 cases in a single day.
- ✓ Maharashtra's total caseload went up to 1,24,331, while the death toll reached 5893 after the reporting of another 142 deaths on the day.
- ✓ In the entire country, a total of 10,386 recovered from Covid-19 in the last 24 hrs, taking the total number of recovered patients to 2,04,710.
- ✓ Currently, there are 1,63,248 active cases under medical supervision

- ✓ India's recovery rate currently stands at 53.79%
 - ✓ In the first two weeks of June, Delhi overtook Maharashtra and witnessed a significant rise in Covid-19 positivity rate — the number of confirmed cases per 100 tests — at 30%.
 - ✓ The others in the top nine are Telangana at 12%, Gujarat 10%, **Tamil Nadu 10%**, Haryana 9%, Uttarakhand 6%, Chandigarh and Bihar at above 5%.
 - ✓ Kerala at 1.6% and Punjab at 1% are among 11 best performing states that have kept positivity rate below 3% in all the four two-week periods studied since May 7
 - ✓ The others are Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Goa, J&K, Karnataka and Jharkhand.
- **The Centre - has asked all states to replicate the best practices implemented by Karnataka as part of its Covid-19 management strategy.**
- ✓ The practices include comprehensive contact-tracing of Covid-19 cases and physical or phone-based household survey in tackling the spread of the virus.
 - ✓ Highlighting the two initiatives taken by Karnataka, the health ministry said the state has developed the 'whole of government' approach with the involvement of multi-sectoral agencies, supported by technology-based solutions and interventions.
 - ✓ As part of the initiatives, Karnataka has widened the definition of 'contact' to include both high-risk as well as low-risk contacts as defined by the central government.
 - ✓ The state has involved more than 10,000 well-trained field staff to carry out specific responsibilities for contact- tracing
 - ✓ It has also spelt out the detailed SOPs, which prescribes step-by-step actions to be performed by each designated person.
- **The winners of the Rajya Sabha Elections for the 19 seats, held on June 19 - was announced**
- ✓ The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) headed towards a majority in the Rajya Sabha after winning 10 seats



- ✓ The main opposition party, Congress won four seats among the results declared.
 - ✓ Already, the BJP had bagged three of the five uncontested seats (two in Karnataka and one in Arunachal Pradesh) for which the results were declared earlier.
 - ✓ The BJP won three seats in Gujarat, two in Madhya Pradesh and one each in Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Mizoram.
 - ✓ Its alliance partners won one seat each in Meghalaya and Mizoram
 - ✓ Following the election results, the current strength of Rajya Sabha will go up to 244 (of the total 245), in which BJP has 86 members and the NDA's tally goes beyond 100.
 - ✓ The Congress has 41 while others have 27
 - ✓ Congress's Digvijaya Singh, BJP's Jyotiraditya Scindia and JMM's Shibu Soren were among the winners
 - ✓ The voting was held for 19 seats spread across eight states — Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram
 - ✓ Of the three seats in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling BJP bagged two seats and the Congress won one seat.
 - ✓ In Rajasthan, Congress won two seats while BJP won a single seat
 - ✓ In Manipur, the lone seat was won by BJP
 - ✓ In Gujarat, BJP bagged three seats, while Congress won the lone seat
 - ✓ In Jharkhand, BJP and JMM won single seat each
 - ✓ In Andhra Pradesh, Jagan Mohan Reddy's YRS Congress made a clean sweep winning all the four seats
 - ✓ In Meghalaya, the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance won the lone seat in the state.
 - ✓ In Mizoram, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) won the lone Rajya Sabha seat in the state
- **The Indian Government – has launched recently a massive skill mapping exercise under SWADES initiative to map the skills of the Indian workers returning from abroad.**



- ✓ SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.
- ✓ This initiative was commenced earlier under the Vande Bharat Mission to provide returning citizens with relevant employment opportunities
- ✓ The skill mapping exercise aims to create a database of 'skilled' Indian citizens based on their experience and skillsets.
- ✓ The database can then be referred to various Indian and foreign companies for their skilled manpower requirements.
- ✓ SWADES is a collaborative initiative of the Ministries of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Civil Aviation and External Affairs.
- ✓ Earlier, post lockdown, maximum number of Indians have returned from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.
- ✓ They were mostly employed in sectors including oil and gas, automotive, aviation, tourism, hospitality, IT and ITeS and construction.
- ✓ Most of them belong to states of Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ During the return of citizens, they were asked to fill up a form under the programme, containing details related to the work sector, job title, employment, years of experience
- ✓ Further, based on these details, SWADES skill cards will be issued to them.
- ✓ The collected information will then be shared with relevant companies for suitable placement opportunities.

- **The country – will witness an annual and the deepest solar eclipse of the century on June 21, 2020, which is the longest day of the year**



- ✓ The event will be visible in the morning in a maximum phase along with a narrow corridor in the Northern Parts of the country, which will include Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The annual eclipse will be seen partially in the rest of the country.
- ✓ During the maximum phase of the eclipse, the moon will cover up to 98.8% of the sun
- ✓ This will make it the deepest annual solar eclipse of the century.
- ✓ The complete hiding of the sun by the moon during the greatest phase of the partial eclipse will be around 80% in Guwahati, 94% in Delhi, 78% in Patna, 75%

- in Silchar, 62% in Mumbai, 66% in Kolkata, 34% in Chennai, 37% in Bangalore, 28% in Port Blair, etc.
- ✓ The annual solar eclipse will begin at 9.15 am IST in the morning and will continue for six long hours.
 - ✓ It will end at 03.04 pm on the same day.
 - ✓ The annual solar eclipse will reach its maximum phase at 12.10 pm, at this time the sun will look like a ring of fire from the earth.
 - ✓ The eclipse will also be seen as a necklace of pearls for around 30 seconds.
 - ✓ The annual solar eclipse 2020 will be seen from China, Southern Pakistan along with some parts of Africa including Congo, Central African Republic, and Ethiopia.
 - ✓ A solar eclipse takes place whenever the moon passes in between the Earth and the sun.
 - ✓ At this time, the moon blocks the sunlight reaching the Earth, thereby hiding the image of the Sun for a viewer on the Earth.
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ There are three types of solar eclipses - 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.
 - ✓ The total solar eclipse takes place when the sun, the moon, and the earth are aligned perfectly making a straight line.
 - ✓ During a total solar eclipse, the sun is entirely blocked from a view from Earth for a few minutes during the maximum phase of the eclipse.
 - ✓ 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.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 18, China - has released genome sequencing data for the coronavirus responsible for a recent outbreak in Beijing, which is attributed to a European strain based on preliminary studies.**
- ✓ The genome sequencing had also been shared with the WHO and the Global Influenza Data Initiative
- ✓ Virus genome sequencing is a vital tool in the diagnosis of the disease Covid-19 and in understanding the coronavirus.
- ✓ The Beijing genome data was based on three samples — two human and one environmental — collected on June 11.

- ✓ On the same day, Beijing reported its first new local Covid-19 infection in months.
- ✓ After that, Beijing has reported a total of 183 cases, mostly linked to Xinfadi market, as on date.
- ✓ According to Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the head of the WHO, the coronavirus pandemic is “accelerating” rapidly and more than 150,000 cases were reported on June 18 — the “highest single-day number” so far.
- ✓ He said nearly half of the newly reported cases were from the Americas, with significant numbers from South Asia and the Middle East.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The World Economic Forum – is planning to host a unique "Twin Summit" in January 2021.**
- ✓ The unique 'twin summit' will be held in Davos, Switzerland with the theme "The Great Reset".
- ✓ It will be the 51st WEF summit, which is expected to see wider participation with virtual link-ups in 400 cities across the world during the main event to be held in Davos.
- ✓ This was recently announced by WEF Chief Executive, while hosting a virtual meeting at the WEF headquarters in Geneva.
- ✓ The 50th WEF summit was held in January 2020 with the theme 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'.
- ✓ The four-day WEF event began on January 21, 2020
- ✓ It saw participation of over 50 heads of State from 117 participating countries including US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

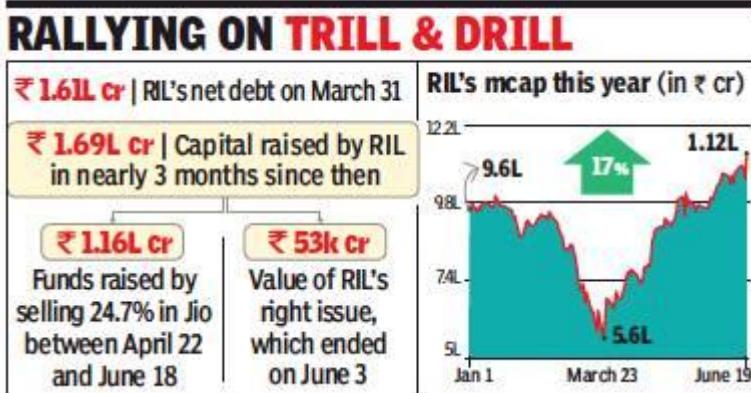
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **World Health Organization - has recently launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) with the participation of more than 30 countries.**
- ✓ The C-TAP aims at developing tests, vaccines, treatments and other health systems to fight Covid-19 as well as to make them accessible to all the countries.
- ✓ C-TAP was first proposed by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado in March 2020.
- ✓ However, the major economic powers such as France, China, Germany, Turkey, Japan, the US, and the UK have not signed up for the WHO-launched initiative.
- ✓ The Covid-19 Technology Access Pool will ensure that the latest and the best health systems were available to benefit the entire humanity.
- ✓ It includes the various tests, vaccines, treatments, diagnostics, and other key tools developed in the Covid-19 response
- ✓ The goal of C-TAP will be to accelerate the discovery of medicines and vaccines and other technologies through open science research.

- ✓ It will also be involved in fast-tracking the product development by mobilizing the additional manufacturing capacity.
- ✓ Through C-TAP, companies and governments who have developed an effective therapeutic have been invited to contribute the patent to the Medicines Patent Pool, which will then sub-license the patent to the generic manufacturers.

ECONOMY

- On June 19, Reliance Industries (RIL), the most valued company in India - crossed another milestone as it surpassed the \$150-billion market capitalisation mark, following a rise in the share market
- ✓ The company has achieved a mcap of almost Rs 11.5 lakh crore on the BSE, translating into \$151 billion.
- ✓ This is the highest ever market cap recorded by an Indian company



- ✓ In terms of mcap, RIL is followed by software exporting major TCS at Rs 7.7 lakh crore, HDFC Bank at Rs 5.7 lakh crore and HUL at Rs 4.9 lakh crore.
- ✓ The achievement came after its chairman Mukesh Ambani said the company had met its “promise to shareholders” by becoming net debt-free ahead of its March 2021 deadline.
- ✓ Ambani is now the ninth richest person in the world according to Forbes
- ✓ A ‘zeronet debt’ status is attained when a company’s cash equals the debt on its books.
- ✓ Since December 2019, RIL has secured investment commitments of Rs 1.75 lakh crore through share sales in its digital and petrol retail units and also through a Rs 53,124-crore rights offer to its existing shareholders, the largest ever in India.
- ✓ The combined fund mobilisation is in excess of Reliance’s net debt of Rs 1.61 lakh crore.
- ✓ As part of the road map to reduce Reliance’s net debt to zero, the billionaire chairman went on a fund-mobilisation spree over the last nine weeks by signing in 10 international investors in Jio Platforms Ltd.,
- ✓ The Jio enterprises have started its stake selling on April 22, when it sold almost 10% to social media giant Facebook

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%

- ✓ Since then, it has raised Rs 1.16 lakh crore by selling stakes of approximately 24.70% to another nine US and Middle Eastern buyers, which includes Silver Lake, General Atlantic, Vista Equity Partners, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, L Catterton, TPG and Saudi Arabia's PIF

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former RBI governor Urjit Patel - has been appointed chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for a four-year term starting June 22.**

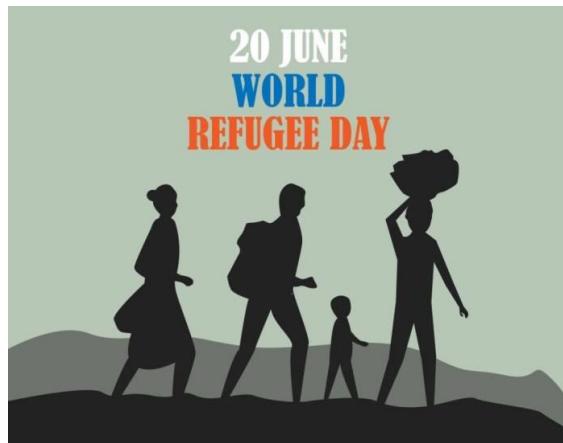


- ✓ He will replace Vijay Kelkar, who has been holding office since November 2014.
- ✓ The NIPFP is an autonomous research institute coming under the ministry of finance.
- ✓ It acts as economic think tank for the government and conducts research on public finance and contributes to policy-making
- ✓ The governing body of NIPFP comprises of three representatives of the Ministry of Finance, one representative of the Niti Aayog, one representative of the Reserve Bank of India, three representatives of sponsoring state governments, three distinguished economists, three heads of sister research institutions, and members of other sponsoring agencies and invitees.
- ✓ Urjit Patel resigned as the governor of RBI in December 2018

- ✓ He served as a deputy governor under Raghuram Rajan and succeeded him in September 2016

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Refugee Day – June 20



- ✓ The day is observed by the United Nations to honour the refugees across the world
- ✓ It has designed the day in its Resolution 55/76 on 4th December 2000
- ✓ The first World Refugee Day was observed on 20th June 2001.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Every Action Counts
- ✓ The theme adopted this year emphasizes that even a small effort made by an individual or an organization can make a lot of difference in the overall global efforts to help out millions of refugees across the globe.
- ✓ As per United Nations estimates, 20 people in every minute are forced to flee from their home places in order to escape terror, war and conflicts
- ✓ As on December 2019, there is a total estimate of 79.5 million people who were identified as refugees in various countries.
- ✓ As per 2019 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), 68% of these refugees are from countries such as Syria (6.6 million refugees), Venezuela (3.7 million refugees), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.2 million) and Myanmar (1.1 million).

