

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 27, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) commissioner K Prakash - inaugurated a dialysis centre with 12 beds at the Urban Primary Health Center in Valasaravakkam on June 26**
  - ✓ He announced that the government is planning to open similar centres at Thiruvottiyur, Injambakkam, Ambattur and Tondiarpet soon in the next few months.
  - ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had earlier announced that dialysis centres would be set up at each of the 15 zones for the benefit of kidney patients.
  - ✓ Chennai Corporation has already inaugurated four dialysis units in Perungudi, Nungambakkam, Retteri and Valluvarkottam
  - ✓ Out of this, centres in Nungambakkam and Retteri have assisted 35,174 patients so far.
  - ✓ All of these will provide treatment under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS), free of cost to those in need.
  - ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation along with an NGO, the Tamil Nadu Kidney Research Foundation (TANKER), has initiated the setting up of dialysis centres in Chennai.
  - ✓ The inauguration comes against the backdrop of several private hospitals refusing dialysis patients fearing spread of Covid-19 infection
  
- **Tamil Nadu's Covid-19 infections - spiked for the third consecutive day on June 26, after reporting another new peak of 3,645 fresh cases**
  - ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu's Covid-19 tally stood at 74,622
  - ✓ Chennai recorded an all-time high of 1,956 cases on the day, with its total count nearing the 50,000-mark.
  - ✓ The official toll in the state rose to 957 with the reporting of 46 more deaths.

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

|                          | Until June 19 | Jun 20 | Jun 21 | Jun 22 | Jun 23 | Jun 24 | Jun 25 | Jun 26 | Total  |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Cases reported           | 54,449        | 2,396  | 2,532  | 2,710  | 2,516  | 2,865  | 3,509  | 3,645  | 74,622 |
| Recovered and discharged | 30,271        | 1,045  | 1,438  | 1,358  | 1,227  | 2,424  | 2,236  | 1,358  | 41,357 |
| Deceased                 | 666           | 38     | 53     | 37     | 39     | 33     | 45     | 46     | 957    |

Persons tested



Districts with maximum cases



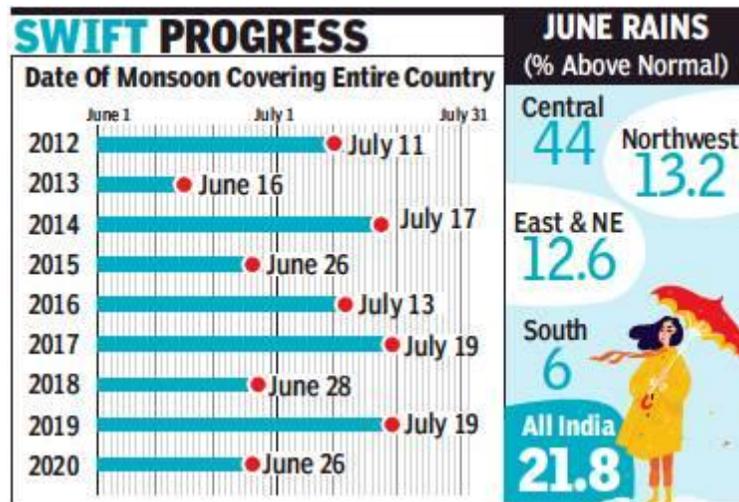
\*Changes in 24 hours    As on June 25, 6 p.m.    As on June 26, 6 p.m.

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.

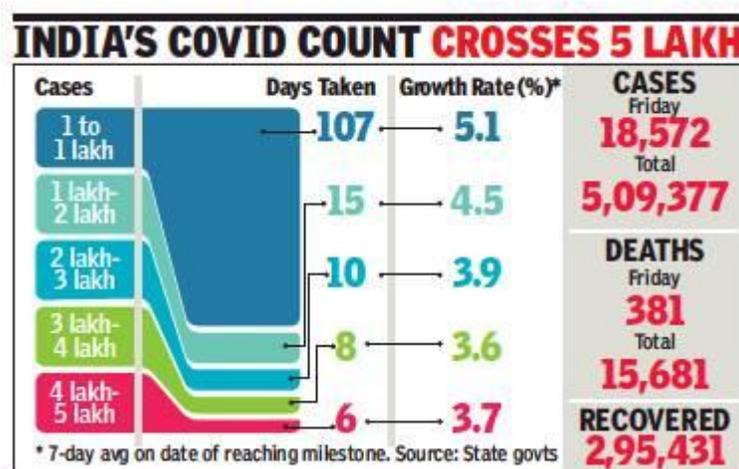
- ✓ The number of samples tested for Covid-19 crossed one million in the State, the first to reach the milestone in the country.
  - ✓ A total of 32,317 people were tested across the state, taking the total number of samples tested as on date to 10,42,649 for 9,92,991 individuals
  - ✓ The tests were done at 47 laboratories in the government sector and 42 in the private sector.
  - ✓ Chennai's main parent lab — the King's Institute of Preventive Medicine, in Guindy — has tested the largest number of samples, 1,24,046
- ✓ A total number of 32,305 persons are undergoing treatment as 'active cases' across the State.
- ✓ The total number of persons discharged went up to 41,357, as another 1,358 persons recovered on the day.
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, Chengalpattu reported 232 cases, taking its tally to 4,651.
- ✓ Further, Madurai reported 190, while Tiruvallur and Vellore recorded 177 and 148 cases, respectively.

## NATIONAL

- **On June 26, the Southwest monsoon - covered the whole of India, 12 days before the normal date of July 8, as announced by the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**
- ✓ Since 2013, this was the fastest progression of the monsoon throughout the country on the same date, jointly along with the year 2015.
  - ✓ In the past 13 years, the monsoon has covered the entire country before June 26 only once — in 2013
  - ✓ In the year 2013, an 'unusual' convergence of several weather systems had caused the devastating Kedarnath deluge while advancing the southwest monsoon by an all-time record date of June 16.
- ✓ This year, the monsoon hit the Kerala coast on its expected date of June 1 and was only briefly interrupted due to the impact of cyclone Nisarga that struck Maharashtra on June 2.



- ✓ According to IMD, the monsoon marched into the remaining parts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on June 26 to cover the entire country
  - ✓ This sets the stage for timely sowing of kharif crops.
  - ✓ Already, the monsoon’s smooth advance has led to a 22% rain-surplus over the country in June
- ✓ This year, the monsoon got favourable conditions for its advance right from the onset stage.
  - ✓ First, Cyclone Amphan helped the monsoon reach the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in mid-May.
  - ✓ Then, Cyclone Nisarga, which formed in the Arabian Sea towards the end of May, helped monsoon’s onset over Kerala on June 1 and other parts of south India and the western coast.
- **On June 26, India’s Covid-19 infections - raced past the 5 lakh mark after hitting another new peak of 18,572 cases, just six days after crossing the 4 lakh-mark**
  - ✓ This was the seventh new peak in daily cases reported in the past eight days.
  - ✓ The previous record of the highest case count on a single day was registered on June 25 with 17,870 cases.



- ✓ There were 381 deaths due to the virus on the day, the first time in four days that the toll had dipped below 400.
- ✓ The country has so far recorded 5,09,377 Covid-19 cases and 15,681 deaths, while over 2.95 lakh patients have recovered, as per data collated from state governments.
- ✓ Maharashtra led the case count on the day, after reporting over 5,000 cases in a day for the first time.
  - ✓ On the day, Maharashtra added 5,024 new Covid-19 cases, its highest single day addition so far.
  - ✓ With this, the total number of Covid cases in the state stood at 1,52,765 cases, breaching the 1.5 lakh mark.
  - ✓ A total of 175 deaths were reported in the state, including some pre-dated deaths, taking the casualties above the 7000-mark to 7,106.
- **On June 26, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation - extended the suspension of international flights till July 15 from the earliest deadline of June 30**
- ✓ However, it added that international schedule services “may be allowed on select routes on a country-by-country basis” under the travel bubble concept
  - ✓ As per this, India could allow passenger flights to countries like the US, UK, Germany and France from early next month.
  - ✓ People will be allowed to travel direct on these routes and follow the quarantine rules of destination country
- ✓ The aviation ministry allowed Indian carriers on June 26 to operate 45% of their summer schedule.
- ✓ Earlier, domestic flights were allowed to resume from May 25 at one-third capacity
- ✓ The only flights operating on international routes right now are those by Air India, and some domestic carriers, under the Vande Bharat Mission for repatriation of Indians.
- ✓ Some international airlines are also conducting relief flights to evacuate foreign nationals from India.
- ✓ Recently, it has to be recalled that the U.S., France and the UAE raised objections over Air India’s special flights under the Vande Bharat Mission aimed at repatriation of Indians from around the globe.
- **The government - is planning to create a repository of Covid-19 diagnosis samples to enable research on genomic epidemiology of coronavirus, fast track validation of testing kits, assess newer diagnostic tests and for quality control purposes.**
- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines for storage of respiratory specimens collected for Covid-19 diagnosis by RT-PCR platforms in government laboratories

- ✓ In this regard, the ICMR has advised laboratories serving as validation centres for Covid-19 diagnostic kits to preserve sufficient numbers of positive and negative samples to prepare appropriate panels for validation etc.
- **Following the Covid-19 pandemic breakout, the Law Ministry - has reduced the age limit to 65 years and above for senior citizens who can opt for postal ballot in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.**
- ✓ Earlier in October 2019, the Law Ministry amended the Conduct of Election Rules to allow people with disabilities and those who are 80 or older to opt for postal ballots.
- ✓ The Election Commission requested the government to amend the rule further as the Covid-19 pandemic is forecasted to continue till the end of the year.
- ✓ On June 19, the Ministry notified a fresh change, allowing those aged 65 years and above to opt for postal ballot.
- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – has launched an annual anti-drug action plan for 272 vulnerable districts on June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.**



- ✓ The new action plan will be called the ‘Nasha Mukh Bharat’ or drug-free India campaign
  - ✓ This campaign will focus not just on institutional support but also on community outreach programmes in the districts identified in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau
- ✓ Further, the Ministry would provide increased funding for institutions and launch campaigns in schools and colleges to prevent drug abuse among youth
- ✓ The ministry’s funding had gone up from ₹49 crore in 2017-2018 to ₹110 crore in 2019-2020, and ₹260 crore estimated for 2020-2021.
- ✓ Further, the Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), funded by the Ministry, will reach out to their communities to help those affected by addiction

# SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On June 26, the Supreme Court - permitted the Centre and CBSE to cancel the remaining Class X and XII examinations that could not be conducted earlier due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ The apex court has also approved the Board's scheme to award marks to students for the cancelled papers, based on their performance in exams held before the worsening of Covid situation - by taking an average of their best performance in the papers they have already taken.
- ✓ The cancelled exams were originally scheduled between July 1 and 15.
- ✓ The results will be out by July 15
- ✓ A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna directed CBSE to issue the notification to implement its assessment formula.
- ✓ The ICSE is planning a different assessment procedure, which will be announced within a week.
- ✓ Further, the CBSE agreed to give an option of taking the test later to all students of Class XII to improve their performance
- ✓ This will set into motion the process of university applications and also allow students to take up admissions in private colleges and in foreign universities.
- ✓ After getting the nod from the court, CBSE notified the scheme according to which the final marks will be awarded on the basis of a student's scores in the best performing subjects.
- ✓ The Board has divided candidates into three categories, based on the number of papers they have appeared for.

## HOW THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE DONE

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For students who have already appeared in all the exams, results will be based on their performance</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For those who have completed 3 subjects, results for the cancelled subjects will be based on the average of 2 best performing subjects</li></ul>                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For students who have appeared for more than 3 subjects, results for the cancelled subjects will be based on the average of 3 best performing subjects</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For those who have completed up to 2 subjects, results for the cancelled subjects will be based on the performance in the appeared subjects and internal/practical projects</li></ul> |



- ✓ For students who have appeared in the examinations in more than three subjects, the average of marks obtained in the best three will be awarded in subjects whose examinations have not been conducted
- ✓ For students who have appeared in only three subjects, average of marks obtained in the best two performing subjects will be considered

- ✓ For students who have appeared in only one or two subjects, results will be declared based on performances in the appeared subjects and performance in internal, practical or project assessment
- ✓ However, there are very few students of Class XII, mainly from Delhi, who have appeared in only one or two subjects.
- ✓ This category comprises mostly students with exam centres in areas affected by CAA-related riots in February in the capital.
- ✓ Class XII candidates who are not satisfied with the marks awarded under this scheme will be allowed to take an improvement test in one or more subjects which to be held when the situation turns 'conducive' later
- ✓ The marks in the improvement test will be treated as final, according to CBSE.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 26, the United States - reported more than 40,000 new coronavirus cases, a record total for the second straight day**
- ✓ On the day, at least four states — Alabama, Alaska, Montana and Utah — reported their largest daily totals.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Tokyo has confirmed 54 new cases of the coronavirus, highest since early May.
  - ✓ Japan lifted a seven-week state emergency in late May, and social and business activity has since largely resumed.
  - ✓ Tokyo has had 5,997 cases and 325 deaths, about one-third of the national total (18,155)
- ✓ South Africa, which accounts for about half of the infections on the African continent with 1,18,375, reported a record 6,579 new cases on the day.
- ✓ Meanwhile, South Korea has added Gilead Inc's anti-viral drug remdesivir to its coronavirus treatment guidelines and urged caution in the use of the steroid therapy dexamethasone.
  - ✓ South Korea has reported 12,602 coronavirus cases as of June 25, with 282 deaths.
  - ✓ Remdesivir is designed to hinder certain viruses, including the new coronavirus, from making copies of themselves and potentially overwhelming the body's immune system
- ✓ Further, a WHO-led coalition fighting the Covid-19 pandemic is requesting government and private sector donors to help raise \$31.3 billion in the next 12 months
  - ✓ The money would be utilised to develop and deliver tests, treatments and vaccines for the disease.
  - ✓ It said \$3.4 billion had been contributed for the coalition to date
  - ✓ This leaves a funding gap of \$27.9 billion, of which \$13.7 billion was "urgently needed" by the agency

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The Nepal government - has expedited the process of construction of the Darchula-Tinkar Road, also known as Mahakali corridor, near the India-Nepal border adjoining Pithoragarh.**



- ✓ The aim of this road construction is to “minimise the dependence of Nepalese citizens on Indian roads”
- ✓ Further, the Nepalese armed police — which has set up a series of border outposts in the area — can also carry out patrolling in the stretch with ease.
- ✓ Moreover, access to the China border, which lies beyond Tinkar, the last point on the road, will become better.
- ✓ This will also enable Nepalese tour operators to take pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar through this route.
- ✓ Recently, Nepalese government had deployed its army to complete the 134-km-long road on a priority basis, of which only around 43km had been constructed over the past
- ✓ Also, a helipad has been constructed at Ghatiabagar in Nepal by their army to facilitate the transportation of equipment required for road construction
- ✓ The escalation of work on the road — which had been sanctioned as far back as 2008 but was being constructed at an extremely slow pace — comes against the backdrop of souring of relations between India and Nepal.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the Nepalese parliament earlier this month passed a controversial map adding Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas of India

## PERSONALITIES

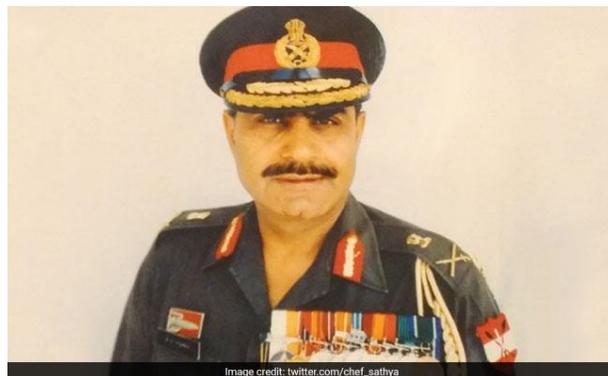
- **Navin Kumar Choudhary, an IAS officer from Bihar - has become the first non-kashmiri officer to get a domicile certificate under the new domicile laws notified after the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status.**



- ✓ A 1994 batch IAS officer from Bihar posted in Jammu and Kashmir for 26 years has become the first senior non-local civil servant to get a domicile certificate and permanent residency in the Valley
- ✓ Navin Kumar Choudhary is serving as the principal secretary of agriculture in the UT
- ✓ He has been living in government provided accommodation till now, but is now eligible to buy property anywhere in the Valley and enjoy all other rights that used to be reserved for indigenous Kashmiris.
- ✓ While applying for a domicile certificate, he had mentioned a government quarter at Gandhi Nagar in Jammu as his present address.
- ✓ Choudhary's previous assignments in J&K include heading the finance and tourism departments and serving as principal secretary to former CM Mehbooba Mufti
- ✓ The new domicile law grants settlement rights to any Indian or registered West Pakistan refugee who has resided in J&K for a minimum of 15 years or has studied in an institution in the Valley for at least seven years and appeared for the Class X or plus-two board examinations

## OBITUARY

### ➤ Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra (88 years)



- ✓ Vohra was a 1971 war hero and a Maha Vir Chakra awardee
- ✓ He died after being tested positive for Covid-19
- ✓ Serving as a lieutenant colonel, Vohra commanded the elite Hodson's Horse in the Shakargarh Sector during the Indo-Pak War of 1971
- ✓ He was later awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his act of bravery and leadership.
- ✓ During the Battle of Basantar, the regiment came under heavy fire from the enemy and faced huge resistance, but 27 enemy tanks were destroyed under his able command

## SPORTS

- **Liverpool – was confirmed as English Premier League Champion for the 19<sup>th</sup> time, after securing an unassailable record 23-point lead with another record seven games being left**
- ✓ It had finished runners-up five times in 30 years including in last season after losing to Manchester City.

### Red-letter day



**Incredible run:** Klopp's men won 28 out of 31 matches to seal the title with seven games to spare.

**1** Liverpool's first English top-flight title in the Premier League era (starting 1992-93)

**1** Klopp is the first German manager to win the English title in its 131-year history

**7** With seven games still left to play, the Reds' victory is the earliest in England's top-flight football

**7** Seven Liverpool players started a minimum of 26 out of 31 league games this season

**8** Liverpool has now won the league in eight different decades, the only team to do so

**9** Klopp's men are the ninth side to beat every other team in the league en route to winning the title

**18** During the season, Liverpool went on an 18-match winning run, equalling Manchester City's record

**19** Liverpool's league titles, just one behind Manchester United

**30** Years since Reds' previous title, in 1989-90, under Kenny Dalglish

Courtesy: BBC & ESPN

Points Table\*

| Team        | M  | W  | D  | L | GD | Pts. |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|----|------|
| Liverpool   | 31 | 28 | 2  | 1 | 49 | 86   |
| Man. City   | 31 | 20 | 3  | 8 | 44 | 63   |
| Leicester   | 31 | 16 | 7  | 8 | 30 | 55   |
| Chelsea     | 31 | 16 | 6  | 9 | 14 | 54   |
| Man. United | 31 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 49   |
| Wolves      | 31 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 49   |

\*TOP SIX

- ✓ The title was confirmed to Liverpool following the second-placed Manchester City's 2-1 loss at Chelsea on June 25
- ✓ Liverpool was last champion of England when it won the old First Division title in 1989-90 after which Manchester United and Arsenal, then Chelsea and Manchester City emerged supreme.
- ✓ Liverpool eclipses the record jointly held by Manchester United (2000-01) and Manchester City (2017-18), who sealed their titles with five games left.
- ✓ Manchester City was the first team to reach the 100-point barrier in the Premier League two seasons ago but Liverpool is on track to cross that mark this year
- ✓ Liverpool is also expected to hold records for most points at home (55) and most wins in a season (32).
- ✓ Egyptian forward, Mohamed Salah becomes the first Liverpool player to score 20 goals in all competitions in three consecutive seasons since Michael Owen at the start of the millennium.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day – June 27**



- ✓ The day was first observed in 2017 after the United Nations has adopted a resolution on 6th April 2017
- ✓ Globally, the MSME sector is the largest employment provider and also the backbone of major economies
- ✓ MSMEs on average contribute 50% in the GDP and generate 70% employment in an economy.
- ✓ During the current Covid-19 scenario, MSMEs are creating the most significant employment and income generation opportunities, especially in rural areas.
- ✓ But as countries across the globe have been imposing nationwide or partial lockdown, the business of the MSMEs have also affected significantly.
- ✓ The revival of the MSME sector through financial support can rejuvenate the overall economy of a country.