



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 4, 2020

TAMIL NADU

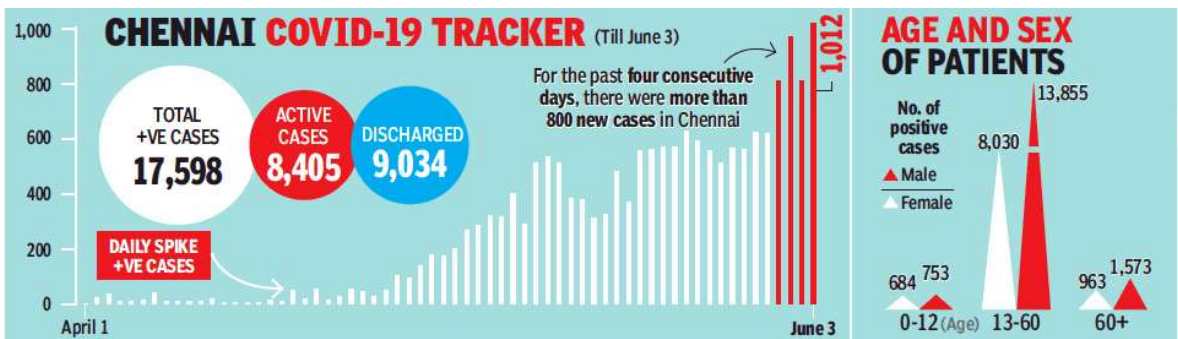
- Tamil Nadu reported 1,286 fresh cases on June 3, while its tally surpassed the 25,000-mark.
- ✓ Chennai, for the first time, reported 1,000-plus cases on a single day.
- ✓ The state registered 11 more casualties in Chennai, Tiruchi and Chengalpattu, taking the death toll above 200 to 208.
- ✓ The state’s tally remains at 25,872 while Chennai’s tally went up to 17,598 after reporting 1,012 cases on the day

25,872 CORONA +VE CASES IN TN B A Raju

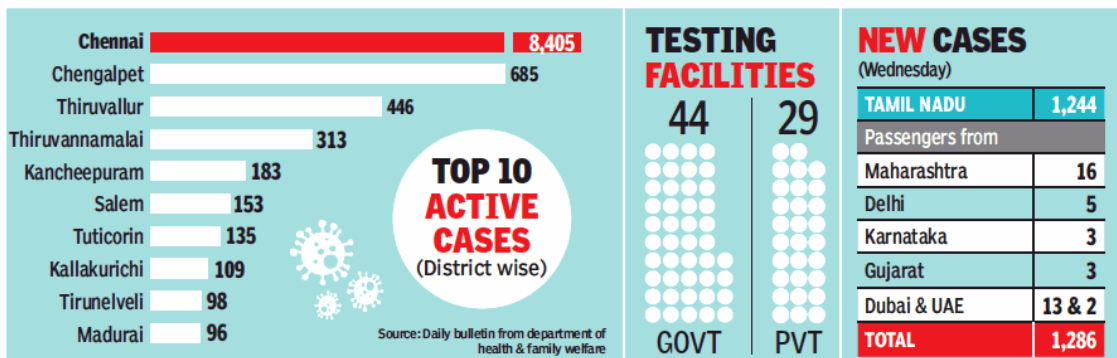
- 1,286 test +ve in TN on Wednesday | 17,598 overall count in Chennai
- 11,345 active cases in TN
- 610 discharged on Wednesday in state | In all, 14,316 sent home
- 11 deaths on Wednesday in state | 158 deaths in Chennai so far



BENGAL BOUND: Guest workers from West Bengal before boarding a train at MGR Central on Wednesday



- ✓ The city currently has 8,405 active cases, and accounts for 158 of the 208 deaths in the State.
- ✓ On the day, Tiruvallur district reported 58 and Chengalpattu 61 cases, taking their total caseload to 1,087 and 1,370 respectively. .
 - ✓ Apart from these districts, there were 19 new cases reported in Kancheepuram, 17 in Thoothukudi and 16 in Tiruvannamalai, while Coimbatore reported four cases.
- ✓ On the day, 42 of the fresh cases were returnees from other states and countries
- ✓ Till date, a total of 1,724 persons who returned to the State from other States and countries have tested positive.



- ✓ The state's recovery rate is currently at more than 50% and death rate is below 0.8%
- ✓ A total of 14,101 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 5,28,534.
- ✓ On the day, another 610 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of patients sent back to home to 14,316.
- ✓ The State has registered its first case on March 7
 - ✓ Since then, it had battled two clusters — Tablighi Jammaat, which had more than 1,300 positive cases, and Koyambedu market, which accounted for more than 3,000 cases.
 - ✓ Now, people returning from other states and abroad are forming a third cluster, accounting for more than 1,700 cases since April 9.
 - ✓ Apart from these, there are more than 18,000 people outside these clusters, most of who were living in crowded localities within Chennai such as Royapuram and Puliyanthope
- ✓ Apart from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra is the only other state to cross 25,000 cases, which it did on May 13 when it recorded 25,992 cases, 15,747 in Mumbai alone, and a death toll of 975.
 - ✓ Currently, Maharashtra had a case tally of 74,860 cases and 2,587 deaths.
- **The Tamil Nadu Government – is planning to fix inpatient treatment cost for Covid-19 patients at ₹7,500 to ₹22,500 a day in private hospitals**
 - ✓ Hospitals found overcharging patients will face action including closure,
 - ✓ This was announced by state health minister C Vijayabaskar

- ✓ A maximum of ₹7,500 will be charged per day for treatment at general wards of private hospitals that offer tertiary care, ₹15,000 for ICU care in such hospitals and ₹22,500 in cases where life-saving equipment such as ventilators are used.
- ✓ If patients opt for deluxe rooms or suits, charges will be separate
- ✓ Moreover, patients requiring expensive drugs for treatment of comorbidities and other complications, has to pay extra to the hospital
- ✓ Earlier, the state Health Minister said that the cost for RTPCR test will be reduced by at least ₹1,500 in the state
- ✓ Currently, labs are permitted to charge up to ₹4,500 for the test.
- ✓ While testing and treatment for the infection is free in government hospitals, CM's health insurance scheme beneficiaries can use their cashless card at all empanelled hospitals for treatment.
- ✓ The state is also working on a separate dashboard to publicise details on number of patients being treated at government and public hospitals and number of beds and cost of treatment at each hospital.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu State Branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has fixed a fee structure for COVID-19 treatment at private hospitals.
- ✓ As per the IMA, a fee of ₹2,31,820 has been proposed for treatment at COVID Centres/COVID Health Care Centres (for persons with mild to moderate symptoms) for 10 days.
 - ✓ This covered hospital charges including accommodation, equipment and administrative charges, pharmacy, consumables and investigation.
 - ✓ The doctors' consulting charges as well as quarantine and food expenses for doctors and other staff working in designated COVID centres were not included.
 - ✓ The latter may work out to ₹9,600 a day.
- ✓ For COVID Health Care Hospitals/ICU treatment (for persons with severe symptoms), the amount fixed was ₹4,31,311 for 17 days.
 - ✓ Again, this excludes the consulting charges of doctors' and other expenses.
- **The Tamil Nadu government – is planning to request Southern Railways to operate 60 more special trains from different parts of the state in the next one week to send back more than a lakh guest workers home.**
 - ✓ As on date, the government has spent more than Rs 30 crore to facilitate the travel of 3.1 lakh guest workers since May 6.
 - ✓ Till June 31, 209 trains were operated by the railways following a request from the state government.
 - ✓ In the past 24 days, 72 special point-to-point trains were operated from Chennai, carrying migrant workers to 2 states, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, predominantly.
 - ✓ Apart from Chennai, 32 trains were operated from Coimbatore to take back more than 45,000 guest workers from the textile factories.
 - ✓ Several trains have also been operated to Assam, Mizoram and Tripura to transport guest workers from the hotel industry

- **On June 3, the Centre - approved the extension of service of Tamil Nadu chief secretary K Shanmugam till October 31**



- ✓ Shanmugam was due to retire on July 31
 - ✓ This follows a request by the state government to the Centre on May 15.
 - ✓ The three month extension was granted by the department of personnel and training of the ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions
 - ✓ This is according to the terms and conditions of the All India Service Rules, 1958.
 - ✓ Shanmugam, hailing from Salem district, was appointed chief secretary on June 30 last year.
 - ✓ The extension has come at a time when the state is tackling the spread of Covid-19 outbreak
- **The horticulture department - is planning to form 20 farmers' producer groups (FPG) in the Nilgiris district, to promote collective farming in this fiscal year.**
 - ✓ While majority of farmers in the Nilgiris practice the cultivation of tea, 30% of them are engaged in vegetable cultivation.
 - ✓ The main objective of the collective farming scheme is to encourage small farmers cultivate hillgrown vegetables
 - ✓ This method was introduced in the state in 2018
 - ✓ Each FPG will consist of 100 small farmers
 - ✓ They are entitled to a grant of Rs.5 lakh for procurement of agricultural engineering products and machinery including tractors and tillers
 - ✓ During this financial year, 400 more small farmers will be benefited by the scheme.
 - ✓ They can also avail subsidy under various schemes of the horticulture department.
 - ✓ As many as 48 FPGs (4,800 farmers) in the Nilgiris district were benefited by the scheme in the last three years.
- **On June 3, the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) - issued guidelines for hospitals that wish to resume organ transplants in their facilities, after the unlocking of COVID-19-induced lockdown.**

- ✓ As per the new norms, any private hospital that is not marked as Covid-19 treatment centre can resume organ transplant surgeries
 - ✓ The organ transplant programme was temporarily suspended as per central government guidelines following the coronavirus outbreak.
 - ✓ However, considering the sufferings of patients who require organ transplant, it has been decided to resume the process with restrictions and guidelines
 - ✓ The private hospitals should have a separate ingress and egress points for organ transplant patients
 - ✓ They should also have a separate ward, operation theatre and intensive care unit for such patients.
 - ✓ Hospitals must give a written undertaking that they will follow the guidelines in letter and spirit and that they will ensure that the patients and their attendants will also follow the rules framed by the hospitals.
 - ✓ Brain-dead patients, who are considered potential donors, should not be admitted to the same ward of suspected Covid-19 infection patients.
 - ✓ A dedicated team of surgeons, nurses and hospital staff should be available 'exclusively' for organ transplant services and they should not be engaged in other medical services.
 - ✓ This team should undergo periodic checks as per the guidelines of the Indian Council for Medical Research.
 - ✓ The hospitals should also ensure that personal protective equipment and disinfectants are provided to the patients and their attendants at all times.
- **The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) - will hold its first meeting through videoconferencing on June 10.**
- ✓ The Central Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) will also have its meeting, a day before, on June 9
 - ✓ The CWMA was notified formally as a body under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti recently in late April
 - ✓ Both the meetings are scheduled to take place a few days before the opening of the Mettur dam for irrigation on June 12.
 - ✓ Mettur dam is regarded as the lifeline of the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ The dam is getting opened on the customary date after a gap of 12 years.
 - ✓ Further, after an interval of nine years, the dam is being opened in June.
 - ✓ After the establishment of the CWMA in June 2018, this will be its sixth meeting, while it will be the 28th sitting for the CWRC
 - ✓ The CWMA meeting will be chaired by Rajendra Kumar Jain, who is also acting as the part-time chairman of the Authority
 - ✓ The meeting will see the participation of all the basin States — Karnataka and Kerala — and Union Territory of Puducherry.
 - ✓ Secretaries of the Irrigation or Water Resources departments of the constituents of the basin States/UT are members of the Authority.

- ✓ K. Manivasan, Principal Secretary (Public Works) is the representative of the Tamil Nadu government.

2019-20, a year of comfort

Tamil Nadu's due annually is 177.25 tmc ft as per the stipulation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority

(in tmc ft)

Month	Cauvery realisation
June	2.06
July	7.44
August	92.331
September	71.65
October	48.772
November	23.926
December	14.339
January	4.217
February	1.485
March	2.003
April	2.284
May	4.648
Total	275*

tmc ft: Thousand Million Cubic Feet
*Rounded off

THE YEAR AHEAD

- On Wednesday (June 3), water level at Mettur stood at 101.38 feet (full level: 120 ft) & storage: 66.65 tmc ft (capacity: 93.47 tmc ft).
- This time, State government plans to achieve a coverage of 3.25 lakh acres during Kuruvai cultivation season with rice production of 5.6 lakh tonnes against the previous year's figures of 2.9 lakh acres and 4.99 lakh tonnes of rice production
- The authorities have distributed 2,970 tonnes of short-duration paddy seeds against the requirement of 3,640 tonnes. Over 2,100 tonnes of seeds are available for distribution



- Against the requirement of 37,450 tonnes of fertilizer for June 2020, stock available is 97,100 tonnes.
- Desilting and 'kudimaramathu' in progress in Cauvery delta
- Seven IAS officers asked to monitor desilting work in Cauvery delta districts
- Around 1,130 km of canals covered under special desilting work of PWD against the target of about 3,460 km. A sum of ₹ 67 crore sanctioned
- Desilting of channels, not included under the PWD's scheme, and supply channels leading to minor irrigation tanks or ponds or other water bodies is being taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme at a total cost of about ₹367 crore. Against a total of about 19,525 km, around 3,440 km has been covered

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has already received around 275 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of Cauvery water during the 2019-20 water year
- ✓ It was about 100 tmcft more than the stipulated quantity, as per the SC orders.
- ✓ Meanwhile, officials in charge of the Public Works and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Departments are completing the desilting process and removing the obstructions in the channels and other water courses
- ✓ These works are being executed essentially through the State government's special scheme for desilting and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ✓ In addition, the "Kudimaramathu" scheme is also in progress, to complete these activities.

STATES

- On June 3, the Chatra district administration in Jharkhand – has announced a ban on the use of JCB earthmoving machines

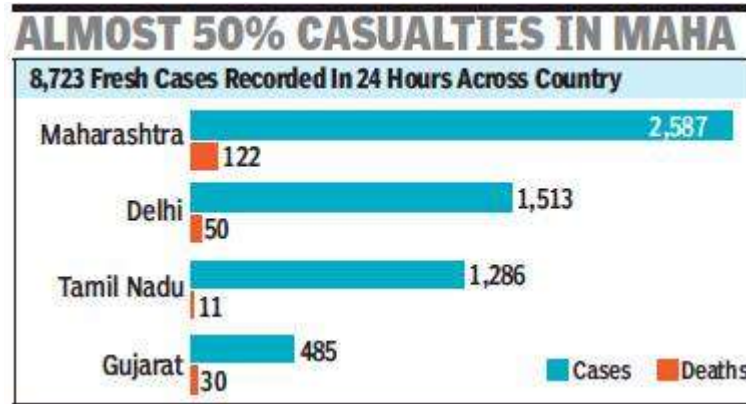


- ✓ The announcement is aimed to support manual labourers, particularly guest workers returning to Jharkhand, get employment under MGNREGA.
- ✓ In this regard, the administration has sent notices to owners of JCBs, asking them not to provide the machines for projects under MGNREGA.
- ✓ If anyone is found violating the order, they will face legal action and their machines will be seized, as per the district authorities.
- ✓ The move follows after the reporting of complaints about using JCB machines to complete MGNREGA projects, but maintaining false records of labourers to siphon off government funds.

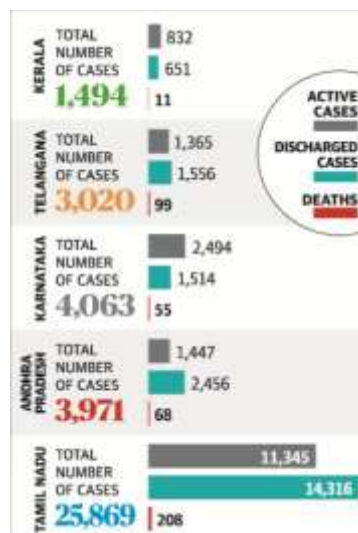
NATIONAL

- **On June 3, India - registered a record single-day rise in Covid-19 cases with 8,723 patients testing positive**
- ✓ With this, the number of total cases in the country rose to 2,09,468 on the third day of unlocking of the country
- ✓ A total of 254 people died, taking the cumulative toll beyond the 6,000-mark to 6,079.
- ✓ This is the sixth consecutive day of reporting more than 200 deaths and the second highest single-day toll after 270 recorded on May 29
- ✓ However, on the positive side, 1,03,984 of the positive cases or 49.6% have recovered.
- ✓ India, in terms of its confirmed cases, is closing in on three European countries, whose health systems collapsed under the pandemic.
- ✓ These are Italy with 2,33,836 cases, the U.K. with 2,81,264 cases and Spain with 2,40,326 cases.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the number of fresh Covid-19 cases reached a new peak in Delhi (1,513), Tamil Nadu (1,286), Gujarat (485) and Andhra Pradesh (180).
- ✓ With a record 122 deaths, Maharashtra alone accounted for 48% of the country's casualties on the day, followed by Delhi (50 deaths), Gujarat (30), Tamil Nadu (11) and Bengal (10).
- ✓ On the day, Maharashtra's toll surpassed the 2,500 mark to reach 2,587, while the state added 2,560 new cases
- ✓ With this, the state's total caseload stands at 74,860

- ✓ However, the rate of increase of cases has nearly halved from 7.76% on May 1 to 4.15% on June 1, while the national average stands at 4.74%.



- ✓ Gujarat registered a record 485 cases in last 24 hours, taking the total to 18,117
- ✓ The state has reported 30 more deaths, bringing the state toll to 1,122.
- ✓ However, on the positive side, Ahmedabad edged Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai by registering a recovery rate of 71% as against a mere 17% in the first week of May
- ✓ Delhi also reached a grim record of crossing the 600 deaths on the day, after registering 50 more deaths and taking the state's toll to 606
- ✓ Rajasthan reported six more deaths, taking the state toll to 209, even as 279 fresh cases were recorded on the day.
- ✓ With 100 deaths, state capital Jaipur alone accounts for 48% of the casualties.
- ✓ In Telangana, seven more patients have died, taking the toll to 99, while 129 positive cases were reported, taking the total caseload above 3,000 mark to 3,020
- ✓ This is the highest number of deaths reported in a day in the state.
- ✓ Four deaths and 180 new cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh, taking the state's toll to 68.
- ✓ Meanwhile, in Karnataka, apart from 267 new cases, one more death was reported, taking the toll to 53 and 4,063 total cases



- ✓ Kerala reported 82 positive cases on the day, taking its total active cases to 832, up from 16 in less than a month's time
 - ✓ According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, 1,37,158 samples were tested on the day, going up from 1,28,868 on June 2, when India registered 8,917 cases.
 - ✓ India currently has 480 government and 208 private laboratories (total 688 laboratories).
 - ✓ Cumulatively, 41,03,233 samples have been tested so far for COVID-19
 - ✓ As part of its healthcare monitoring, India has 952 dedicated COVID hospitals and 2,391 dedicated COVID Health Centres
- **On June 3, the Union cabinet - recommended the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and provide relief for loan defaults by companies after March 25, initially for six months.**



- ✓ This means, any default in repayment of loans by companies up to September-end, which can be extended by another six months, will not be treated as default under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
 - ✓ However, this will not be applicable for financial services companies
 - ✓ Already, there is a bar on initiating any insolvency action either by banks or other creditors, such as suppliers, in National Company Law Tribunal.
 - ✓ Separately, the government is preparing a simpler framework for insolvency resolution of micro, small and medium enterprises
 - ✓ This new framework will have fewer processes to comply with and will be easy to come out within a shorter period.
 - ✓ Under the current system, the corporate insolvency resolution process has to be completed within a maximum 270 days.
- **On June 3, the Centre - approved three major legislative reforms through ordinances intended to create “one India, one agriculture market”**

FREEING FARMERS FROM REGULATION

THREE STEPS

1 Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020

- Ordinance aims to create 'One India, One Agriculture Market'
- Farmers can sell their produce outside regulated 'mandis' (agri markets)
- No restrictions on inter-state and intra-state trade

2 Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020

- Farmers can engage with processors, aggregators,

wholesalers, large retailers, and exporters through contract on pre-agreed prices

- It will eliminate intermediaries, resulting in full realisation of price

3 Amendment to Essential Commodities Act

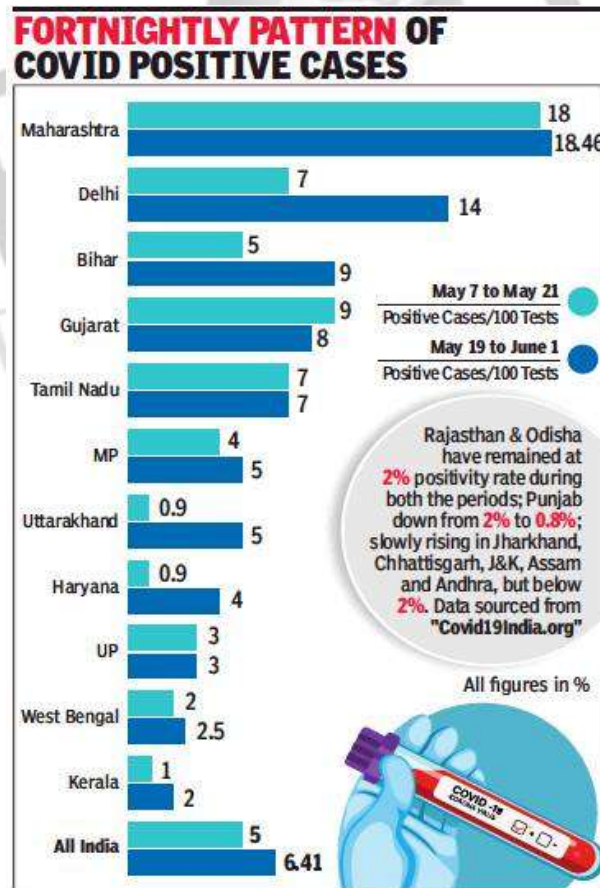
- Cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes will be removed from list of essential commodities

- Freedom to hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale

- This will attract private sector/foreign direct investment into agriculture sector

- ✓ The first reform involves an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by removing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
 - ✓ The amendment will be made effective immediately via an ordinance, according to the Agriculture Ministry.
 - ✓ The amendment in the ESA will offer freedom to hold, move, distribute and supply such farm commodities and attract private sector and foreign direct investment into the sector.
- ✓ The second reform is the promulgation of the Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020
 - ✓ The new ordinance aims to open up agricultural marketing outside notified shops for farmers, and also remove barriers to inter-State and intra-state trade of agriculture produce.
 - ✓ Presently, farmers face several obstacles in marketing their produce
 - ✓ There are restrictions on farmers selling agri-produce outside notified markets, which are governed by the agricultural produce market committee (APMC) legislations of respective states.
 - ✓ Under these legislations, farmers can sell their produce only to registered licencees and agents of state governments
 - ✓ The ordinance aims to create a setup where farmers and traders have freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce
 - ✓ It also opens up additional trading opportunities outside the APMC markets to get good prices due to more competition among farmers.
- ✓ The third reform is the promulgation of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020
 - ✓ It is aimed at facilitating contract farming, thereby transferring the risk of market fluctuation from the farmer to the corporate sponsor.

- ✓ Under the contract farming, a private sponsor signs a contract with the farmer to purchase the crops at a certain price during the start of the season.
 - ✓ This reform intends to attract private investments in the agriculture sector
 - ✓ All the above mentioned measures were promised in the Atmanirbhar package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month, as part of the government's stimulus to the farm sector.
 - ✓ As the parliament is not in session, the government preferred the ordinance route, to provide quick relief to farmers during the current situation in the aftermath of Covid-19 breakout.
 - ✓ The government will bring new legislations in Parliament during its monsoon session to replace the ordinances.
- **The Covid-19 positivity rate, referring to the confirmed Covid-19 cases per 100 tests in the country, has increased from 5% to 6.41%**
- ✓ The positivity rate for Covid-19 has doubled in Delhi, remains worryingly high in Maharashtra and is declining in Gujarat, as per an analysis of two 15-day intervals from May 7 to June 1



- ✓ In Delhi, the positivity rate has doubled from 7% in the May 7-21 fortnight to 14% during May19-June 1.

- ✓ In Maharashtra, the rate has not shown much increase over the two periods, even though it is very high, from 18% to 18.46% indicating almost one in every five tests is returning a positive result.
 - ✓ A large chunk of Maharashtra cases are from Mumbai.
 - ✓ Gujarat has seen a marginal decline in the positivity rate from 9% to 8%, indicating that the disease is under control.
 - ✓ Among other states, the situation in Bihar is worrisome, with the positivity rate rising from 5% to 9% during this period.
 - ✓ Delhi and Bihar now have the fastest growth in confirmed cases after Maharashtra, though Delhi has many more cases than Bihar.
 - ✓ Maharashtra, Delhi, Bihar, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, MP, Uttarakhand, Haryana, UP and West Bengal are the top 10 states reporting highest positivity rates in the last fortnight.
 - ✓ Kerala too has shown a doubling of the positivity rate from 1% to 2% though the rate of increase and the number of cases is much lesser.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu at 7% positivity rate, Uttar Pradesh at 3% and Rajasthan and Odisha at 2% each seem to have flattened the curve with the figures remaining static over the last two fortnights.
 - ✓ Both West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh also seem to have limited the growth with less than 1% increase in positivity rate
 - ✓ However, Haryana and Uttarakhand have increased from 1% each during May 7-21 period to 4% and 5% respectively in the last fortnight.
 - ✓ High positivity and fatality rates indicate that a state may be testing only the sickest and not screening other sections of the population.
- **On June 3, the health ministry - issued guidelines for safe ENT practice in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak.**
- ✓ The guidelines are aimed at minimising the spread of Covid-19 infection among ENT doctors, nursing staff, support staff, patients and their attendants.
 - ✓ According to the guidelines, all patients entering the ENT OPD shall be screened with a thermal scanner.
 - ✓ The Covid-19 positive patients are to be operated only for emergency indications in designated operation theatres for Covid-19 patients.
 - ✓ Any patients having symptoms of Covid-19 pertaining to both ENT symptoms or respiratory symptoms, should be seen in a separate Covid-19 screening clinic and not in the ENT OPD
 - ✓ The ministry also recommended teleconsultation as a preferable option.
 - ✓ It has asked the hospitals to avoid performing endoscopy (nasal endoscopy, 90 rigid or flexible endoscopy for larynx) in routine OPD
 - ✓ In case if this has to be performed, it should preferably be performed in a separate demarcated area with Level II PPE kit i.e. Cover-all gown, N-95 mask, gloves and goggles.

- ✓ As per the guidelines, the Covid-19 suspect patients should be treated in a separate ward, and should be shifted to ENT ward only after they test 'negative' for the infection.
- ✓ Also, the suspected and confirmed Covid patients must be kept separately.
- **Cyclone Nisarga - made landfall further south from Mumbai than expected on the afternoon of June 3, accompanied by winds gusting at 125kmph.**

LANDFALL NEAR MURUD-JANJIRA

Cyclone Nisarga's Progress

Just north of Murud-Janjira town, 85km south-east of Mumbai as the crew flies. Was expected near Alibaug, 38km closer to Mumbai than Murud

Trajectory

As it travels up the coast, it makes a northeast tilt, making landfall further south than expected & heading towards Pune

Aftermath

Weakened into a deep depression and lay about 85 km north of Pune



Fishermen struggle to secure their boats in the strong wind at Uttan koliwada on Wednesday

Storm Surge

Forecast | Up to 2m above tide

Mumbai spared, but tidal waves up to 6-8 ft lash parts of Ratnagiri and Raigad districts

RUNAWAY PLANE

A FedEx cargo plane landing at Mumbai airport overshot the secondary runway, but was safe



Wind Speed

Forecast | 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph at landfall

Max. at landfall | 125kmph

Max. at Colaba | 76 kmph

Max. at Santa Cruz | 58 kmph

RARE CYCLONE SPARES MUMBAI

4	dead in Raigad and Pune districts	Tree, branch fall in city	117	Electricity poles toppled	24	Wall collapse	9
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- ✓ Nisarga, which intensified into a severe storm around 7am on June 3, took a northeast tilt in its journey up the Maharashtra coast and made landfall north of Murud-Janjira town in Raigad district, about 85 km south of Mumbai
- ✓ This was a further 38km south of Alibaug, the expected landfall zone
- ✓ Two people were killed in Raigad district and trees, crops and thatched roof homes were destroyed at places in Alibaug, Shrivardhan, Uran and Murudtalukas
- ✓ In Gujarat, the cyclone did not hit the coastal areas as expected.
- ✓ Cyclone Nisarga will be the first-ever cyclone in recorded history to hit the Maharashtra coast in the month of June
- ✓ Also, it will be the “second cyclone” in recorded history to hit the Maharashtra coast in the pre-monsoon season that is between April-June.
- ✓ The only cyclone that hit Maharashtra’s coast during the pre-monsoon season earlier was in May 1961.

- **On June 3, the Union Cabinet - approved the renaming of Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, after the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.**



- ✓ The decision was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar, after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Earlier, the Board of Trustees of the Kolkata Port Trust had passed a resolution to rename the port after Mookerjee at its meeting on February 25, “considering his multifaceted genius as an eminent jurist, academician, thinker and leader of the masses”.
- ✓ The decision of the renaming was announced on January 12 at the inaugural ceremony of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the port by the PM Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The Kolkata Port is the first major port and the only riverine port in India.
 - ✓ Since October 17, 1870, it is governed by a trust
- ✓ Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a barrister, Indian politician, and academician.
 - ✓ He served as the Minister for Industry and Supply in PM Jawaharlal Nehru’s cabinet.
 - ✓ After falling out with Nehru, he founded Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) in 1951, with the help of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)
 - ✓ The BJS is a predecessor to the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).
- ✓ Usually, major ports in the country were named after the city or town they are located in
- ✓ However, some ports in special cases have been re-named after great national leaders in the past, after due consideration of contribution made by them
- ✓ The other ports which have been named after leaders includes -
 - ✓ Nhava Sheva Port Trust was renamed as Jawaharlal Nehru port Trust in 1989.
 - ✓ The Tuticorin Port Trust was renamed as V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in 2011.
 - ✓ Ennore Port Trust Limited was renamed as Kamarajar Port Limited.
 - ✓ Kandla Port was renamed as Deendayal Port in 2017.
- ✓ Further, in October 2019, the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel was renamed after Shyama Prasad Mukerjee.
 - ✓ The tunnel is the longest of Jammu and Kashmir and is located on NH-44.

- ✓ It reduces the distance between Srinagar and Jammu by 30 km or by half an hour.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 3, the United States - said that it would block Chinese passenger airlines from flying into or out of the US starting June 16**
 - ✓ The move is seen as retaliation for a similar ban by the Chinese government on US companies, further escalating tensions between the two economies.
 - ✓ The relations between US and China have deteriorated in recent weeks over the issues of origin of the Covid-18 pandemic and China's move to tighten its authority over Hong Kong.
 - ✓ Flights between both the countries were already sharply cut by the Covid-18 pandemic
 - ✓ Moreover, Chinese restrictions on foreign airlines have effectively stopped trips by United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and American Airlines, the major US carriers that go to China.
 - ✓ However, Chinese airlines continued to fly to US cities.
 - ✓ In January, US and Chinese carriers operated about 325 weekly flights between the two nations.
 - ✓ By mid-February, only 20 were flying, all of them run by Chinese airlines.
 - ✓ Currently, four major Chinese carriers operate scheduled passenger flights between US and China
 - ✓ It includes Air China, China Eastern Airlines Corp, China Southern Airlines Co and Hainan Airlines Holding Co, apart from other smaller carriers such as Sichuan Airlines Co and Xiamen Airlines Co.
- **On June 2, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson - said he would offer 'visas' to millions of Hong Kong residents and a possible route to U.K. citizenship if China decides to go ahead with its national security law.**
 - ✓ About 3,50,000 people in Hong Kong currently hold British National (Overseas) passports, which allow visa-free access to Britain for up to six months
 - ✓ Another 2.5 million people would be eligible to apply for one, as per the latest announcement.
 - ✓ According to the British PM, the British government may also change the immigration rules for the purpose
 - ✓ The new rules will allow any holder of Hong Kong passport can come to the U.K. for a renewable period of 12 months and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship
 - ✓ The new national security law was brought in after a series of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, and approved by China's Parliament as necessary to tackling "terrorism" and "separatism".

- **The WHO - is set to resume its trial of hydroxychloroquine for potential use against the novel coronavirus, after testing was suspended earlier due to health concerns**
- ✓ This was confirmed by the head of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on June 3
- ✓ The UN body had 'temporarily' stopped its large study of the antimalarial drug to treat Covid-19 following the concerns of increased death rates and irregular heartbeats in patients.
- ✓ But, now WHO experts had advised the continuation of all trials including hydroxychloroquine
- ✓ The drug was backed by the US President Donald Trump as the 'game-changer' in the fight against the Covid-19
- ✓ Hydroxychloroquine — which has anti-inflammatory and antiviral properties — halted the coronavirus in laboratory experiments, but has not been proven effective in humans

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) - has announced a tie-up with two institutions, International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and Hyderabad-based vaccine major Bharat Biotech (BBIL) to advance the development of a chikungunya vaccine.**
- ✓ CEPI was an innovative partnership between public, private and civil organisations to develop vaccines against epidemics
- ✓ Launched at Davos in 2017, it will fund the consortium with up to \$14.1 million (approx. ₹105 crore) for vaccine manufacturing and clinical development of a two-dose live-inactivated vaccine (BBV87) against chikungunya.
- ✓ This grant is supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme.
- ✓ The consortium will further be supported with a grant of up to \$2 million (approx ₹15 crore) from the Central government's Ind-CEPI initiative
- ✓ This initiative will fund the set-up for manufacturing the vaccine in India and the subsequent manufacture of clinical trial materials.
- ✓ Apart from the manufacturing, the agreement will finance a multi-centre phase-2/3 adaptive clinical trial
 - ✓ This trial will provide crucial data about the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine candidate.
 - ✓ It will be conducted by IVI in Colombia, Panama and Thailand
- ✓ The partnership will further develop BBIL's experience of developing and supplying affordable vaccines, and WHO prequalification procedures, to ensure affordable access to the vaccine in countries where Chikungunya is endemic.
- ✓ BBV87 vaccine is an inactivated whole virion vaccine based on a strain derived from an East, Central, South African genotype

APPOINTMENTS

- On June 3, Uday Kotak, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank - assumed office as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry for the year 2020-21.



- ✓ Kotak takes over from Vikram Kirloskar, chairman and MD of Kirloskar Systems and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
- ✓ T.V. Narendran, CEO & MD of Tata Steel Ltd., is the president designate of CII for the current financial year.
- ✓ Additionally, Sanjiv Bajaj, chairman and MD of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., has been named as the vice-president of CII.

SPORTS

- Vikram Malhotra - has been nominated for the PSA squash Challenger Tour men's player of the year award.



- ✓ The 30-year-old squash player is currently ranked 47th in the world
- ✓ Vikram has clinched three titles last season — the HCL SRFI Indian Tour Delhi leg, Florida Open and Oregon Open
- ✓ He had also finished as a runner-up in the Nash Cup.