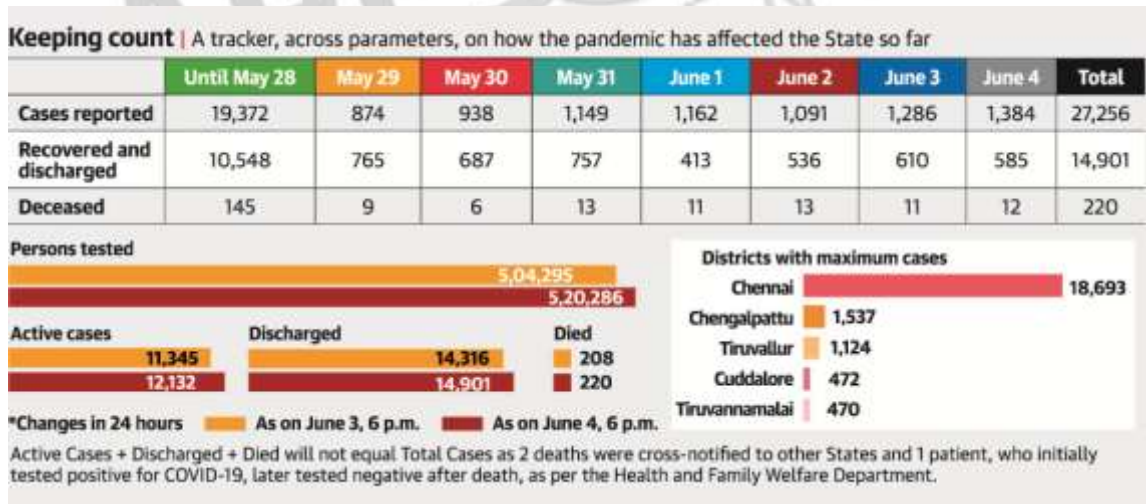




EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 5, 2020

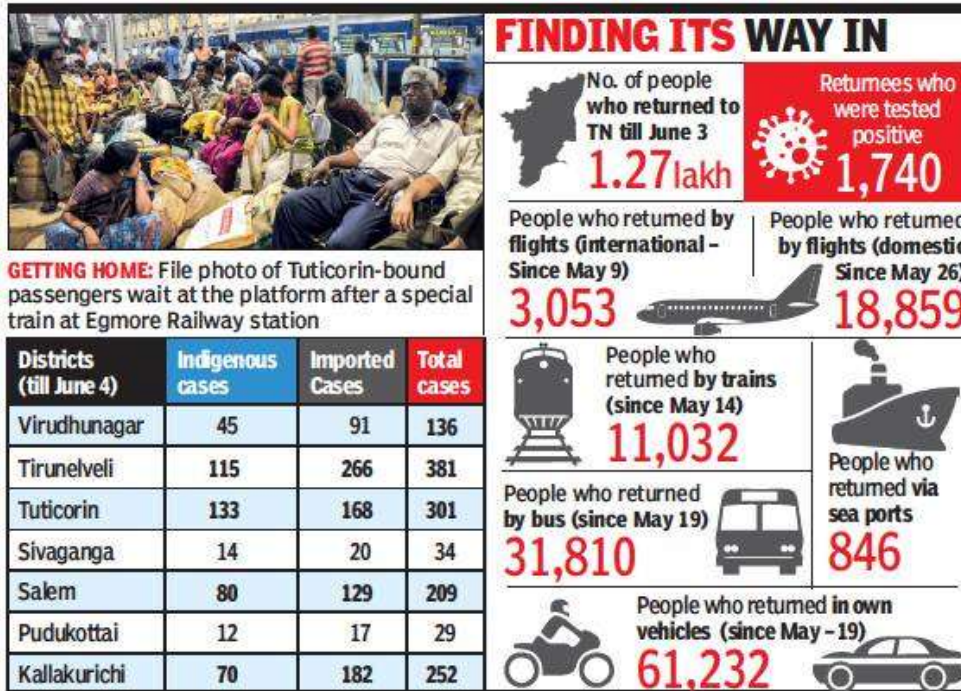
TAMIL NADU

- On June 4, Tamil Nadu - reported the highest positive count of 1,384 Covid-19 cases, taking its caseload to 27,256.
- ✓ 12 people succumbed to the infection on the day, taking the death toll in the state to 220.
- ✓ At the end of the day, there were 12,132 active cases.
- ✓ Chennai contributed 1,072 cases to the total, after reporting 1,000-plus cases for the second day running and registering its highest single day spike.



- ✓ With this, the capital city's total went to 18,693 with 9,066 active cases and has also recorded 167 deaths.
- ✓ The casualties reported on the day includes a 17-year-old girl, the youngest Covid-19 casualty in the state, admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital with a medical history of insulin-dependent type 1 diabetes.
- ✓ The day also marked the highest number of samples tested on a single day so far.
- ✓ A total of 16,447 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 5,44,981.

- ✓ After Chennai, neighbouring Chengalpattu has the largest number of cases, 1,533, and 14 deaths
- ✓ Further, Tiruvallur, has registered 1,127 cases and 11 deaths as on date.
- ✓ All the other districts in the state have recorded below 500 cases so far
- ✓ So far, 1,718 returnees have tested positive, with the most being reported in Tirunelveli (266), Kallakuruchi (182), and Tuticorin (168) and Salem (129).
- ✓ Over 1.26 lakh people have come into the state from other States since May 6, the day when the people were allowed to return back to the state.



- ✓ The state discharged 585 patients on the day, taking the number of those recovered to 14,991.
- ✓ One more private laboratory has been approved for COVID-19 testing — VHS Lab Services, VHS Hospital in Chennai.
- ✓ With this, the State has a total of 74 testing facilities — 44 in the government sector and 30 in the private sector.
- **The State government - has fixed package rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals empanelled under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, which covers 1.57 crore families in the state.**
- ✓ Till now, the patients in the state were offered free treatment at government hospitals.
- ✓ Earlier, the government has constituted a committee headed by the Health Secretary to arrive at package rates for empanelled private hospitals under the scheme.

- ✓ As per the package released by health department, empanelled hospitals admitting patients with mild or no symptoms can charge up to ₹5,000 a day for general wards.

FOOTING THE BILL

Many patients were forced to pay more than half of the bill despite having an insurance, said experts



RECOMMENDED BY IMA (per day) Figures in ₹

Category	Maximum*	For 10 days
Mild infection	23,000	2,31,820
ICU charges	43,000	4,31,411
Doctor and health workers' fees	9,600	—

FEE RECOMMENDATIONS BY FICCI

Beds reserved for government	ICU (without ventilator) ₹27,088 per day and average of ₹2,70,875 for 10 days
Isolation ward ₹13,600 per day and average of ₹13,600 for 10 days	ICU (ventilator) ₹36,853 per day, ₹3,68,530 for 10 days

PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Isolation ward ₹17,000 per day and average of ₹1,70,000 for 10 days
ICU (without ventilator) ₹34,000 per day and average of ₹3,40,000 for 10 days
ICU (with ventilator) ₹68,000 per day and average of ₹6,80,000 for 10 days

FIXED BY GOVT UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

- Admission in general ward of all hospitals ₹5000
- Admission in ICU of A1 and A2 hospital ₹10,000-₹15,000
- Admission to ICU of A3 and A4 hospitals ₹9000 - ₹13,500

(Cost includes medicines, consumables and basic diagnostics; excludes PPE cost and comorbidities; per day cost is based on average revenue per operating bed and the 10 days is average length of stay)

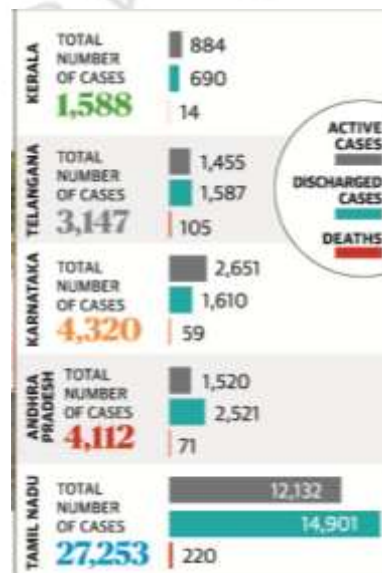
Pic: A Prathap

- ✓ A1 and A2 hospitals were allowed to charge between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 a day from patients admitted to ICUs, while A3 and A4 hospitals can charge between ₹9,000 and ₹13,000 per day.
- ✓ The state has also notified guidelines for private hospitals admitting patients under the scheme.
- ✓ All hospitals are mandated to reserve at least 25% of their beds under the scheme, and beneficiaries need not make any cash payments.
- ✓ As per the norms, the government will initiate action against hospitals that charge more than the prescribed amount for treatment

NATIONAL

- **India's daily number of new Covid-19 cases - crossed 9,000 for the first time when 9,651 fresh infections were reported on June 4**
- ✓ The total cases recorded in India rose to 2,19,117, as per reports collated from state governments
- ✓ The day also reported another 270 fatalities, the joint-highest death toll from the virus in a single day
- ✓ With this, the cumulative death toll in the country stands at 6,349

- ✓ With steadily rising infections, India reported the world's third highest number of new cases in a single day on June 3, when the country's count of 8,723 cases was higher than Russia's tally of 8,536
 - ✓ Brazil reported 27,312 fresh cases, while the US reported 20,578 cases to occupy the first two positions
- ✓ Maharashtra again reported a high number of infections at 2,933, after reporting declining cases for the last three days
 - ✓ The state has also reported 123 deaths, the highest single-day casualties
 - ✓ Of these, Mumbai alone accounted for 1,439 cases and as many as 48 deaths.
- ✓ At least six states/Union territories registered their highest spike in infections on the day - Tamil Nadu (1,384 new cases), Gujarat (492), Haryana (327), Jammu & Kashmir (285), Kerala (94) and Assam (364)
- ✓ With a huge rise in infections over the past week, Delhi now has the maximum number of active cases after Maharashtra.
- ✓ While Maharashtra has 39,935 active cases, the corresponding figure for Delhi is 14,456.
- ✓ On the day, Kerala reported three COVID-19 deaths, taking the toll to 14.
 - ✓ The state had also reported 94 positive cases, of which 84 were imported cases involving people from abroad or other States.
 - ✓ The cumulative virus count in the state stands at 1,588 with 884 active cases.
- ✓ In Andhra Pradesh, 141 fresh Covid-19 cases were reported, taking the tally above 4,000.



- ✓ The State witnessed three more deaths, taking the toll to 71 and the cumulative tally to 4,112
- ✓ Karnataka's four deaths were the highest in a day since the pandemic broke out, taking the toll to 57.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, 257 new cases were reported, taking the tally to 4,320.

➤ **Union health ministry – has specified the standard operating procedures to be followed by offices, eating joints, places of worship and shopping malls when they reopen under Unlock 1.0.**

- ✓ Among the generic measures for shopping malls, religious places, restaurants and offices, physical distancing of at least six feet is to be followed as far as feasible.
- ✓ For all categories masks and face covers are mandatory.
- ✓ Under Unlock 1.0, the government had permitted the opening of religious places, hotels, restaurants and shopping malls from June 8, 2020.
- ✓ However, those located within the containment zones will not be allowed to open

Restaurants

- ✓ Restaurants have been asked to prefer takeaways instead of dine-in
- ✓ They should devise seating arrangement in such a way that adequate social distancing is maintained and utilisation of not more than 50% of seating capacity will be permitted.
- ✓ Disposable menus are advised to be used
- ✓ Instead of cloth napkins, use of good quality disposable paper napkins to be encouraged
- ✓ Staff and waiters will wear masks and hand gloves and take other required precautionary measures.
- ✓ The seating arrangement should be done in a manner to ensure a distance of at least one metre between tables as far as feasible.
- ✓ In the kitchen, the staff will follow social distancing norms

Religious places

- ✓ All religious places should ensure sanitiser dispenser and thermal screening at the entrance
- ✓ Places of worship should have specific markings with sufficient distance to manage the queue and ensure social distancing in the premises
- ✓ For air-conditioning/ventilation in religious places, the guidelines of the CPWD shall be followed
- ✓ The temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30 degrees centigrade, relative humidity should be in the range of 40- 70%
- ✓ The intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate.
- ✓ Touching of statues, idols, holy books not to be allowed
- ✓ To avoid the potential threat of spread of infection, recorded devotional music may be played.
- ✓ Choir or singing groups should not be allowed.

Office

- ✓ The new guidelines stipulate seating arrangements within the office space with adequate social distancing.
- ✓ Effective and frequent sanitation within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on lavatories, drinking and hand washing stations/areas.

50% SEATING CAP FOR RESTAURANTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Shrines must ensure sanitisers and thermal screening at the entrance➤ Markings with sufficient distance to manage queue, social distancing must➤ Touching of statues, idols, holy books not allowed		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Restaurants must operate at 50% capacity. Paper napkins must be used, not cloth napkins. Masks and face covers must➤ Workers, customers and visitors will be allowed entry to malls only with face cover/masks. Masks must be worn at all times inside the mall
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- ✓ In the cafeteria, canteen, dining hall adequate crowd and queue management has to be ensured to ensure social distancing norms.
- ✓ Large gatherings must be avoided within the office spaces.

Shopping malls

- ✓ All workers, customers and visitors are to be allowed entry to malls only if they are using face cover/masks.
- ✓ The face cover/masks have to be worn at all times inside the mall.
- ✓ Adequate manpower shall be deployed by the mall management for ensuring social distancing norms.
- ✓ Number of people in the elevators shall be restricted, adhering to social distancing norms.
- ✓ The use of escalators with one person on alternate steps may be encouraged

General

- ✓ Further, certain rules have also been specified to deal with situation when a person shows some signs of illness or Covid-19.
- ✓ An ill person be placed in a room or area where they are isolated from others at the workplace.
- ✓ Such a person must have their mask/face cover on till such time he/she is examined by a doctor and the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) immediately contacted.
- **The Centre – has blacklisted 2,600 Tablighi foreigners from entering India for 10 years under “Category A” of the Visa Manual 2018 as on June 2.**
- ✓ The Union Home Ministry has recently included “indulging in Tablighi activities” as a specific visa violation that will attract a fine of \$500.

- ✓ The fine is also applicable for other violations such as overstay of more than two years, visiting protected areas and cases involving both overstay and visa violations.
 - ✓ It has also added a new category—“restriction on engaging in Tablighi activities” in the “general policy guidelines relating to Indian visa”.
 - ✓ The guidelines provide details of 24 visa categories and the various conditions under which they could be granted ‘online’ or by missions abroad.
 - ✓ The amended guidelines specify - “foreign nationals granted any type of visa and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders shall not be permitted to engage themselves in Tablighi work. There will be no restriction in visiting religious places and attending normal religious activities like attending religious discourses. However, preaching religious ideologies, making speeches in religious places, distribution of audio or visual display/ pamphlets pertaining to religious ideologies, spreading conversion etc. will not be allowed.”
 - ✓ The MHA had blacklisted 960 foreigners who participated in the Tablighi Jamaat event in March at Nizamuddin markaz (centre) in Delhi in early March.
 - ✓ A foreigner who is blacklisted will not be able to get a visa from any of the missions to come to India.
 - ✓ The Tablighi Jamaat (Society of Preachers) was founded by a Deobandi Islamic scholar at Mewat, Uttar Pradesh, in 1926
 - ✓ Having a presence in around 150 countries, it focuses on ‘purifying’ the Muslim faith.
- **On June 4, 2020, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of HRD (Human Resource Development) – jointly launched an internship learning programme called “TULIP” (The Urban Learning Internship Programme)**



- ✓ The areas of interests included in the programme are financing, environmental planning, sanitation and infrastructure, environmental engineering, urban planning, water supply, waste management, slum improvement, digital governance among others.

- ✓ Along with the programme, an online portal of TULIP was also launched.
 - ✓ The scheme aims to provide internship opportunities with smart cities and urban local bodies for 25,000 fresh graduates, mostly from technical courses
 - ✓ Even though there is no guarantee that the interns will get paid any stipend, the 100 smart cities and 4,400 urban local bodies can use the administrative expenses allocated by the Centre to pay stipends or perks, if they wish to
 - ✓ The scheme is a five-year joint venture between MoHUA and the All India Council for Technical Education
 - ✓ The scheme was first mentioned in the 2020 Budget speech of the Finance Minister.
 - ✓ The city administrations can register available opportunities in the relevant disciplines on the portal
 - ✓ The applicants must be Indian citizens who have completed their final year of college within the last 18 months.
 - ✓ Internship durations can range from eight weeks to one year.
 - ✓ The programme does not have any budget of its own
 - ✓ The urban local bodies and the smart cities are also free to develop their own selection procedures.
- **The Ministry of External Affairs – has said that a total of 3,48,565 citizens have registered till now with the Indian diplomatic missions across the world for coming back to India under the Vande Bharat Mission**
- ✓ Under the mission, the registered number of evacuees has officially crossed the previous record held by the 1990 airlift of Indians from Kuwait after the invasion of the country by Saddam Hussein's Iraq.
 - ✓ In the Gulf airlift, Air India had brought back 1,76,000 nationals.
 - ✓ The final count of Vande Bharat mission is expected to go higher
 - ✓ The repatriation operation covers only those who register to return under "compelling grounds".
 - ✓ The third phase of the mission will be launched on June 11 and go on till the end of June.
 - ✓ Under this phase, 38,000 citizens will be evacuated from 31 countries in 337 commercial flights.
 - ✓ 54 flights will take off from the U.S., while 24 will arrive from Canada, and 11 flights will come from Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya, Seychelles, and Mauritius

INTERNATIONAL

- **The number of new coronavirus cases – growing faster than ever worldwide, with more than 100,000 reported each day.**
- ✓ However, the pandemic is slowing down in some of the countries that were hit hard early on

Rapid rise

India recorded over 7,300 new COVID-19 cases on an average every day between May 28 and June 3, the fourth highest among all nations

Country	Avg. new cases	Total cases
Brazil	20,825	5,84,016
U.S.	18,538	18,51,520
Russia	7,523	4,31,715
India	7,342	2,26,597*
Peru	5,305	1,78,914
Chile	3,812	1,13,628
Mexico	2,834	1,01,238
Pakistan	2,748	80,463
Iran	2,407	1,60,696
Bangladesh	2,117	55,140

*DATA AS OF 10.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY

- ✓ On May 30, more new cases were reported in a single day worldwide than ever before: 134,064.
- ✓ The increase has been mostly concentrated in emerging hot spots in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- ✓ Over all, there have been over 6.4 million reported cases worldwide and over 383,000 known deaths.
- ✓ In Latin America, Brazil and Mexico, announced record numbers of daily deaths
 - ✓ Mexico reported over 1,000 daily deaths while Brazil announced a record 1,349 new deaths.
 - ✓ Mexico also became the 14th country to surpass 100,000 confirmed infections.
- ✓ In Asia, Pakistan now has 85,264 confirmed cases of Covid-19, making it the latest country to overtake the total in China.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the US reported almost 20,000 new Covid-19 cases on June 3.
- ✓ In the UK, face coverings will be made mandatory on public transport in England from June 15.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India - pledged \$15 million to Gavi, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, on June 4**



- ✓ PM Narendra Modi made this announcement, while addressing the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by the United Kingdom (UK)
- ✓ He was among the 35 heads of states and government participants, including United States President Donald Trump, to join the 'virtual' conference.
- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi said the country stood with the world in these challenging times.
 - ✓ India had shared its stocks of medicines with over 120 countries and provided specific help to neighbouring and other countries in need while protecting its own population
 - ✓ According to the PM, Gavi was not just a global alliance but also a symbol of international solidarity.
 - ✓ He said India understood the importance of immunisation since it has a huge population and limited health facilities.
 - ✓ The country had added six vaccines to its National Immunisation Programme to expand protection
 - ✓ The vaccine supply chain had been digitised and an electronic intelligence network had been developed to monitor the integrity of the cold chain
 - ✓ The PM also said India is also the world's fourth largest producer of vaccines and it is fortunate to contribute to the immunisation of about 60% of the world's children.
 - ✓ He had also talked about the government's mission Indradhanush that aims at assuring the full vaccination of children and pregnant women
- ✓ During the event, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the nations around the world to pledge for vaccination funding in order to save millions of lives as well as to protect the world from future outbreaks.
 - ✓ UK is the single biggest donor to the international effort for finding the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ✓ It will also remain as the world's leading donor to GAVI by contributing 1.65 billion pounds over the next five years.
 - ✓ UK has also been the single largest donor of any country to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).
- ✓ India has now become a big supporter of the alliance, from being only a beneficiary earlier.
 - ✓ Since 2014, India had also become a donor.
 - ✓ Till date India has donated 12 million USD to the Alliance.
- ✓ The summit is being held to raise at least 7.4 billion USD of funds for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.
- ✓ The GAVI alliance was set up in 2000 under the partnership of UNICEF, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, research agencies, vaccine manufacturers and several other private sector partners.

➤ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the first-ever 'India-Australia Virtual Summit' with Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison on June 4, 2020.**



- ✓ The Australian PM was scheduled to visit India this year but the visit could not happen and hence the virtual summit was held.
- ✓ The two leaders, who are expected to meet in person at the extended G-7 summit to be held in the United States later this year, spoke for more than an hour over a video link, a first for a bilateral summit for India.
- ✓ Earlier, the Indian and Australian Prime Ministers had a telephonic conversation on April 6, 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Both the countries signed 7 agreements following the meeting, towards mutual collaboration in various fields including public reforms, defence, cyber technology and critical technology, water resource management, vocation education and training, mining and processing critical and strategic minerals including Australian rare earth metals used for electronics - apart from the landmark agreement on Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA)
- ✓ With the summit, India and Australia raised their relationship to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”
- ✓ Both the leaders issued a joint declaration on a “Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific” after the meeting.
- ✓ The two countries also agreed to increase the frequency of meetings between the two Prime Ministers
- ✓ They have also decided to commence the “2+2” format of bilateral meetings at the level of Foreign and Defence Ministers to “discuss strategic issues” once in every two years.

MLSA

- ✓ The MLSA will allow both militaries to use each other’s bases for humanitarian and disaster relief cooperation, port exercises, and passage exercises.
- ✓ The agreement will enable Indian warships to get refuelling from Australian tankers on the high seas, while also availing of berthing, maintenance and storage facilities at Australian naval bases.
- ✓ These sharing of resources will be on a reciprocal basis
- ✓ The agreement will also facilitate the reach of our warships in southern IOR as well as the Western Pacific region.

- ✓ Of late, India has been signing such reciprocal military logistics pacts with like-minded countries to extend its strategic and naval operational reach in the entire Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond
- ✓ The move is considered as significant following China's expansions in the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ Within the next few months, India is set to sign a military logistics pact with Japan, while similar agreements with Russia and the UK are also being negotiated
- ✓ China has established its first overseas military base at Djibouti in August 2017.
 - ✓ It also has access to Karachi and Gwadar ports in Pakistan for turnaround facilities for its submarines and warships.
 - ✓ China is also trying to have access to military bases in Cambodia, Vanuatu and other countries to further consolidate its presence in the Indo-Pacific region
 - ✓ Closer to India, China has six to eight warships deployed in the IOR at any given time.
 - ✓ It had commissioned over 80 warships in the last six years, which are equipped with modern technology ranging from long-range nuclear ballistic missiles and antiship cruise missiles to submarines and aircraft carriers
- ✓ India is also planning to invite Australia to join the trilateral Malabar naval exercise it conducts with the US and Japan
- ✓ India and Australia conducted their biggest-ever naval exercise called "AusIndEx" to "build inter-operability" off the Visakhapatnam coast in April last year.
- ✓ Earlier, India had signed similar agreements with the US, France, South Korea and Singapore
 - ✓ The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed with the US in 2016 similarly gives India refuelling facilities and access to American bases in Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Guam and Subic Bay.
 - ✓ The similar agreement signed with France in 2018 also extends the Indian Navy's reach in south-western IOR with the help of French bases in the Reunion Islands near Madagascar and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.

India-Australia strategic relations

- ✓ Earlier, the visit of former Australian PM Tony Abbott to India in September 2014 and PM Modi's visit to Australia in November 2014 further strengthened the partnership between the two countries.
- ✓ In 2018-2019, the trade between India and Australia stood at around USD 21 billion.
- ✓ Australia also supports India's demand for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

ECONOMY

- **The Centre - has released ₹36,400 crore as GST compensation to the states and Union territories for the period from December 2019 to February 2020.**
- ✓ For the April-November 2019 period, the Centre had already released ₹1,15,096 crore to compensate states and UTs on account of revenue loss due to implementation of the GST
- ✓ Earlier, the Centre had released ₹69,275 crore in 2018-19 and ₹41,146 crore in 2017-18 as compensation for GST
- ✓ The cess collection in 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18 fiscal was ₹95,000 crore, ₹95,081 crore and ₹62,611 crore, respectively.
- ✓ As the compensation requirement of the states was less than collection in the first two years (2017-18 and 2018-19) of GST rollout, ₹47,271-crore GST compensation cess collected had remained unutilised in the compensation kitty
- ✓ GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017

APPOINTMENTS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Private Secretary Rajeev Topno, a 1996 batch IAS from Gujarat cadre - has been appointed as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the World Bank in Washington DC.**



- ✓ Topno has been serving as the PM's private secretary since 2014.
- ✓ He was appointed in the PMO in 2009 during the UPA regime.
- ✓ Another officer who served in the PMO as Joint Secretary, Brajendra Navnit, a 1999 batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer, has been transferred to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India (PRI).
- ✓ He will be based in Geneva.
- ✓ Besides, another IAS officer of 1993 batch and Assam and Meghalaya cadre, Ravi Kota has been posted as Minister (Economic) in the Embassy of India in Washington DC.

- ✓ Ashok Kumar, a 2004 batch IAS officer, will serve as Advisor (Industry and Engineering) in the Embassy of India in Brussels.
- ✓ Earlier, A.K. Sharma and Tarun Bajaj were shifted from the PMO to the roles of Secretary, MSME, and Secretary, Economic Affairs, respectively.

SPORTS

- **On June 4, The All India Football Federation (AIFF) - announced Bengaluru FC as India's third team in the 2021 AFC continental club competitions.**
- ✓ The side will feature in the AFC Cup play-off next year.
- ✓ Further, FC Goa will play in the AFC Champions League group stage and ATK Mohun Bagan in the AFC Cup group stage.
- ✓ Earlier, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) rewarded India with three continental spots, following the restructuring of the Indian football league by AIFF
- ✓ The top prize of a direct place in the AFC Champions League group stage, a first for any Indian club, was secured by FC Goa, who finished the ISL League stage at the top.
- ✓ I-League winners Mohun Bagan secured a direct spot in the AFC Cup, Asian football's second-tier club competition.
- ✓ But as they have merged with the runners-up ATK, ATK-Bagan will play in the AFC cup now.
- ✓ The last spot was bagged by Bengaluru FC who finished third in the league.
- ✓ The AIFF initially planned to allot the third spot to ISL final runners-up (Chennaiyin FC)
- ✓ However, they have to change their stance after AFC said importance should be given to the league stage of ISL and not playoffs.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Environment Day – June 5**



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to raise global awareness on environmental issues.
- ✓ Theme 2020 – ‘Biodiversity’
 - ✓ Biodiversity is the basic platform that supports all life on land and underwater.
 - ✓ Any change in the balance of biodiversity can affect the entire life system and produce lasting negative consequences.
 - ✓ Biodiversity has been affected in recent years with several human actions including deforestation, intensified agriculture, massive industrialisation and encroachment on wildlife habitats and acceleration of climate change.
- ✓ This year, the day is to be hosted in Colombia in partnership with Germany.
 - ✓ Earlier, the day was hosted by India in 2018 with the theme ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’
 - ✓ In 2019, the day was hosted by China under the theme “Air Pollution”.
 - ✓ The day was first proposed by the United Nations in 1972 during the United Nations Conference on Human Environment.
 - ✓ However, it was first celebrated in 1974.
 - ✓ The celebration of the day mainly emphasizes the need to care for nature and humanity.
- ✓ This year’s theme is extremely significant, considering the recent events of major bushfires in Australia, Brazil and the United States.
- ✓ Each year, marine plants produce more than half of the earth’s oxygen.
- ✓ A mature tree can absorb up to 22 kilos of CO₂, releasing oxygen in exchange.
- ✓ Also, this year, the Carbon dioxide emissions that were recorded in a Hawaii Observatory- Mauna Loa Observatory reached 417 parts per million in May 2020, which is higher than the record rise of CO₂ - 414.8 ppm in May 2019.
- ✓ However, the global emissions stood at 26% in some of the countries during the peak of the lockdown

