

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 11, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami – was conferred with the ‘Paul Harris Fellow’ recognition by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International**
- ✓ The ‘Paul Harris Fellow’ recognises personalities who are serving humanity in the fields of drinking water supply, health, disease control, women and children, environment and world peace
- ✓ The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is based at Chicago, United States

- **After Delhi, Chennai - will soon have the country’s second ‘plasma bank’ at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH).**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government is planning to establish the facility at a cost of ₹2 crore.
- ✓ So far, 18 of the 20 patients who received plasma under the trial have recovered at RGGGH, while one patient has recovered at the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai
- ✓ In addition to these two institutions, the next plasma trial is set to begin at the Tirunelveli Government Medical College Hospital soon.
- ✓ As per the guidelines of the Drugs Controller, blood banks that possess the licence for apheresis machines are permitted to accept plasma donations.
- ✓ The Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital and the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University in Chennai and government medical college hospitals in Tiruchi, Salem and Coimbatore will soon accept plasma donations.
- ✓ The Centre has already announced guidelines for the donation of plasma
- ✓ Persons aged 18-65 can donate plasma.
- ✓ Patients who have tested positive for Covid-19 are eligible to donate plasma 14 days after their swab returns negative for Covid-19.

- ✓ Those with co-morbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiac diseases, cancer and kidney diseases and those who have undergone organ transplants and surgeries cannot donate plasma.
 - ✓ Persons who come forward to donate plasma will undergo screening, and a maximum of 500 ml of plasma will be collected from eligible donors.
 - ✓ The process will take 30 minutes and persons can donate plasma twice in 28 days.
 - ✓ The plasma can be stored at -40 degrees Celsius for a year.
 - ✓ When steroids and other medications did not help Covid-19 patients or when the oxygen requirement kept increasing, plasma therapy could offer a higher chance of recovery.
 - ✓ Patients required transfusion of 200 ml of plasma each for two days.
 - ✓ Antibodies in the transfused plasma could neutralise the virus, reducing the viral load and the patients' dependence on oxygen support
- **The government - has formed a new seven-member Backward Classes panel under the chairmanship of former Judge of the Madras High Court, M. Thanikachalam.**
- ✓ Three former civil servants T. Pitchandi, T.N. Ramanathan and V. Chandrasekaran have been made members.
 - ✓ Other members include academicians, A. Alagumalai and M. Sivakumar, and a chartered accountant M. Alagirisamy.
 - ✓ Directors of BC Welfare Directorate and MBC and De-notified Communities Welfare Directorate are ex-officio members.
 - ✓ The new panel has been announced after the completion of the term of the State Backward Classes Commission one-and-half years back.
- **On July 10, the State government - has announced its decision to not pay honorarium to serving government employees nominated to various Committees/Boards/Panels/ Commissions**
- ✓ However, the government announced that the payment of honorarium already made need not be recovered wherever it was paid under a valid G.O.
 - ✓ In another development, as a mark of respect and to honour Navalur V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, one of the leaders of the Dravidian movement, the government announced that his birth anniversary on July 11 would be celebrated as a government function every year.
- **The 32km Chennai Bypass - is one of the 57 stretches across the country selected under a ₹90 crore special project for upgradation.**
- ✓ It is part of a national drive to modernise 1,735km of national highways near various state capitals as model National Highways.

TIME TO STEP UP THE GAME

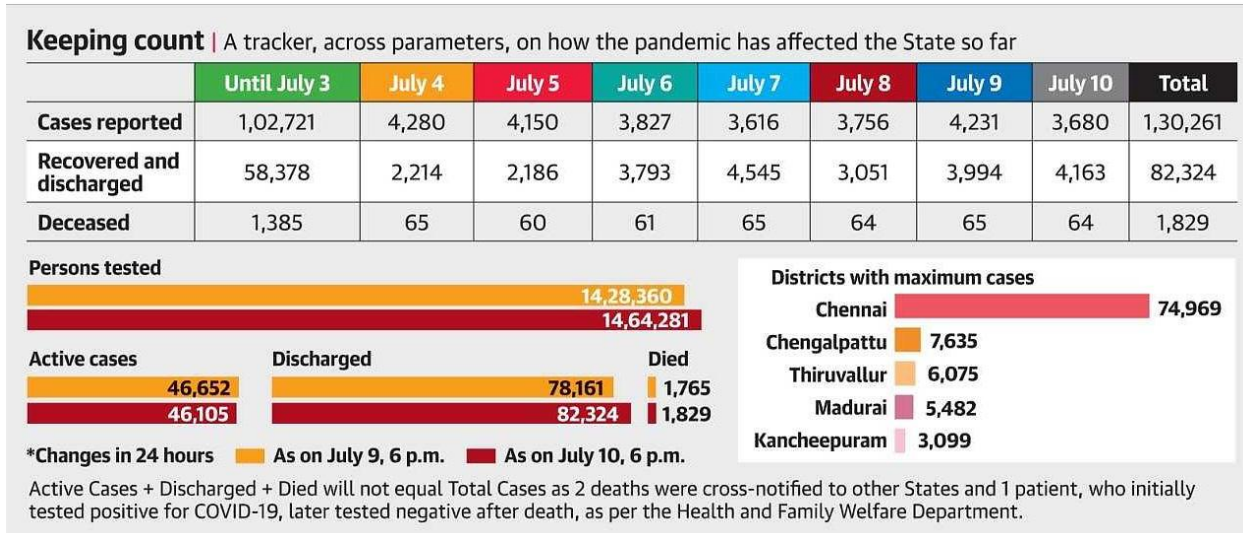


Chennai bypass is among 57 national highways to be upgraded in the country

- > Detailed project report prepared by NHAI officials in TN proposes modernisation work at ₹90cr cost
- > Vertical gardens will be set up at six spots along the 32km stretch between Perungalathur and Madhavaram
- > Existing Vanagaram toll plaza (in pic) will be razed and a 18-lane toll collection point will be built in an adjacent spot at ₹16 crore
- > CCTV cameras, signage and lighting structures will be upgraded

- ✓ The Project will maintain the highest standards of road safety and artistic beauty
 - ✓ Recently, the NHAI introduced a ranking system for roads
 - ✓ In this regard, the upgradation of the bypass will help the state score points in the ranking.
 - ✓ The entire stretch — from Perungalathur to Madhavaram — will be equipped with lights without a dark spot
 - ✓ A proposal for the project has been sent by NHAI officials in Tamil Nadu to their headquarters.
 - ✓ It includes setting up vertical gardens at designated spots on the road, modernising toll plaza with multiple lanes and upgrading several other features such as signages and crash barriers
 - ✓ Under the project, the existing toll plaza at Vanagaram will be demolished and a modern plaza would come up at a cost of ₹15 crore.
The toll plaza will have 18 lanes to reduce waiting time for vehicles at the plaza.
 - ✓ Porur Bridge, Maduravoyal flyover and four other spots along the stretch would turn into an added attraction along the stretch, as they will have vertical gardens to give a soothing effect to the eyes of the travellers.
 - ✓ CCTV cameras will be installed at vulnerable locations
 - ✓ Safety features, keeping the pedestrians as focal point, will be given prime importance under the programme.
- **On July 10, Tamil Nadu - recorded 3,680 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking its overall caseload to 1,30,261.**
- ✓ On a positive note, the number of people discharged following treatment crossed the 4,000-mark for the first time on the day
 - ✓ A total of 4,163 persons were discharged, taking the total recovered persons to 82,324.
 - ✓ The number of active cases in the state stands at 46,105 as on date.
 - ✓ The state also recorded 64 deaths on the day, taking the total casualties to 1,829.
 - ✓ Out of the total 3,680 cases, Chennai reported 1,205 cases, taking its total tally near 75,000 mark.

- ✓ A total of 18,616 persons are under treatment in the city, while the city has so far accounted for 1,196 deaths.
- ✓ Chennai and three neighbouring districts maintained a decline in Covid-19 positive numbers, accounting for only around 48% of the 3,680 fresh cases



- ✓ After testing a record number of samples a day earlier (42,369), there was a 11% drop in testing rate on July 10 (37,309).
- ✓ With this, the total number of samples tested in the State so far rose to 15,29,092.
- ✓ Chennai's three neighbouring districts --Chengalpattu (242), Tiruvallur (219) and Kancheepuram (61) -- together accounted for 522 cases on the day.
- ✓ The southern districts of Tuticorin (195), Madurai (192), Tirunelveli (145), Theni (108) and Kanyakumari (105) were among the worst-affected.
- ✓ One more private laboratory — MGM Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Aminjikarai, Chennai — was approved for Covid-19 testing in the State.
- ✓ With this, there are now a total of 101 testing facilities in Tamil Nadu.

STATES

- **The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray - has launched a new jobs portal recently that aims to bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Domiciled Workers in the state**
 - ✓ The name of the portal is 'Maha Jobs'.
 - ✓ Anyone can access the portal by visiting- 'mahajobs.maharashtra.gov.in'.
 - ✓ For registration in the Maha Jobs portal, a domicile certificate of the state of Maharashtra is compulsory for the workers.
 - ✓ The workers applying in the portal can belong to any category, whether skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled.
 - ✓ Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) will be the nodal agency for the functioning of the portal

- ✓ The portal is a joint venture between 3 Departments of the Maharashtra State Government - Department of Labour, Department of Industries, and the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.
- ✓ Jobs from a total of 17 sectors will be offered under the portal, such as the Healthcare sector, IT, Logistics, Engineering, textile, etc.
- **Assam State Government - has decided to upgrade the status of the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park.**
- ✓ The decision was announced by the Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal recently.
- ✓ The move follows the 'online' protest campaign led by environmentalists in the month of April 2020.
- ✓ This campaign was due to the controversial decision made by the National Board for Wild Life's (NBWL) during its 57th meeting of the Standing Committee on 7th April 2020
- ✓ During the meeting, the NBWL has decided to give preliminary approval for coal mining to Coal India Limited's subsidiary North Eastern Coalfield (NEC) inside 98.57 hectare of land at Saleki Proposed Reserved Forest.
- ✓ Saleki Proposed Reserved Forest falls within the 'Eco-Sensitive Zone', that is within 10 Km of radius from the Dehing Patkai Wild Life Sanctuary
- ✓ After the campaign, coal mining operations were suspended at the site from 3rd June 2020 onwards.
- ✓ However, Coal India Limited's unit NEC was mining at the location since 2003 without any official clearances
- ✓ For this, the Forest Department of Assam has imposed a penalty of Rs 43.24 crore on Coal India Limited in May 2020.
- ✓ Under the Project Elephant of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, in 1992 Dehing Patkai was declared as an Elephant Reserve.
- ✓ Later on 13th June 2004, Dehing Patkai was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa - has launched a scheme for the weaver's community in the state of Karnataka recently.**
- ✓ The name of the scheme is 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the state government is offering Rs 2000 of financial support to all weavers in the state registered with the Seva Sindhu portal
- ✓ For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers in the state have to register themselves at the portal
- ✓ The Seva Sindhu Portal has been launched to deliver various schemes and services of the State Government at the doorstep of the citizens
- ✓ Under the first phase, the Chief Minister transferred Rs 2000 directly into the bank accounts of 19744 weavers in the state during the launch.

- ✓ Annually, the financial assistance will be provided once to all registered weavers under the Seva Sindhu portal.
 - ✓ The scheme will cost the State exchequer an amount of Rs 10.96 crore every year.
 - ✓ As per the 4th All India Handloom Census (conducted in 2019-20), there are 54,789 handloom weavers registered in the state of Karnataka.
- **Himachal Pradesh - becomes the first state in the country to provide LPG Gas connection to all the households in the state**
- ✓ Thus, the state becomes the first in the country to achieve the goal set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia on May 1, 2016 for providing a cooking gas connection to every household
 - ✓ This was announced by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur recently.
 - ✓ Apart from the PM Ujjwala Yojana, another similar scheme of the Himachal Pradesh State Government 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana' has also played an important role for achieving the 100% household cooking gas connection in the state.
 - ✓ The Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana was launched back in May 2018 for providing LPG gas connection to households that were left out under the PM Ujjwala Yojana of the Central Government.
 - ✓ All households in the state of Himachal Pradesh were eligible under the Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana, except for households having pensioner, or any member of the household employed with the state or central government, households with income taxpayers
 - ✓ As on date, a total of 2,76,243 households in the state were provided with a free LPG gas connection under the Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana.
- **The State Government of Odisha - has launched a new scheme 'Balaram Yojana' to provide financial support for the landless farmers in the state**
- ✓ Under the scheme, loans will be provided to around 7 lakh landless farmers or sharecroppers in the state, who are hit hard due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.
 - ✓ As a sequel to the Kalia Scheme of the Odisha Government, the Balaram Yojana was announced back in 2019 during the Vidhan Sabha Elections in Odisha by the ruling BJD Government.
 - ✓ However, the scheme was launched only recently.
 - ✓ The loans under the Balaram Yojana will be disbursed through joint liability groups on 'social collateral' basis.
 - ✓ For this, 1,40,000 groups of farmers have been formed, in the current financial year, 70,000 such groups of farmers will be able to avail the credit while the remaining will be provide assistance during the next financial year.

- ✓ Each of these groups will comprise of 5 landless farmers.
- ✓ A loan of Rs 1.6 lakh will be provided to each of the farmer's groups
- ✓ In total, the State Government has estimated that loans amounting to Rs 1040 crores will be provided to 1,40,000 such landless farmers groups in the state
- ✓ The scheme has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers (of the Odisha Government) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

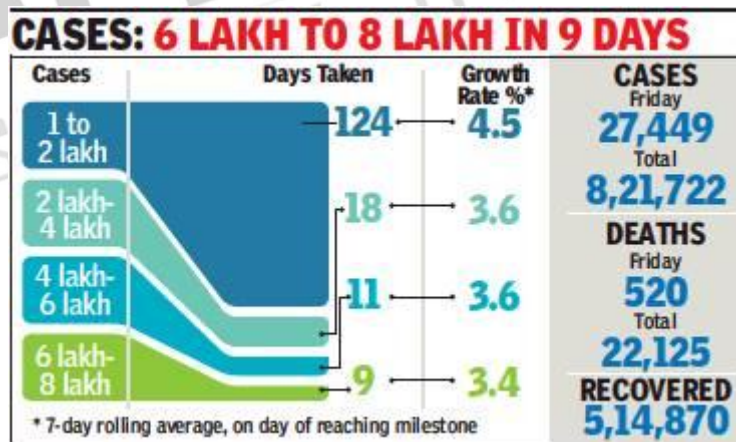
NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - dedicated the 750 MW Rewa solar project in Madhya Pradesh to the nation via Video conferencing on July 10**



- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel was also present in the virtual programme along with MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Power and Union Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh.
- ✓ The 750 MW Rewa ultra mega solar power project is the largest single-site solar power project in India and also in Asia.
- ✓ It is located in Gurh Tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, spread across 1,590 acres of land.
- ✓ For the successful implementation of the power project, a joint venture company between Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikash Nigam Limited (MPUVNL) was set up.
- ✓ The name of the Joint Venture Company is Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL).
- ✓ SECI is the central agency implementing the national solar mission
- ✓ The entire cost of the Project is estimated around Rs 4000 crore.
- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the transaction adviser for the Solar Power Project.
- ✓ On 31st January 2018, the World Bank Group has approved a loan of USD 30 million (approx Rs 225 crore) for the internal infrastructure of the project.
- ✓ Further, the centre had also provided financial assistance worth Rs 138 crore to RUMSL for the development of the solar park.

- ✓ The ultra-mega solar power project comprises three solar units of 250 megawatt each on a 500 hectare plot inside the Solar Park.
 - ✓ It is expected to help reduce carbon emission equivalent to about 15 lakh ton of CO₂ per year.
 - ✓ The project is the first solar plant to supply power to an institutional customer — Delhi Metro Rail Corporation — outside a state.
 - ✓ In other terms, it is the first such project in the country to break the grid parity barrier.
 - ✓ According to the agreement, 24% of the power generated by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant will be supplied to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, while Madhya Pradesh will use the rest
 - ✓ Besides Rewa, solar power plants are also being developed at Shajapur, Chhatarpur and Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the national goal to achieve 100 GW of solar power generation capacity by 2022 when India will complete 75 years of its Independence
- **India's Covid-19 caseload - went past the 8 lakh mark, just four days after having crossed 7 lakh, while the death toll topped 22,000 on July 10.**
- ✓ The country has reported a record 27,449 fresh infections on the day, the third record high in daily numbers in the past three days.
 - ✓ With this, the total Covid-19 infections in India rose to 8,21,722, as per data collated from state governments



- ✓ The day's death toll from the virus crossed 500 for the first time in six days, settling at 520.
- ✓ This was the second highest single-day count of deaths after 608 reported on July 4
- ✓ Maharashtra hit another peak in fresh cases, reporting as many as 7,862 new infections, while adding 226 to the state's death toll.
- ✓ Besides, at least eight other states also reported their highest single-day rise in cases. These were Karnataka, where 2,313 fresh infections were detected,

Andhra Pradesh (1,608), Uttar Pradesh (1,347), West Bengal (1,198), Gujarat (875), Odisha (755), Kerala (416) and Manipur (147).

- ✓ Maharashtra has so far recorded 2,38,461 Covid cases, while the state's death toll, currently at 9,893, is set to cross the 10,000 mark
- ✓ Among the larger states and the National Capital Territory, Delhi is the only one that has seen a decline in active Covid cases over the last week

STATE OF AFFAIRS			
ACTIVE CASES IN THOUSANDS			
State	On July 3	On July 10	% Change
Delhi	26.3	21.6	-18.0
Haryana	4.2	4.6	7.9
Tamil Nadu	41.1	46.7	13.7
Maharashtra	77.3	93.7	21.2
Gujarat	7.4	9.5	27.4
Madhya Pradesh	2.7	3.5	28.6
Andhra Pradesh	8.6	11.4	32.6
Telangana	9.2	12.4	34.7
West Bengal	6.1	8.2	35.3
Uttar Pradesh	6.9	10.4	51
Rajasthan	3.3	5.0	52.3
Bihar	2.4	4.0	69
Assam	2.9	5.3	82.4
Odisha	2.0	3.7	85.6
Karnataka	9.4	17.8	89
India	227.4	276.7	21.7

- ✓ As of July 3, there were 26,304 active cases in the national capital, which declined by 18% to 21,567 on July 10
 - ✓ The only other large states in which active cases are growing slower than the national average are Haryana and Tamil Nadu while Maharashtra follows the all-India rise estimates.
 - ✓ At the national level, active cases increased by 21.7% during this period
 - ✓ The Covid-19 death rate in 30 states and Union territories was lower than the national average fatality rate of 2.72%, as per the health ministry
 - ✓ The national recovery rate stands at 62.42%
 - ✓ From 2.82% a month earlier, India's case fatality rate had declined to 2.72%, which was lower than that of many other countries
 - ✓ The 30 states and UTs that reported a lower death rate than the national average included Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.
- **On July 10, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry - invited cities to come up with quick solutions for promoting cycling by launching a new 'Challenge' initiative**
- ✓ The 'India Cycles 4 Change Challenge' and an online portal for cities to submit their proposals were launched by the Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry in an online event.
 - ✓ The proposals for challenge can be submitted from the 100 cities implementing the Smart Cities Mission

- ✓ Moreover, cities with population of over 5 lakh and capitals of States and Union Territories are also eligible to apply for the challenge.
- ✓ In October 2020, 11 cities will be shortlisted and will receive ₹1 crore award
- ✓ The second stage of the challenge will be held until May 2021, based on the guidance from national and international experts to further improve the initiatives
- ✓ The challenge aims to connect the citizens as well as experts in cities to develop a unified vision and initiatives to promote cycling
- ✓ Cities would be encouraged to create extensive cycling networks using low-cost methods like pop-up cycle lanes and non-motorised zones and set up community-led cycle rental schemes.
- ✓ The challenge would be in two stages — implementation of pilot projects for cycling by all cities that register in the first stage and scaling up the interventions by cities selected based on their proposals in the next stage
- ✓ The programme would be supported by the India Programme of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
- ✓ The cities shortlisted for the challenge would be announced on October 28.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **In a first, on July 19, the Supreme Court - agreed in principle that serving notices and summons to people, integral to judicial processes, through instant messaging services like WhatsApp and Telegram, in addition to emails, would be legally valid.**
- ✓ The verdict gives a legal stamp of approval to use the designated messaging services for the judicial activities.
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices R S Reddy and A S Bopanna agreed to suggestions of attorney general K K Venugopal and solicitor general Tushar Mehta that sending summons and notices through email would constitute valid delivery of these legal instruments for asking a respondent to either appear before the court or respond to a court query.
- ✓ It said this innovation was needed as physical delivery of notices and summons was difficult in the lockdown period.
- ✓ The CJI mentioned that if the sent notice/summons in a WhatsApp message form reflects two blue ticks, then it will constitute as valid service
- ✓ He further said WhatsApp messages could be in addition to summons and notices sent through emails

INTERNATIONAL

- **Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan - declared Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia museum open to Muslim prayers as a mosque on July 10**
- ✓ The announcement comes hours after the ruling by the Council of State, Turkey's top administrative court, mentioning that the building's conversion to a museum by

modern Turkey's founding statesman, Emperor Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, was illegal.



- ✓ The nearly 1,500-year-old monument is revered by Christians and Muslims alike.
 - ✓ Hagia Sophia, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, was a focal point of both the Christian Byzantine and Muslim Ottoman empires and is one of the most visited monuments in Turkey.
 - ✓ Its status as a museum for the last 80 years had made it a symbol of the secularism that was part of the foundation of the modern Turkish state.
 - ✓ Hagia Sophia was originally built in the sixth century as a Greek Orthodox cathedral in the Christian Byzantine Empire
 - ✓ Later, the 900-year old cathedral was converted into a mosque after the Muslim Ottoman conquest in 1453.
 - ✓ The Ottomans built minarets alongside the vast domed structure, while inside they added huge calligraphic panels bearing the Arabic names of the early Muslim caliphs alongside the monument's ancient Christian iconography.
 - ✓ Under the secular republic of modern Turkey, the monument was turned into a museum in 1934 by Emperor Atatürk
- **Amazon - has asked its employees to delete the Chinese-owned video app TikTok from their cellphones, citing “security risks”**
- ✓ Employees had to remove the app by July 10 to remain able to obtain mobile access to their Amazon email
 - ✓ Amazon workers are still allowed to view TikTok from their laptop browser
 - ✓ TikTok, which has been popular with young audiences in the US, is owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance.
 - ✓ It has been under scrutiny in Washington for security reasons because of its ownership
 - ✓ On July 6, TikTok said it would withdraw from stores in Hong Kong, where a new national security law from China was enacted.
 - ✓ The company said it would make it inoperable to users there within a few days

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **A Sanskrit Vidhyalaya - built by India in Eastern Nepal's Province No 1's Ilam district was inaugurated recently through video conferencing.**
- ✓ The name of the Vidhyalaya is 'Shree Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidhyalaya'.
- ✓ The inauguration event was attended virtually by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu (on behalf of Government of India) along with the Barbote Village Development Committee and the School Management Committee of the Sanksrit Vidhyalaya.
- ✓ Shree Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidhyalaya was constructed under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership, which was a High Impact Community Development Project of Indian Government in Nepal
- ✓ The cost of building the Sanskrit Vidhyalaya is around Rs 31.13 million (Nepali Rupees).
- ✓ As a primary school, the Sanskrit Vidhyalaya was established back in 2009 which was later upgraded in the year 2014 to Secondary Level School.
- ✓ For imparting Vedic and as well as Modern education in Sanksrit, the newly built infrastructure of the school will provide a much-needed boost to the learning environment for the students.
- ✓ Under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri project, on 16th June 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Nepal under which India will construct a sanitation facility at the iconic Pashupatinath Temple Complex in Nepal's capital city Kathmandu.
- ✓ The cost of this project is Rs 2.33 crore.

DEFENCE

- **The United States-based multinational Aerospace Company, Boeing - handed over the last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF), completing the contract for all 22 Apaches.**



- ✓ The Apaches were deployed at the Leh air base, amid the stand-off with China in Ladakh.
- ✓ The final five of the 22 Apache attack helicopters were handed over to the IAF at the Air Force Station, Hindan, in June
- ✓ Earlier, in March, Boeing handed over the last five of the 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters to the IAF.
- ✓ The IAF inducted the first batch of Apaches in September 2019 and stationed them at Air Force Station, Pathankhot, Punjab.
- ✓ While the last five Apaches arrived in India early this year, the handover was slightly delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- ✓ India signed contracts for 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government in September 2015 under a \$3 billion deal.
- ✓ During the India visit of President Donald Trump in February, India and the U.S. signed a deal for six additional Apaches for the Army along with the purchase of 24 MH-60 Romeo Seahawk Helicopter(built by Lockheed Martin's subsidiary company-Sikorsky Aircraft) for the Indian Navy at \$2.6 billion
- ✓ Boeing's joint venture in Hyderabad, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited, has been producing aero-structures for the AH-64 Apache helicopter for both the U.S. Army and international customers
- ✓ Boeing's suppliers in India are manufacturing critical systems and components for the Chinooks, including the crown and tailcone assembly by the Tata Advanced Systems and the ramp and aft pylon by Dynamatic Technologies

ECONOMY

- **People's Bank of China (PBOC), the country's central bank - has cut its stake in mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd. in the April-June 30 quarter**
- ✓ The Chinese central bank reduced its holding to below the mandatory disclosure limit of 1% during the April to June quarter, a period which coincided with heightened border tensions between the two countries
- ✓ It had held a 1.1% stake in the Indian lender at the end of the March
- ✓ According to markets regulator Sebi, all listed companies need to disclose the names of entities that hold at least 1% equity in them
- ✓ Thus, PBOC is not listed as a shareholder now as per Indian regulatory norms
- ✓ In the previous filing, PBOC was shown holding 1,74,92,909 shares amounting to 1.1% stake.
- ✓ Separately, in April, the Centre had also imposed curbs on investments from China to prevent the possibility of takeovers of vulnerable Indian companies during the pandemic.
- ✓ Other foreign investors in HDFC include the Government of Singapore with 3.14% stake and Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund with a 1.66% stake.

OBITUARY

- **Ace senior lawyer and former additional solicitor-general of India, V T Gopalan (78 years) - died of cardiac arrest on July 10 in Chennai.**



- ✓ VTG then represented the Centre in the high Courts of Madras, undivided Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala for eight years from 2000.
- ✓ He also had the distinction of having served under both Congress and BJP-led central governments.
- ✓ A lawyer with 54 years of practice, VTG was associated with such doyens of the Bar as N G Krishna Iyengar, R Kesava Iyengar, V K T Chari, M K Nambiar, S Mohan Kumaramangalam, K Parasaran, K K Venugopal and G Ramasamy.
- ✓ VTG defended the revenue of the Centre as ASGI in many cases, including constitutional law, customs, central excise, TRIPs, FERA and FEMA.
- ✓ He had also appeared before several other high courts on special assignments for the Government of India.
- ✓ He had the privilege of appearing in all high courts and the Supreme Court during his practice.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Population Day – July 11**



- ✓ The celebration of World Population Day was inspired by the ‘The Day of Five Billion’
- ✓ It was observed on 11th July 1987 as an approximate day when the world population crossed 5 billion
- ✓ The World Population Day was established in 1989 as an initiative taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and was observed first on 11th July 1989.
- ✓ Following this, in December 1990, the UN General Assembly declared 11th July as World Population Day by adopting resolution 45/216
- ✓ The Day is being observed every year to create awareness on the urgency and importance of rising population issues across the world
- ✓ Theme 2020 - ‘Peace in the Home: Safeguarding the Health and Rights of Women and Girls- Even During COVID-19’
- ✓ As estimated in March 2020, the global population is estimated to have crossed 7.8 billion.
- ✓ As per the future projection, the human population in the world is expected to reach about 10 billion in the next 3 decades.

➤ **National Fish Farmers Day – July 10**





- ✓ The Government of India declared 10th July to be celebrated every year as ‘National Fish Farmers Day’ in the year 2001
- ✓ The initiative of celebrating the Day was first taken by Mumbai’s Central Institute of Fisheries Education.
- ✓ As per the data by the United Nations in December 2019, India is the 2nd largest aquaculture producer in the world.
- ✓ Also, India is the third-largest fish producing country in the world.
- ✓ In Odisha’s Angul district, on 10th July 2020, the first success in induced breeding of fish (by Hypophysation method) was achieved by the two scientists Prof (Dr.) Hiralal Chaudhuri and Dr. K.H. Alikunhi.
- ✓ They further demonstrated the process in the three Indian major species of fish - Catla, Rohu and Mrigal species of fish

- ✓ In remembrance of the contribution of Dr. H.L Chaudhury and Dr. K.H Alikunhi, 10th July is marked as National Fish Farmers Day in India.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is the Central Government scheme that aims to double the income of the fish farmers in the country.
- ✓ With an investment of Rs 20050 crore, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched in May 2020.
- ✓ Through the scheme, responsible and sustainable development of the fisheries sector will be aimed, which will further help in creating an AtmaNirbhar Bharat
- ✓ Under the scheme, 55 lakh (5.5 million) jobs are expected to be created over the next 5 years
- ✓ Further, the target has been set for an additional 7 million (70 lakh) tonnes of fish production per year.

COVID RISK HOTSPOTS – A REPORT

KNOW YOUR RISK







Despite relaxation of lockdown norms, normalcy is yet to return as many community activities are still risky

LOW

- > Tennis, badminton
(Preferably open courts)
- > Neighbourhood shops
- > Take-aways
- > Own vehicle
- > Walk around neighbourhood roads and parks
- > Visiting a non-infected friend



MODERATE



- > Swimming
(In well chlorinated pool, not crowded)
- > Supermarkets
- > Non A/C, well-ventilated restaurants, eateries
- > Non A/C cabs, buses
- > Stroll on the beach
- > Meeting a group of friends

HIGH

- > Football, cricket, hockey
- > Crowded A/C mall
- > Buffet, bar
- > A/C buses, trains, vans
- > Amusement parks, religious places
- > Weddings, funerals

