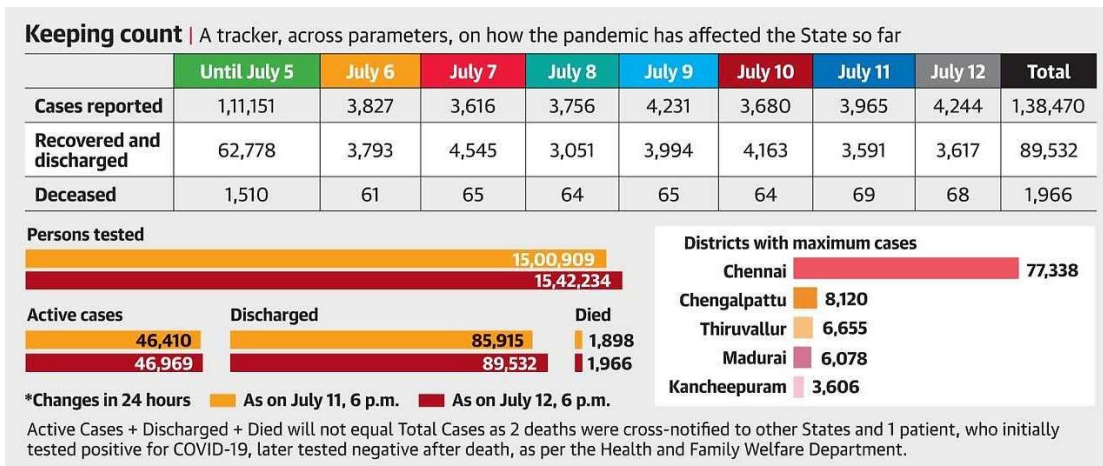# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 13, 2020

TAMIL NADU

➢ **Tamil Nadu – has been allotted Rs 335 crore by the Centre as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit grant in July 2020**

✓ The amount released is as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission.

✓ This is the fourth equated monthly installment of the grant for the financial year 2020-21

    ✓ The first installment was released on 13th March 2020, followed by the next grant in May and the third installment in June 2020.

✓ The notice of the grant was released by the Department of Expenditure, under Union Finance Ministry, on 8th July 2020

✓ Accordingly, a total amount of Rs 6,195.08 crore has been released to the eligible 14 states in the country

✓ The Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit for the entire financial year 2020-21 was estimated at Rs 74,340 crore by the 15th Finance Commission

✓ However, in the Union Finance Budget for FY 2020-21, the Post-Devolution revenue deficit grant for the entire FY 2020-21 allocated by the Finance Ministry was only about Rs 30,000 crore.

➢ **On July 12, Tamil Nadu - recorded 4,244 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking its cumulative caseload tally to 1,38,470.**

✓ Sixty-eight persons died of the infection, taking the overall death toll to 1,966

✓ Tamil Nadu's death rate was pegged at 1.4.

✓ A total of 3,617 people were discharged on the day, bringing their overall tally to 89,532.

✓ The number of active cases in Tamil Nadu stood at 46,969, under the 47,000-mark throughout the week

✓ Out of the total cases, Chennai recorded 1,168 new cases, taking its tally to 77,338, out of which 58,615 persons have been discharged.

- ✓ Further, Chennai recorded 32 deaths on the day, taking the total number of people who have died to 1,253.

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

	Until July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	Total
Cases reported	1,11,151	3,827	3,616	3,756	4,231	3,680	3,965	4,244	1,38,470
Recovered and discharged	62,778	3,793	4,545	3,051	3,994	4,163	3,591	3,617	89,532
Deceased	1,510	61	65	64	65	64	69	68	1,966

Persons tested

15,00,909
15,42,234

Active cases	Discharged	Died
46,410	85,915	1,898
46,969	89,532	1,966

Districts with maximum cases

Chennai	77,338
Chengalpattu	8,120
Thiruvallur	6,655
Madurai	6,078
Kancheepuram	3,606

*Changes in 24 hours   ▮ As on July 11, 6 p.m.   ▮ As on July 12, 6 p.m.

Active Cases + Discharged + Died will not equal Total Cases as 2 deaths were cross-notified to other States and 1 patient, who initially tested positive for COVID-19, later tested negative after death, as per the Health and Family Welfare Department.

- ✓ Thirteen districts in the State recorded cases in triple digits on the day.
- ✓ Apart from Chennai, Kancheepuram leads the number of infections in the state with 385 cases, followed by Madurai with 319, while Virudhunagar logged 246 cases, Chengalpattu 245, and Tiruvallur 232.
- ✓ A total of 42,531 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested so far by the state to 16,09,448
- ✓ A total of 15,42,234 persons have been tested in the State so far.
- ✓ The State government has approved three private laboratories in Tiruchi for Covid-19 testing.
- ✓ With this, there are 105 approved laboratories in the State, including 53 in the government sector and 52 in the private sector.

- ➢ **The University of Toronto Scarborough - has announced a lecture series and a Tamil literary award in the name of late AIADMK leader and former Minister 'Navalar' V.R. Nedunchezhiyan.**

- ✓ The honours had been instituted with the help of two endowed funds gifted by a donor, whose identity is not revealed.
- ✓ Both funds are named after Tamil scholar and political figure V.R. Navalar Nedunchezhiyan, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday on July 11.

- ✓ Nedunchezhiyan was known for his oratory skills and speeches, which earned him the sobriquet Navalar, a reference to his rhetorical nature
- ✓ The Navalar Nedunchezhiyan Tamil Literary Prize would be awarded to an outstanding local or international scholar in the field of Tamil Studies every year.
- ✓ The inaugural award would be conferred after the completion of the Tamil Chair fund-raising initiative to create the first Chair in Tamil Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough.
- ✓ The Lecture Series will strive to promote conversations around pluralism, multiculturalism, and inclusive global societies.
- ✓ It would bring the best in their fields to share their ideas on how inclusive and resilient communities can help address contemporary issues throughout the world.

STATES

- ➢ **The State Cabinet of the Uttar Pradesh Government - has given its approval to launch an independent and comprehensive 'Startup Policy 2020' on 8th July 2020.**
- ✓ Till now, the State did not have such a Policy for the Startups in the state
- ✓ So far, the Startups were governed under the - Uttar Pradesh Information Technology and Startup Policy 2017.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh 'Startup Policy' was prepared by Government with the help of NITI Aayog back in 2018
- ✓ The Policy will come into place from the date of notification by the State Government
- ✓ The aim of the Policy is the corporatization of more than 10,000 startups across the state in the next 5 years.
- ✓ For achieving the aim, 100 incubators will be set up across all the 75 districts of the state with at least one incubator in each district
- ✓ The Startup Policy also intends to generate 50,000 direct and 1,00,000 indirect jobs across the state.
- ✓ Further, it plans to establish the largest incubator of India in the state and also the first dedicated Incubator for the Defence Sector in the country.
- ✓ On 20th May 2020, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath had launched the Uttar Pradesh 'Startup Fund'.
- ✓ This Startup Fund will be managed by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

- ➢ **Chhattisgarh High Court – has conducted the first State Level 'E-Lok Adalat' of India successfully on 11th July 2020**

- ✓ The Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court P.R. Ramachandra Menon inaugurated the first State Level E-Lok Adalat from the Conference Hall of the Chhattisgarh State's High Court in Bilaspur district
- ✓ The E-Lok Adalat was conducted through video conferencing in 195 benches across the state.
  - ✓ A total of 3133 cases were placed before the 195 benches of the court
  - ✓ Out of this, 848 cases were attended by 24 benches from the capital city of Chhattisgarh Raipur
- ✓ On 11th July 2020, the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2020 was scheduled to take place across the country
  - ✓ However, it was cancelled by the National Legal Services Authority in the first week of June due to the Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ This was the second consecutive National Lok Adalat of 2020 that was cancelled in 2020
- ✓ Earlier the 2nd National Lok Adalat scheduled to be conducted on 11th April 2020 was also cancelled due to Covid-19.
- ✓ Before this, the 1st National Lok Adalat of the year 2020 was conducted successfully on 8th February 2020.
- ✓ The 4th and 5th National Lok Adalat of the year 2020 is scheduled to be conducted on 12th September 2020 and 12th December 2020 respectively.
- ✓ In the year 2019, 52.93 lakh cases were disposed of during the four National Lok Adalats that were conducted.

NATIONAL

- ➢ **Pune-based vaccine major, Serum Institute of India (SII) - has announced that there is no direct evidence to prove that the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine offers protection against Covid-19.**
- ✓ Further, the 'mumps' component in the MMR vaccine is not recommended beyond the age of 10 years as it is likely to be 'reactogenic'
- ✓ In clinical trials, reactogenicity refers to the physical response to a vaccine, which can include pain, irritation, swelling and fever in the injection-site

- ✓ The SII is one of the key manufacturers of the MMR vaccine in the country.
- ✓ The MMR vaccine is administered to infants at nine months of age.
- ✓ The institute's statement comes amidst nationwide reports of people queuing up for MMR vaccination to provide a defence against the coronavirus
- ✓ In fact, multiple clinical trials are currently underway to investigate the BCG-Covid connection, including a multi-centric trial in Maharashtra
- ✓ In that multi-centric trial, the SII's recombinant BCG vaccine is also being assessed as a preventive treatment for Covid-19

- ➢ **The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) - has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to access the centralised online database on FIRs and stolen vehicles.**
- ✓ The concept of NATGRID was first conceptualised in the year 2009
- ✓ It seeks to become the one-stop destination for security and intelligence agencies to access database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details of a suspect on a "secured platform".
- ✓ NATGRID will act as a link between intelligence and investigation agencies.
- ✓ The project aims to go live by December 31, 2020
- ✓ The MoU between the two agencies will enable the NATGRID get information about details of a suspect as mentioned in the FIR such as his/her father's name, telephone number and other details
- ✓ The information accessed by one agency through the grid will not be available to any other agency, as it will be a fully automated system
- ✓ According to the MoU, NATGRID will get access to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database, a platform that links around 14,000 police stations.
- ✓ All State police are mandated to file FIRs in the CCTNS.
- ✓ The NATGRID project was first conceived under then Home Minister P. Chidambaram in 2009, but has got a renewed push now under Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ Initiated at a budget of ⬜2,800 crore, it will be a medium for at least 10 Central agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing to access data on a secured platform.
- ✓ The data will be procured by NATGRID from 21 organisations such as the telecom, tax records, bank, immigration etc.

- ➢ **Under the National Mission for Manuscripts, the Union Ministry of Culture - will be reprinting all the 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts by March 2022**
- ✓ Out of these 108 volumes, the Ministry has already published the reprinted version of the first 5 volumes of the Manuscripts.

✓ On the occasion of this year's Dhamma Chakra Day on the 4th of July 2020, a set of the these Manuscripts was handed over to the Ambassador of Mongolia to India by Prahlad Singh Patel (Union Minister of State I/C for Culture).

✓ The Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts are reprinted earlier under the supervision of Prof. Lokesh Chandra in 1970
✓ They were brought to India in between 1956 to 1958 by Professor Raghu Vira.
✓ The 108 volumes of Buddhist canonical texts – Mongolian Kanjur - has been translated from the Tibetan language
    ✓ It is one of the most important religious texts in Mongolia
    ✓ At temples in Mongolia, the Buddhists worship Kanjur.
    ✓ The lines in 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur are being recited at temples by Mongolian Buddhists as a sacred ritual in the daily prayers.

➢ **On July 9, Indian Manufacturing Company Loyal Textile Mills - launched the first of its kind in the world - reusable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kits**

✓ The company had also unveiled reusable garments and face masks with zero virus penetration along with the reusable PPEs.
✓ The reusable masks, garments, and PPE Kits were launched by Loyal Textile Mills with collaborating with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based textile innovation company- HeiQ Materials AG.
✓ The 3 products will be available in the market under the brand 'Supera Shield'

- ✓ According to the company, the garments and masks can be washed for up to 25 times for reuse while the PPE kit can be washed up to 10 times for reuse
- ✓ The reusable masks, garments, and PPE kits are made with the Viroblock Technology of HeiQ Materials AG.
- ✓ The fiber used for making the reusable masks, garments, and PPE kits was 'R ELAN Fibre' of Reliance Industries Limited.
  - ✓ R ELAN Fiber inhibits bacteria and viral growth
- ✓ The fabric in the reusable mask and PPE kit has been engineered with viral barrier PU film lamination imported from the Republic of China (Taiwan).

- ➢ **India - reported another new record of 29,271 new cases on July 12, the fifth straight day of record rise in daily infections.**
- ✓ With this, the country's coronavirus caseload has risen to 8,79,060, as per data collated from state governments.
- ✓ The number of active Covid-19 cases in India crossed the 3 lakh mark and stands at 3,02,466 while more than 5.53 lakh people were declared cured of the infection

ACTIVE CASES
2L TO 3L IN 15 DAYS

JUNE 4	1LAKH
JUNE 27	2LAKH
JULY 12	3LAKH

ALL INDIA DAILY CASES

JULY 8	25.6K
JULY 9	26.7K
JULY 10	27.4K
JULY 11	28.9K
JULY 12	29.3K

- ✓ It hit the 1 lakh mark on June 4, went past 2 lakh 23 days later and now has taken just 15 days more to reach 3 lakh.
- ✓ Covid-19 deaths in the country rose to 23,175 after 492 fatalities were added on the day, translating to a case fatality rate of 2.6%.
- ✓ Other states to report their biggest single-day rise in cases were Karnataka (2,627 new cases), Andhra Pradesh (1,933), Bengal (1,560), Bihar (1,266), Gujarat (879) and Chhattisgarh (184).
- ✓ Maharashtra again reported the highest number of new infections at 7,827, its third highest single-day addition
- ✓ The state's active caseload breached the one-lakh mark, with 1,03,516 patients now under treatment.

- ➢ **The Indian Navy – announced the completion of 'Mission Sagar' which has extended India's helping hand to various countries across the Indian Ocean.**

- ✓ The Mission Sagar was launched on 10th May 2020, as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR)
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship INS Kesari was deployed for the Mission Sagar.
- ✓ After 49 days, the mission was successfully completed on 28th June 2020 when INS Kesari returned to India
- ✓ The Mission was launched to deliver assistance to our maritime neighbors in combating the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ INS Kesari has travelled to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros Islands under the mission
- ✓ On 10 May 2020, INS Kesari embarked for the Mission with Covid-19 related essential Medicines (including Hydroxychloroquine tablets and Ayurvedic Medicines), Medical Assistance Teams, and about 600 tonnes of food items
- ✓ Over the next 49 days, INS Kesari traveled 7,500 nautical miles, which is more than 14000 kilometers.

- ➢ **On 8th July 2020, an agreement - has been signed between the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and IIT Alumni Council.**
- ✓ As per the agreement, joint research work on Covid-19 will be conducted by both the institutes and data of Covid-19 positive patients will also be analyzed jointly
- ✓ Earlier, on 29th May 2020, the IIT Alumni Council had announced that it will set up one of the largest Covid-19 testing facility of the world in Mumbai.
- ✓ The name of the facility will be MegaLab Mumbai.
    - ✓ Mumbai University was announced as a partner for the MegaLab Mumbai initiative.
    - ✓ The MegaLab Mumbai will have three independent lines, with a total capacity of 1 crore (10 million) tests per month
    - ✓ The first Line of the MegaLab Mumbai is expected to be ready by the end of July 2020, which will have the capacity to test 10 million samples per month
    - ✓ MegaLab Mumbai is part of the C19 initiative.
    - ✓ C19 initiative was launched by IIT Alumni Council in February 2020.

➢ **Various environmental Groups - have launched a new Online Tool 'Clean Air Counter' on 9th July 2020**
✓ The tool was launched under a combined effort of the Regional South East Asia Office of the global environmental organization - Greenpeace, Centre For Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA - headquartered at Finland's Helsinki) and IQAir AirVisual.
✓ It has been used to measure Smog Pollution in 28 major cities across the world.
✓ Accordingly, India's Capital New Delhi has been found to suffer the most Economic Impact (based on Per Capita) in the world due to air pollution during the first half of the year 2020
    ✓ A total estimated loss of $3.5 billion is observed in New Delhi during the first half of 2020
    ✓ Beijing and Mumbai are ranked in 2nd and 3rd place respectively in terms of annual GDP loss.
✓ To estimate the health impact due to air pollution, the Clean Air Counter tool uses models that have been devised under the epidemiological observational study of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD).
✓ China's Shanghai registered the highest an estimated 27,000 deaths due to air pollution among the 28 cities, followed by New Delhi with an estimated 25,000 and China's capital Beijing with estimated 22,000 deaths.

➢ **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs – had conducted a webinar on the 'GOAL' project to various Members of Parliaments from Schedule Tribe (ST) Constituencies on 10th July 2020.**

✓ The GOAL project has been launched as a Pilot Project by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Facebook India in March 2019
✓ It was started with 100 Mentees and 25 Mentors from the ST community in 5 states of India - Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
✓ Based on the outcomes and experiences from the Pilot Project, the GOAL project was decided to be implemented with 5000 youths and 2500 Mentor/ Mentees over the next 5 years in a phased manner.

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- ✓ The GOAL- 'Going Online As Leaders' Project is an initiative under which 5,000 youths from the tribal communities of the country will be identified and empowered so that they can become the change-makers of tomorrow
- ✓ The GOAL Project has 3 core areas - Literacy, Life Skills, and Leadership & Entrepreneurship
- ✓ It will bridge the gap between the youths and the Mentors/Mentees and enable them to acquire the skills and abilities for developing the leadership skills.
- ✓ For this, a total of 2500 renowned leaders from the businesses, influencers, social workers, artists, government administration, etc will be identified as the Mentors/ Mentees for the 5000 youths

- ➢ **The 'ATL App Development Modules' for school children - are launched by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under its initiative Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) on July 10, 2020**

- ✓ The module has been launched in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative
- ✓ It aims to transform school students from users of the smartphone-based applications to innovative developers of the smartphone-based applications
- ✓ Once the ATL App Development Modules is implemented at school level, it will be the largest App learning initiative
- ✓ At present, in over 660 districts in the country, 5100 Atal Tinkering Labs have been already established.
- ✓ The Modules are a part of an online course available at free of cost for the general public.
- ✓ The online course consists of a total of 6 project-based learning modules through which the school children can learn to build mobile applications.
- ✓ The ATL App Development Modules can be accessed at- 'appcourse.plezmo.com'.

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- **India – has become the second-largest source of FDI in the United Kingdom, as per the figures provided by the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Trade (DIT) in the FY 2019-20.**
  - ✓ United States continues to be the number one source of FDI in the United Kingdom with 462 projects resulting in 20,131 jobs.
  - ✓ India has moved to second place after investing in 120 projects, that provided 5,429 jobs
  - ✓ Germany, France, China, and Hong Kong were the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and the 6th largest source of FDI for the United Kingdom respectively
  - ✓ In Financial Year 2018-19, India was in third place with 106 projects that resulted in 4858 jobs.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 12, the World Health Organization - reported a record increase in global coronavirus cases, with the total rising by 230,370 in 24 hours**.
  - ✓ The biggest increases were recorded from the US, Brazil, India and South Africa
  - ✓ The previous WHO record for new cases was reported at 228,102 on July 10.
  - ✓ The overall deaths remained steady at about 5,000 a day.
  - ✓ As on July 12, global coronavirus cases were approaching 13 million, marking another milestone in the spread of the disease that has killed more than 565,000 people in seven months.

- **Singapore's incumbent Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong – has been re-elected in the 2020 General Elections of Singapore**
  - ✓ The elections were conducted for its 105 seats unicameral Parliament (93 members are elected through the Election) on July 10, 2020
  - ✓ Thus, Singapore became the 2nd Asian country to conduct National Polls in the times of the Covid-19 global pandemic
  - ✓ Earlier on 15th April 2020, South Korea became the first Asian Country by conducting its 21st Legislative Elections
  - ✓ Under the leadership of Lee Hsien Loong, the People's Action Party (PAP) have won 83 seats out of the total 93 seats contested in the Election by securing 61.24% of the total valid votes.

- ✓ Among opposition parties, Worker's Party under the Leadership of Pritam Singh won the remaining 10 seats

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- ➢ **In a first, the Indian Railways - operated a special parcel train beyond borders to Bangladesh on July 10.**
- ✓ The train carried bulk dry chillies from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The Guntur Zone of South Central Railway tweaked the conditions to enable farmers to transport small quantities of dry chilly in the goods train
- ✓ The move has also helped in reducing the transportation cost.
- ✓ In general, to send chillies to the neighbouring country by road cost around □7,000 per tonne, whereas the expense for carrying the same by goods trains has come out to be □4,608 per tonne
- ✓ Farmers and merchants in and around Guntur area used to transport dry chillies by road to Bangladesh in small quantities
- ✓ In another diplomatic change, the government has decided to send additional secretary Vikram Doraiswami as the next high commissioner to Dhaka.

- ➢ **The Indian Government - has agreed to not form a joint venture company with Sri Lanka for running the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota**

- ✓ The move was attributed to the request from Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa
- ✓ Earlier, the government of Sri Lanka had invited international investors in 2017 for operating the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport
- ✓ However, only Indian government offered to help then to run the international airport as a majority stakeholder by forming a joint venture with Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The airport has the capacity to handle 10 lakh passengers in a year
- ✓ The International Airport was developed by Sri Lanka through high-interest commercial loans from China

- ✓ The Airport has been named after the current Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa, as the order for construction of the Airport was given by him back in 2009
- ✓ The airport was opened in the year 2013
- ✓ By 2016, the airport was not generating enough revenues to pay back the loans and stopped operating the flights and was dubbed as the 'World's Emptiest International Airport'.
- ✓ For Constructing the Airport, $ 209 Million was spent, out these $190 Million was provided as a loan by the Exim Bank of China

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ➢ **The 15th India-EU summit – will take place on July 15 in virtual mode**
- ✓ The summit will be co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president Charles Michel.
- ✓ The summit was scheduled to take place earlier this year but was postponed because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ PM Modi and Von der Leyen, who is the first woman to lead the EU, exchanged letters of participation ahead of the summit
    - ✓ The PM conveyed his appreciation for the vaccine initiative of the European Commission and Europe as a whole in support of early development of vaccine, treatment and diagnostics for coronavirus.
    - ✓ Von der Leyen appreciated India's support to the principles of availability, accessibility and affordability of healthcare to combat Covid-19 globally
- ✓ In the summit, the Prime Minister is expected to highlight in the summit, as he has in his recent international engagements, how India has shared its available stock of medicines with more than 120 countries and also provided customised support to countries around the world.
- ✓ According to the government, India has a primary role globally in the area of vaccines as it contributes to immunisation of about 60% of the world's children
    - ✓ One of the first programmes launched by the present government was "Mission Indradhanush" which sought to ensure full vaccination of our children and pregnant women – including in the remotest parts of the country.
    - ✓ It added six new vaccines later in India's national immunisation programme
    - ✓ Further, India had digitised its entire vaccine supply line and developed an "Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network" to monitor the integrity of its cold chain for storing and transporting vaccines.
- ✓ Von der Leyen had launched the Coronavirus Global Response on May 4 as global action for universal access to affordable coronavirus vaccination, treatment and testing.
- ✓ The campaign has pledged $17.5 billion in less than two months, out of which over 70% is said to have been raised by European states and institutions.

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- ✓ In its announcement of the summit with India last week, the EU had said the leaders would discuss global cooperation and solidarity to protect lives, to mitigate the socio-economic consequences and to strengthen preparedness and response capacities.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➤ **The world's costliest fungus — Ophiocordyceps sinensis — also known as Himalayan Viagra - has entered the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species on July 9**

- ✓ The list has placed the fungus, known for its aphrodisiac and rejuvenation properties, in the 'vulnerable' category.
- ✓ It has been placed in the 'vulnerable' category because its spread has declined by at least 30% over the past 15 years as a result of overharvesting.
- ✓ The fungus, also known as keeda jadi in Uttarakhand because of its caterpillar-like appearance, is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in China, Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- ✓ In India, it is primarily found in Uttarakhand in the higher reaches of districts like Pithoragarh and Chamoli.
- ✓ The purpose of putting the fungus in the Red List under the 'vulnerable category' is to ensure that proper government policies are implemented in order to conserve it so that it remains in the wild without exploitation.
- ✓ The Red list of IUCN is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species
- ✓ Meanwhile, the inclusion in the Red List is going to impact hundreds of villagers of Uttarakhand who were dependent on collecting the fungus as their primary source of livelihood.
- ✓ The fungus sells locally for around ☐10 lakh per kg and goes on to be sold in international markets like China (where it is highly prized) at a massive ☐20 lakh per kg.

- ➤ **India's & Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre - was inaugurated virtually in Mumbai on 7th July 2020**

World's 2nd Largest Data Centre Inaugurated In Mumbai

Maharashtra CM Thackeray virtually Inaugurated the largest Tier IV Data Centre 'Yotta NM1' Certified by Uptime Institute in Asia and Second-Largest in the World in Panvel near Mumbai.

✓ The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1'
✓ It is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region.
✓ The NM1 Data Centre was inaugurated virtually in the presence of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray and Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
✓ The NM1 Data Centre has been developed by Yotta Infrastructure Solutions LLP (a subsidiary of Hiranandani Group).
✓ A total of five data centre buildings will be developed at the Panvel Data Centre Park.
✓ NM1 is the first of the five such building
✓ Once completed and operational, all 5 buildings of the Park will have a total capacity of 30,000 racks and 210 MW Power.
✓ NM1 Data Centre has received certification from the United States-based Uptime Institute as the Largest Tier IV Designed Data Centre in India & Asia and the World's Second Largest.
✓ This certification is valid up to 27th April 2022.

➢ **Pune based molecular biology company, Mylab Discovery Solutions Private Limited - has launched a cartridge-based machine named 'Compact XL' on 7th July 2020 that can test and handle multiple samples at the same time**

- ✓ The machine will reduce the need for more laboratory technicians for handling and testing more samples, as an individual will be able to operate the machine
- ✓ Compact XL is a 4X3 benchtop machine that is indigenously developed and the first machine in India that will fully automate the manual laboratory operations required for testing molecular diagnostic samples of Covid-19.
- ✓ This automated 'Compact XL' system will be able to handle samples of RNA/DNA based test, RT-PCR test, Plasma, Tissue, Swab, and Sputum.
- ✓ A total of 32 samples can be handled and tested by the machine in an hour, which can further be increased based on demand.
- ✓ The machine is priced at Rs 40 lakh

DEFENCE

➢ **The Army - is all set to order another 72,000 assault rifles from US firm SiG Sauer**
- ✓ The purchase is being planned amidst the ongoing heightened military tensions with China as well as the continuing delay in the project to manufacture Kalashnikov rifles in India.

- ✓ The 13-lakh strong Army has already inducted 72,400 SiG Sauer rifles under a ☐647 crore fast-track procurement (FTP) deal inked in February last year.
  - ✓ The SiG Sauer rifles are 7.62x51mm caliber guns with an effective "kill" range of 500-metre
  - ✓ The first batch of American assault rifles will be used by the troops in Northern Command and other operational areas.
  - ✓ The new rifles will replace the existing Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) 5.56x45mm rifles used by the armed forces, which were manufactured locally by the Ordnance Factories Board.
- ✓ The proposal for the second lot of SiG Sauer rifles is now being finalised for clearance by the defence acquisitions council (DAC) chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh
- ✓ In March this year, India had also signed a ☐880 crore deal to acquire 16,479 Israeli Negev 7.62x51 mm light machine guns (LMGs) for its frontline troops deployed on the borders with China and Pakistan.

- ✓ The remaining of Army soldiers were supposed to get 7.62x39 mm caliber AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles
    - ✓ These rifles are planned to be produced jointly by India and Russia at the Korwa ordnance factory in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of □4,358 crore as agreed by the DAC in January 2019
    - ✓ These rifles, with an effective range of 300-metre, will supplement the limited number of the more advanced US-origin rifles with a longer kill range.
    - ✓ But, the 'Make in India' project to manufacture 6,71,427 AK-203 rifles is yet to start due to several procedural issues faced by two sides.
- ✓ The defence ministry has now appointed a "costing committee" to fix a "reasonable price" for manufacturing AK-203s after the JV between Indian Ordnance Factory Board and Russian Rosonboronexport and Kalashnikov company quoted an "unreasonable and unacceptable" price for the rifles.
- ✓ The Union Government had granted the three armed services with emergency funds amounting to Rs 500 crore per procurement to buy the latest ammunition and weapons amid tense border standoff with China.
    - ✓ The Indian Air Force is also planning to acquire more lethal and capable version of Spice-2000 Bombs to further strengthen its military capability to hit ground targets.
    - ✓ The IAF had used Spice-2000 Bombs to destroy the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

ECONOMY

- ➤ **Reliance Industries (RIL) - has raised □730 crore from US-based Qualcomm Ventures by selling 0.15% stake in Jio Platforms**
- ✓ The company, controlled by Mukesh Ambani, the world's eighth richest person, has so far mobilised □1.18 lakh crore by selling 25.24% in Jio to 11 international investors in less than two months
- ✓ The new investment by Qualcomm Ventures will take the total investments in Jio Platforms to Rs. 1,18,318.45 crore for a combined 25.24% holding.
    - ✓ This amount is just □2,000 crore less than the Indian government's disinvestment target of □1.2 lakh crore for fiscal 2021.
- ✓ The foreign money will help RIL to clear its □3.36 lakh crore debt.
- ✓ Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm has pegged the valuation of Jio at □5.16 lakh crore.
- ✓ This is similar to the valuation assigned by other financial investors to Jio.
- ✓ Qualcomm is the world's largest supplier of modem chips that connect cellphones and other devices to data networks
- ✓ The US company will support Jio in its rollout of 5G infrastructure and services for Indian customers

THE LUCKY 13

Jio Qualcomm

	INVESTOR	DEAL VALUE (₹ crore)	STAKE
12 JULY	Qualcomm	730	0.15%
3 JULY	Intel	1,894.5	0.39%
18 JUNE	PIF	11,3 67	2.32%
13 JUNE	L Catterton	1,894.5	0.39%
13 JUNE	TPG	4,546.8	0.93%
7 JUNE	ADIA	5,683.5	1.16%
5 JUNE	Silver Lake	4,547	0.93%
5 JUNE	Mubadala	9,093	1.85%
22 MAY	KKR	11,367	2.32%
17 MAY	General Atlantic	6,598	1.34%
8 MAY	Vista	11,367	2.32%
3 MAY	Silver Lake	5,656	1.15%
22 APRIL	Facebook	43,574	9.99%

With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised ₹ 118,318.45 crore from leading investors which includes Facebook, Silver Lake Partners (two investments), Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, PIF and Intel

✓ Qualcomm Ventures, founded in 2000, has investments in India covering dairy, transportation and defense sectors.

SPORTS

➢ **On July 12, Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi - was named captain of the Indian team that will take part in the Online Chess Olympiad 2020, scheduled to begin on July 22.**

- ✓ The India No.2 was nominated skipper in consultation with teammate Viswanathan Anand and the AICF selection committee
- ✓ The Indian Men's team comprises of Vishwanathan Anand, Vidit Santosh Gujarati (captain), P. Harikrishna and Arvindh Chithambaram (reserves).
- ✓ In the Women's team, Koneru Hampy, Dronavalli Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni and R. Vaishali (reserves) will represent the country
- ✓ The Junior (boys) team has Nihal Sarin, R. Praggnanandha (reserve) while Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal (reserve) are selected under the Junior (girls) category