

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 23, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- On July 22, Health minister C Vijayabaskar - inaugurated a plasma bank setup at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) at a cost of ₹2.3crore.



- ✓ The bank was set up by the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC)
- ✓ It will be used to collect and store the plasma (fluid component of blood) from patients who recovered from Covid-19 infection.
- ✓ The facility has the capacity to collect plasma from seven donors simultaneously.
- ✓ The plasma in the blood of the infected persons contains antibodies which help in fighting the virus.
- ✓ After inaugurating the facility, the Minister said the State government was planning to set up similar plasma banks at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital at Omandurar Estate, the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University and the government medical colleges in Salem, Tiruchi, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli.
- ✓ The health minister urged patients who had recovered from Covid-19 to come forward and donate plasma without fear or apprehension.

- ✓ Tamil Nadu was one of the first states to try this experimental treatment method soon after Indian Council for Medical Research gave its nod.
  - ✓ So far, 26 patients at RGGGH have undergone plasma therapy and 24 have recovered
  - ✓ At the Madurai Medical College, four patients were treated with convalescent plasma
- ✓ The state plans to store enough plasma to treat patients for the next one year in the bank.
  - ✓ The collected plasma is stored at -40°C and could be stored for a period of next one year.
  - ✓ A maximum of 500 ml of plasma was collected from recovered patients at a time and it will take 30 minutes to collect plasma per session
  - ✓ Recovered patients can donate plasma 14 days after discharge from hospitals or completing the treatment.
  - ✓ The second round of plasma donation can be further made only after another 14 days.
  - ✓ However, patients with diabetes, hypertension, kidney patients and those who have undergone transplant surgeries can't donate plasma.
- **Tamil Nadu – remained at the top spot in the entire country in terms of sanctions and disbursements under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**
  - ✓ The ECLGS was announced by the Centre to support the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector during the Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ The details of the fund released were based on a data released by the Finance Ministry and an analysis of State-wise disbursement of public sector banks under the scheme done by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Southern Region
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu is the largest beneficiary with ₹4,383.4 crore disbursed to 1,59,662 MSMEs.
  - ✓ It accounts for 10.48% of the total disbursement of public sector banks.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu is followed by Maharashtra with ₹4,267.87 crore disbursed to 1,24,712 MSMEs with 10.20% share
  - ✓ Uttar Pradesh remains at the third spot with a disbursement of ₹4,239.3 crore to 1,92,479 MSMEs and accounting for 10.14% share.
  - ✓ Among the southern states, Tamil Nadu is followed by Karnataka, accounting for 6.77%, Andhra Pradesh 5.61%, Kerala 4.51%, Telangana 4.48% and Puducherry with 0.24% of the total amount disbursed across India.
- **On July 22, Software as a Service (SaaS) company, Zoho – announced its decision to set up a 250-bed community hospital in Kattankulathur, on the outskirts of the city**

- ✓ The company aims to set up the hospital as part of its vision to minimise the rural-urban healthcare gap
  - ✓ The project marks the tech company's first foray into the healthcare industry
  - ✓ It will involve an initial investment of ₹70 crore and is expected to be completed in 12-16 months.
  - ✓ The investment comprises innovative medical software and hardware technologies along with facilities for clinical care.
  - ✓ The hospital will be constructed with a built-up area of 2.6 lakh square feet and an area to bed ratio of 1,000 square feet
  - ✓ The facility aims to provide healthcare services in rural and non-urban areas using a combination of clinical skills and emerging digital technology
- **On July 22, three out of six MPs who were elected to Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu - took oath in the Upper House chamber**
- ✓ The oath-taking ceremony was administered in the presence of Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu.
  - ✓ For the first time, the ceremony was done inside the House chamber when Parliament is not in session.
  - ✓ The three MPs from the State are M Thambidurai, K P Munusamy both from AIADMK and G K Vasan from Tamil Maanila Congress.
  - ✓ Three other DMK MPs— Trichy Siva, N R Elango and Anthiyur Selvaraj— did not take oath as they have announced the party's decision to wait till the Covid-19 came under control.
  - ✓ This ceremony was scheduled to take place in the month of April but was postponed because of extensive lockdown across the nation from March end.
  - ✓ Because of this, even the Rajya Sabha elections which were to take place end of March took place finally in June.
  - ✓ As many as 43 out of 61 Rajya Sabha MPs have taken oath on the day
- **The State Consumer Grievances Redressal Commission in Chennai - has been empowered to deal claims up to Rs.10 crore and only those exceeding it can approach Delhi.**

**SAFEGUARDS FOR BUYERS**

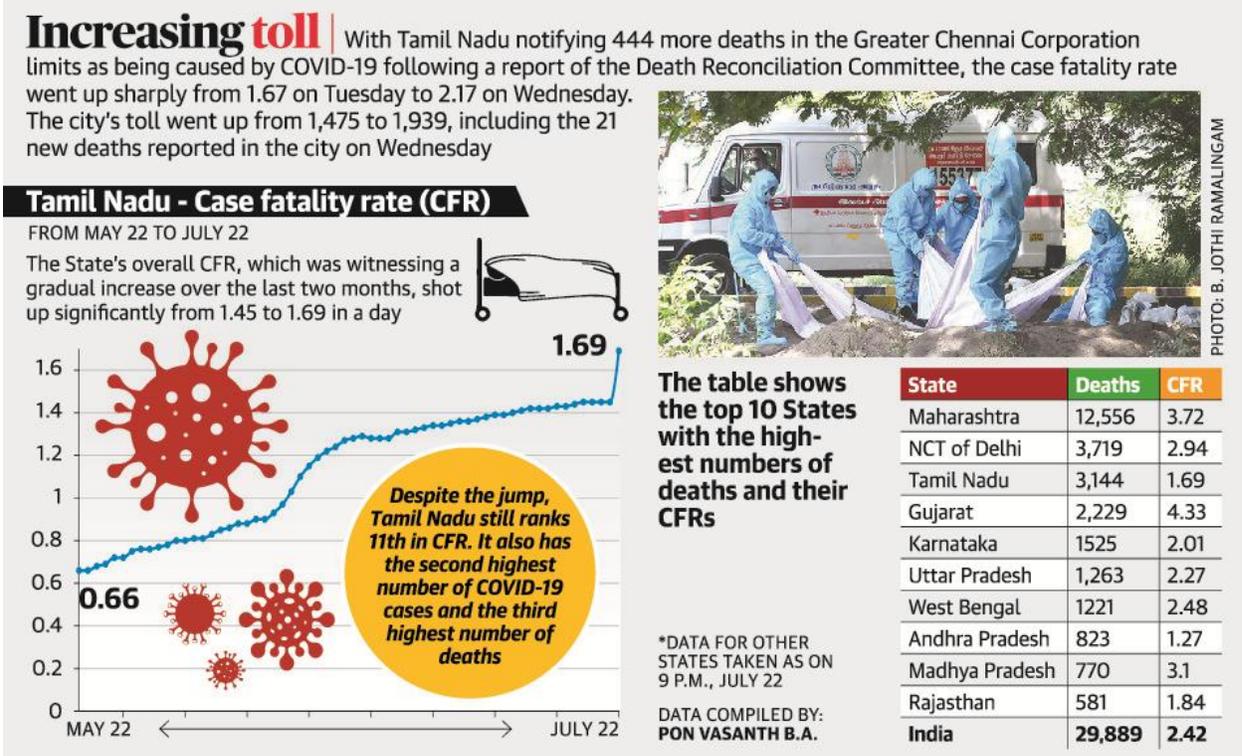
**Highlights of the new Consumer Protection Act**

- Claims up to ₹1 crore can be made in district-level commissions
- Lengthier prison terms and steep fines for offences
- Complainants can file case from their native districts
- Misleading ads and e-commerce transactions too covered



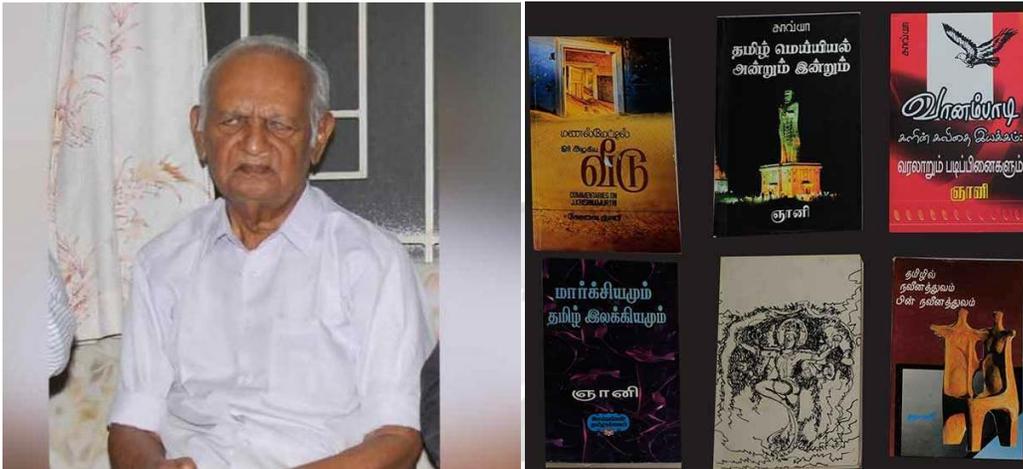
G Joy Theophilus

- ✓ This means, henceforth, people in other districts of Tamil Nadu need not approach the Commission in Chennai for high-value claims.
  - ✓ Also, the district-level commissions (erstwhile forums) are empowered to deal with complaints where the value of goods or services is Rs1 crore or less.
  - ✓ These guidelines are provided by the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which came into effect on July 20
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu currently has 32 district-level commissions and on an average each of them hear at least 400 cases every year
- **On July 22, Tamil Nadu - recorded its highest single-day spike of 5,849 fresh infections of Covid-19, taking the total tally now to 1,86,492.**
- ✓ This is the first time that the daily count of cases in the State crossed 5,000
  - ✓ The state added 522 more deaths, including 444 backdated deaths based on recommendations of the Death Reconciliation Committee
  - ✓ This has taken the cumulative toll to 3,144.
  - ✓ The case fatality or mortality rate in the state has increased from 1.4% to 1.69 %, while the recovery rate was 60%



- ✓ On the day, the number of people tested was 58,475 across 113 authorised laboratories compared to 50,055 tested a day earlier.
- ✓ Unlike several other states, the state has decided to conduct only RT-PCR tests.
- ✓ At the end of the day, 4,910 people were discharged and 51,765 were still under treatment.
- ✓ As on date, the total number of persons discharged in the State stands at 1,31,583

- ✓ Chennai continued to be the worst affected district with 1,171 fresh cases, while 16 other districts recorded cases in three digits.
  - ✓ Districts adjoining Chennai together accounted for 978 cases, with Tiruvallur reporting 430 cases, Kancheepuram 325 and Chengalpet 223
  - ✓ Further, other districts reporting triple digit increase includes – Ranipet 414, Trichy 213, Tiruvannamalai 210, Coimbatore 178, Thanjavur 106 and Villupuram 105
  - ✓ Virudhunagar (363) and Tuticorin (327) crossed the 4,000-mark after Madurai, which has 8,705 cases.
- **Tamil scholar and Marxist literary critic Kovai Gnani (85 years) - passed away at his residence at Vellakinar in Coimbatore on July 22.**



- ✓ Born K Pazhaniswami in Coimbatore in 1935, he wrote under the name Kovai Gnani and his works, all in Tamil, include 28 critiques, 11 anthologies, and three works of poetry.
- ✓ Gnani studied Tamil literature at Annamalai University and worked as a Tamil teacher for three decades.
- ✓ Through the years, he became an influential voice in philosophy, literature and criticism, and deeply influenced modern Tamil letters and thought.
- ✓ Gnani lost his eyesight around 1988 to diabetes, but still used an assistant to read out the books for him and write novels.
- ✓ He played a major role in founding the Vaanampaadi poetry movement.
- ✓ He wrote around 50 volumes of literary criticism, Marxist theory and poetry, which have had a lasting impact.
- ✓ They include 'Marxiamum Tamil Ilakkiyamum' (Marxism and Tamil Literature), 'Tamilil Naveenathuvam Pinnaveenathuvam' (Modernism and Postmodernism in Tamil) and 'Kadavul Yen Innum Saagavillai?' (Why Isn't God Dead Yet?).
- ✓ He was the recipient of Iyal Virudhu given by Canada Illakiya Thottam and Pudhumai Pithan Vilakku Virudhu and many other awards.

## STATES

- **On July 22, the Telangana government - appointed Santoshi, widow of Colonel Santosh Babu - as a deputy collector in the State.**



- ✓ Col. Santosh Babu died in clashes with Chinese PLA troops in the Galwan valley in Ladakh in June
  - ✓ Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao handed over the appointment letter to Santoshi at Pragathi Bhavan.
  - ✓ The CM also gifted a 711-square yard house site in Hyderabad, valued at ₹40 crore, to Santoshi and announced a ₹5 crore ex gratia.
  - ✓ The Chief Minister ordered that the Colonel's wife be given a posting in and around Hyderabad and that she be trained under the guidance of a Secretary in his office.
- **Karnataka - inaugurated state's maiden plasma bank at HCG Hospital, Bengaluru as a part of 'Mission COPE' (Covid Plasma Endeavour).**
  - ✓ The state government launched 'Mission COPE' in association with HCG Hospital and COVID India Campaign
  - ✓ The Mission aims to control the spread of Covid-19 and to promote plasma donation among the recovered patients.
  - ✓ Currently, there are only few plasma banks in India and the first was launched in New Delhi in early July 2020.
  - ✓ The latest state to launch the plasma bank was Odisha, after Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ COVID India Campaign has launched 'Mission Cope' with the support of the ICATT foundation to promote plasma donation among the Covid-19 recovered patients.
- **The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) - has decided to constitute a six-member High Power Committee regarding the release of water from Karnataka**
  - ✓ The proposed committee comprises of representatives (irrigation officials) of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ It will discuss Tamil Nadu's request to release water stored at Kandaleru to meet the drinking water requirements of Chennai.

## NATIONAL

- **On July 22, India - declared its first indigenously developed atomic power plant built at the Kakrapar nuclear complex in Gujarat 'ready for operation'.**



- ✓ The new plant is the third unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPP3)
- ✓ It has a capacity of 700 MWe and has successfully achieved its 'criticality' at 9.36 am on July 22, 2020, around 25 years after last unit was commissioned.
- ✓ Till now, the biggest indigenously developed reactor was of 540 MWe PHWR in Tarapur, Maharashtra
- ✓ The first two units of Kakrapar power plant were based on Canadian technology.
- ✓ The third unit is the first of the two plants designed and developed by Indian scientists based on pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR) technology.
- ✓ The Kakrapar complex is built on the banks of Tapti River in Mandvi tehsil near Moticher, some 80km from Surat.
  - ✓ It has two units of 220 MW fuelled by natural uranium in operation, which were renovated and modernised in 2018-19.
  - ✓ The first unit of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) was commissioned on 6th May 1993 and the second unit was commissioned on 1st September 1995.
  - ✓ The project for building the two indigenous 700-MW units received environment clearance in 2006.
  - ✓ The first concrete was poured in November 2010 after approval from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
  - ✓ The first steam generator was delivered in 2015.
  - ✓ The pre start-up review for the third unit was completed in April last year by World Association of Nuclear Operators
- ✓ These units are of the Mark-V category of Indian Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor design.
  - ✓ The reactors are equipped with improved safety features and steam generators.
  - ✓ In the PHWR, 'heavy water' is used as the moderator.

- ✓ This allows natural uranium to be used as fuel, without the need for expensive uranium enrichment facilities.
- ✓ In the light water reactor (LWR) technology, normal water is used as the moderator.
- ✓ This requires uranium to be enriched to the required grade.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi congratulated the scientists of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) on this achievement.
- ✓ The PM described it as a "trailblazer" for such achievements in future and called it a pure example of "Make in India" initiative.
- ✓ Till 1990s, Russia was the major supplier of Uranium to India.
  - ✓ Kazakhstan is the largest supplier of Uranium to India providing 5,000 tonnes between 2015 and 2019.
  - ✓ In 2011, large deposits of Uranium were discovered in Tummlapalle belt in Andhra Pradesh and Bhima basin of Karnataka.
  - ✓ Today, India has 44,000 tonnes of natural Uranium reserves, making it one of the Top 20 uranium reserves in the entire world
- ✓ As on date, India has 22 nuclear reactors in operation at seven nuclear power plants with a total installed capacity of 6,780 MW.
  - ✓ With these plants, nuclear power accounts for roughly 3–4% of total energy supply
  - ✓ Most of these reactors were based on Canadian heavy water technology or Russian design.
  - ✓ Further, seven more reactors are under construction with a combined generation capacity of 4,300 MW.
- **The Indian Banks' Association and unions - finally agreed to a 15% hike in their salary.**
  - ✓ Around nine lakh of employees from public sector banks and old private sector banks will get benefitted by the hike.
  - ✓ The move will increase the annual wage bill by ₹7,900 crore
  - ✓ It will also result in an increase in the pension contribution to 14% of basic pay and DA, instead of 10% currently.
  - ✓ Further, there is a thrust on the introduction of performance-linked incentive with employees reporting over 5% rise in operating profits eligible to at least five days of basic salary and DA.
  - ✓ The amount will be higher for banks that report higher operating profit.
  - ✓ The pay hike will be applicable from November 2017, while the pension fund contribution will be increased prospectively.
  - ✓ The wage settlement covers 8.5 lakh public sector staff, while 50,000 are from private banks.

- **On July 22, India - crossed the grim milestone of 12 lakh Covid-19 after a record single-day peak, which saw the 46,000-mark being breached for the first time**
  - ✓ The country also recorded 1,131 casualties, including 444 back-dated deaths
  - ✓ Excluding the backdated deaths, India's 687 casualties on the day is the highest that the country has reported in a day, taking the cumulative toll to 29,854.
  - ✓ Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected state in the country after reporting 23% of the total cases on the day.
  - ✓ Further, the pandemic has reached alarming proportions in the south with the five southern states alone accounting for nearly 42% of the country's total fresh cases on the day which stood at 46,221.
  - ✓ 11 other states — Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, UP, Karnataka, Assam, Odisha, Punjab, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Tripura — also recorded new peaks in daily cases.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, India received the first tranche of 4,475 oxygen concentrators from the Temasek Foundation, Singapore on July 22.
    - ✓ The Foundation has offered to donate 20,000 concentrators to India.
    - ✓ These portable-type concentrators were helpful in the management of patients classified as moderate cases, who might require low oxygen support
    - ✓ They convert atmospheric air to therapeutic oxygen that has a concentration of 90-95%.
- **On July 22, forty-five of the 61 newly elected Rajya Sabha members - took oath in New Delhi**
  - ✓ For the first time, the ceremony was held inside the Rajya Sabha hall when Parliament is not in session.
  - ✓ The BJP now has 85 members in the Upper House, more than double of the Congress, which is down to 40.
  - ✓ Out of the 45 new members, 36 members were first-timers to the Upper House
  - ✓ The members who have been re-elected includes NCP leader Sharad Pawar, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Janata Dal-United leader Harivansh Narayan Singh.
- **On July 21, the government - announced that it has extended the norms for work from home for the BPO and IT companies till December 31, 2020, because of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
  - ✓ The time period for WFH was going to expire on July 31
  - ✓ Currently, as per the government rules around 85% of the workforce has been working from home.
  - ✓ Only those who are required to perform critical functions are going to the offices.

- ✓ Earlier in March 2020, the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has relaxed certain norms for Other Service Providers (OSP) till April 30, 2020, to facilitate work from home amid the pandemic.
- ✓ It was further extended till July 31.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On July 22, the Supreme Court - approved the Uttar Pradesh government's choice of its former judge B.S. Chauhan heading the Vikas Dubey encounter probe commission**
- ✓ The commission will inquire into the killing of eight police officers and the "fake" encounter killings of their alleged assailants, history-gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said the "single-most important aspect" of the commission's inquiry should be to reveal how Dubey came to be released on bail or parole, as he has 64 criminal cases against him, including under the National Security Act
- ✓ The CJI had earlier called his release as a "failure of the system".
- ✓ The panel's task is to enquire who all in the State officialdom are responsible for his release
- ✓ The police arrested Dubey at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ According to the official version, he was killed by the police team escorting him back to Kanpur, when he allegedly tried to escape after the vehicle carrying him met with an accident and overturned.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **On July 22, the US administration - announced a nearly \$2 billion contract with the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and a smaller German biotechnology company for up to 600 million doses of a Covid-19 vaccine**
  - ✓ These companies are on track to manufacture the first 100 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine by December.
  - ✓ Under the arrangement, the federal government would obtain the first 100 million doses for \$1.9 billion, with the rights to acquire up to 500 million more.
  - ✓ As per the announcement, Americans would receive the vaccine for free.
  - ✓ Before it could be distributed to the citizens, it would first need at least emergency approval by the Food and Drug Administration.
  - ✓ Large-scale safety trials are to begin this month, with regulatory review set for as early as October
- **The Trump administration - has ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston within 72 hours (by July 24)**

- ✓ China has retaliated with the threat of a possible closure of the US consulate in Wuhan.
  - ✓ According to the administration, the closure was in response to repeated Chinese violations of American sovereignty, including “massive illegal spying and influence operations.”
  - ✓ A fire was reported at the Houston consulate as Chinese officials purportedly burned documents and files.
  - ✓ It is not unusual for sparring countries to shut down consulates on a reciprocal basis (US and Russia have done it, as have India and Pakistan)
  - ✓ US-China ties has been on an all-time low after President Trump frequently raised doubts about the origin of Covid-19, leading to an unprecedented escalation of tensions with China
  - ✓ The US administration is now zeroing in on Chinese scholars and students in the US academia, suggesting they are part of a vast spy network trying to steal US intellectual property.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, US recorded 1,000 deaths in a single day for the first time since May 29 in a upsurge of the pandemic across much of the country
- **South Korea - launched its first-ever military communications satellite on July 20 aboard a Falcon 9 rocket of private operator SpaceX from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.**



- ✓ The military satellite, ANASIS-II is aimed at enhancing the nation’s ability to defend itself against nuclear-armed North Korea.
- ✓ It is expected to reach its pre-planned orbit of 36,000 kilometres in about two weeks
- ✓ South Korea’s military will start handling the satellite system in October after testing.
- ✓ The launch of ANASIS-II satellite has made South Korea the 10th country in the world to own a military-only communications satellite
- ✓ ANASIS-II’s launch marks the 12th launch by SpaceX in the year 2020.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On July 22, India and Maldives - signed agreement to establish “Emergency Medical Services” in Male.**
- ✓ The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under a grant assistance of \$20 million for neighbouring countries.
- ✓ This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times etc.,



- ✓ Under SAARC, India created COVID-19 Emergency Fund and donated an initial amount of \$10 million.
  - ✓ In April 2020, India extended \$150 million to Maldives under foreign currency swap support.
  - ✓ India launched Operation SAGAR to provide medical supplies, food items, Ayurvedic medicines to the countries - Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives, Comoros and Madagascar
  - ✓ Also, Indian Navy undertook Operation Samudra Setu to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Maldives.
- **On July 21, India - began its trial trans-shipment of goods from India to the North East through the Chittagong port of Bangladesh.**
  - ✓ The trial transportation follows an agreement signed between India and Bangladesh to transit goods to north east via ports of Bangladesh
  - ✓ Indian transshipment goods are allowed a 28-day free-stay at the ports of Bangladesh, according to international transshipment agreement.
  - ✓ In 2019, India and Bangladesh had signed agreements during the visit of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to India
  - ✓ Both sides concluded ‘Standard Operating Procedure’ to use Mongla and Chittagong ports for movement of goods to the North East India.
  - ✓ Chittagong port is one of the ports located on the String of Pearls geopolitical theory of the Chinese.
  - ✓ It refers to a network of Chinese military facilities from Chinese mainland to Port Sudan in Horn of Africa.

- ✓ The String of Pearls located in the Indian Ocean include Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, Sittwe in Myanmar, Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Gwadar in Pakistan.

## PERSONALITIES

- **India's oldest person, E K Kesavan Nair – passed away on July 22 without entering the record books as the oldest living person.**
- ✓ With the demise, the 119-year old Nair has lost a chance to receive the title for the oldest living man in the record books.



- ✓ As per Nair's Aadhaar details, he was born on January 1, 1901
- ✓ According to Guinness World Records, the oldest person ever to have lived is Jeanne Calment (France) —122 years — and the oldest man ever is Jiroemon Kimura (Japan), who was born in 1897 and died at the age of 116
- ✓ Born in Alappuzha, Kesavan Nair continued his studies at a school founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswathi at Adoor.
- ✓ Poet and writer Kottarathil Sankunni was one of his teachers.
- ✓ Nair had been helping many children write their first alphabets for 72 years during Vijayadashmi and was fondly known as "Nilathzhuthasan".
- ✓ Though his eyesight was failing in his last days, he suffered from no other known health issues.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Japanese Government - recently approved Dexamethasone as a second treatment of Covid-19 apart from the currently used drug, Remdesivir**
- ✓ The approval came in after Britain indicated that the drug reduced death rates among Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ Earlier, India had approved the use of Dexamethasone as an alternative to Methylprednisolone in June 2020.
- ✓ The drug was found to reduce mortality by one-third of Covid-19 patients who are on ventilators and one-fifth of patients on oxygen therapy.

- ✓ So far, India has approved five drugs to treat Covid-19 – Remdesivir, Favipiravir, Dexamethasone, Tocilizumab, Itolizumab
- **On July 22, drug manufacturer, Mylan - said the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved its anti-tuberculosis drug 'pretomanid' for conditional access under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.**
- ✓ Pretomanid has been developed by non-profit organisation TB Alliance
- ✓ It is part of a 3-drug, 6-month, all-oral regimen for treatment of pulmonary extensively drug-resistant TB and non-responsive multi drug-resistant TB.
- ✓ Initially, Mylan will make the drug available via a donation of 400 courses to the NTEP.

## DEFENCE

- **India – has successfully conducted the trials of Helicopter- launched Nag Missile anti-tank guided missile (HELINA), which is now known as Dhruvastra, on July 15 and 16, 2020 at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.**

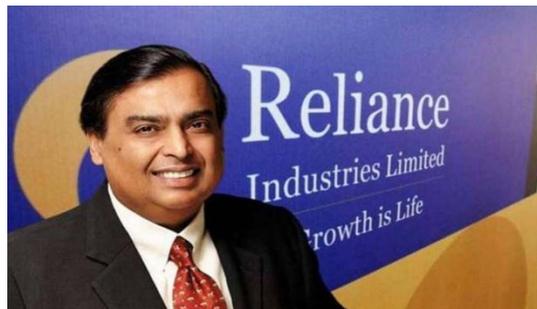


- ✓ The trials were conducted without a helicopter in two modes - direct and top attack mode.
- ✓ In 2019, Defence Research and Development Organisation had carried out three successful test firing of NAG missiles in the Pokhran Firing ranges.
- ✓ Nag was also one of the first five strategic missiles that were planned to develop under the Integrated Missile Development Programme in the 1980s.
  - ✓ The other missiles included under programme were Agni, Prithvi, Trishul and Akash.
- ✓ The NAG Missile System was designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ✓ Defence Acquisition Council had approved the procurement of NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs. 524 crores
- ✓ HELINA is a third-generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system that has been mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

- ✓ The system consists of all-weather day and night capability and can easily defeat battle tanks with a conventional armour and explosive reactive armour.
- ✓ The system carries a third-generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, and the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).

## ECONOMY

- **On July 22, Reliance Industries chairman, Mukesh Ambani - became the fifth-richest person in the world, according to the Forbes real-time billionaires list.**



- ✓ Ambani's net worth increased by over \$1 billion to \$75 billion on the day as RIL's stock touched a new high of Rs 2,010.
- ✓ Ambani overtook Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison to the fifth spot
- ✓ He is just behind Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, whose wealth is pegged at \$88 billion

## AWARDS

- **The Climate Activist, Greta Thunberg - was awarded the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity along with prize money of 1 million Euros.**



- ✓ The 17-year old Thunberg is the first person to receive the prize.
- ✓ She was selected among 136 nominees from 43 countries.

- ✓ After the announcement, Thunberg announced that she will donate the prize money to organizations focused on environment and climate change, which includes SOS Amazonia Campaign and Stop Ecocide Foundation
- ✓ This is not the first time Thunberg donating the money earned through the awards
- ✓ After winning the Human Act Award earlier, she announced the donation of \$1,00,000 prize money to UNICEF.
- ✓ Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist who rose to global prominence after starting a strike outside the Swedish Parliament in 2018
  - ✓ She gained international recognition for promoting existential humanity crisis due to climate change.
  - ✓ Thunberg has launched a school climate strike movement 'Friday for Future' along with other school students of Sweden
  - ✓ It is an international movement where students take off from class on Fridays participate in demonstrations demanding actions from political leaders to prevent climate change
  - ✓ The movement is also called youth for Climate, Youth Strike for Climate, Climate Strike.
- ✓ The Gulbenkian Prize is awarded annually by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.
  - ✓ The foundation is a Portuguese philanthropic institute which is dedicated to the promotion of charity, arts, education, and science.
  - ✓ Established in 1976, the prize will be distributed in a ceremony to be held in Portugal.
- ✓ Apart from being awarded Time Magazine's Person of the Year in 2019, Greta Thunberg has also been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize
- **A 59-year-old Indian-origin nurse in Singapore, Kala Narayanasamy - has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving as a frontline warrior in the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.**



Image posted on Facebook by WoodlandsHealthCampus

- ✓ Kala Narayanasamy was among the five nurses given the award
- ✓ Each recipient was awarded a trophy, a certificate signed by President Halimah Yacob and SGD 10,000 (\$7,228).

- ✓ Kala is serving as the Deputy Director of Nursing at Woodlands Health Campus
- ✓ She was awarded for using infection control practices she learned during the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, in the current pandemic.
- ✓ She utilized her experience to introduce workflows and standard operating procedures to convert wards at the Yishun Community Hospital to care for Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ She is currently involved in planning for the Woodlands Health Campus, which is scheduled to open in 2022
- ✓ At the campus, she will be leading the development of nursing services for the division of medicine.

## SPORTS

- **On July 22, the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) - extended the New Delhi-based National Dope Testing Laboratory's (NDTL) suspension till January 2021.**
- ✓ The second period of another six months suspension has been slapped following the failure of NDTL to correct the outstanding non-conformities related to Wada's 'International Standard for Laboratories' (ISL).
- ✓ The NDTL was originally banned on August 20, 2019 for a period of six months until February 2020, following a Wada site visit.
- ✓ The fresh suspension period kicked off from July 17.
- ✓ NDTL has the option to approach the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) within 21 days of receipt of notice.
- ✓ Due to NDTL's continued suspension, the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) has been forced to reduce its sample collection rate by at least 50 percent

