

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 27, 2020

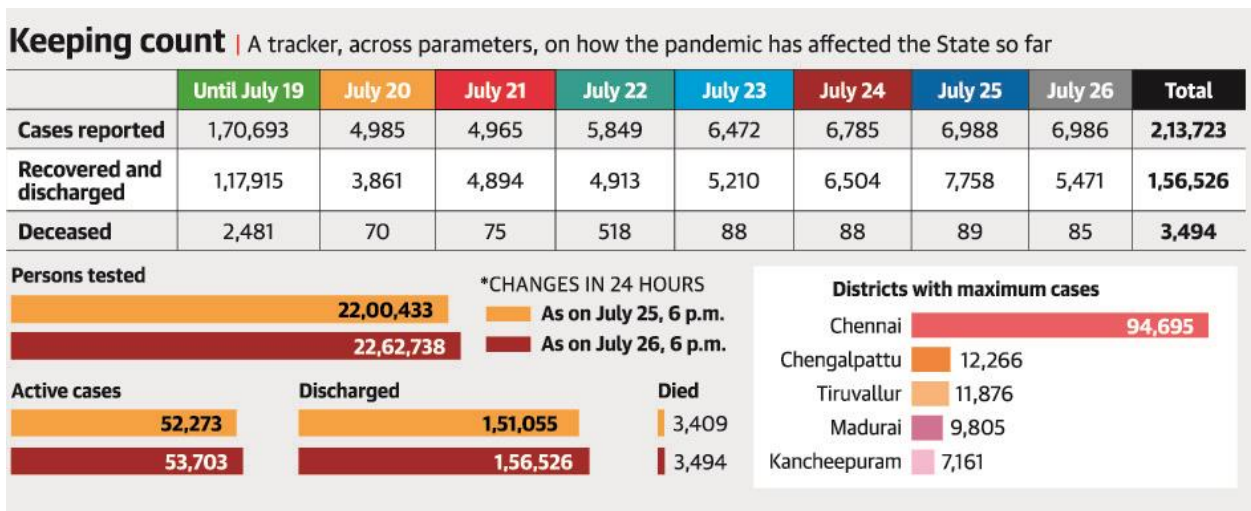
TAMIL NADU

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - interacted with N.Kaniga, a student from Namakkal who had recently excelled in the Class XII board exams in his 'Mann ki baat' programme on July 26.



- ✓ N Kaniga scored 490 marks out of 500 in the CBSE board exams.
- ✓ Her father is a LPG truck driver while her mother is a homemaker.
- ✓ Kaniga's elder sister is a third year MBBS student.
- ✓ Kaniga wants to become a doctor and is busy preparing for the entrance examination.
- ✓ She wishes to join the Armed Forces Medical College and serve the armed forces.
- ✓ The PM said the girl's father is an inspiration for all and that he was setting a great example by educating his daughters.
- ✓ He told Kaniga that he will remember her interaction hereafter on hearing Namakkal, just as much as the famous Anjaneyar temple
- ✓ The PM interacted with her over phone for more than two minutes on July 24 and asked her how she scored such high marks in the board examinations.

- **On July 26, Tamil Nadu – reported 6,986 fresh Covid-19 infections, touching the 7,000 mark for the second day in a row**
- ✓ This takes the state’s case count to 2,13,723
- ✓ A total of 85 deaths were registered on the day, pushing the total toll to 3,494
- ✓ Almost 45% of the total deaths reported so far were from Chennai (1,575 cases).
- ✓ Chennai continued to remain as the hotspot after recording 1,155 new cases.
- ✓ Its neighbours, Chengalpattu recorded 501 fresh infections, Kancheepuram 363 and Tiruvallur 480.
 - ✓ Ranipet and Virudhunagar recorded 367 and 385 new cases.
 - ✓ Other districts reporting spike in cases includes – Tuticorin (248), Coimbatore (220), Theni (217), Kanyakumari (215), Villupuram (208)
- ✓ A total of 5,471 got discharged after treatment on the day, leaving the number of active cases in the state at 53,703.

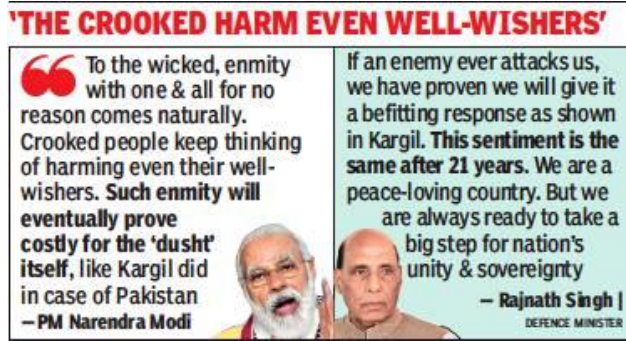


- ✓ With this, the total number of patients discharged stands at 1,56,526.
- ✓ The state continued to test high numbers with 62,305 people being tested on the day
- ✓ A private laboratory in Coimbatore has been approved for testing.
- ✓ With this, the State currently has 116 testing centres, including 58 owned by the government and 58 in private sector.
- ✓ **On July 27, the Chief Minister will launch a scheme to distribute face masks, free of cost, to ration card-holders across the State.**
- ✓ In the first phase, more than 4.44 crore masks will be distributed to over 69 lakh families living in the Corporations (except those in the Greater Chennai Corporation), municipalities and town panchayats.

NATIONAL

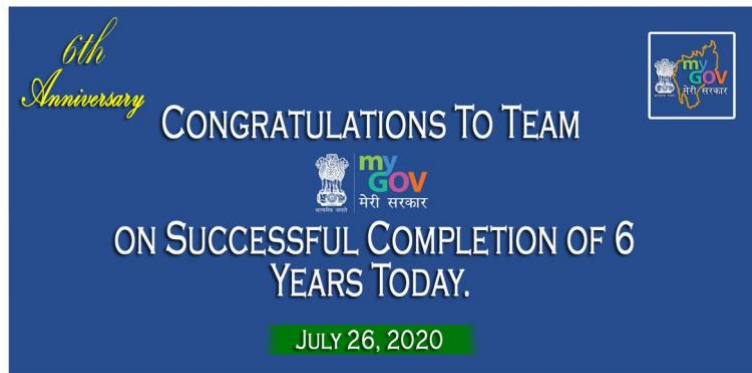
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the nation in his monthly radio broadcast ‘Mann Ki Baat’ on July 26**

- ✓ On the eve of the 21st anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the PM recalled India's victory over Pakistan on the icy mountains of Kargil and paid homage to those who lost their lives during the war.



- ✓ He also cautioned citizens not to do anything that might affect the honour of the armed forces serving on the borders.
- ✓ Quoting a Sanskrit shloka, the PM termed Pakistan an un-reformable enemy that compulsively sought to harm everyone, even those who tried to help.
- ✓ However, the PM did not mention China once in his address.
- ✓ The PM quoted Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Red Fort speech in 1999 after India had prevailed over Pakistan in the Kargil War in which he had cited Gandhi's mantra.
 - ✓ "Mahatma Gandhi's mantra was — in the face of any dilemma, in order to decide what to do or what not to do, one must think of the poorest and the most helpless person of India," the PM quoted Vajpayee as saying.
 - ✓ "Going beyond Gandhiji's thought, Atalji had said that the Kargil war has given us another mantra, and the mantra was — before taking any important decision, we should think whether our step, our endeavour, is befitting to the honour of the soldier who laid down his life in those remote mountains," he added.
- ✓ He said the Kargil War took place at a time when India was engaged in peace talks with Pakistan, but Pakistan had backstabbed India to wage war, only to distract attention from its domestic issues.
- ✓ The Prime Minister urged Indians to resolve to gain 'independence' from the coronavirus pandemic on August 15 and also resolve for self-reliant India on the lines of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" he has announced.
 - ✓ He further said coronavirus is still as fatal as it was in the beginning when the contagion appeared on the global scene and urged people not to get slackened.
 - ✓ The PM reiterated the need to wear masks or use a light towel to cover face, maintaining two-yard distancing, frequently washing hands and avoiding spitting at public places.
- ✓ He further urged people to take caution while posting or forwarding posts on social media out of sheer curiosity, which are detrimental to the country.

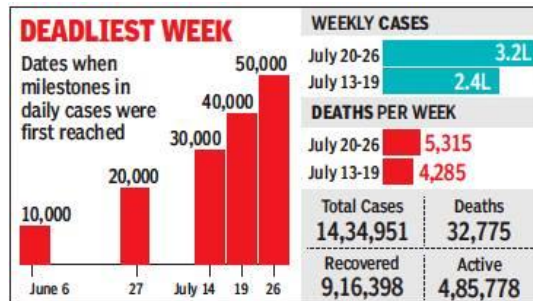
- **The Central government's interaction platform, MyGov - has completed six years on July 26, 2020.**



- ✓ The platform aims to empower people to connect with the government in the governance and the important policy issues.
 - ✓ On the eve of the occasion, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his appreciation to the initiative and stated that it has emerged as a noteworthy forum that celebrates the participative governance.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the first-of-its-kind platform on July 26, 2014.
 - ✓ The idea behind the initiative is to bring government closer to the common people by using an online platform
 - ✓ The platform provided an interface for the healthy exchange of views and ideas among the common citizen and experts, ultimately contributing to the social and economic transformation of India.
 - ✓ The digital platform has over 9.5 million users who contribute their views and ideas for various tasks through discussions.
 - ✓ It receives more than 10,000 posts a week on various issues which are then analyzed and forwarded as suggestions for the concerned department who then aims at transforming them into an actionable agenda.
 - ✓ The initiative gets collective feedback from the citizens to improve policy change and implementation
 - ✓ It has been instrumental in getting public views on various government initiatives and policy issues such as Girl Child Education, Clean Ganga, Healthy India, and Skill Development.
 - ✓ Recently, the government had launched the 2.0 version of the initiative, which consists of new features such as polls, hashtags, social media account integration, and interactive discussion forums.
- **India's much-awaited Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review - has been postponed to January-February 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.**
 - ✓ The review was scheduled in September-October 2020, as a part of the regular cycle after 10 years.
 - ✓ The last review was conducted in June 2010.

- ✓ The FATF review would focus on the evaluation of the country's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime and the legal measures taken to control financial crimes.
- ✓ Rahul Navin, a 1993-batch IRS officer, has been deployed by the centre to work as an officer on special duty (OSD) with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to take the review forward.
- ✓ The ED is the nodal agency that is responsible for undertaking investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the country
- ✓ Some of the major actions undertaken by the Central government to address tax evasion and money laundering include the anti-black money Act of 2015, implementation of GST in 2017, enactment of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act in 2018, Demonetisation of two big currency notes in 2016 and amendments brought in the PMLA over the years.
- ✓ The government had also set up a joint working group (JWG) comprising 22 agencies including intelligence gathering, central investigation and regulatory agencies to prepare presentations and brief the FATF experts.
 - ✓ The grouping will be supervised by the Department of Revenue under the finance ministry.
 - ✓ Some of the agencies in the JWG include the CBI, ED, IT Department, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, market regulator SEBI, bank regulator RBI, insurance regulator IRDAI, Customs and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- ✓ In 2013, during its earlier meeting, the FATF had observed that India had made significant progress in addressing deficiencies identified in its mutual evaluation report.
 - ✓ Hence, the watchdog decided that the nation should be removed from the regular follow-up process.
- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force is scheduled to discuss the Indian legal system against financial crimes at its Plenary meeting in February 2022
- ✓ The FATF review takes almost a year to finish if all the timelines are met.
- ✓ The FATF conducts a regular peer review of each member nation to assess the levels of implementation of its recommendations and provides in-depth description and analysis of each country's financial system to prevent criminal abuse.
- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental organisation, which was set up in 1989 to combat money laundering.
- ✓ The global watchdog's mandate was extended to include terror financing in 2001.
- **On July 26, the daily Covid-19 cases in India went past 50,000 for the first time, even as the total caseload crossed 14 lakh-mark.**
- ✓ The deadliest week of the pandemic so far reported an increase of 34% in the total cases (3,17,892 infections) and a 24% increase in the death toll (5,315 deaths) over the previous week's tally.

- ✓ The week also saw a record 2,17,660 coronavirus patients recovering from the infection.
- ✓ At the same time, the number of active cases too went up by 94,917, the highest rise in a week so far.
- ✓ The US and Brazil are the only two other countries that have recorded more than 50,000 cases in a single day.



- ✓ On July 26, 50,362 fresh cases were reported across the country, overtaking the previous single-day high of 49,055 reported on July 24, as per data collated from state governments.
 - ✓ With this, the country's total caseload has gone up to 14,34,851 persons.
 - ✓ On July 26, 717 deaths were reported across the country, which included 267 in Maharashtra, 85 in Tamil Nadu, 82 in Karnataka and 56 in Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ Maharashtra again led the count of cases reporting 9,431 fresh infections, followed by Andhra Pradesh (7,627) and Tamil Nadu (6,986).
 - ✓ At least six states saw their highest spike in infections on the day — Karnataka (5,199 new cases), Uttar Pradesh (3,260), Rajasthan (1,132), Gujarat (1,110), Madhya Pradesh (874) and Punjab 534.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, in another development, billionaire industrialist and Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla has agreed to set aside 60,000 vials of Covid-19 vaccine, once available, exclusively to serve the entire Parsi community in the country, to which he belongs
- **On July 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch "high throughput" Covid-19 testing facilities in three locations via video conferencing.**
- ✓ These facilities are developed to ramp up India's collective coronavirus testing capacity to 10 lakh tests per day and further strengthen early detection.
 - ✓ The 'high throughput' testing facilities conduct "high throughput" research, referring to the automation of experiments where large-scale repetitions are made feasible.
 - ✓ The three high-throughput testing facilities to be launched by the PM have been set up strategically at ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai, and ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata
 - ✓ These labs will also reduce turnaround time and exposure of lab personnel to infectious clinical materials.

- ✓ In addition to testing for Covid-19, the labs have also been enabled to test diseases post the pandemic, such as Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Cytomegalovirus, Chlamydia, Neisseria, and dengue among others.
- ✓ Union ministers for health and family welfare and science and technology Harsh Vardhan, apart from chief ministers of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, Uddhav Thackeray, Mamata Banerjee and Yogi Adityanath, will also participate in the opening of the three high-throughput labs.
- **The Central Water Commission (CWC) - recently announced that reservoirs in the country have 155% more water, when compared with the last year's storage levels.**
 - ✓ According to CWC, around 123 reservoirs were monitored.
 - ✓ There are 66.372 billion cubic metres of water currently available in the reservoirs, accounting for 39% of their total live storage capacity.
 - ✓ The states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh had the highest live storage of all the states.
 - ✓ Also, the reservoirs of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had 84%, 88% and 67% more storage levels than the normal, respectively
 - ✓ Regarding the river basins, the storage of water in Sabarmati, Godavari and Ganga river basins was 79%, 62% and 56% more than the storage levels in the last 10 years, respectively.
 - ✓ With the dams reaching their storage capacities, it is essential for the CWC dam authorities to follow "Rule Curve", which is an international practice of dam operation
 - ✓ The Rule Curve is related to various dam related features such as regulation of dams, when and how dams should be filled and emptied and to provide a cushion during times of excess rains.
 - ✓ The Rule curves need to be formulated accurately for the dams to operate during flood season and lean season.

INTERNATIONAL

- **North Korea - declared its first suspected Covid-19 case on July 26, becoming one of the last countries to do so**
 - ✓ North Korean leader Kim Jong-un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found there with suspected Covid-19 symptoms
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases worldwide topped 16 million
 - ✓ The United States leads the count with 4.1 million, followed by 2.3 million in Brazil and 1.3 million in India, according to a tally by Sir Johns Hopkins University
 - ✓ On July 25, the US recorded a massive 68,212 new coronavirus cases
 - ✓ Globally, at least 6,45,000 people around the world have died due to the virus infection, with the United States continuing to be the worst-hit country by far

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- On July 27, India - will hand over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh as part of its grant assistance.



- ✓ With the handing over of locomotives, India will fulfil its commitment made during Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina's visit in October 2019.
- ✓ India sees rail cooperation with Bangladesh as vital for promoting trade and connectivity and strengthening the economic partnership.
- ✓ Foreign minister S Jaishankar and railway minister Piyush Goyal will be present at the virtual ceremony to mark the occasion.
- ✓ The Bangladeshi side will be represented by its foreign minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen and railway minister Nurul Islam Sujan
- ✓ India and Bangladesh are jointly working to enhance rail connectivity by developing some crucial new railway projects as well as by restoring some old rail routes with Bangladesh
- ✓ A total of 17 railway sector projects have been included in the LoC (line of credit) assistance extended by India to Bangladesh, with a commitment of \$2.44 billion
- ✓ India had offered all LoCs to Bangladesh at a rate of interest of 1% per annum and repayment over 20 years time period with a moratorium for five years.
- ✓ Of the 17 railway projects, 9 have been completed including supply of locomotives, flat wagons, railway bridges and signalling equipment.
- ✓ The railway projects which are being implemented with LoC assistance include –
 - ✓ Kulaura-Shahbazpur railway line at a cost of \$78 million, likely to be completed by the end of this year, and
 - ✓ Khulna-Mongla railway line project worth \$389 million (that includes a railway bridge) which is likely to be completed by June 2021.
- ✓ Three other projects at various stages of implementation pertain to double line track, a conversion of metre gauge line to dual gauge line and a new dual gauge rail line
- ✓ Apart from them, a 12-km cross-border rail link is being built under grant-in-aid between Agartala and Akhaura town on the Dhaka-Chittagong trunk line.

- ✓ This is likely to be completed by March 2021 and will further improve freight and passenger connectivity between India and north-eastern states
 - ✓ At present, the four operational rail links between India and Bangladesh are Petrapole (India) to Benapole (Bangladesh), Gede to Darshana, Singhabad to Rohanpur and Radhikapur to Birol.
 - ✓ Two passenger trains — Bandhan Express from Kolkata to Khulna and Maitree Express from Kolkata to Dhaka — also operate between the two countries
 - ✓ At the moment, though, these services have been temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ Apart from India, China is also looking to rapidly expand its economic presence in Bangladesh including through rail connectivity
 - ✓ Under its Belt and Road Initiative, China has been working to expand Bangladesh's railway network, including by building a railway line from Dhaka to Jessore in south-west Bangladesh
- **The Department of Science and Technology (DST) - recently launched India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization programme**



- ✓ The programme was commenced in partnership with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and FASIE (Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises) of Russia
- ✓ The main objective of the programme is to connect startups and SMEs of India and Russia to jointly develop R&D technologies that will provide futuristic solutions
- ✓ It also aims to address societal challenges globally.
- ✓ Over a period of two years, the Department of Science and Technology will fund up to Rs. 15 Crores to 10 Indian SMEs/Start-ups and FASIE will provide similar funding to the Russian projects
- ✓ The programme will run two annual cycles, with around 5 projects are to be funded under every cycle.
- ✓ The projects will be selected in the areas of medicines and pharmaceuticals, aerospace, alternative technologies, environment, new materials, biotechnologies, robotics and drones, renewable energy, IT, and ICT

- ✓ The FICCI is to implement the programme in India representing DST.
- ✓ The programme is accepting applications under two broad categories - Joint Partnership Projects and Technology Transfer/Adaptation.
- ✓ The last date to apply for the first round of the call is September 30, 2020
- ✓ For the successful implementation of the project, a dedicated portal called 'www.indiarussiainnovate.org' has been developed.
- ✓ A not-for-profit organization, FICCI was established in 1927 by Purshottamdas Thakurdas and GD Birla on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ Headquartered in New Delhi, it has 25,000 registered companies across 12 states and 8 countries in the world

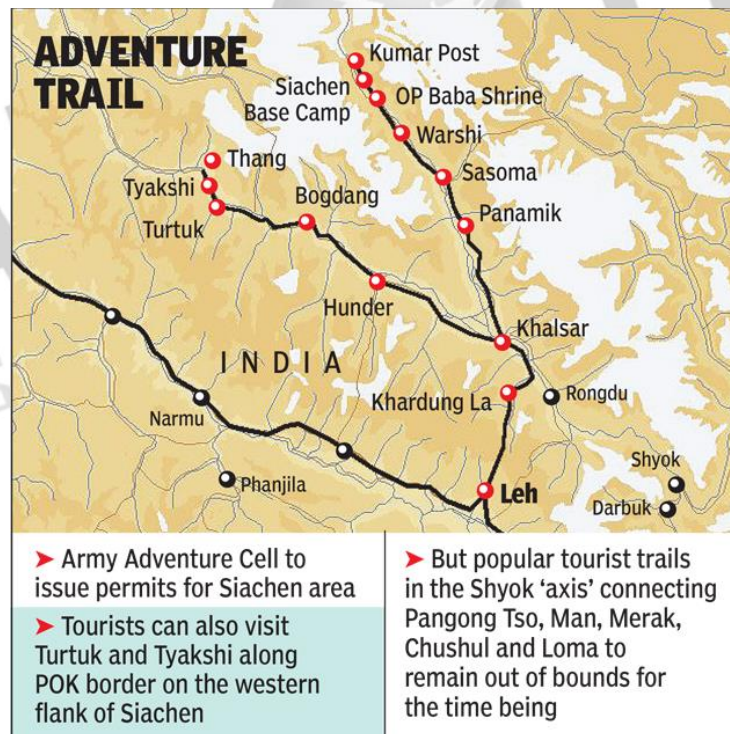
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On July 26, 2020, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization - announced that it will take up clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine, COVISHIELD developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.**
 - ✓ The Phase III of the vaccine trials are being considered by CDSCO after the request from Serum Institute of India.
 - ✓ During this phase, around 4000-5000 people shall be tested
 - ✓ The vaccine is already being tested in UK, South Africa, and Brazil.
 - ✓ The cost of the vaccine is estimated to be less than Rs 1000.
 - ✓ India has already commenced the trials of COVAXIN, a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech and ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)
 - ✓ Another vaccine that is under trials in India is ZyCov-D that was developed by Zydus Cadila
 - ✓ The Serum Institute of India is developing a live attenuated vaccine with US based biotech firm Codagenix, which is under pre-clinical trials
 - ✓ The CanSino vaccine developed by the Chinese firm Casino Biologistics has also showed promising results.
 - ✓ The firm is to begin its phase III trials in Canada soon.
 - ✓ Of all the vaccine, CanSino claims to have less adverse effects.
 - ✓ The BNT162 COVID-19 vaccine developed by German biotech firm has showed safe immune response in patients.
- **The National Task Force on Covid-19 - recently decided against using Itolizumab in clinical management protocols for the treatment of Covid-19.**
 - ✓ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had earlier approved for "restricted and conditional emergency use" of the drug, if there is more shortness of breath
 - ✓ So far, the government has approved five drugs - Hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir, Favipiravir, Methylprednisolone and Itolizumab for the Covid-19 treatment.
 - ✓ Itolizumab is used to treat psoriasis.

- ✓ It was recently approved for the treatment of cytokine release syndrome in 'moderate' to 'severe' acute respiratory distress syndrome in Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ The Emergency Use Authorisation granted for Itolizumab, according to the task force, was based on very small phase 2 trial with just 30 patients.
- ✓ The drug costs around Rs 8,000 per vial and full course for COVID-19 patients will cost around Rs 32,000
- ✓ The DCGI operating under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is responsible to clear the drugs for medicinal treatment.
- ✓ It prepares and maintains national reference standard to ascertain the quality of the drugs.
- ✓ It also brings uniformity in enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Army – has decided to issue permits for civilian expeditions to the Siachen Base Camp and Kumar Post in the Nubra valley of Ladakh.**
- ✓ The decision to open up the world's largest non-polar glacier and the highest battlefield was taken in October last year



- ✓ However, the popular tourist trail along the Shyok-Chushul 'axis' along the Pangong Tso (lake in Ladakhi)- Chushul is unlikely to be opened – at least for the time being – in view of the heavy military deployment and the border situation.
- ✓ The Siachen Base Camp is roughly 225 km north of Leh.
- ✓ It is connected with a road that runs north from Leh across the 18,360-ft-high Khardung La (pass in Ladakhi) and runs along the Nubra river.


- ✓ The base camp is located at an altitude of 11,000 ft and Kumar Post is at 15,000 ft.
- ✓ The Army Adventure Cell will scrutinise prospective visitors to the Siachen area and issue permits.
- ✓ All visitors will have to follow protocols and quarantine requirements as advised by the Leh district administration.
- ✓ Currently movement of non-locals is restricted within a 40-km radius of Leh
- ✓ Earlier in December 2018, the Centre had opened up five new routes, most of which either run along or lead to the LAC for tourists and four trails for trekkers.
 - ✓ These include the Merak-Loma Bend axis, Chushul-Kartsangla-Mahe, Durbuk-Shachukul-Tharuk-Sato Kargyam-Parma-Erath-Chushul and Loma-Hanley, Korzok-Nurbo-Sumdo-Parangla-Kazaand, and Agham-Shayok-Durbuk links.

ECONOMY

- **HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri, who is set to retire in three months, sold about 74 lakh shares of HDFC worth ₹843 crore last week**

FOUNDER CEO CASHES OUT BEFORE SIGNING OFF AFTER 26 YEARS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri sold nearly 78 lakh shares (0.13%) of the lender for about ₹843 crore between July 21 and 23 ➤ He had sold the bank's 12 lakh shares worth ₹156 crore earlier this year between February 11 and 12 ➤ Puri had 0.14% of the bank's equity. After the offloading, he is left with 0.01% stake, currently worth ₹43 crore (about 3.8L shares) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with some other bankers set up the lender in 1994 ➤ The bank's founding CEO is credited with creating the only Indian bank among the world's top 20 by value ➤ HDFC Bank went public in 1996 and its market cap has grown from about ₹5,400 crore at the start of the millennium to its current level of about ₹6 lakh crore ➤ In comparison, SBI's m-cap is ₹1.7L cr. HDFC Bank is the third most valued listed entity in India, behind RIL (₹14L crore) and TCS (₹8L crore) ➤ With growth of over 112 times in two decades, an investment of ₹1 lakh in the bank's shares on January 1, 2000, would be worth a little over ₹1 crore now
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➤ He has been at the helm of affairs at HDFC Bank for 26 years, since the former Citi-banker, along

- ✓ This is the second instance of Puri selling HDFC Bank shares this year.
- ✓ Between February 11 and 12, Puri had sold over 12 lakh shares for about ₹156 crore.
- ✓ In July so far, 39 of HDFC Bank's executives, designated as 'insiders' under Sebi rules, have sold ₹884-crore worth shares of the bank.

- ✓ This includes the offloading by Puri and also Ashok Khanna, who recently quit as the head of HDFC's auto loan business.
- ✓ Puri has been at the helm of affairs at HDFC Bank for 26 years, since the former Citi-banker, along with some other bankers had set up the lender in 1994.

RANKINGS

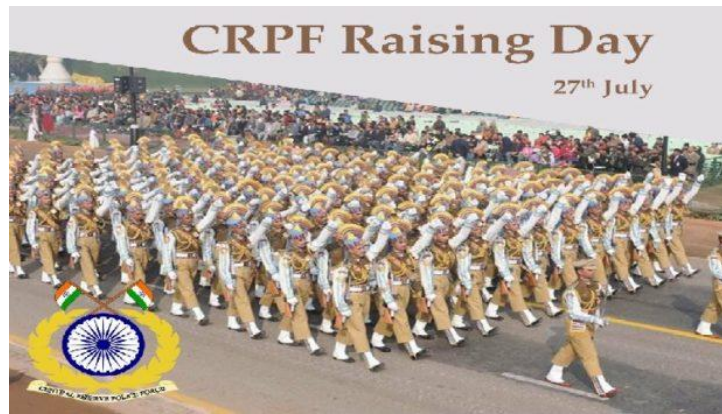
- **The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization - recently released 'Global Forest Resources Assessment' (FRA) report.**



- ✓ As per the report, India was ranked third among top 10 countries whose forest cover has increased in the last decade
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization bring out the report once in every five years
- ✓ The report assesses state of forests in the member countries, their conditions and management.
- ✓ According to the report, the following 10 countries have gained forest area between 2010 and 2020 – China, Australia, India, Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, United States, France, Italy and Romania – in that order
- ✓ According to FRA, India accounts to 2% of total global forest area.
- ✓ During the last decade, India achieved an annual gain of 0.38% in forest cover, accounting for around 266,000 hectares every year.
- ✓ The forest area managed by local, indigenous communities and tribal in India increased from zero in 1990 to about 25 million hectares in 2015.
- ✓ Globally, there are 12.5 million people employed in forestry sector.
 - ✓ Out of this, India accounts to 6.23 million, which is the maximum employed in the forest sector.
- ✓ Among continents, Asia had the highest gain in forest area between 2010 and 2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **CRPF Raising Day – July 27**



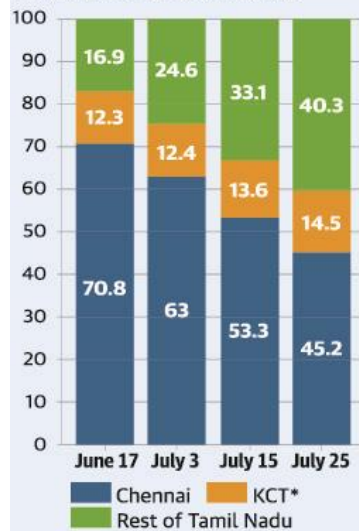
- ✓ On July 27, 2020, the 82nd CRPF Raising Day will be celebrated all over India.
- ✓ On the eve of the day, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the CRPF headquarters in New Delhi
 - ✓ He will also pay homage to martyrs where a wreath will be placed in Neemuch town of Madhya Pradesh on his behalf.
- ✓ The first CRPF battalion was raised in Neemuch town
- ✓ The CRPF was raised on July 27, 1939 as the Crown representative Police under the British.
 - ✓ It was then changed as Central Reserve Police force in 1949 under Sardar Vallabhai Patel, under the CRPF Act, 1949.
- ✓ The CRPF comprises of 3.25 lakh police personnel.
- ✓ There are three main combat theatres in the force - Counter-Terrorist Operations in Kashmir Valley, anti-Naxal operations in Left Wing Extremism affected areas and counter insurgency in North Eastern States
- ✓ The Central Police Reserve Force is the largest armed forces in India, functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs
 - ✓ It has been deployed for international missions such as Sri Lanka, Liberia, apart from undertaking UN Peacekeeping missions
 - ✓ In 2008, a wing called COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) was added to CRPF to counter Naxalite movement.

COVID-19 GROWTH IN TAMIL NADU – A REPORT

- **Tamil Nadu - has added a total of 1,02,572 Covid-19 patients since July 5, when the lockdown was relaxed.**
- ✓ Out of this, 26,441 (25.8%) cases came from Chennai, while 17,317 (16.9%) came from the three neighbouring districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur.
- ✓ The remaining majority of 58,814 cases (57.3%) came from other districts.
- ✓ This is in contrast to the observations during the initial stages of the pandemic, when Chennai and its surrounding districts accounted for more than 75% of the cases

Changing trends | As COVID-19 cases continue to surge, data show how the growth is driven by districts across the State, in contrast to how they were concentrated around Chennai in the initial stages of the pandemic

Percentage of cases when the State crossed 50,000, 1 lakh, 1.5 lakh and 2-lakh marks



- The graph shows the percentage of cases reported by different regions when the tally crossed the **50,000**, 1 lakh, 1.5 lakh and 2 lakh marks on June 17, July 5, July 15 and July 25 respectively
- The regions have been classified as Chennai, the districts surrounding Chennai – Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur (*shown in the graph as KCT) – and the Rest of Tamil Nadu (RoTN)
- As the graph shows, while KCT's and RoTN's shares have increased over time, Chennai's share has come down

Average cases reported daily in each of the last three weeks

District	July 6 to 12	July 13 to 19	July 20 to 26	Total new cases*
Chengalpattu				5,633
Coimbatore				2,718
Dindigul				1,614
Kallakurichi				1,860
Kancheepuram				4,614
Kanniyakumari				3,050
Madurai				5,720
Ranipet				2,686
Salem				1,754
Thanjavur				1,549
Theni				2,764
Tiruvallur				7,070
Tiruvannamalai				2,612
Thoothukudi				4,380
Tirunelveli				2,743
Tiruchi				2,448
Vellore				3,118
Villupuram				1,945
Virudhunagar				5,064

* added in last three weeks

Average number of cases reported in a day ■ > 300; ■ 201 to 300; ■ 151 to 200; ■ 101 to 150; ■ < 100

COMPILED BY PON VASANTH B.A.

Fatalities | The table shows the 10 districts that reported the maximum number of deaths in the last three weeks. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) has gone up in 31 of the 37 districts in the last three weeks

Ten districts that reported highest number of deaths in last three weeks

District	As of July 5	As of July 26	CFR on July 5	CFR on July 26
Chennai	1,054	2,011	1.54	2.12
Madurai	62	210	1.52	2.14
Tiruvallur	94	208	1.96	1.75
Chengalpattu	119	227	1.79	1.85
Kancheepuram	33	89	1.3	1.24
Tiruchi	4	58	0.41	1.7
Virudhunagar	8	57	0.89	0.96
Theni	7	48	0.69	1.27
Coimbatore	1	39	0.13	1.13
Vellore	6	43	0.31	0.85

- The graphic shows the average number of cases reported daily in each district in the last three weeks and the total number of fresh cases reported during the three-week period
- Districts that reported an average of more than 100 cases a day in the last week, except Chennai, have been included (color-coded table)
- The daily count of cases has gone up in all these 19 districts, except Madurai, Dindigul and Vellore. While Madurai saw a considerable decline, in the other districts it was minor