

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 29, 2020

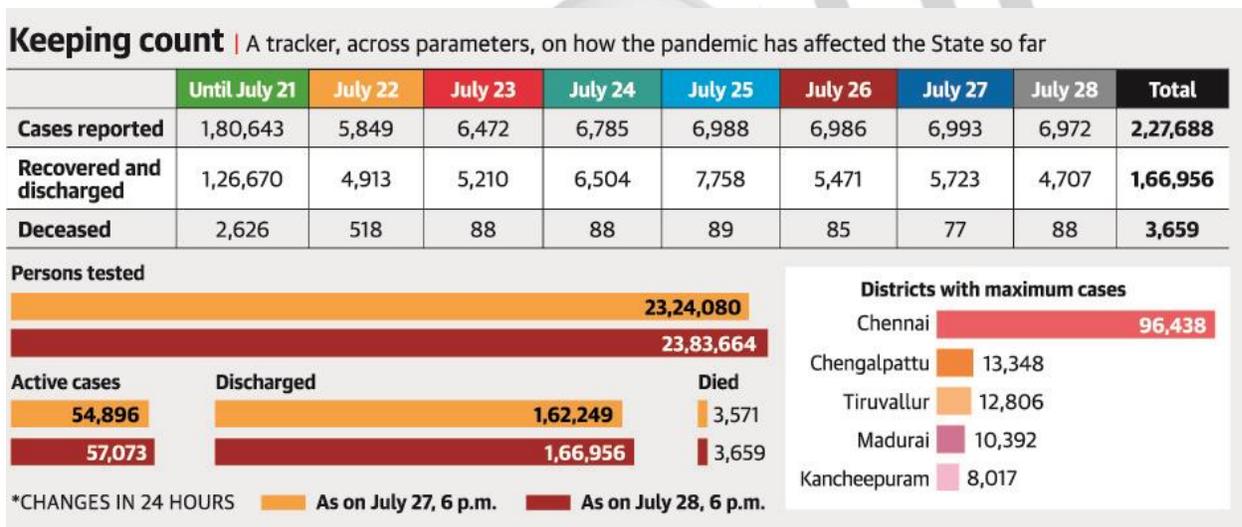
TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – has a total of 321 tigers, as per the updated report on India’s Tiger Survey from 2018**
- ✓ The four tiger reserves in the state, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Anaimalai Tiger Reserve and Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, has a total of 213 tigers



- ✓ Among these reserves, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is ranked number one in tiger population
- ✓ It has 103 tigers within it, while a total of 162 tigers utilize the MTR
- ✓ During the 2014 census, Mudumalai reserve had only 57 tigers.
- ✓ The second dense tiger population reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve accounts for 83 tigers while 126 big cats utilize the reserve.
- ✓ Anaimalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) and Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) have 20 tigers and seven tigers respectively, while 25 big cats utilize ATR and eight tigers utilize KMTR.

- ✓ This is the first time (2018), the buffer zone extending to an area of 365 sq km was taken into consideration for census.
 - ✓ All the four tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu have been ranked “very good” in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) rating done for all the tiger reserves in India.
 - ✓ According to the results of a census made public by NTCA on July 29 last year, Tamil Nadu’s tiger population stood at 264 tigers, an increase of 15% compared to 2014 assessment.
- **Tamil Nadu - reported 6,972 Covid-19 cases on July 28, pushing the total caseload in the state to 2,27,688.**
- ✓ A total of 88 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the overall toll to 3,659.
 - ✓ A total of 4,707 people were discharged, taking the number of people cured to 1,66,956.
 - ✓ There were 57,073 people still under treatment as ‘active cases’



- ✓ Chennai continued to report the maximum numbers with 1,107 fresh cases registered on the day
- ✓ The adjoining districts Chengalpet (365), Kancheepuram (223) and Tiruvallur (486) together reported 1,074 cases.
- ✓ While the Chennai region logged 31% of fresh cases, it accounted for 50% of deaths.
- ✓ Twenty-four patients died in Chennai, six in Chengalpet and Kancheepuram each, and eight in Tiruvallur.
- ✓ Other districts that reported increase in cases includes Virudhunagar (577), Tirunelveli (385), Thoothukudi (380), Madurai (345), Theni (282), Coimbatore (273), Kanniyakumari (223) and Thanjavur (209)
- ✓ In another related development, Chennai collector R Seethalakshmi has been tested positive for Covid-19.

- ✓ The collector has been admitted to the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research in Guindy for treatment.
- ✓ A total of 61,153 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total samples tested so far to 24,75,886
- ✓ Two private laboratories — Agam Diagnostics, Madurai, and Department of Microbiology, SRM Medical College Hospital, Tiruchi — have been approved for Covid-19 testing.
- ✓ With this, there are 58 government testing facilities and 61 private facilities in the state.

STATES

- **On July 28, in an unprecedented move, the Tripura government - sought the Supreme Court's permission to re-appoint over 10,000 post-graduate, graduate and under-graduate teachers as peons, night guards, gardeners, cooks and lower division clerks**
- ✓ Earlier, the appointments of these 10,000 teachers were quashed on court orders.
- ✓ Tripura government in 2010 and 2014 recruited 1,035 PGTs, 4,666 TGTs and 4,612 UGTs through oral interview under the Revised Employment Policy, 2003.
- ✓ The high court on May 7, 2014 set aside the 2003 policy and quashed the appointment of all teachers.
- ✓ The SC on March 29, 2017 upheld the HC order, directed framing of new employment policy and recruitment accordingly by December 31, 2017.
- ✓ Though the new employment policy was framed in 2017, the state government continued the employment of terminated teachers on ad hoc basis
- ✓ This was due to the shortage of teaching staff and non-completion of recruitment process through proper advertisement and examination process.
- ✓ Also, the SC on November 1, 2018 had permitted the state to continue with ad hoc engagement of terminated teachers till March 31, 2020.
- ✓ In between, the State government created new posts of student counsellor, school library assistant, academic counsellor, hostel warden and school assistant to re-appoint the same persons whose appointments was quashed.
- ✓ SC issued contempt notice, which forced the state to immediately stop the process.
- ✓ In this scenario, the state government had now asked the SC whether these teachers can be absorbed as peons, night guards, gardeners, cooks, day guards, horticulture workers, Anganwadi supervisors, lower division clerks, panchayat secretaries, agriculture assistants, junior store keepers and fishery assistants
- ✓ The state has identified 10,618 vacant posts in these categories in various departments
- ✓ However, the state clarified that the terminated teachers will be given no benefit of the years of service they have put in

NATIONAL

- **The draft New Education Policy (NEP 2020) - is likely to be placed before the Union Cabinet for its approval on July 29**
- ✓ The proposed Policy aims for a complete overhaul of the regulatory system in higher education and allow global universities to set up campuses in India.
- ✓ The new policy, if approved, proposes the medium of instruction to be in mother tongue or local language till Class VI and preferably till Class VIII and beyond.
- ✓ The policy seeks to achieve 50% and 100% gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher and school education by 2030
- ✓ It also proposes to increase government's investment on education by up to 20% in the next 10 years
- ✓ The HRD ministry released the draft NEP in 2019 which recommended revision of the curriculum and pedagogical structure from a 10+2 system to a 5+3+3+4 system covering ages 3-18, with focus on language and mathematics in Class I to III.
- ✓ According to the draft NEP, every state/ district will be encouraged to establish Bal Bhavans as a special day-time boarding school where children of all ages may wish to go once a week or more to take part in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities.
- ✓ The policy also has special emphasis on socially and economically disadvantaged groups such as SC/ STs.
- ✓ It proposes a separate "Gender Inclusion Fund" for such groups and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions.
- ✓ The new policy also seeks to remove the separation between vocational and academic streams.
- ✓ It aims to provide access to vocational education to at least 50% of all learners by 2025.
- ✓ In higher education sector, the policy proposes increased graded autonomy to the institutions with an independent Board of Governors.
- ✓ Further, it aims to set up a single overarching umbrella body for promotion of higher education with independent bodies for setting standards, funding, accreditation and regulation.
- ✓ It also advocates standalone technical institutions to become multi-disciplinary.
- ✓ With a focus on interdisciplinary approach, the standalone technical, health science, legal, agricultural universities or institutions in other fields will gradually aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions offering other programmes as well.
- ✓ The policy also sets a target of 100% adult youth and adult literacy by 2030.
- **The government's new print media advertising policy - kicks in from August 1**

- ✓ According to the new policy, all ministries are instructed to place at least 80% of their funds set aside for advertising with the Information and Broadcasting ministry's 'Bureau of Outreach and Communication' (BOC) in advance, in the first quarter of every financial year.
 - ✓ The BOC is the nodal organisation for paid advertising and outreach campaigns through print media, electronic media, outdoor media, social media, and websites on behalf of client ministries or departments and organisations of the Government of India.
 - ✓ The move is expected to facilitate faster payouts to media organisations for the ad content carried by them on behalf of various ministries.
 - ✓ In the guidelines released last week, the BOC said ministries, PSUs, autonomous bodies may also choose to park all their advertising-related funds with BOC before the release of the advertisements.
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, 80% of the newspaper advertising space should be given to vernacular dailies, while the remaining 20% will be set aside for English newspapers.
 - ✓ The guidelines also focus on under-represented languages like Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani and Maithili, among others, and have relaxed empanelment norms for newspapers in these languages.
 - ✓ The move is aimed to promote the government achievements reaching the regional and tribal languages.
- **India - has the second worst air quality in the world, that is reducing the average life expectancy of Indians by 5.2 years**
- ✓ This was revealed in a study by University of Chicago through its Air Quality Life Index
 - ✓ Bangladesh is ranked as the topmost country with worst air quality, with its residents losing an average of 6.2 years of life expectancy
 - ✓ India's particulate pollution has risen by 42% since 1998
 - ✓ As per the study which has taken the 2018 pollution levels as base, a person residing in Delhi is losing an average of 9.4 years of life
 - ✓ Delhi is one of the city which does not meet the WHO's air quality norm.
 - ✓ By even meeting the national standard, a Delhi resident will gain 6.5 years
 - ✓ India's entire population is exposed to levels that exceed the WHO standard of 10 micrograms.
 - ✓ However, considering the country's own air quality standard of 40 micrograms per cubic metre, still 84% of Indians live in exposed areas
 - ✓ As a result, an average Indian loses 2.3 years compared to the national standard and 5 years as per the WHO standard
 - ✓ According to the study, 25% of India's population is exposed to pollution levels not seen in any other country.
 - ✓ Between 1998 and 2018, Indians, on average, lost 1.8 years of their life span.

- ✓ The study says 248 million residents of north India are likely to live more than eight years shorter in the current scenario.
 - ✓ Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh has the highest level of pollution in the country — 11 times more than the WHO norm – cutting shorter the life of its residents by a massive 10.3 years
 - ✓ In states like Bihar and West Bengal, people can live seven more years if air quality meets the WHO guidelines.
- **On July 28, Union forest, environment and climate change minister Prakash Javadekar – released the ‘Status of Tigers, Co-predators & Prey in India’ after 2018 on eve of International Tigers Day**



- ✓ The survey - the fourth cycle of National tiger status assessment of 2018-19 – reports India has 2,367 tigers.
- ✓ Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand has the most number of bigcats in the country with 231
 - ✓ Corbett’s tiger count has been rising — from 137 in 2006 to 174 in 2010 and 215 in 2014 and now to 231.
 - ✓ It is the only reserve with more than 200 tigers and has the highest tiger density in the country, 14.
- ✓ It is followed by Nagarhole (127) and Bandipur (126), both in Karnataka, Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Kaziranga in Assam (104 each).
- ✓ Among states, Madhya Pradesh topped the tiger estimation, with 526 (as against 308 last time), going past Karnataka which has 524 (as against 406 earlier)
 - ✓ Uttarakhand remained on the third spot, with 442 tigers, up from 340 previously.
- ✓ The All India Tiger Estimation is undertaken every four years, the latest in 2018.
- ✓ The count in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, which straddles the India-Nepal border, has also increased from 58 in the last estimation to 82 this time
 - ✓ Pilibhit reserve’s tiger population is also up by two to 57.
 - ✓ And what used to be a non-tiger zone in Uttar Pradesh, Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharajganj, now has one tiger.
- ✓ Among the various belts and zones, the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) have witnessed a significant increase in

tiger population, from 485 to 646, in keeping with the national trend (which saw a 33% jump).

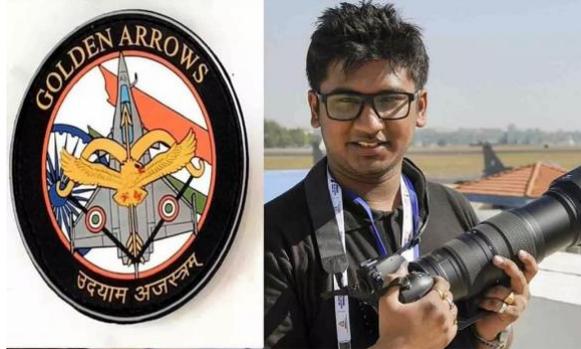
- ✓ The Central India & Eastern Ghats belt, which covers eight states, saw the biggest jump, 50%.
 - ✓ Four of the country's 50 reserves — Udnati Sitanadi in Chhattisgarh, Satkosia in Odisha, Mukundra in Rajasthan and Kawal in Telangana — have just one tiger.
 - ✓ The Wildlife Institute of India-Dehradun (WII) collated the report in association with the National Tiger Conservation Authority
 - ✓ India has 2,967 tigers, at least 30 more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public by NTCA on July 29 last year
 - ✓ A summary of the report "Tigers Co-predators and Prey" was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last July.
 - ✓ While a detailed report was to have been readied by last December, it has only been publicly released now only.
- **The National Green Tribunal – sets tough guidelines for the commercial use of ground water in the country**
- ✓ The Tribunal has banned general permission to withdraw ground water for commercial purposes without an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)
 - ✓ It had advocated that the permit to draw ground water should be given only for a specified quantity of water.
 - ✓ The NGT has granted three-month time period to make water management plans for all critical, over exploited and semi-critical areas.
 - ✓ Strict actions, including prosecution and blacklisting, must be taken against those who will fail the EIA audit.
 - ✓ Around 8,00,000 companies are falling under such areas, which have been accounting for about one-third of all 3,881 groundwater assessment units in India.
 - ✓ The latest move by NGT has put on hold about 20,000 applications for no-objection certificates (NOCs) from the industry on the groundwater use
 - ✓ In India, around 89% of ground water is extracted by the farmers, 5% by the industries, while the rest is used for domestic purposes.
 - ✓ In January 2019, the National Green Tribunal ordered the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to put on hold its new norms on ground water use.
 - ✓ The tribunal has also cancelled the Central Ground Water Authority's (CGWA) 2020 guidelines, stating that they were against the law.
 - ✓ Earlier, the 2018 version of the guidelines had also been struck down by the NGT.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research - has warned that India is likely to miss the national target of eradicating AIDS in the country by 2030**
- ✓ The reason for this has been attributed to the halted progress of several health programmes due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ This has been revealed in a study done by the ICMR-National Institute of Medical Statistics, Division of Strategic information - Surveillance and Epidemiology, and

the National AIDS Control Organization under the ministry of health and family welfare.

- ✓ India, the second most populated country in the world, is having an estimated 2.1 million people living with HIV (PLHIV), the third highest population globally after South Africa and Nigeria.
- ✓ According to ICMR, the annual decline of annual new HIV infections between 2010 and 2017 was 27%.
- ✓ Under the new target, the government aims to reduce AIDS in the country by 75% by 2020.
- ✓ As per the study, the national adult prevalence of HIV amongst male was 0.22% in 2017.
- ✓ Maharashtra tops the list of states having the highest number of HIV positive people with 0.33 million cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh (0.27 million) and Karnataka (0.24 million).
 - ✓ The other states that had highest number of AIDS cases were West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ These states had cases between 0.2 and 0.1 million patients.
 - ✓ Further, there are rising new infections in low-burden states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand
 - ✓ The states of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland had the highest prevalence of over 1%.
- ✓ In 2017 alone, there were 88,000 annual new AIDS cases reported in the country
- ✓ The number of people that died due to AIDS in the country was 69,000 annually.
- ✓ India had also set related critical targets such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV by 2020.
- ✓ Of 22,677 cases of mother-to-child transmission cases, only 58.2% were under treatment as of December 2018
- ✓ The states such as Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh had relatively higher PMTCT.
- **The high-powered committee headed by the home secretary - has rejected providing 4G internet services in Kashmir for the time being**
 - ✓ This was revealed by the Centre in the Supreme Court on July 28
 - ✓ However, lieutenant governor G C Murmu favoured resumption of high-speed internet services
 - ✓ In the midst of contrasting developments, attorney general K K Venugopal and solicitor general Tushar Mehta sought a week's time to present the correct picture before the apex court.
 - ✓ A bench of Justices N V Ramana, R S Reddy and B R Gavai posted the matter for further hearing on August 7.
 - ✓ The SC had ordered setting up of a high-powered committee headed by the home secretary to periodically review the situation in the UT and determine whether high-speed internet services could be provided to people.

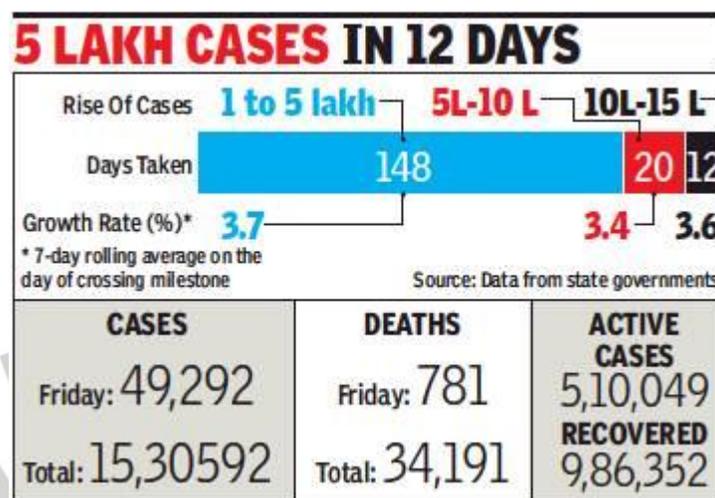
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Jammu & Kashmir going to observe its first anniversary as a Union Territory on August 5 after scrapping of its special status under Article 370
- **The government - has asked ICMR to evaluate the accuracy of rapid antigen testing (RAT) in detecting Covid-19 through mathematical modeling**
- ✓ The ICMR will also analyze if the proportion of false negatives is substantially high, as has been suspected in some instances
- ✓ The rapid antigen tests significantly increase the testing levels across the country
- ✓ However, false negatives and repeat tests not done through RTPCR for confirmation are the main concerns of RAT.
- ✓ The RAT needs to be conducted carefully and also the RT-PCR testing of people with 'symptoms' who test negatively should also be done scrupulously.
- ✓ It is well known that antigen tests have a lower sensitivity than RT-PCR tests which themselves have a modest sensitivity of around 60%.
- ✓ According to ICMR's protocol, any sample testing negative through RAT will have to be mandatorily retested with RT-PCR if the person demonstrates symptoms.
 - ✓ Those testing negative with no symptoms are to be monitored for a few days.
 - ✓ If they develop symptoms then they are to undergo RT-PCR testing too.
- ✓ In Delhi, 15% of symptomatic individuals who tested negative for Covid-19 in rapid antigen testing were found to be positive in a second confirmatory RT-PCR test.
 - ✓ The total number of such people tested with RT-PCR test was however less than 3,000, while the total tested by the RAT method was close to 3 lakh.
- ✓ India has been testing more than 5 lakh samples in a single day over two consecutive days this week.
- ✓ On July 26 and 27, the country has tested a total of 5,15,000 and 5,28,000 samples respectively.
- ✓ Cumulatively, India has so far tested more than 1.73 crore samples, while the tests per million stands at 12,562.
- **India - sent out 7.8 billion spam emails in the past 24 hours, making it the seventh biggest spammer in the world**
- ✓ The country has been ranked at fourth spot during the beginning of the month in terms of spam emails
- ✓ Two users— one in Mumbai and another in Ghaziabad — contributed the maximum of the spam emails.
- ✓ This has been revealed by a real-time email and spam data by Cisco's cybersecurity wing Talos Intelligence show.
- ✓ Over the past month, the volume of spam from India has grown 45% while the volume of email went down 20%.
- ✓ The Mumbai-based user is the second biggest spammer in the world as of July 28, right behind two users in emerging cybercrime hub Vietnam

- ✓ The Mumbai user had started operating only at the end of last month.
 - ✓ Four places behind the Mumbai user in the global spam rankings is another Indian user, from Ghaziabad, who had no email activity till July 22.
 - ✓ In five days, its email volume went up 2000% over the previous month's average.
- **Assam youth and 3D artist Saurav Chordia – has designed the two patches that adorned the G-suits of IAF pilots before they took off for India from France with Rafale fighter aircraft**



- ✓ The patches were delivered to the Ambala-based No. 17 Squadron, the 'Golden Arrows,' earlier
 - ✓ The fighter jets were supposed to reach the cantonment on July 29.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the district administration imposed CrPC Section 144 (power to issue order in urgent cases of the nuisance of apprehended danger) in areas around the IAF station in Ambala cantonment on July 28.
 - ✓ The orders by the Ambala deputy commissioner (DC) prohibit any photography or video-recording of the airbase.
- **The Defence Research Development Organization - launched an innovative contest "Dare to Dream" on the death anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.**
- ✓ It is an open challenge aiming to boost emerging technologies from innovators and start ups in the field of aerospace technologies
 - ✓ The contest, carrying prize money of upto Rs 10 lakhs, was launched by Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh.
 - ✓ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam died on July 27, 2015 due to cardiac arrest while delivering lecture at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong
 - ✓ He served as President of India between 2002 and 2007, during the terms of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh as Prime Ministers.
 - ✓ He played a major role in Pokhran-II nuclear test conducted by India in 1998 and was hailed as the "Missile Man of India" for his extensive military missile development efforts
 - ✓ The government conferred him Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 1981.
 - ✓ In 1997, he was honoured with the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Government marks Dr Kalam's birth anniversary as "Youth Renaissance Day"
- ✓ The Wheeler Island, a national missile testing site in Odisha was renamed as Abdul Kalam Island in September 2015
- **On July 28, India's - Covid-19 caseload went past the 15-lakh mark, with the last 5 lakh cases having come in just 12 days**
- ✓ The country also reported a massive 49,292 cases, its second-biggest jump in infections and the highest death toll of 781 in a single day.
- ✓ India's coronavirus caseload is the third highest in the world after the US (44.3 lakh) and Brazil (24.4 lakh), while Russia has the fourth largest count of cases at 8.2 lakh



- ✓ For the first time in several weeks, Maharashtra did not register the highest daily cases in the country.
- ✓ It was replaced by Andhra Pradesh, where 7,948 Covid-19 fresh infections were recorded on the day, higher than Maharashtra's 7,717, lowest in 13 days.
- ✓ Three states — Karnataka (5,536 new cases), Kerala (1,167) and Punjab (612) — recorded their highest single-day jump in cases.
- ✓ The surge continued in other states with Tamil Nadu detecting 6,972 infections, Uttar Pradesh recording 3,490, Bihar 2,480, Bengal 2,134 and Assam 1,348.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh now has the fifth largest caseload (1,10,297) of Covid-19 cases, behind Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Karnataka.
- **India - conducted more than 500,000 tests for the second day in a row on July 28.**
- ✓ While the country's positivity rate dropped to 9% from 13% last week, fatality rate is down to 2.25%, one of the lowest in the world, as against 3.3% in mid-June.
- ✓ India is placed at 15th place among 20 most affected countries in case fatality ratios (CFRs), as per the Covid-19 data released by the Sir Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ Only Argentina, Russia, South Africa, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have better CFRs than India.
- ✓ The UK and Mexico with CFRs of 15.2% and 11.1% are the worst followed by Iran (5.4%), Egypt (5%) and Indonesia (4.8%).
- ✓ In terms of deaths per 100,000 population, India (2.4) looks better at the 18th spot, with Bangladesh and Indonesia ahead of it.
 - ✓ The UK (68.9), Peru (57.5), Chile (49), US (45.2) and Brazil (41.8) are the worst affected countries.
- ✓ India's case fatality rate (CFR), or the number of deaths for every 100 confirmed cases, of 2.3 is not among the lowest in the world.
 - ✓ 76 countries have lower CFRs than India, as per the data from the Johns Hopkins Covid tracking site
 - ✓ In fact, in India's neighbourhood, Nepal (0.3), Sri Lanka (0.4), Bangladesh (1.3), Myanmar (1.7) and Pakistan (2.1), all have lower CFRs.
 - ✓ India's rate, however, is significantly lower than the global average of 4.
- **The United Nations - recently warned that there is significant increase in ISIS terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka.**
 - ✓ The warning is based on the UN report titled "Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS"
 - ✓ As per the report, Al-Qaida having 150-200 militants from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar is planning to attack Indian Subcontinent.
 - ✓ The Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) operates under Taliban, having base in Afghanistan
 - ✓ The Islamic State is also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or Daesh.
 - ✓ The ISIS is a Sunni Jihadist group operating in eastern Syria since 2014
 - ✓ In 2019, the ISIS claimed to have established a new province in India called the IS Indian affiliate (Hind Wilayah).
 - ✓ The countries where IS holds territory include Libya, Iraq and Syria
 - ✓ The countries where the local groups have pledged allegiance with IS include Niger, Algeria, Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ India has taken several measures to counter terrorism in the Indian Sub-continent, especially after the abrogation of Article 370
 - ✓ Operation Pigeon was launched in Kerala, to save 350 youths from ISIS
 - ✓ The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been proposed and also National Investigation Agency is deployed extensively to counter terrorism.
- **On July 28, 2020, the United Nations - reported that the nitrogen dioxide levels in New Delhi have fallen 'temporarily' by more than 70% during the lock down.**

- ✓ At the same time, in China the levels have fell by 40%, in Belgium it fell by 20%, and between 19-40% in USA.
- ✓ The Nitrogen Oxides reduce the air quality.
- ✓ It depletes ozone layer (the stratospheric ozone) by combining with ammonia via particulate matter.
- ✓ It also increases human health risks like cancer and other respiratory diseases.
- ✓ The Nitrogen oxides can get converted into nitric acid and causes acid rain
- ✓ Thus, it is essential to control nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 28, China's foreign ministry - said that Hong Kong's government would suspend agreements on mutual assistance for criminal matters, including extradition, with Britain, Canada and Australia.**
- ✓ The three countries had already announced the suspension of extradition agreements with Hong Kong over a new security law enacted by the Chinese government
- ✓ According to China, the decision of three countries constituted a gross interference in China's internal affairs.
- ✓ Meanwhile, New Zealand too suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong.
- ✓ US, Canada, Britain, New Zealand and Australia are part of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance
- ✓ Extradition is an act under which a jurisdiction hands over a person convicted or accused of committing crime to another jurisdiction.
 - ✓ India has extradition treaties with Canada, USA, Britain, Australia and Italy.
 - ✓ However, the country has no such treaty with neighbouring countries such as China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Maldives.
 - ✓ It is the policy of the government to sign as many as possible extradition treaties to make sure the fugitive criminals are extradited from those countries to face trials in their home country

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and the United Kingdom – to collaborate in five new scientific research projects with an investment of eight million pounds**
- ✓ The research will work on tackling anti-microbial resistance that will further lead to important advances in the global fight against antibiotic-resistance bacteria and genes.
- ✓ According to British High Commission, the funding awards were announced by Lord Tariq Ahmed of Wimbledon, Minister of South Asia, and the Commonwealth
- ✓ India is a major producer of antimicrobials
- ✓ In this context, the projects will try to understand how waste from antimicrobial manufacturing can strengthen anti-microbial resistance (AMR).
- ✓ The UK is India's second-biggest research partner

- ✓ Both countries were undertaking joint research projects worth of 400 million pounds, to be completed by 2021.
- ✓ Subject to clearance, five projects have been planned for September 2020.
- ✓ UK will be contributing four million pounds from the UK Research and Innovation Fund for International collaboration and India will also contribute a similar budget.
- ✓ UK has also partnered with the Serum Institute of India to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccine
- ✓ If clinical trials are successful, the vaccine under trials will be distributed to a billion people across the developing world.
- ✓ Minister of South Asia and the Commonwealth, Lord Tariq Ahmed of Wimbledon, will chair a virtual roundtable with senior Indian and UK-based stakeholders.
- ✓ There will also be a virtual tour of a UK funded solar plant in Rajasthan, during the meeting.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On July 27, 2020, Defence Ministers Dialogue - between India and Indonesia was held in New Delhi**



- ✓ India and Indonesia were represented by their respective Defence Ministers Rajnath Singh and Prabbowo Subianto.
- ✓ Both the Defence Ministers agreed to further enhance the bilateral defence cooperation in mutually agreed areas.
- ✓ The talks included export of BrahMos missile to Indonesia by India.
- ✓ The leaders held discussions on strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbours
- ✓ The bilateral maritime exercise conducted between India and Indonesia is "Samudra Shakti".

SPORTS

- **19-year old, Princepal Singh - has become India's fourth basketball player to be drafted in National Basketball Association (NBA) G-League.**



- ✓ Princepal will be the fourth Indian basketball player after Satnam Singh, Palpreet Singh Brar and Amjyot Singh Gill to be drafted in NBA's G-League.
- ✓ Among these, Satnam played in 2016-17, while Amjyot played in 2019 for respective G-League teams
- ✓ Palpreet remained unpicked after he was drafted in the league in 2016.
- ✓ That means, Princepal will be the third Indian player to play in the G-League.
- ✓ He will represent the 21-member NBA-Select team, after getting a directed contract by the NBA
- ✓ The 6'10" India forward is the first Academy graduate to sign with the G League and the first NBA Academy India graduate to sign a professional contract.
- ✓ Since 2018, the NBA started giving top young prospects from across the world a chance to begin their professional careers.
- ✓ In the G-League, Princepal will be coached by Brian Shaw, a five-time NBA champion with nearly 30 years of experience as an NBA player and coach.
- ✓ Princepal belongs to the Dera Baba Nanak village in Gurdaspur district, an area close to Pakistan border, which is known for militancy and drug smuggling.
- ✓ He outscored 450 other aspirants to win a \$75,000 basketball scholarship for three years at Spire Institute in Ohio, US, along with a spot on its team.
 - ✓ However, his visa got rejected that time and hence he could not take up the offer.
- ✓ In 2018, Princepal was selected to play in the Indian men's team for the Super Kung Sheung Cup International Basketball Invitation Championship in Hong Kong.
- ✓ Earlier this year, he was the member of the Indian men's basketball team when they defeated hosts Iraq in the Fiba Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers in Baghdad.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Tiger Day – July 29**
- ✓ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the conservation of tigers
- ✓ The decision to celebrate the day was taken at the Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger conservation that was signed in 2010.
- ✓ India has 70% of total tiger population in the world.
- ✓ To commemorate the Day, the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the All India Tiger Estimation-2018 report.



- ✓ Also, the Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan will be releasing a report on Tiger Census to commemorate Global Tiger Day.
- ✓ It promotes a system to protect natural habitats of tigers and raise public awareness.
- ✓ This year, the Global Tiger Day is celebrated with the slogan, “Their Survival is in our hands”
- ✓ Saint Petersburg Summit was held to raise awareness about declining tiger population in the world
- ✓ During the summit, several world leaders pledged to make efforts to double the tiger population by 2022.
- ✓ Currently, there are only 3,900 wild tigers across the world.
- ✓ Poaching, climate change and habitat loss are the main reasons for the decrease in Tiger population.

