

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 5, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On July 4, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - laid the foundation stone for the Kallakurichi Government Medical College through video conference from the Secretariat**



- ✓ The institution with 150 medical seats will come up at Siruvangur village in Kallakurichi taluk.
- ✓ Spread across 8.328 hectares, the college will be set up at a budget of ₹381.76 crore.
- ✓ The Central government would meet 60% of the project cost, while the balance would be contributed by the State.
- ✓ In the first phase, Tamil Nadu had released ₹110 crore, and the Centre ₹50 crore.
- ✓ The college buildings would be constructed at a cost of ₹132.50 crore and the hospital buildings at a cost of ₹182.79 crore.
- **Chennai-Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI) submarine cable system project - has obtained the clearance of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) coming under the Ministry of Environment**

- ✓ The clearance of NBWL is mandatory for projects which, in any way, pass through or involve protected areas

**100 GIGABIT PER SEC SPEED** Representative Image

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The CANI cable system will have speed of 100 gigabit per second</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The eight islands to be connected with Chennai include Port Blair, Little Andaman (Hut bay), Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar (Campbell bay), Havelock, Long and Rangat Islands</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It will provide secure, reliable, robust, affordable</li> </ul>	<p>telecom facility to these islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The total route length of the project is estimated to be 2,200 km</li> <li>➤ NEC Corporation, a Japanese company, will handle the project</li> </ul>

- ✓ The project will connect eight islands of Andaman & Nicobar with the Indian mainland at Chennai through submarine optic fibre cable systems.
  - ✓ The CANI cable system will have speed of 100 gigabit per second (gbps) with sufficient bandwidth for supporting voice and data connectivity.
  - ✓ This will enable all governance and strategic operations to be performed through the project.
  - ✓ The eight A&N islands to be connected with Chennai include Port Blair, Little Andaman (Hut bay), Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar (Campbell bay), Havelock, Long and Rangat Islands.
  - ✓ The project of strategic significance had already obtained all other necessary green clearances including coastal regulation zone (CRZ)
  - ✓ The total route length of the project is estimated to be approximately 2,200km.
  - ✓ It will provide secure, reliable, robust, and affordable telecom facilities in these islands.
  - ✓ The project got its final clearance in the 58th meeting of the NBWL's standing committee, chaired by environment minister Prakash Javadekar, through video conference on July 3.
  - ✓ In another important decision, the committee recommended initiation of a dedicated project for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin on the lines of Project Tiger and Project Elephant of the ministry.
  - ✓ The project is aimed at conservation and protection of this endangered species
  - ✓ The national aquatic animal, Gangetic Dolphin, is found in the Ganges — Brahmaputra — Meghna and Karnaphuli rivers along deep river reaches in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- **On July 4, the Tamil Nadu government - formed an 11-member committee to take a decision on conducting the pending semester examinations in colleges in the state**

- ✓ The committee is expected to work out modalities and adopt guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for conducting semester exams.
  - ✓ Higher education secretary Apoorva will head the committee
  - ✓ The committee includes vice-chancellors of seven state universities and three IAS officers - youth welfare and sports secretary, Tamil development and information secretary, and directorate of technical education commissioner.
  - ✓ The state universities under the higher education department are not in a position to conduct the semester exams in view of the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ The union HRD ministry had asked the UGC to revisit its guidelines for the semester exams, final semester exams and academic calendar in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **The state government - has constituted a seven-member expert committee to study elephant deaths that have occurred in the Coimbatore forest division over the past three years.**
- ✓ In its detailed report, the committee would provide suggestions to minimize death of elephants.
  - ✓ The committee has six months to submit the report to principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden S Yuvaraj.
  - ✓ Sheker Kumar Niraj, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) will be the chairperson of the committee
  - ✓ Elephant experts Ajay Desai from Bengaluru, Sivaganesan from Chennai, C. Arivazhagan, managing trustee of the Indo American Wildlife Society in Chennai, veterinarians M. Kalaivanan from Theni and A. Predeep from Chennai, and D. Boominathan of World Wide Fund, Coimbatore, are the members of the committee.
  - ✓ The decision to appoint the panel was taken after the death of 15 elephants in the forest division since January 2020, with the latest killing occurring on July 2
  - ✓ Of the 15, eight of the casualties were reported in the Sirumugai forest range.
  - ✓ The panel will study all the 57 elephant deaths that occurred in the division from January 2017 to July 2, 2020.
- **The State government – will absorb the anticipated additional burden in the payment of premium for the Prime Minister’s crop insurance scheme (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana — PMFBY)**
- ✓ The decision comes after the recent move of the Centre to reduce its share of premium payment
  - ✓ In this regard, the State government may have to spend up to ₹150 crore this year, so that farmers need not pay any taxes.
  - ✓ Till now, the Union and the State governments shared the premium amount equally, while allowance was given for the general contribution of farmers’ share of 2%

- ✓ Effective this year, the Centre introduced the element of the 'status of irrigation' in a given district for determining the premium amount, thereby trying to restrict its assistance.
- ✓ In this regard, it divided each State into two broad categories — irrigated and non-irrigated districts.

## Crop cover

A look at the crop insurance coverage in Tamil Nadu

Year	Area insured (in lakh acres)	Farmers enrolled (in lakh)	Premium paid** (₹ in cr.)	Claims settled (₹ in cr.)	Number of beneficiary farmers
2016-17	35.54	18.73	1,249.68	3,621.16	12,91,422
2017-18	31.71	15.18	1,435.79	1,999.47	10,49,127
2018-19	35.37	24.04	1,636.21	2,433.15	17,01,811
2019-20	33.22	21.64	678.93	13.69*	9,281
<b>Total</b>	<b>135.84</b>	<b>79.59</b>	<b>5,000.61</b>	<b>8,067.47</b>	<b>40,51,641</b>

\* As on June 8, 2020. \*\*Includes premium paid by farmers, the Centre and the State government to insurance companies.

- ✓ In respect of the irrigated districts, the Centre has decided to limit subsidy in premium to 25% of the sum insured and in non-irrigated districts to 30%.
  - ✓ Irrigated districts are those having 50% or more irrigated areas and non-irrigated ones are those having less than 50%.
    - ✓ Accordingly, Tamil Nadu has nine non-irrigated districts of Salem, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Ariyalur, Krishnagiri, Perambalur, Thoothukudi and the Nilgiris.
  - ✓ The other change in the guidelines is that enrolment has been made voluntary.
  - ✓ Earlier, all those who wanted to take loans had to have insurance cover.
  - ✓ But this will have not have any impact to the State, as farmers who did not take crop loans constituted 70% to 80% of those covered by insurance.
- **The government - has announced the extension of intensive lockdown in Madurai corporation and neighbouring areas till July 12**
- ✓ Further, it has announced some relaxations from July 6 in Greater Chennai Police limits, where the intensive lockdown comes to an end on July 5
  - ✓ Vegetable, grocery and tea shops serving only parcel can operate in Greater Chennai Police limits between 6am and 6pm.
  - ✓ Restaurants will be permitted with only takeaway service between 6am and 9pm
  - ✓ Further, all showrooms and large format shops in Chennai and surrounding areas (including jewellery and textiles), except in shopping malls, would be allowed to function between 10am and 6pm.

- ✓ Food delivery services will be allowed till 9pm and delivery staff will have to wear identity cards.
- ✓ There is no need for pass for movement of vehicles within a district, however, for inter-district movement, e-pass is compulsory.

**SPAS, PARLOURS CAN WORK NOW**



- > Vegetable, grocery and teashops (only parcel) will be allowed within Greater Chennai Police limits between 6am and 6pm 
- > All showrooms and large format shops (including jewellery and textiles shops), except those in shopping malls, will work between 10am and 6pm
- > Restaurants, only takeaway services, between 6am and 9pm 
- > Food delivery services will be allowed till 9pm
- > IT/ITES can operate with company-provided transport at 50% strength
- > Private offices, industrial establishments and export-oriented units can work at 50% strength
- > Taxis and cabs can carry three passengers; autos can carry two
- > Fish stalls, chicken, meat stalls can work 
- > Movement of staff within districts allowed without e-pass

- ✓ Rental vehicles and taxis, including cab aggregators are permitted to run carrying upto three passengers.
- ✓ Autorickshaws can carry only two passengers, while the plying of cycle rickshaws are also permitted.
- ✓ Barber shops, salons, spas and beauty parlours shall function as per standard operating procedure issued earlier.
- ✓ Fish stalls, chicken and other meat stalls and egg shops are permitted, provided they maintain physical distancing norms.
- ✓ IT/ITES companies can operate with company-provided transport at 50% strength, subject to a maximum of 80 people in such offices from July 6.
- ✓ All private offices, industrial establishments and export-oriented units have been permitted to function at 50% strength.
- ✓ Meanwhile, certain restrictions and relaxations have also been announced for Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpet from July 6.
- ✓ Small temples in rural areas with annual income of less than ₹10,000, small mosques, darghas and churches for public worship are allowed.
- ✓ All industries and export-oriented units, IT/ITES and all private offices are permitted to function with 100% strength.
- ✓ Tasmac shops are allowed from 10am to 8pm, while tea shops, restaurants, vegetable shops and grocery shops from 6am to 8pm.
- ✓ Earlier, the state government had announced intense lockdown in Greater Chennai Police limits and in areas falling in Tiruvallur, Chengalpet and Kancheepuram districts between June 19 and June 31 and it was later extended till July 5.

- ✓ Meanwhile, Greater Chennai Corporation has announced that it will continue its fever clinics, quarantine management and contact tracing even as the intense lockdown comes to an end

### ON CORPN'S AGENDA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Door-to-door survey, fever clinics and contact tracing will continue</li> <li>&gt; Aim to reach out to 70,000 people at fever clinics. At present, 40,000 visit every day across 15 zones</li> <li>&gt; 450 camps to take place every day. Number will be increased to 600</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Make home quarantine system more robust using technology. 35,000 in home quarantine at present</li> <li>&gt; Teams to ensure shops, institutions, offices follow govt SOPs</li> <li>&gt; Bring in more technology-based interventions to ensure people remain in quarantine</li> </ul>
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- ✓ All activities such as 450 fever clinics, 3,500 focus volunteers, 11,800 fever surveillance workers, awareness and educational activities at slums will continue
- ✓ In another development, the Madras high court and the Madurai bench will function with existing full strength of judges from July 6 only through video conferencing.
- ✓ Judges have the option to either work from their chambers on the high court premises or from their chambers at their residence.
- **On July 4, Tamil Nadu - recorded 4,280 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking its overall tally to 1,07,001**

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

	Until June 27	Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	Total
<b>Cases reported</b>	78,335	3,940	3,949	3,943	3,882	4,343	4,329	4,280	1,07,001
<b>Recovered and discharged</b>	44,094	1,443	2,212	2,325	2,852	3,095	2,357	2,214	60,592
<b>Deceased</b>	1,025	54	62	60	63	57	64	65	1,450

#### Persons tested



#### Districts with maximum cases



\*Changes in 24 hours ■ As on July 3, 6 p.m. ■ As on July 4, 6 p.m.

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

- ✓ The death toll rose to 1,450 with 65 more fatalities reported on the day.
  - ✓ This included 37 in Chennai, which pushed the city's death toll to 1,033.
- ✓ The state has 44,956 patients in various hospitals and covid care centres as 'active cases'
- ✓ Chennai reported below 2,000 cases for the first time in the last five days, registering 1,842 fresh cases.

- ✓ With this, Chennai's tally touched 66,538, out of which 24,195 persons were under treatment, including under home isolation
- ✓ Chennai's three neighbouring districts Chengalpet (215), Kanchipuram (134) and Tiruvallur (251) continued to register a sharp rise in cases, together adding 600 new cases and suffering 11 casualties.
  - ✓ Further, several other districts had started to show a spike in infections.
  - ✓ These included Madurai (352 fresh cases), Ranipet (104), Ramanathapuram (149), Thiruvannamalai (173), Coimbatore (67), Tirunelveli (61), Virudhunagar (100), Tuticorin (64) and Trichy (83).
- ✓ On July 4, 2,214 people left the hospital after successful treatment, of which 1,198 were in Chennai, taking the total number of people discharged to 60,592 in the state.
- ✓ A total of 36,164 samples were tested during the last 24 hours in the State, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 13,06,884.
- ✓ Three more testing facilities — the Government District Headquarters Hospital in Karaikudi, Sivaganga district; and two private laboratories, Aara Clinical Laboratories on Anna Salai, Chennai, and Bharathi Diagnostics on Alagar Kovil Road, Madurai — were approved in the State for sample testing.
- ✓ With this, there are a total of 94 testing facilities — 49 in the government and 45 in the private sector.
- **On July 4, the State Bar Council – has fixed the eligibility criteria for beneficiaries of Tamil Nadu government's monthly stipend of ₹3,000**
- ✓ As per the new norms, only new law graduates from government law colleges, and those with less than ₹2.5 lakh annual income and aged under 30 years are eligible for the assistance
- ✓ This apart, the beneficiaries should submit a proof of practice, endorsed by a senior advocate, every six months.
- ✓ Applicants must be a resident of Tamil Nadu and should produce Aadhaar as proof.
- ✓ Only one person from a family is eligible for the stipend, as per the new rules.
- ✓ Lawyers can apply online at <http://ams.bctnpy.com> from July 6.
- ✓ Eligible applications will then be forwarded to the directorate of legal studies, where they will be scrutinised.
- ✓ Once approved, the stipend will be paid through bank transfers to beneficiaries.
- ✓ CM Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the stipend scheme to be given to young advocates during their first two years of practice, a day earlier.
- **Four spherical weighing stones of different sizes - have been unearthed at Keeladi in Sivaganga district over the past one week**
- ✓ The sixth phase of excavation by the state archaeology department is currently under way at the heritage site.

- ✓ These black coloured stones were of various sizes, weighing 300g, 150g, 18g and 8g, and made out of basalt.



- ✓ Basalt is an extrusive igneous rock formed from rapid cooling of magnesium-rich and iron-rich lava.
- ✓ These weighing stones were found along with iron, beads made of different materials including glass, copper objects and glass slag
- ✓ All the stones have a flat base and a polished surface.
- ✓ The stones were found near a furnace, with traces of firing activity.
- ✓ Charcoal was commonly found in all the levels the stones were excavated from.
- ✓ The furnace and the weighing stones are indicative of trading activity having flourished in Keeladi which is believed to have been an industrial site

## STATES

- **The Odisha government - has announced the decision to include members of the transgender community in a social welfare scheme which provides a monthly pension to the needy**
  - ✓ Chief minister Naveen Patnaik has approved a proposal to cover the members of the 'transgender' community under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)
  - ✓ The scheme aims at providing financial assistance to the destitute elderly, differently-abled persons and widows
  - ✓ Following the move, around 5,000 transgenders will get a monthly pension in between ₹500 and ₹900 depending on their age
  - ✓ The transgender people will have to apply on the official website of the department to register themselves under the MBPY
- **The Uttar Pradesh government - has decided to form a dedicated security force to ensure security of courts, metro rail, airports, temples, pilgrimage centres, industrial establishments, banks and other organizations in the state.**
  - ✓ In this regard, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to constitute the Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) for the purpose.
  - ✓ The force will be similar to that of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

- ✓ It will be given special training and will be provided with modern security equipment.
  - ✓ They would also be trained with modern security techniques and gadgets.
  - ✓ In the first phase, the state will constitute five battalions of such a force with headquarters in Lucknow.
  - ✓ The Allahabad high court had earlier directed the UP state government to form an exclusive Force for security on court premises in December 2019.
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel - announced the launch of 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' in the state recently.**



**Chhattisgarh to be the first state of the country to procure cowdung for welfare of cattle owners**

**'Godhan Nyay Yojana'**  
to be launched in Chhattisgarh to promote environment conservation, cowdung management and to make animal husbandry more profitable

- ❖ This innovative scheme will be implemented in Chhattisgarh from the day of Hareli Festival : Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel
- ❖ Animal Husbandry and cowdung management to become more profitable for Livestock owners
- ❖ Implementation of Godhan Nyay Yojana to generate employment opportunities and additional income
- ❖ Cowdung to be procured on fixed rate, vermi compost to be sold from cooperative societies

- ✓ The scheme aims to prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads and for environment conservation.
- ✓ According to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, the scheme was launched to promote animal husbandry and make it a profitable practice.
- ✓ The scheme will be an innovative step aimed towards protecting the financial interest of livestock owners in the state
- ✓ Under the scheme, the Chhattisgarh government will procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate.
- ✓ Thus, the state becomes first in the country to procure cow dung for the welfare of livestock owners.
- ✓ With the implementation of the scheme, the livestock owners will provide proper fodder-water to their cattle and keep them secured at their place.
- ✓ The procured cow dung will be utilised for the production of vermicompost fertilizer, which will then be sold through cooperative societies to meet the fertilizer requirement of the farmers
- ✓ Further, it will also be used by the Agriculture, Forest, Horticulture and Urban Administration Department for its various plantation campaigns.

- **Jharkhand government – has proposed to launch a new employment guarantee scheme for the urban unskilled workers in the state.**
- ✓ The scheme will be on similar lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).



- ✓ The scheme is the brainchild of state Chief Minister, Hemant Soren, and will be known as **Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar) Yojana.**
  - ✓ It aims at providing and enhancing livelihood security for the urban poor.
  - ✓ **After Kerala, Jharkhand will be a second state in the country to launch an employment guarantee scheme for the urban poor.**
    - ✓ Kerala government had already launched 'Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme' (AUEGS) for guaranteed employment to urban poor unskilled people.
  - ✓ The scheme will ensure the 100 days of paid work for unskilled labour in urban areas.
  - ✓ It will also provide an unemployment allowance to those who will not get work under the scheme within 15 days.
  - ✓ Under the scheme, the workers will be given work under urban local bodies.
  - ✓ They could also be employed for laying telephone lines and pipelines as well as cleanliness workers.
  - ✓ The workers registered for the scheme will also get job cards like the ones in MGNREGA.
  - ✓ The state government has also been developing a new software for the scheme with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC).
  - ✓ As per the state government, more than five lakh migrants have returned to Jharkhand from various metro cities, since the lockdown was imposed.
- **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S Jaganmohan Reddy - has formally launched the activities of state-owned placement agency - Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services (APCOS) through video conferencing on 3rd July 2020**
- ✓ With the launch of APCOS, recruitment of outsourcing employees will now be made 'online' in the state '

- ✓ This paves way for ensuring corruption-free job placements for hiring the outsourced employees
- ✓ Also, the salaries of the outsourcing employees will now be directly transferred into the bank accounts of the employees.



- ✓ As per the policy of the Andhra Pradesh Government of providing 50% reservation for minorities, women, SCs, STs, and BCs, the same reservation policy will also be followed under APCOS.
- ✓ On 18th October 2019, APCOS was incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Company under the Companies Act 2013.

## NATIONAL

- **On July 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – announced the launch of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge’**
- ✓ During the launch, the PM invited the country’s start-up and tech community to participate in the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge’.



Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge



- ✓ He encouraged the Indian application developers and innovators to help create an “Aatmanirbhar App Ecosystem”
- ✓ The PM urged them to create world class “Made in India Apps” through their ideas and products.
- ✓ The Challenge was launched by the ministry of electronics and information technology along with the Atal Innovation Mission
- ✓ Under the challenge, innovators are invited to develop apps in eight categories – Social networking, Office productivity & Work from home, E-learning, Health & Wellness, Entertainment, Games, News and Business including Agritech and Fintech.
- ✓ The challenge will run in two tracks - Promotion of existing apps and development of new apps
  - ✓ The “Track-01” initiative will be applicable for the promotion of existing Apps
  - ✓ It will identify good quality apps for the leader-board and will be completed in around a month.
  - ✓ For incubating new apps and platforms, the “Track-02” initiative will work to help create a ‘base’ by providing support in ideation, incubation, prototyping and roll out along with market access.
- ✓ The decision of launching the App innovation challenge assumes importance in the light of recent ban by the nation on 59 Chinese Apps which included famous apps such as UC Browser, CamScanner and Tik Tok.
- **The Information and Broadcasting Ministry - has decided to engage private entities to generate, manage and archive content for its social media platforms.**
- ✓ According to the ministry, the private agencies will be required to cover events, package and upload content, create content, and edit it for social media platforms of the government

- ✓ The scope of work for the qualifying agency as defined in the request for proposal (RFP) includes coverage of events, video recording and photography of events includes the ministry's media briefings, press interactions, visit of foreign delegations and summits, film festivals as well as the minister's speeches.
- ✓ It has also specified that the agencies should have adequate infrastructure and capabilities to handle video editing, graphics, live telecasts and webcasts and scope of multi-camera set-ups, among other things.
- ✓ Further, the government is also looking at creative content generation, repackaging available content and releasing it through social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, blogs, Twitter and Instagram among others.
- However, a large part of the ministry's work is currently being done by public broadcaster Prasar Bharati, in addition to the coverage and publicity handled by the Press Information Bureau under the ministry.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed a virtual gathering on "Dhamma Chakra Diwas" to mark Buddha's first sermon to five ascetic disciples at Sarnath on July 4, day of Asadha (means the month of July) Poornima**
- ✓ The celebrations for the day were inaugurated from the Rashtrapati Bhawan at New Delhi by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ The event was hosted by the culture ministry in partnership with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)
- ✓ It saw virtual participation of leaders from all major Buddhist countries, including Japan, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, barring China.
- ✓ Apart from Tibetan Buddhists who participated in the celebrations, the Dalai Lama also made a video address at the Dhammachakka Pravartan celebration.
- ✓ The PM joined President Ram Nath Kovind in emphasising the continued relevance of Lord Buddha in the present situation.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM highlighted the government's efforts to provide better connectivity of Buddhist sites and invited Buddhist pilgrims and tourists to India
- ✓ The PM has also mentioned references to the Buddhist tradition and sites in India and Sri Lanka and his participation in the culture ministry's Buddha Jayanti event earlier this year.
- ✓ On June 24, the Union Cabinet announced that Kushinagar airport will be made as an international airport to serve more pilgrims and tourists.
  - ✓ Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh itself is known to be a Buddhist cultural site
  - ✓ Further, the Kushinagar Airport is located in the vicinity of several well known Buddhist cultural sites like Lumbini, Kapilvastu, Sravasti, etc
- ✓ Every year on the first full moon day in the month of July is celebrated as Dhamma Chakra Day.
  - ✓ The first full moon day of July is called Asadha Poornima in India, Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.
  - ✓ After Buddha Poornima or Vesak, Dhamma Chakra Day is the second most sacred day in Buddhism.

- ✓ Gautama Buddha gave the first sermon at the Deer Park in Rsipatana (present-day Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh)
  - ✓ The first sermon by Gautama Buddha is recorded in Buddhist text- Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta.
- **The annual Amarnath Yatra – will be performed this year with only 500 pilgrims being allowed every day by road from Jammu**
- ✓ Pilgrims embarking on the yatra will have to undergo 100% RT-PCR testing for Covid-19 in line with the centre's directive prescribed for all travelling to Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ All entrants into J&K will have to be sampled, tested and quarantined till they are reported to be negative
- ✓ In this regard, a sub-committee was constituted by the Supreme Court to review preparations for the Amarnath Yatra
- ✓ The daily aarti at Amarnath will be telecast live on Doordarshan
- ✓ Drugs, consumable items, sleeping bags, PPE kits and masks were being provided to doctors and paramedical staff being deployed for the yatra duty



- ✓ Two base hospitals are being set up along the Baltal route.
- ✓ Already, nine of 10 Kashmir districts are red zones and the entire medical system is fully stretched in handling the Covid challenge.
- **The Jammu & Kashmir administration – has given domicile certificates to more than 6,600 applicants in the last one week, after commencing the process to issue the certificates**
- ✓ The domicile certificates allow them to buy property and apply for jobs in Jammu & Kashmir

<p><b>WHO IS ELIGIBLE?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Permanent Resident Certificate holders &amp; their children living outside J&amp;K</li> <li>➤ Kashmiri migrants living outside J&amp;K</li> <li>➤ Anyone who has lived in J&amp;K for 15 yrs &amp; their children</li> <li>➤ Officials in Union govt, all-India services, PSUs, central autonomous bodies, PSBs, statutory bodies,</li> </ul>	<p>central univs and recognised central research institutes who have served in J&amp;K for 10 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Anyone who has studied in J&amp;K for 7 yrs &amp; appeared in Class X or XII exams in the UT</li> </ul>
<p>Ex-serviceman Prem Bahadur (68) shows his domicile papers</p>	<p><b>HOW DOES ONE APPLY?</b></p> <p><b>Offline:</b> At the local tehsildar's office</p> <p><b>Online:</b> At <a href="https://www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices/home">https://www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices/home</a> (the 'Citizen Registration' link)</p>
<p><b>J&amp;K'S GORKHA COMMUNITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gorkhas moved to J&amp;K from Nepal in mid-19th century upon invitation of Dogra regime to fight alongside them</li> <li>➤ About 1L Gorkhas live in J&amp;K now. They can vote in local &amp; assembly polls but can't own land outside plots granted by govt</li> </ul>	

- ✓ More than 5,900 certificates have been issued in Jammu, while in Kashmir, about 700 certificates have been issued, mostly to retired Gorkha soldiers and officers.
- ✓ Around 33000 applications have been received for the certificates, as on date.
- ✓ The protests mostly by four groups — Gorkha servicemen, Valmikis, West Pakistan refugees and women married outside Jammu and Kashmir — was behind the centre's decision to expand J&K's domicile criteria.
- ✓ Valmiki members were brought to the state in 1957 from Punjab after local sanitation workers went on a strike.
- ✓ The domicile rules had been notified by the J&K administration on May 18, with a rider that issuing officers (tehsildars in this case) who did not provide certificates in 15 days would be penalised ₹50,000.
- ✓ As per the new rules, non-locals who had lived in J&K for 15 years, their children, officers with central government and central institutions and anyone who has studied in J&K for seven years and appeared in the Class X or XII exams are eligible for the domicile certificates.
- ✓ The authorities started issuing domicile certificates on June 26
- ✓ An IAS officer from Bihar, Navin Kumar Choudhary, who had served the J&K government for 26 years became the first senior non-local officer to get a domicile certificate.
- **On July 4, India - recorded its highest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases as well as fatalities, with 24,201 fresh infections and 608 deaths**
- ✓ This was the third straight day of record rise in infections as more than 23,500 cases were reported on July 3 and over 22,000 the day before.
- ✓ With this, India's Covid-19 caseload has risen to 6,72,968, as per data collated from state governments.

- ✓ The tally is set to cross Russia's Covid-19 count (at present 6,74,515) on July 5, if current infection trends hold.
  - ✓ That will put India at the third spot, behind the US (over 29.1 lakh cases) and Brazil (15.5 lakh), among countries with the highest coronavirus cases.
  - ✓ On the day, Maharashtra recorded a massive 7,074 new cases, crossing the 7,000 mark for the first time.
  - ✓ At least six other states reported their highest single-day jump in cases, with Karnataka registering 1,839, Bengal 743, Gujarat 712, Rajasthan 480 and Kerala 240
  - ✓ The daily death toll also went past 600 for the first time, discounting the 2,003 deaths reported on June 16, which included pre-dated deaths occurring in Delhi and Maharashtra
  - ✓ On July 4, Maharashtra added a record 295 fatalities to its count and Delhi contributed 81 deaths.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the civil aviation ministry has announced suspension of flights to Kolkata from six cities with a high incidence of Covid-19, including Delhi and Mumbai, with effect from Monday in accordance with a request from the Bengal government.
- **The central government - declared the entire Nagaland as a "disturbed area" for the next six months till December-end.**
- ✓ The home ministry opined that the entire Nagaland is in such a dangerous and disturbed condition that the use of armed forces is necessary to aid civilians.
  - ✓ Therefore, the central government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 declared the whole of the state as a 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from June 30, 2020 for the purpose of that Act.
  - ✓ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been in force in the Northeast since 1958 and Nagaland had acquired statehood in 1963.
  - ✓ The Act was not withdrawn even after a framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015 between government interlocutor R N Ravi and Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah in the presence of PM Narendra Modi.
  - ✓ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act grants the armed forces with special powers to maintain public order in "disturbed areas" including powers to search and arrest and to open fire if they deem it necessary.
  - ✓ Earlier, the Home Ministry had previously withdrawn AFSPA completely from the state of Meghalaya and 8 of the 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh
  - ✓ Currently, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is in force in states of Nagaland, Manipur (except for Imphal Municipal Council), Assam, three districts of Arunachal Pradesh (AP)- Changlang, Longding and Tirap and areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations of AP that border Assam.

- **Consumer Affairs Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan - announced that 3 more states have been included in 'One Nation, One Ration Card' Scheme.**
- ✓ These states are namely, Odisha, Mizoram, and Sikkim.
- ✓ On January 1, 2019, 12 states have joined this scheme
- ✓ Further, on May 1, the government had included another 5 states.
- ✓ With the addition of 3 more states now, a total of 20 states & UTs are now under the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme.
- ✓ As per the Ministry, by August 2020, 3 more states namely- Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and Manipur will also be added to the scheme.
- ✓ As per centre's estimates, by March 31, 2021, all the states will be added to the scheme to help the migrants in getting food grains from Fair Price Shops (FPS) in any state.
- ✓ PM Modi in his address to the nation on June 30 gave a special mention to 'One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme', especially for assisting the migrant workers
- ✓ The ration card by the states will be issued in bi-lingual format, besides the local language, the other language can be either Hindi or English.
  - ✓ The card will have a 10-digit standard ration card number.
  - ✓ The first two digits will be the state code while the next two digits will be the running ration card numbers.
- ✓ Under 'one nation, one ration card' system, the migratory ration cardholders will be able to get food grains from any Fair Price Shops (FPS) in the integrated 20 states & UT's.
- ✓ The 20 States/UTs under the scheme includes Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Daman & Diu, Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **United Nations - honoured Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja by inviting her on panel discussion on June 23, World Public Service Day**



- ✓ She was the honored speaker from India to speak about the strategies that were adopted by Kerala to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ KK Shailaja, a former teacher, explained the strategies, which are now known as the 'Kerala model', to combat the viral disease.
- ✓ Kerala's strategy of contact tracing, aggressive testing, and quarantining had considerably slowed the spread of the virus in the state.
- ✓ She was even consulted by the states like Maharashtra to tackle the spread of the pandemic.
- ✓ At the webinar which was streamed on UN Web TV, the Minister shared her views with President of the General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad- Bande, Secretary-General of UN Antonio Guterres, Director General WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Interior and safety, Republic of Korea Chin Young, President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewdw and other senior officials of the UN.
- ✓ The first case of Covid-19 in India was recorded in Kerala on January 27, 2020, following the return of the Indians from Wuhan, China.
- ✓ Shailaja had organised the first meeting of the state's rapid response team, only three days after the news of the virus emerging in China broke.
- ✓ The Primary control room in Kerala was set up in the state on January 24
- ✓ Then, instructions were given to the medical officers in all the 14 districts of the state to do the same.
- ✓ By the time, the first case of the pandemic was reported, Kerala had already implemented the pandemic protocols that were issued by WHO.
- ✓ It was long before the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended them.
- ✓ Medical teams in Kerala were already dispatched to all the airports and the passengers had their temperatures checked.
  - ✓ Those with running temperatures were immediately isolated and were moved to dedicated isolation wards at nearby hospitals.
  - ✓ Entertainment centres, religious gatherings and educational institutions were also immediately closed and large gatherings were banned.
  - ✓ KK Shailaja consistently followed the motto of 'test, trace, isolate and support' in tackling the spread of the pandemic in the state
  - ✓ Although the state recorded the initial spike in the cases, the strategy started yielding results by April 2020, which resulted in zero reported fresh cases on three consecutive days from May 3 to May 5.
- ✓ Kerala's health system has an edge over other states as it has invested heavily in public health infrastructure.
- ✓ In the last four years, the state has focused on transforming its primary health into family health care centres.
- ✓ Kerala, under the leadership of KK Shailaja, has earned praise for its handling of the previous Nipah outbreak in the State

- **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - has captured the image of Phobos, the closest and largest moon of the red planet**



- ✓ On July 4, Isro released the image that was taken on July 1 when the orbiter was about 7,200 km from Mars and at 4,200 km from Phobos.
- ✓ The photo generated by the Mars colour camera is a composite image generated from six camera frames and has been colour-corrected.
- ✓ Phobos, the mysterious moon of Mars, is largely believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites.
- ✓ The violent phase that Phobos has encountered is seen in the large section cut out from a past collision (Stickney crater) and bouncing ejecta (material thrown out due to volcanic eruption or meteoritic impact).
- ✓ **Stickney, the largest crater on Phobos, was seen along with other craters Shklovsky, Roche & Grildrig in this image**
- ✓ The surprising thing about MOM is that it is still active, years after its launch on November 5, 2013.
  - ✓ MOM was scheduled to last only six months as per Isro's plan
  - ✓ Though some systems are not working, the orbiter is continuously beaming images of the Mars till now.
  - ✓ This is because Isro had put extra fuel in the orbiter for any contingency plan.
  - ✓ In fact, it had also factored in the extra fuel needed for orbit correction if the rocket had put the spacecraft in a slightly different orbit.
- ✓ Phobos and Deimos are the two natural satellites of Mars
  - ✓ Both the moons of Mars were discovered by Asaph Hall in the year 1877.
  - ✓ Phobos is seven times larger than Deimos.
  - ✓ Phobos orbits at around 6,000 Km from the surface of the Mars, while Deimos orbits at around 23,460 Km from the Mars.

- ✓ Therefore, Phobos is referred to as the innermost natural satellite of Mars whereas Deimos is the outermost.
- ✓ ISRO's ambitious Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was also called "Mangalyaan"
  - ✓ It was launched on November 5, 2013 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre located in Sriharikota of Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✓ The mission was launched by the Rocket PSLV-C25
  - ✓ With the launch, Isro has become the fourth space agency to reach Mars after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency.
  - ✓ Isro had successfully placed the ₹450-crore MOM in the Red planet's orbit on September 24, 2014
  - ✓ Thus, India became the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit and the first in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.
- ✓ There are five scientific instruments on board ISRO's Mars Orbiter - Mars Colour Camera (MCC), Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (TIS), Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM), Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP) and Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA).
- **Mumbai-based Tata Memorial Centre - has used the concept of Raman Spectroscopy to detect RNA viruses present in saliva samples to identify the presence of viruses like Covid-19**
  - ✓ It is a conceptual study to analyse non-infectious RNA viruses using conventional Raman Spectroscopy without using any additional reagent to enhance the signal.
  - ✓ In general, novel coronavirus is found in sufficient numbers in human saliva.
  - ✓ For the study, the researchers penetrated saliva samples with non-infectious RNA viruses and analysed it with Raman Spectroscopy.



- ✓ Statistical analysis of all the 1,400 spectra obtained for each sample showed a set of 65 Raman spectral features, which was adequate to identify the viral positive signal
- ✓ To minimise variability and automate the analysis of the Raman spectra for RNA viruses, the team had developed an automated tool — RNA Virus Detector — using a graphical user interface (GUI).
- ✓ The tool can be used for detecting RNA virus from an individual or a group of samples in a clear and reproducible manner, and is freely downloadable.

- ✓ Since the tool can only identify RNA viruses and not identify the specific one like common cold virus or HIV, it can be used only for screening.
- ✓ The tool can be applied on the field and people who test positive for RNA virus can be quarantined while another sample may be sent for validation using RT-PCR.
- ✓ A portable Raman spectrophotometer installed at the port of entry such as airports or any point of care can screen passengers within minutes
- ✓ Earlier, Israel developed a spectroscopy-based one-minute breath-analyser to detect coronavirus

## ECONOMY

- **India's foreign exchange reserves - are the fifth largest in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia, as per the International Monetary Fund.**
  - ✓ The country's foreign exchange reserves currently stand at more than \$500 billion
  - ✓ India's foreign exchange reserves are equivalent to almost one fifth of the country's gross domestic product.
  - ✓ They are considered to be enough to cover 13 months of imports.
  - ✓ The foreign exchange reserves will serve as a cushion against market volatility and provide added comfort to the foreign investors
  - ✓ Foreign exchange reserves are cash and other assets held by a central bank of a nation.
  - ✓ The foreign exchange reserves can comprise bonds, banknotes, deposits, treasury bills and other government securities of the reserve currency.
  - ✓ The foreign exchange reserves are held in one or more reserve currencies, currently mostly in US dollar and to a lesser extent the Euro.
- **MSME Ministry – has launched a new process of classification and registration of MSME Enterprises on July 1, 2020 under the name of 'Udyam registration'.**



- ✓ In this regard, the ministry has launched a new portal for Udyam Registration- [www.udyamregistration.gov.in](http://www.udyamregistration.gov.in).
- ✓ The portal will guide the entrepreneurs step by step to complete the registration of their entities.

- ✓ The new Udyam registration process is completely online, paperless and based on self-declaration.
- ✓ No documents or proofs are required to be uploaded for registering an MSME.
- ✓ The user will need to provide their 12-digit biometric Aadhaar number for the registration process.
- ✓ A registration number will be given after completion of the entire process, which is completely free-of-cost
- ✓ Udyam Registration Certificate with a unique QR code consisting of all details regarding the company will be issued.
- ✓ There will be no need for renewal of the registration.
- ✓ The MSME Ministry's online system will be fully integrated with Income Tax and GSTIN systems.

## SPORTS

- **China's two-time Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan - announced his retirement on July 4.**
- ✓ Fondly called 'Super Dan', Lin became the first shuttler to retain the Olympic title
- ✓ Hailed as one of the sport's greatest singles player, Lin won the 2012 London Games after his triumph in the home event in Beijing in 2008.
- ✓ The left-handed Lin also won all the sport's major titles, including five gold medals at the world championships between 2006 and 2013 and six All England crowns



- ✓ The ace shuttler also helped China to six gold medals in the Thomas Cup men's team event and five titles in the mixed Sudirman Cup.
- ✓ He also helped the Chinese team to three gold medals in team event and two individual singles titles at the Asian Games.
- **Former India pacer Aavishkar Salvi – has been appointed to coach Puducherry this season.**



- ✓ The 38-year-old Mumbaikar, who played four ODIs in 2003 before injuries plagued his career, has already coached Puducherry
  - ✓ He began his coaching career post retirement in 2018 with the Puducherry team, which was the maiden season for the team.
  - ✓ Former Karnataka opener J Arunkumar was the coach of Puducherry last year.
  - ✓ Besides Salvi, Puducherry have named another Mumbaikar, Onkar Khanvilkar, as their assistant coach, and Rajasthan's former wicketkeeper Dishant Yagnik as their fielding coach.
  - ✓ All the appointments are for one season.
  - ✓ Salvi is also the fast bowling coach of Oman (on an assignment basis), who qualified for the T20 World Cup last year.
- **On July 3, the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju - announced that the government will launch Target Opium Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the junior athletes in the age group of 10-12.**
- ✓ The scheme will groom the junior athletes for 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles) Olympics.
  - ✓ The announcement was made by the union minister during the 'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' program launch through a webinar on July 3
  - ✓ The webinar was attended by Indian Olympic silver medallist badminton ace PV Sindhu, Union Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Indian football team skipper Sunil Chhetri.

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FIT  
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Students, Union HRD Minister  
**Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**  
will be going LIVE again to  
interact with you

**Fit Hai to Hit Hai India**

Ask him your questions using  
**#FitIndiaTalks**



- ✓ During the discussion, the union minister informed that on August 29, 2020, Fit India campaign will complete one year
- ✓ As part of the Fit India Campaign, the 'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' program will be organized.

- ✓ The objective of the program is to inspire and motivate the school children about the importance and need to stay fit during this pandemic outbreak.
- ✓ For the purpose, special talk sessions named 'Fit India Talks' will be organized.
- ✓ A total of six sessions will be organized until 14th July.
- ✓ Leading sports celebrities will participate in these talk sessions to share their life experiences from failures, struggles and success, apart from sharing fitness tips
- ✓ In the first session on 3rd July, P.V Sindhu and Sunil Chhetri participated.
- ✓ These talk sessions will be streamed live on DD Sports channel on television, Fit India Channel at Facebook and Youtube, at MyGov and at Sports Authority of India (SAI) official Facebook page.
- ✓ The Fit India sessions have been organized in association with the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD) and Sports Authority of India.
- ✓ As the majority of our 1.3 billion population is of school children and in the last 8-9 months, 2.5 lakh schools have registered themselves under Fit India campaign.
- ✓ The TOPS scheme was launched in the month of July 2014
- ✓ The aim of the scheme was to identify individuals with medal prospects from across the country, further groom and prepare them for the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics
- ✓ For assisting the athletes selected under the TOPS, within the Sports Authority of India (SAI), a separate 'Mission Olympic Cell' was constituted as a dedicated body
- ✓ The National Programme for the development of sports from the grass-root level in the country- Khelo India will help by providing a base for talent identification