

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 29, 2020

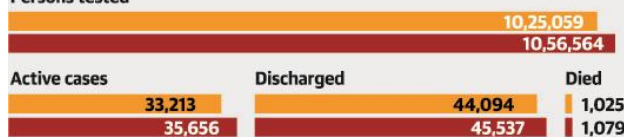
TAMIL NADU

- On June 28, the daily Covid-19 case count in Tamil Nadu - touched a new high with 3,940 persons testing positive for the infection.
- ✓ With this, the total number of people who had tested positive stands at 82,275

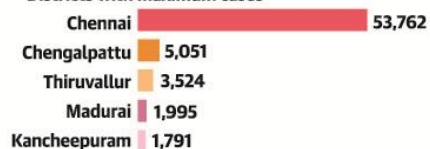
Keeping count | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has affected the State so far

	Until June 21	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25	Jun 26	Jun 27	Jun 28	Total
Cases reported	59,377	2,710	2,516	2,865	3,509	3,645	3,713	3,940	82,275
Recovered and discharged	32,754	1,358	1,227	2,424	2,236	1,358	2,737	1,443	45,537
Deceased	757	37	39	33	45	46	68	54	1,079

Persons tested



Districts with maximum cases



*Changes in 24 hours As on June 27, 6 p.m. As on June 28, 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 state reported 54 more deaths on the day, taking the death toll to 1,079
 - ✓ Out of this, 809 deaths had been recorded in the city, followed by 80 in Chengalpattu and 61 in Tiruvallur.
- ✓ A total of 1,443 patients were discharged, taking the total recovered to 45, 537
- ✓ The number of active cases in the state stands at 36,738
- ✓ Chennai had 1,992 of the 3,940 fresh cases, taking the total number of positive cases in the city to 53,762.
- ✓ All other districts except Karur and Krishnagiri recorded cases, mostly in double digits.
 - ✓ Chengalpattu (183), Madurai (284), Kallakurichi (124) and Tiruvannamalai (114) recorded the most number of cases in the State on the day.
- ✓ A total of 31,505 persons were tested for the infection on the day.

- ✓ Meanwhile, as many as 13 of the 15 zones of the Greater Chennai Corporation have reported more than 1,000 Covid-19 cases under the limits of Chennai
 - ✓ Only Manali and Perungudi have reported less but still closer to the figure.
 - ✓ Royapuram zone, with more than 7,500 cases, continues to register the highest number of cases along with 128 deaths
- ✓ In another development, state revenue minister R B Udayakumar and cooperative minister Sellur K Raju inaugurated jointly a counselling centre to bring down the stress level in Covid-19 positive people on June 28
 - ✓ The counseling centre was set up by Madurai Corporation
 - ✓ There are seven trained counselors in the centre, who would be making calls to the infected people, as soon as the list of positive cases is available for the day.
 - ✓ They would be clearing the doubts, allay fears and provide the patients with accurate information on the disease.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' in New Delhi on June 28**

'INDIA HONOURS SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP'	
<p>➤ India honours the spirit of friendship... she is also capable of giving an appropriate response to any adversary, without shying away</p> <p>➤ Their (martyrs' families) sentiment for the country constitutes the true power, the might of the country</p> <p>➤ Irrespective of</p>	<p>the magnitude of the calamity confronting us, India's sanskar... way of life, inspires one and all to serve selflessly</p> <p>➤ After Independence, we should have made efforts in the defence sector, taking advantage of our prior experience... We didn't. But today... India is taking strides towards self-reliance</p>
	

- ✓ During his speech, the PM spoke about the brutal clash in Galwan Valley which claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese troops
 - ✓ He asserted that those who encroached into Indian soil had received a befitting reply and that while India sought peace, it could respond adequately against any perpetrators to protect its sovereignty.
 - ✓ The PM paid tributes to the soldiers who died on the borders in eastern Ladakh and said the country was along with the families who lost their loved ones.
 - ✓ As an example, the PM mentioned that Mohan Ramamurthy from Madurai wrote to him that he wishes India to be self-reliant in the defence sector
 - ✓ Reasserting the "Atmanirbhar India" campaign, the PM said contributing to the campaign would be a tribute to the martyrs in the truest, deepest sense.

- ✓ PM Modi sought to convey a reassuring message for the year that has seen India and the world face the Covid-19 challenge
 - ✓ He said though the country faced a convergence of challenges, it would overcome and become stronger
 - ✓ Referring to the coronavirus situation where India has moved out of the lockdown phase to the unlock phase, the PM said the country would have to focus deeply on two points — "defeating corona and strengthening the economy and bolstering it".
 - ✓ Amid multiple challenges facing the country like Covid-19, Cyclones Amphan and Nisarga, and locust attacks, apart from the situation in Ladakh, Prime Minister said India had always transformed adversities into stepping stones to success
 - ✓ In this regard, the PM mentioned how the Covid-19 situation acted as the trigger to unlock various sectors such as mining (where the auction process of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining was launched last week), space and agriculture which would eventually lead the country towards self-reliance.
- ✓ The Prime Minister reiterated his appeal to citizens to buy 'made in India' products and become 'vocal for local'
- ✓ The PM also said that the entire world was focused on increasing immunity during the coronavirus pandemic and "these immunity enhancing ingredients and spices such as ginger and turmeric are linked with our country".
- ✓ Further, Prime Minister recalled the role of the former Prime Minister late P V Narasimha Rao on his birth centenary year as a "scholar rooted in culture and a freedom fighter"
- **The world's largest repatriation exercise, Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) - will commence its fourth phase on July 3.**
 - ✓ Under the mission, Air India group will be operating over 400 flights up to July-end.
 - ✓ Further, private airlines have volunteered to operate close to 500 flights in this phase, according to the aviation ministry.
 - ✓ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had last week extended suspension of scheduled international flights till 11.59pm of July15 while stating such services "may be allowed on selected routes on a case to case basis".
 - ✓ During the fourth phase, Air India will operate 114 flights to four countries – US, UK, Canada and Australia - between July 3 to 15
 - ✓ Later, AI Express will operate another 300 flights until the month end
 - ✓ Among the Private operators, IndiGo will operate 238 flights from Qatar and 219 flights from Kuwait, while GoAir will operate 41 flights from Kuwait.
 - ✓ The mission was launched on May 6 to help stranded people reach their destinations using special flights.

- ✓ It has brought back nearly 1,50,000 Indian Nationals till now through around 700 flight operations from countries around the world, amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The scheduled international flights were suspended in India since March 23, 2020, because of the pandemic.
- **The Centre - has approved an additional Rs 1,691 crore for highway works by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand for 2020-21.**
 - ✓ Out of this allotted funding, Rs 1,351.10 crore has been sanctioned to BRO for road works in Jammu & Kashmir
 - ✓ Further, a total of Rs 340 crore ceiling has been approved for Uttarakhand for national highways
 - ✓ In addition, it has also given approval for additional sanction of Rs 71 crore for highway works by the state's public works department in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Besides that, it has also enhanced the total ceiling to Rs 1,955 crore for highways work for Nagaland under Tribal Sub-Plan from the existing Rs 1,081 crore
- **The Environment Ministry's wildlife division - has announced the introduction of new rules to regulate the import and export of 'exotic wildlife species'.**



- ✓ Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must also register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their States.
- ✓ Currently, the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, oversees the trade of exotic wildlife species.
- ✓ The Wildlife Department will also prepare an inventory of such species and have the right to inspect the facilities of such traders to check if these plants and animals are being housed in healthy conditions.
- ✓ Additionally, traders will have six months to declare their 'animals' stock.
- ✓ As per the advisory, the term 'exotic live species' refers to the animals named under Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
 - ✓ It will not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ✓ The CITES is part of a multilateral treaty that includes plant, animals and birds under varying categories of threat of extinction and which will be jointly protected by members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ✓ India is a signatory to the CITES
- ✓ Last week, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) released its first global report on the illegal wildlife trade
 - ✓ According to the report, wildlife trafficking is identified as a “global threat”, which also has links with other organised crimes such as modern slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade.
- ✓ According to World Wildlife Crime Report 2016 of the UN, criminals are illegally trading products derived from over 7,000 species of wild animals and plants across the world.
 - ✓ The illegal trade is estimated to generate revenues of up to \$23 billion a year.
- ✓ The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is an organisation that is tasked with monitoring illegal trade.
- **On June 28, India - reported more than 19,700 fresh Covid-19 cases, the second highest single-day surge so far after registering 20,060 cases a day earlier.**
- ✓ With this, around 1.1 lakh coronavirus cases have been added to the country's tally in just the past six days.
- ✓ With 384 new deaths, the death toll due to the infection rose to 16,468.
- ✓ As on date, India's caseload stood at 5,49,106, while the number of active cases and those recovered rose to over 2.1 lakh and 3.2 lakh respectively, as per data from state governments,
- ✓ Karnataka became the fourth state after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Telangana to register over 1,000 cases in a day.
 - ✓ It reported 1,267 cases on the day, with 783 cases in the capital Bengaluru alone.
- ✓ Maharashtra reported more than 5,000 fresh cases for the third day running with 5,493 cases, its second highest spike
 - ✓ The state added 156 deaths to take its overall Covid-19 toll to 7,429.
 - ✓ Maharashtra has so far registered 1,64,626 cases, nearly 30% of all cases in the country
- ✓ With a count of 20,060 new cases on June 27, India became just the third country in the world, after the US and Brazil, to report a count of over 20,000 in a single day.
- ✓ Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were among at least five states that reported their biggest spike in daily cases on the day.
 - ✓ The others were Andhra Pradesh (813 new cases), Gujarat (624) and Bengal (572).

- ✓ Meanwhile, Maharashtra is planning to extend the lockdown for a month while Telangana may do so for 15 more days
- ✓ Manipur government also announced that restrictions will continue till July 15.
- ✓ The present lockdown in all these three states, which have seen an exponential surge in Covid cases in the last few days, was scheduled to end on June 30.
- ✓ Earlier, Jharkhand government has decided to extend the state lockdown till July 31 to tackle the spread of Covid-19.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Global infections from Covid-19 - have crossed 10 million and claimed nearly 5,00,000 lives, as the rate of new cases starting peaking up in South Asia and Latin America**
- ✓ The US reported a fifth consecutive day of record new cases of coronavirus infections on June 27
 - ✓ As many as 44,782 new cases were reported on the day, the second day in a row that new cases have risen above 40,000.
 - ✓ The US alone accounts for a quarter of the infections and fatalities, the death toll crossing 1,25,000 from 2.5 million cases over the weekend.
 - ✓ In fact, only two states —Connecticut and Rhode Island — are showing a decline in number of cases, with spikes reported in 36 other states
- ✓ The disease also continues to rampage through Latin America, with Peru crossing 9,000 deaths on the day.
- ✓ Brazil — the second hardest-hit country after the U.S. — recorded 990 deaths on the day, the highest toll in the world that day, while Mexico recorded the second highest at 719.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A new contact-tracing API (application programme interface) – has been ‘automatically’ updated by all the Android-run and Apple smartphones into the devices**
- ✓ The new API enables an app, like Aarogya Setu app of the Centre, to monitor a person’s movement and warn of Covid-19 infections around them.
- ✓ The API is just an enabling tool and needs to be embedded into an app, such as Aarogya Setu, with the permission of government.
- ✓ It will then monitor a person’s location and send alerts of any nearby infections.
- ✓ **The move is part of a global joint initiative by Google and Apple to enable contact tracing in order to warn about potential corona infections**
- ✓ The APIs were embedded in the latest updates to the operating system of the devices.
- ✓ However, these APIs alone does not lead to monitoring of a person’s movement and does not violate any privacy settings.

DEFENCE

- **Indian and Japanese warships - held a small exercise towards the Malacca Strait in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) on June 28.**
- ✓ Indian warships patrolling the region, Rajput-class destroyer INS Rana and Koraclass missile corvette INS Kulish, took part in the exercise
- ✓ JS Shimayuki and JS Kashima from the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's training squadron also participated in the exercise
- ✓ Though the exercise was "largely a **PASSEX** (passing exercise)", it definitely amounts to some strategic signaling for China
- ✓ Three American aircraft carriers, USS Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Nimitz, incidentally, are also currently deployed in the Pacific Ocean for the first time in recent years, in a move that has not gone down well with China.
- ✓ Japan has been regularly participating in the high-voltage "Malabar" naval combat exercise between India and the US since 2015
 - ✓ The three countries have been concerned about China's aggressive expansion in the Indo-Pacific region, especially in the South China Sea.
 - ✓ The exercise is slated to be held in the Bay of Bengal later this year.
- ✓ In boosting the bilateral military ties, India and Japan have also been conducting an annual joint land military exercise named "Dharma Guardian" since 2018.
- ✓ The two countries have held their first "two-plus-two" defence and foreign ministerial dialogue in November last year
- ✓ They are currently in the process of finalising a reciprocal military logistics pact to further strengthen their strategic partnership.
 - ✓ India has already inked such pacts with the US, France, South Korea, Singapore and Australia
 - ✓ These pacts were intended to extend their naval operational reach to counter China's expanding footprint in the IOR, which is witnessing regular incursions by PLA warships and submarines.
- ✓ China had strongly objected to the India-US Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal in 2007 when it was expanded to include Japan, Australia and Singapore.
 - ✓ India had then restricted Malabar to a bilateral one with the US for several years to avoid antagonising China
 - ✓ It had included Japan only when the exercise was held in the north-western Pacific in 2009 and 2014

SPORTS

- **Mumbai's upcoming racing star, Aashi Hanspal - has been shortlisted for Federation Internationale de L'Automobile's (FIA) ambitious 'Girls on Track-Rising Stars' project**
- ✓ This was announced by the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India (FMSCI)

- ✓ The 13-year-old has been selected along with 19 others in the 12-16 age group of 70 entries from five continents.
- ✓ If Aashi becomes successful, she could become first female driver to obtain a partnership agreement with Ferrari Driver Academy including a chance to take part in the Formula 4 season.
- ✓ The Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA), the world body for motor sports, said that the training-cum-selection process would consist of four phases.



- ✓ As the first step, she will take part in the 'Shoot Out' at the Paul Ricard Circuit in France on October 12 and 13.
 - ✓ Aashi has been coached by eight-time National car racing champion Rayomand Banajee at the Rayo Racing Academy in Mumbai
 - ✓ She had already recorded five podium finishes in her maiden National karting season last year and was conferred the 'Outstanding Women in Motorsports Award' by FMSCI for her podium finishes.
- **The world's highest Test wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan - has been named the 'Most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century' by Wisden Cricket Monthly.**

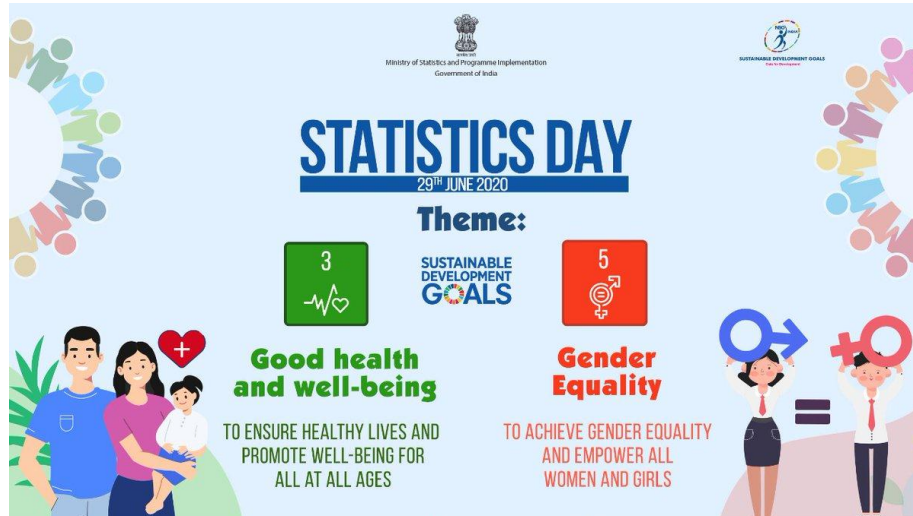


- ✓ The magazine, in association with cricket analytics company CricViz, has a special feature on the top 30 players of the 21st century (2000-2020)
- ✓ Muralidharan has taken a world record 800 test wickets
- ✓ Out of this, Muralidharan has taken 573 wickets in 85 matches during the period from January 1, 2000 to 2010.

- ✓ During this period, only person ahead of Muralidharan is James Anderson of England with 584 wickets, but he has played 151 games (2000-2020)
- ✓ Hence, Muralidharan was chosen as the Most Valuable test player of the century.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Statistics Day – June 29



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life
- ✓ It acknowledges the invaluable contributions made by Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in establishing the National Statistical System in the country.
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C Mahalanobis, father of Indian statistics
- ✓ National Statistics Day was celebrated first in the year 2007.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)
- ✓ Prof P.C Mahalanobis's contribution in the field of Statistics is recognized all over the country and world.
- ✓ He served as the Chairman of the United Nations Sub Commission on Statistical Sampling from 1947 to 1951.
- ✓ In 1931, Prof. P C Mahalanobis founded the ISI-Indian Statistical Institute (ISI formally registered in April 1932).
- ✓ After Independence, a comprehensive socio-economic national sample survey was designed and planned by ISI
- ✓ For conducting this survey, the National Sample Survey (NSS) was established by Prof. P C Mahalanobis in the year 1950.
- ✓ Recognising the achievements of Prof. P C Mahalanobis, the government conferred Padma Vibhushan to him in 1968
- ✓ World Statistics Day is celebrated on October 20th every year.