

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - JUNE 30, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- ➤ A tripartite agreement was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government, World Bank Group and the Government of India for providing urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu access to affordable housing on 29th June 2020
- ✓ The agreement has been signed for the implementation of two projects
 - √ (i) □1,510-crore Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and
 - √ (ii) □377-crore Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development project
- ✓ The loans for both the projects will be provided by the lending arm of the World Bank Group, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ✓ The pact was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Union Department of Economic Affairs; Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, Principal Resident Commissioner, Tamil Nadu; and Sumila Gulyani, Acting Country Director, India of the World Bank.
- ✓ The maturity term for both the loans is 20 years, which includes 3.5 years grace period
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program
 - ✓ To implement this program, a loan of \$200 million has been sanctioned as per the agreement.
 - ✓ The program aims to support the ongoing efforts of the state government for providing affordable housing to low-income families in the urban centres of the state.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development project
 - ✓ As per the agreement terms, a loan agreement of \$50 million has been sanctioned for this project.
 - ✓ The aim of this project will be to strengthen the housing sector policies, regulations, and institutions of the state government
 - ✓ Further, innovations in housing finance will also be supported under this project.

- ✓ Out of the \$50 million for the project, as a part of innovation in housing finance, Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund will be provided an equity contribution of \$35 million.
- ➤ The University of Madras has been granted a patent for discovering a new compound 'Mazapotin' from the leaves of sapota (botanical name Manilkara zapota).



- Mazapotin has anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, antioxidant and anti-angiogenic properties
- ✓ It is more powerful than Quercetin, which is a flavonoid used for the prevention and treatment of cancer
- ✓ Former director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, N Raaman, along with his student C Sivaraj extracted the compound through their research program.
- ✓ The university then filed a patent for the discovery in 2012
- ✓ The Intellectual Property India, after due process and examination, granted the patent for discovering the compound this month.
- ✓ The compound can be developed as a medicine to treat cancer patients who are
 diabetics, after proper study of its mechanism of action and clinical trials
- ✓ Raaman is also the director of Centre for Herbal Sciences at the Madras University.
- ✓ According to Raaman, Mazapotin prevents the binding of carcinogens to DNA and strengthens connective tissues, which may prevent cancer cells from spreading to other parts of the body.
- ✓ Further, Mazapotin has the ability to cause normal and controlled death of cancer cells
- On June 29, the Tamil Nadu government announced an extension of the general lockdown in the state until July 31 to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Further, the government extended the ongoing intense lockdown in Greater Chennai, including parts of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts, besides Madurai Corporation until July 5.

- ✓ Thereafter, the restrictions in these areas will be back to the levels of activities allowed before June 19.
- ✓ The state has also announced total lockdown in the state on all Sundays in July to prevent the further spread of the viral disease
- ✓ However, the government relaxed certain restrictions to allow all industries, export units and private offices to function with 100% strength in most parts of the State from July 1.
- ✓ In the rural areas of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Madurai districts, the resumption of business activities will start from July 6.

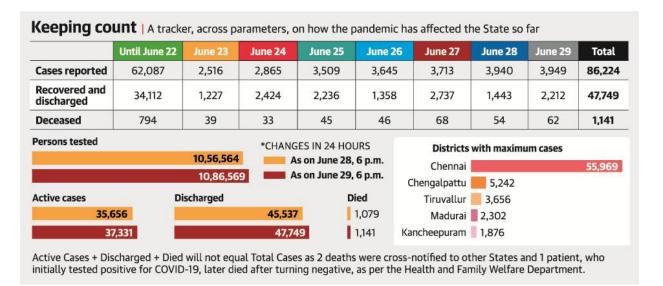
WHAT IS ALLOWED IN CITY FROM JULY 6

- > IT/ITES firms with 50% staff subject to a maximum of 80 people; pvt offices with 50% strength
- Showrooms, large format shops (including jewellery and textiles), except in malls, with 50% strength
- Restaurants can allow dine-in with 50% of seating capacity; but no AC

➤ Tea shops, vegetable and grocery shops allowed between 6am and 8pm

Reopening of places of worship in rural areas except containment zones from July 1. Public worship to be allowed in temples, mosques and churches that earn annual income of less than ≢10.000

- ✓ Tasmac outlets would be allowed to be kept open between 10am and 8pm in the rural areas of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur besides the rest of the state.
- ✓ The movement of public and private bus transport within the districts will remain suspended between July 1 and 15.
- ✓ Authorised fish, poultry and egg shops will be allowed in corporations, town and village panchayats.
- ✓ The government also announced that e-pass would not be required for movement within the districts, while it is required for inter-state movement and inter-district movement.
- ✓ Further, from July 1, worship would be allowed in small temples in rural areas, small mosques and churches with certain restrictions in areas other than those under Greater Chennai City Police
- ➤ On June 29, Tamil Nadu reported 3,949 new Covid-19 cases, taking the state's overall tally to 86,224.
- ✓ A total of 62 deaths were also registered on the day, pushing the casualties to 1,141.
- ✓ The daily number of cases in Chennai crossed the 2,000-mark on the day.
- ✓ Chennai accounted for 2,167 cases, which took the city's tally to 55,969.
- ✓ As the disease spread into the districts, the case doubling time dropped to 14 days for Tamil Nadu from 17 days on June 20
- ✓ Moreover, Covid deaths in the state have been doubling in 10-11 days, as on date.



- ✓ On the day, Chennai recorded 2,167 cases, while its three neighbouring districts reported another 416 cases – Chengalpet (187), Kancheepuram (75) and Tiruvallur (154).
- ✓ Further, Madurai recorded 303 cases and Vellore accounted for 144 cases.
- ✓ The state has 37,331 active cases under treatment in various hospitals, Covid care centres and home quarantine
- ✓ As many as 2,212 persons were discharged on the day, taking the total recovered to 47,749.
- ✓ Following the rise in the number of Covid-19 positive cases, the Greater Chennai Corporation has decided to keep all urban primary health centres (UPHCs) open in the evening too.
- ✓ At present, these hospitals are open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✓ The containment zones in the state have sharply increased from 303 to 703 within a week ending June 26, indicating the spurt in cases across the entire state
- ✓ This includes 104 in Chennai, 84 in Salem, 72 in Tiruvannamalai, 64 in Cuddalore and 57 in Madurai.
- ➤ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted environmental and CRZ clearance for the upgradation of the minor port at Uppalam under the Sagarmala scheme.
- ✓ The Port Department of the Puducherry Government had applied for the clearance to undertake capital dredging and construction of a barrier between the drainage channel and navigation channel as part of the first phase of work.
- ✓ Until 2006, the minor port was handling several cargo items, which includes fertilisers, iron scrap, carbon black feed oil, wheat, molasses, cement sugar and other cargo.
- ✓ The commercial minor port shares a common entrance into the fishing harbour
- ✓ Hence, the dredging of the channel will help fishermen in getting sufficient space to bring their boats at all times into the fishing harbour

SCHEMES

- The Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme was launched on 29th June 2020, as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- ✓ The scheme was launched by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Food Processing Industries Minister



#SapnokiUdaan #PMFME

- ✓ The scheme was already approved by the Union Cabinet on 20th May 2020
- ✓ It is expected to provide employment to around 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled persons
- ✓ The scheme will generate around Rs. 35000 crore of the total investment
- ✓ Further, 8 lakh micro food processing units across the country will be benefited under the scheme.
- ✓ The objective of the scheme is to support local unorganized food processing units and their 'seamless' transition into formal sector units.
- ✓ The total outlay for the scheme will be Rs 10,000 crore.
- √ The scheme will be implemented over the next five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25
- ✓ The Central and State Governments will share the overall expenditure in the ratio of 60:40
- ✓ In Union Territories, the scheme will be 100% funded by the Central Government.
- ✓ In the Himalayan and North Eastern States, the share will be in the ratio of 90% by Central Government and 10% by the States.

STATES

➤ The World's largest trial-cum-treatment project of Convalescent Plasma titled 'Project Platina' - was launched on 29th June 2020 by the Maharashtra State Government.

- ✓ The project was virtually launched by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray at Nagpur government medical college.
- ✓ The project will be governed by the Maharashtra Medical Education and Drugs Department.
- ✓ For this trial project, the Indian Council of Medical Research has given the approval to conduct plasma therapy in around 500 Covid-19 positive patients admitted in the 21 hospitals of the Maharashtra State Government
- ✓ A total of 13 plasma banks have been set up for the purpose
- ✓ The project will also help in establishing a data-based infrastructure for plasma treatment in the state.
- ✓ Of late, Convalescent Plasma Therapy has shown encouraging results on treating critical Covid-19 patients across the world.



- ✓ The total costs of Plasma Therapy trials under the project will be borne entirely by the State Government of Maharashtra.
- ✓ From Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Rs 16.85 crores have been sanctioned for the project, making it a government-sponsored trial without any private funding.
- ✓ Under this therapy, antibodies from the blood of recovered Covid-19 patients will be used to treat severely ill Covid-19 infected patients.
 - ✓ A person who has recovered successfully from the Covid-19 infection can donate his/her plasma.
 - ✓ Convalescent Plasma is used to transfer antibodies to the patient suffering from the Covid-19 virus.
 - ✓ This helps the patient's body to develop similar antibodies for fighting the Covid-19 virus.
- ➤ Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the setting up of 'Plasma Bank' at the National Capital, to treat Covid-19 infected patients.



- ✓ The Plasma Bank will be set up at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences
 (ILBS) in New Delhi
- ✓ The move to set up the Plasma bank follows the encouraging results shown by the trials of Convalescent Plasma Therapy
- ✓ At the Delhi Government's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, 35 people have been administered with Plasma Therapy out of which 34 have survived.
- ✓ As per the new norms of the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) under the health ministry, blood can be collected from a person who tested positive and recovered from Covid-19 only after 28 days of discharge from a treating facility or 28 days after home isolation ends.
- ✓ A person can donate plasma again in a gap of 10 days.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has informed the launch of a new campaign called 'Kill Corona' in the state from 1st July 2020 under which door-to-door Survey will be conducted
- ✓ The campaign aims to double the Covid-19 testing capacity from 4000 per 10 lakh people to 8000 per 10 lakh people in the state.
- √ 'Kill Corona' campaign will be conducted for 15 days intensively across the state
- ✓ In these 15 days, 2.5 lakh Covid-19 tests will be conducted, targeting to collect and test around 15 to 20 thousand samples on a daily basis.
- ✓ As of 29th June, Madhya Pradesh has a total of 13,186 COVID-19 positive cases out of which 10,084 have recovered.
- ✓ The recovery rate in Madhya Pradesh stands at 76.9% as of 28th June 2020.
- √ This is significantly higher than the national recovery rate at 58.1%
- ➤ In a first for India, locust control operations in Rajasthan will have a new equipment in the form of a helicopter, which will be flagged off by Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar from Greater Noida on June 30.
- ✓ The Bell 206-B3 helicopter, which has the capacity to carry around 250 litres of pesticide in one trip, will fly from Air Force Station at Uttarlai, Barmer.
- ✓ It will be deployed for locust control operations in desert area of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Nagaur.



- ✓ The helicopter with pesticide spray equipment can cover about 25 to 50 hectare area in one flight
- ✓ The use of helicopter will be in addition to the deployment of drones for this
 purpose. India is also the first country in the world to use drones for locust control.
- ✓ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted sanction to a proposal for flying engine-operated drones at night to target and destroy clusters of locusts across North-Western and Central States.



- ✓ In another first, permission was given to fly the drones to spray chemicals on the swarm of locusts on huge trees in Rajasthan and Gujarat close to international borders.
- ✓ The drones dual power (petrol & battery) based rotary wing Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) — were indigenously designed and developed by the Centre for Aerospace Research (CASR), Anna University, Chennai.
- ✓ The drones, weighing about 50 kg, have 60% larger pesticide tank capacity and three times more flying endurance compared to other aerial vehicles
- ✓ The model, first of its kind in the world, was environment friendly with minimum battery usage and most suitable for field operations to identify locust settlements in the field even during the night.

- ➤ The Centre has announced the revival of the □69.7-crore Sree Narayana Guru spiritual circuit in the state of Kerala
- ✓ Earlier, the union government has announced that the project was shelved, exactly a month ago.
- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism has considered the revival of the Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram-Aruvipuram-Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania-Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam spiritual circuit
- ✓ The Ministry has decided to hand over the execution of the project to the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
- ✓ However, the Ministry said that it will not revive the □85.23-crore spiritual circuit linking 133 places of worship in the State that was dropped along with the Sree Narayana Guru circuit.
- ✓ The two projects had been approved under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, aimed at the development of theme-based tourist circuits, launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15.

NATIONAL

- On June 29, the Government of India announced a ban on 59 Apps owned or backed by the Chinese, including popular ones such as TikTok, Shareit, UC Browser, We-Chat, Mi Video Call, Club Factory and Cam Scanner, citing threat to national security, integrity, defense, public order and sovereignty.
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) has issued instructions to Google and Apple to remove the banned applications from their respective application stores.
- ✓ Additionally, telecom operators and Internet service providers will be asked to block access and use of these applications on their networks.



- ✓ According to the government, the banned malicious apps compromises data security and privacy of 130 crore Indians
- ✓ The mobile apps are available for free download on Android and iOS platforms for usage in both mobile and non-mobile internet-enabled devices

- ✓ They were also found to be involved in stealing and secretly transmitting users'
 data in an unauthorised manner to servers located outside India, mainly to China,
 the US or other countries such as Singapore.
- ✓ Separately, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (CCCC) in the home ministry also recommended that the apps should be blocked



- ✓ The move is meant to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and to ensure safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace
- ✓ In the case of TikTok and some of the other apps, the camera, microphone and full network access were configured in such a way that any data use or espionage could not be verified by Indian authorities.

- ✓ The Ministry said it was invoking its power under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.
- The Government has released the latest data regarding the infant mortality rate, sex ratio at birth and total fertility rate, along with the details of statistical report 2018 titled 'The Sample Registration System'
- ✓ The data has been released by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
- ✓ As per the report, the infant mortality rate in the country has come down to 32 in 2018 from 40 in 2013, a decline of eight points over the last five years and an annual average decline of about 1.6 points.
- ✓ Despite the decline, one in every 31 infants at the national level, one in every 28 infants in rural areas and one in every 43 infants in urban areas still die within one year of life.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is ranked as the worst with the highest IMR at 48 and Kerala has the lowest IMR of 7.
- ✓ According to the data released, the infant mortality rate shown a decline in rural areas to the tune of eight points (44 in 2013 to 36 in 2018) against a decline of four points in urban IMR (27 in 2013 to 23 in 2018).
- ✓ In 2018, Under 5 Mortality Rate has shown a decline of one point over 2018 (36 in 2018 against 37 in 2017).
- ✓ There has been a decline of two points in female U5MR during the period, while the male U5MR has remained the same.

MP FARES WORST

- 1 in every 31 infants at national level, 1 in every 28 infants in rural and 1 in every 43 infants in urban areas die within one year of life
- Madhya Pradesh has highest infant mortality rate at 48, while Kerala lowest at 7
- ➤ The sex ratio at birth (SRB) has gone up by three points to 899 girls per 1,000 boys in 2016-18 (three years average) from 896 in 2015-2017
- ✓ The Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2018 also shows that the sex ratio at birth (SRB) has gone up by three points to 899 girls per 1,000 boys in 2016-18 (three years average) from 896 in 2015-2017.
- ✓ Among the states, Chhattisgarh has reported the highest SRB (958), while Uttarakhand has the lowest (840).

- ✓ At national level, the SRB is 900 girls per 1,000 boys in rural areas and 897 in urban areas.
- ✓ In rural areas, the highest and the lowest sex ratio at birth are reported in the states of Chhattisgarh (976) and Haryana (840), respectively.
- ✓ In urban areas, the SRB varies from 968 in Madhya Pradesh to 810 in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ As per the report, the total fertility rate (TFR) declined from 5.2 to 4.5 during 1971 to 1981 and from 3.6 to 2.2 during 1991 to 2018.
- ✓ The TFR in rural areas declined from 5.4 to 2.4 from 1971 to 2018 whereas the
 corresponding decline in urban areas has been from 4.1 to 1.7 during the same
 period.
- ✓ During 2013-2018, there has been a decline of 0.1 point in TFR at the national level.
- ✓ However, the TFR of the country has been stable at 2.2 in the years 2018 and 2017.
- ✓ During 2018, Bihar has reported the highest TFR (3.2), while Delhi and West Bengal have reported the lowest TFR (1.5).
- ✓ In 2018, around 82.5% of the deliveries were institutional which includes government as well as private hospitals.
- ✓ The percentage of institutional deliveries in urban areas is 94.7 against 78.1% recorded in rural areas.
- ✓ The SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country undertaken to provide annual estimates of fertility as well as mortality indicators at the state and national level.
- ✓ The estimates are segregated by residence and also by gender.
- ➤ In a landmark decision, the apex consumer commission, NCDRC has ruled that an insurance company cannot deny compensation simply because a policy was not activated even 15 days after the client had paid the premium
- ✓ According to the norms of insurance regulator IRDAI, the policy has to be issued or rejected within 15 days from the date of full payment of premium by a client.
- ✓ A single NCDRC bench comprising member Dinesh Singh passed the order on a revision petition filed by Reliance Life Insurance Company Ltd challenging the decision of the Madhya Pradesh State Consumer Commission,
- ✓ In the present case, a person named Radhyeshyam Mourya had taken "Reliance Super Automatic Investment Plan Policy" on May 5, 2009 with assured sum at Rs 4.8 lakh and had paid the annual premium of Rs 20,000.
- ✓ Mourya died in a road accident on May 27 and his policy was issued two days after his death.
- ✓ The insurance company had denied paying the claim on ground that Mourya expired before the policy was issued and coverage of the risk commenced
- ✓ Earlier, the MP state commission ordered in favour of the consumer, citing how the insurance company did not comply with the IRDAI regulations

➤ On June 29, the Unlock 2.0 guidelines – were issued by the home ministry under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for the next one month

- ✓ As per the new norms, the lockdown shall continue to be strictly implemented in all containment zones till July 31
- ✓ However, opening of schools & colleges, international passenger flights, Metro rail services, cinema halls, gymnasiums, bars, swimming pools, theatres, assembly halls as well as social, political, sports and religious congregations remain barred.
- ✓ The government has further relaxed the night curfew timings to between 10pm and 5am instead of 9pm to 5am earlier.
- ✓ The move is meant for facilitating seamless operation of industrial units in multiple shifts, movement of persons and goods on national and state highways, loading and unloading of cargo and movement of persons to their destinations after disembarking from buses, trains and airplanes
- ✓ In an important change, there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons & goods and no separate "permission/approval/e-permit" will be required for such movement.
- ✓ Also, the ministry stated that domestic flights and passenger train services, which have already been allowed in a limited manner, will see further expansion of operations "in a calibrated manner".
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation at 4pm on June 30
- ✓ The PM has so far addressed the nation five times following the coronavirus outbreak.

➤ On June 29, the number of fresh Covid-19 cases - dropped for the second straight day after reporting 18,870 cases

- ✓ It is still the third highest to date, the previous two days having reported the highest counts.
- ✓ The day's toll from the virus was 415.
- ✓ South India has seen a sharp rise in cases over the past few days.
- ✓ The five southern states, along with UT Puducherry, together accounted for 6,985 new cases on the day, contributing to 37% of the day's total
- ✓ Meanwhile, Maharashtra has recorded over a lakh cases in June so far.
- ✓ With an addition of 5,257 cases on the day the fourth consecutive day of adding 5,000-plus cases the state tally touched 1,69,883.

On June 29, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry - launched the portal for a loan scheme for street vendors

- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme is meant to provide small loans for street vendors to restart their operations.
- ✓ The scheme is part of the economic package for sectors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown
- ✓ It was launched on June 1.



- ✓ The portal pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in provides an "integrated end-to-end IT interface" to the street vendors for availing benefits under the scheme
- ✓ A beta version of the portal was also launched simultaneously.
- ✓ The portal will help in managing loan applications, collection of documents, integration with Aadhaar etc.
- ✓ The portal will start accepting applications from July 2.
- On June 27, the Union Ministry of Culture has announced to celebrate a 2-week long tree plantation campaign called 'Sankalp Parva' from 28th June to 12th July 2020



- ✓ This was informed by the Union Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Prahlad Joshi.
- ✓ The campaign has been observed on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ Under the Sankalp Parva, the Ministry of Culture has recommended planting 5 trees Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok and Bel, which represent the herbal heritage of the country.
- ✓ The Ministry has asked for the participation of all and urged the organizations to ensure that each employee must plant at least one sapling of their choice
- ✓ The Sankalp Parva will be celebrated across all the Subordinate Offices, Institutions affiliated & attached to the Ministry and academies.
- ✓ The Ministry has also urged Institutions to ensure that employees must take care
 of the sapling planted until it flourishes into trees.

- On 25th June 2020, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs marked events to celebrate the five years of successful completion of the 3 Schemes – AMRUT, SCM and PMAY-U
- ✓ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- ✓ The Mission covers more than 60% of the urban population of the country.
- ✓ As per the scheme, Rs 77, 640 crores has been approved for projects under the State Annual Action Plans
- ✓ Out of the total sanctioned budget, Rs 75, 829 has been sanctioned to date.
- ✓ This budget has been approved for various components Drinking-Water Supply Projects, Sewerage and Septage Projects, Energy-efficient LED Streetlights etc.,
- ✓ A budget of Rs 39,011 crore has been allocated for providing drinking water to 1.39 crore households
- ✓ An allocation of Rs 32,546 crore has been provided to 1.45 crore households for constructing sewerage projects
- ✓ Energy-efficient LED Streetlights have replaced 76 lakh conventional streetlights, which has resulted in the reduction of 13 lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide emission per annum
- ✓ Under the project, an Online Building Permission System (OBPS) has also been implemented
- ✓ Smart Cities Mission (SCM)
- ✓ Under the mission, Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) have been developed in the select cities.
- ✓ Rs 1,66,000 crores of tender for projects have been issued till date for the mission, out of which Rs 1,25,000 crores of work orders have been issued.
- ✓ Tenders have been floated for an additional 1000 projects worth Rs 32,500
- ✓ 'Start-up culture' in Smart Cities under the Mission has been started with joint efforts from Invest India and AGNI
- ✓ The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) has been developed in 100 smart cities to provide internships for students
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U)
- ✓ According to the scheme, the government has set a target to deliver 1.12 Crore houses under the scheme by 2022
- ✓ Out of this, 35 lakh (3.5 million) houses have been already delivered to beneficiaries till date, while 65 lakh houses are under construction at the moment
- ✓ The scheme has generated 3.65 crore jobs till now.

INTERNATIONAL

- On 25th June 2020, the voting for constitutional reforms in Russia had begun in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak
- ✓ The voting was originally scheduled to be conducted on 22nd April 2020, but had
 to be rescheduled to 1st July 2020 following the pandemic

- ✓ On 15th January 2020, President Putin has announced amendments to 14 articles under the 1993 Constitution of Russia, during his annual address to the Federal Assembly
- ✓ For introducing these amendments, he called for a nationwide referendum or a national vote.
- ✓ As per the amendments, the term of the current President (Vladimir Putin) and former President of Russia (Dmitry Medvedev from 2008-2012) will be reset or counted from 0 from 2024 so that either of them can be elected as the President again in 2024
- ✓ At present, a person can serve as the President of Russia for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- ✓ A term of the President of Russia is of 6 years.
- > On 26th June 2020, the lower house of the United States Congress 'the House of Representatives' - has voted 232-180 in favour of the Bill that would grant the United States capital Washington D.C statehood for the very first time.
- ✓ However, with the Presidential Elections scheduled in November this year, the chances for the Bill to advance at the Senate (Upper House of the United States Congress) seems unlikely
- ✓ Also, the United States President has made it clear that he would 'veto' the Bill even if it is passed at the Senate.
- ✓ In 1790, Washington D.C was created out from the states of Virginia and Maryland.
- ✓ D.C stands for District of Columbia
- ✓ At present, at the House of Representatives, the Democratic Party has a clear majority with 233 seats out of the total 435 seats.
- ✓ At the Senate, the Bill is even unlikely to be introduced as the Republican Party has a majority with 53 out of the 100 seats.
- > On June 29, the US reported 38,800 infections, with the total surpassing 2.5 million, or about a guarter of the over 10 million global cases.
- ✓ Meanwhile, China's military has been approved to use a vaccine candidate developed jointly by a research institute at the Academy of Military Science and CanSino Biologics
- ✓ The Ad5-nCoV is one of China's eight vaccine candidates approved for human. trials.
- ✓ The vaccine was found to be safe and showed some efficacy, after clinical trials.
- ✓ China's central military commission approved the use of the vaccine by the military on June 25 for a period of one year
- ✓ The Ad5-nCoV is currently limited to military use only
- ✓ Further, the WHO said that it will be sending a team to China next week to investigate the origins of the coronavirus.

- ✓ In the health front, Gilead Sciences Inc has priced its Covid-19 drug candidate 'remdesivir' at \$390 per vial for the US and other developed countries
- ✓ This fixes the price of a five-day course at \$2,340 per patient.
- ✓ The price for US private insurance companies will be \$520 per vial, which amounts to a total of \$3,120 per patient.
- ✓ In another move, the UN World Food Program has appealed for nearly \$5 billion fund to help feed the growing numbers in poor and middle-income countries, who have been pushed into hunger by the Covid-19 pandemic

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

On June 29, India and Bhutan - signed a concession agreement for the first Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project



- ✓ The 600 MW Kholongchhu hydroelectric project is the first ever joint venture project to be implemented in Bhutan.
- ✓ The concession agreement was signed between the Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited and the Royal Government of Bhutan at Bhutan's capital city Thimphu
- ✓ The Agreement signing was attended virtually by the Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar and his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji.
- ✓ It is the first time an India-Bhutan hydropower project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture, not as a government-to-government agreement
- ✓ For the implementation and development of the hydroelectric project, a joint venture between Bhutanese Druk Green Power Corporation and India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, a Himachal Pradesh PSU, was formed on 12th June 2015.
- ✓ The joint venture was named as Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited.
- ✓ The Concession Agreement provides the right to Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited to operate the Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project within the jurisdictions of the Bhutanese Government.
- ✓ Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project
- ✓ The project will be located on the Kholongchhu River in Eastern Bhutan's Trashiyangtse District.

- ✓ The hydroelectric project will generate 600 MW of power and is expected to be completed by the second half of 2025.
- ✓ The Kholongchhu project is one of four additional projects agreed to in 2008, as a
 part of India's commitment to help Bhutan create a total 10,000 MW of installed
 capacity by 2020.
- ✓ The inter-governmental agreement for the Kholongchhu project was signed after prolonged negotiations on the structure of the joint venture in April 2014
- ✓ The foundation stone for the project was laid when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Thimphu a few months later.
- ✓ The agreement was considered a "milestone" in the India-Bhutan partnership
- ✓ This is the 5th hydroelectric project under bilateral ties between the Governments of India and Bhutan.
- ✓ Four hydroelectric projects of the bilateral corporation (60 MW Kurichhu HEP, 336 MW Chukha HEP, 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP and 1,020 Tala HEP) which is totaling over 2,100 MW are already operational in Bhutan.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in August 2019.
- ✓ The Tala Hydroelectric Project is the largest Hydropower project in Bhutan with 1020 MW.
- ✓ It is operational since 2007 and was financed by India through grants.
- On June 30, top Army officers from India and China will meet for the third time in a bid to de-escalate border tensions and reduce military build-ups along the LAC in eastern Ladakh
- ✓ The meeting comes in the midst of continuing Chinese troop intrusions into Indian Territory in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Depsang Plains areas of eastern Ladakh.
- √ 14 Corps Commander Lt General Harinder Singh and South Xinjiang Military District chief Major General Liu Lin will start their meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border personnel meeting (BPM) point around 10.30am on June 30.
- ✓ The meeting will take place for the first time at Chushul
- ✓ The first two marathon meetings were held at Moldo on the Chinese side on June 6 and 22
- ✓ At the second round of talks on June 22, the two sides had come to a "mutual consensus" to disengage along the LAC
- ✓ However, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has so far failed to adhere to the de-escalation and disengagement plan finalised in earlier meetings
- On 28th June 2020, the World Bank Group has announced a loan of \$500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India
- ✓ The loan will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India.

- ✓ The loan was approved as a part of the STARS Program.
- ✓ The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra
- ✓ The loan will be sanctioned by the lending arm of the World Bank Group-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development(IBRD)
- ✓ Including a grace period of 5 years, the loan has a final maturity of 14.5 years.
- ✓ With this loan, the World Bank Group has approved total financial assistance of more than \$3 billion for improving the education system in India to date.
- ✓ STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program
- ✓ The program was started in 1994 ensuring a long partnership between India and the World Bank.
- ✓ Through the program, the World Bank Group has supported the vision of the Indian Government to provide 'Education for All'
- ✓ The program was instrumental in increasing the number of students going to school over the years
- ✓ The number of students going to school has increased to 248 million from 219 million between the 2004-05 to 2018-19 period.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➤ On June 29, Hyderabad-based vaccine major Bharat Biotech announced the approval for commencing the phase 1 and II human clinical trials of the country's first vaccine candidate for COVID-19, Covaxin.
- ✓ The trials have been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)



- ✓ The company has been involved in the development of the vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology, Pune
- ✓ It has submitted the successful results of preclinical studies to DCGI, demonstrating safety and immune response.
- ✓ Human trials will start in July

- ✓ Bharat Biotech developed the vaccine at the company's bio-safety level-3
 containment facility in Hyderabad's Genome Valley after taking strain of SARSCoV-2 isolated at NIV Pune
- ✓ Covaxin was evaluated in animals as per schedule Y guidelines of India and World Health Organisation.
- ✓ It was reported to be safe and immunogenic in all animals.
- ✓ The company has developed several vaccines with the use of Vero Cell culture platform technologies for various diseases such as Rotavirus, Polio, Rabies, Japanese Encephalitis, Zika, and Chikungunya.

DEFENCE

- ➤ India is all set to get the first batch of four to six Rafale fighters towards the end of July.
- ✓ The jets will be armed with formidable weapon systems such as the Meteor air-toair missiles and Scalp cruise missiles



- ✓ Recently, India has requested France to speed up the delivery schedule of the 36 Rafales, amidst the ongoing troop confrontation in eastern Ladakh with China.
- ✓ The first four to six aircrafts are scheduled to depart from France on July 27 and
 fly to India with a stopover at the AI Dhafra air base near Abu Dhabi in the United
 Arab Emirates (UAE)
- ✓ The jets, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, will be flown by IAF pilots who
 have been trained in France
- ✓ On their way from UAE to India, the omni-role fighters are likely to undergo mid-air refueling through IL-78 tanker aircraft of IAF.
- ✓ The initial deliveries of the Meteor missiles and the Scalp missiles have already begun
- ✓ The Meteor missiles have a strike range of 120 to 150-km and can outgun any
 missile that can be unleashed by Pakistani or Chinese jets
- ✓ The Scalp missiles have a strike range of over 300-km

- ✓ The first four Rafales were to reach Ambala by May this year, with all the 36 jets arriving by April 2022, as per the original delivery schedule.
- ✓ India has now asked France to compress the entire delivery schedule of the 36 jets
- ✓ In October 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took formal delivery of the first Rafale jet built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Dassault Aviation's final assembly facility in Merignac.
 - ✓ The Defence Minister was on a visit to France for the Second India-France ministerial level annual defence dialogue
- ✓ India has contracted 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets from France in fly-away condition with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE) under a €7.87 billion (□59,000 crore) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed in September 2016.
- ✓ As per the IGA, deliveries were supposed to have begun 36 months from the signing of the contract and would be completed in 67 months.
- > On June 29, Defence Minister Rainath Singh launched a web portal for issuing the 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for power projects, research and exploration activities in the Indian territorial waters and Exclusive **Economic Zone.**



- ✓ The web portal will ensure ease of business and transparency in issuing the NOC
- ✓ It was developed with the assistance of National e-Governance Division, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics and the **National Informatics Centre**

ECONOMY

- India's biggest cycle company, Hero Cycles is planning to acquire Atlas Cycles, which has already closed down.
- ✓ Atlas Cycles, one of the country's oldest cycle brands, had recently shut its last manufacturing unit in the country, citing lack of funds.



- ✓ Pankaj Munjal, chairman of Hero Cycles, has initiated talks with promoters of the Atlas brand after the latter stopped production.
- ✓ Atlas, which started making losses since 2014, had shut its Sahibabad factory on June 3, which ironically also happened to be the World Bicycle Day.
- ✓ The plant had started in 1989, and it was the last operational plant of Atlas Cycle with a monthly production of over two lakh bicycles.
- ✓ A zero net-debt company with cash reserves of over □1,000 crore and 43% market share, Hero is aggressively looking at buying brands globally
- ✓ Earlier, Hero Cycles had purchased the business of FireFox Bikes in India in 2015 for an undisclosed amount in an all-cash deal.
- ✓ In 2016, it had also purchased 60% equity in Sri Lanka's bicycle manufacturer BSH Ventures, within months of acquiring a stake in UK-based Avocet Sports.
- ✓ In January this year, the company had acquired stake in German premium e-bike maker HNF Nicolai as part of its expansion efforts in global cycle markets.
- ➢ Gross state domestic product (GSDP) of all states in the country is expected to witness a decline in the range of 1.4% to 14.3% in 2020-21, as per a report by India Ratings, a Fitch group company.
- ✓ Assam, Goa, Gujarat and Sikkim are likely to post double-digit contraction
- ✓ The country's economy is forecast to post a sharp decline with the latest IMF estimate pointing to a contraction of 4.5% in 2020-21.
- ✓ The lockdown announced to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has affected crucial sectors of the economy although economic activity has restarted tentatively.
- ✓ As per the report, since agricultural activities were less impacted, the states having a higher share of agriculture have suffered less compared to the one where the share of agriculture is low
- ✓ It also said some sub-sectors, especially in the services segment, such as banking and financial services, IT and IT-enabled services were less impacted
- ✓ The less impact in these sectors is because they were able to readjust their
 operations remotely, owing to the high penetration of digital platform in their
 businesses.

On June 29, Technology firm Oracle - unveiled its second data centre in India



- ✓ The new centre will support increasing customer demand for enterprise cloud services in the country.
- ✓ The company has already set up its first data centre in Mumbai in 2019
- ✓ With this, India joins the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea and the European Union in having multiple Oracle Cloud regions that facilitate enterpriseclass disaster recovery strategies.

SPORTS

On June 29, Indore-born Nitin Menon - became the third Indian umpire to be included in the ICC Elite Panel roster after former Indian off-spinner and captain S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi.



- ✓ At 36 years of age, he is one of the youngest in the panel, replacing England's Nigel Llong.
- ✓ England's Michael Gough, 40, was the youngest in the current panel before Menon was elevated.
- ✓ Former Australian umpire Simon Taufel, was the youngest ever to be drafted in the Elite panel in 2003, at 32 years.

- ✓ Taufel stood in his first Test as 'umpire' at 29 years itself
- ✓ A wicket-keeper batsman, who played two List A one day matches for Madhya Pradesh in 2004, Menon quit playing the sport at the age of 22.
- ✓ Later, he cleared the umpires exam in 2006 and started standing in BCCIaffiliated domestic games aged 23 and officiated in his maiden First Class match as a 28-year-old in 2011-12
- ✓ He has officiated in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is.
- ✓ Menon has also stood in 10 women's T20Is, including the 2018 and 2020 T20 World Cups in West Indies and Australia respectively.
- ✓ He worked extensively with Aussie umpire Simon Taufel through BCCI's umpires development programme
- ✓ Menon was chosen by the panel consisting of ICC general manager of cricket Geoff Allardice (chairman), former player Sanjay Manjrekar, and match referees Ranjan Madugalle and David Boon during an annual review
- ✓ His father, Narendra, was also an international umpire and a First Class cricketer. Nikhil, his younger brother, has been officiating in age-group cricket as part of the BCCI panel.
- ✓ List of ICC Elite panel of umpires Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Bruce Oxenford, Paul Reiffel, Rod Tucker and Joel Wilson
- ✓ List of ICC Elite panel of match referees David Boon, Chris Broad, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Andy Pycroft, Richie Richardson and Javagal Srinath

TAMILNADU'S LOCK DOWN RESTRICTIONS AND RELAXATIONS — A REPORT

- ➤ The state's expert medical committee has recommended against intensifying the lockdown beyond June 30, citing epidemiological and economic reasons.
- ✓ On June 29, epidemiologists and experts in infectious diseases and public health held the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, chaired by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami
- ✓ The committee suggested strengthening tracking, testing and isolating positive cases instead of keeping people indoors.
- ✓ It advocated that schools and colleges should remain closed, public transport should be limited, and large gatherings prohibited
- ✓ The committee members said they made their recommendations after a brainstorming session with WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan on June 28
- ✓ Following the meeting, the state announced the lockdown extension till July 31, along with several relaxations across the state

New norms

A look at how the lockdown conditions will change on account of the CM's announcement

WHAT'S BARRED

- Places of worship in urban areas, prominent places of worship
- All religious gatherings
- Tourism-related activities in the Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and other destinations
- Resorts, hotels and other hospitality services. However, relaxations granted in respect of medical, police and government officers, people from other States and quarantine facilities
- Shopping malls
- Schools, colleges, training and research institutions and all educational institutions

However, virtual learning could be encouraged

- Metro and electric train services
- Cinema halls, gyms, swimming pools, recreation centres, bars, big auditoriums, beaches, tourist spots, zoos and museums
- All social, political, sports, recreational, religious and cultural events, festivals, gatherings and rallies
- Inter-State bus transport
- Ban on international air traffic to continue, except for flights allowed by the Union Home Ministry

RESTRICTIONS • Weddings can be held with the participation of only 50 persons

 The same applies to funerals and related rituals

E-PASS REQUIREMENT

• System to continue for inter-State and e-Pass inter-district movement Passes obtained till June 30 in areas covered by complete lockdown will be valid till July 5. No need to apply for fresh e-passes

Relaxations for Chennai and nearby areas currently under complete lockdown (except containment zones) from July 6

- 50% staff (up to 80 persons) allowed in IT and ITES, with workers commuting on employer-arranged vehicles
- 50% staff in private establishments, industrial and export units. However, they are encouraged to opt for work from home to the extent possible
- 50% staff in showrooms, jewellery shops (except those in malls). A maximum of only five customers allowed at a time. No air-conditioning
- Restaurants could serve customers for up

to 50% of capacity; air-conditioning not allowed

- Provision and grocery stores, tea shops can operate between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. Tea shops to allow customers for only up to 50% of seating capacity
- In case of rental vehicles and taxis, only three persons allowed, other than the driver
- Autorickshaws allowed, but with only two passengers, excluding the driver
- Salons and beauty parlours allowed without airconditioning. SOP to be followed
- Shops selling meat, fish and eggs to be allowed, with restrictions

Relaxations for areas across T.N. (other than Chennai) from July 1; and from July 6 in case of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Madurai districts, which are under complete lockdown

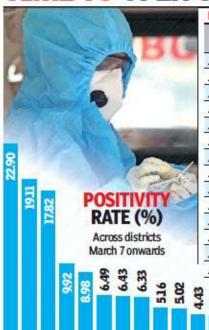
- 100% staff in industrial and export units
- 100% staff in IT and ITE5 sectors, with restrictions. About 20% staff could be encouraged to work from home
- 100% staff
 In private
 establishments. Work
 from home option to
 be encouraged to the
 extent possible
- 50% staff in showrooms and jewellery shops.
 Not more than five customers to be allowed at a time. No air-conditioning
- Provision and grocery stores, tea shops to be allowed between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Tasmac and other shops to be allowed to remain open between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Restaurants can allow customers for up to 50% of capacity; no airconditioning
- Tea shops to serve customers for only up to 50% of seating capacity
- Small temples, mosques, dargahs, churches allowed, with restrictions
- E-commerce companies can

supply essential commodities

- In case of rental vehicles and taxis, only three persons other than the driver to be allowed
- Autorickshaws can ply, but with only two passengers, excluding the driver
- Shops selling meat, fish and eggs to be allowed, with restrictions

TIME TO OPEN UP

Chennai accounted for 91% of Tamil Nadu's positive cases in the first week of June, but the city's share dropped to 69% this week



POSITIVITY RATE IN TAMIL NADU Positivity Date **Positive** Rate (%) June 15 18,403 1,843 10.01 19,242 1,515 7.87 June 16 June 17 25,463 2,174 854 June 18 26,736 2,141 8.01 June 19 27,537 2.115 7.68 June 20 33,231 2,396 721 June 21 31,401 2,532 8.06 June 22 26,592 2,710 10.19 June 23 2,516 25,148 10 June 24 32,079 2,865 8.93 June 25 32,543 10.78 3,509 10.82 June 26 33,675 3,645 34,805 10.67 June 27 3,713 11.96 June 28 32,948 3,940

EXPERT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

PREVENTION | Tracking, testing and isolation have to replicated in all districts, focus should be given to contact tracing, ramping beds for isolation (for positive patients) and quarantine (contacts who test negative)



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MANAGEMENT | Treatment
protocol should be updated based on
Indian and international research,
standard treatment pathways should be
followed by all doctors

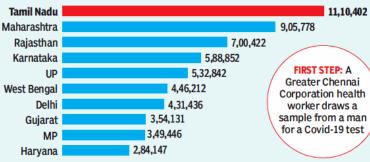
COMMUNICATION | Continue to share numbers transparently, create awareness on social distancing, masks, hand hygiene

PARAMETERS FOR TIGHTENING LOCKDOWN

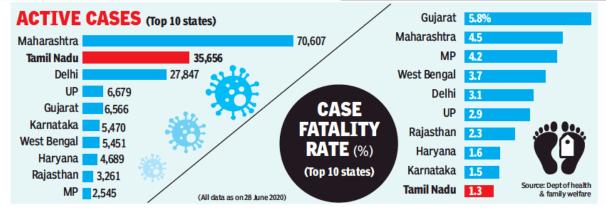
Increase in fresh cases reported over two weeks | Increase in fatality rate over two weeks | Decrease in doubling time | Increase in positivity rate | Increase in the number of contacts per person | Hospital bed occupancy beyond 70%

Thiruvallur
Chengalpet
Chengalpet
Ariyalur
nanathapuram
Cuddalore
Madurai
iruvannamalai
Kallakurichi
Sivaganga
Dindigul
Vellore
Tuticorin
Perambalur
Villupuram
Tirunelveli
Thiruvarur
Villupuram
Tirunagar
Trichy
Tenkasi
Theni
Salem
Theniavur
Pudukottai
Krishnagiri
Karur
Namakkal
Tirupathur
Coimbatore
Karur
Coimbatore
Kanyakumari
The Nilgiris
Dharmapuri
Erode

WHO HAS TESTED THE MOST (Top 10 states)

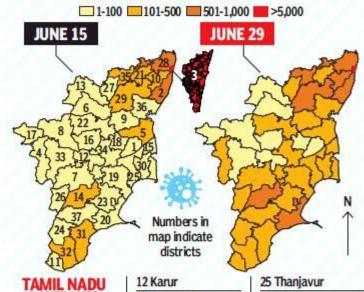






MAPPING THE MENACE

Chennai returnees and micro-clusters are pushing up the number of Covid-19 cases in the districts. The maps tell the tale



TAMIL NADU DISTRICTS

- 1 Ariyalur
- 2 Chengalpet
- 3 Chennai
- 4 Coimbatore
- 5 Cuddalore
- 6 Dharmapuri
- 7 Dindigul
- 8 Erode
- 9 Kallakurichi
- 10 Kancheepuram
- 11 Kanyakumari

- 13 Krishnagiri
- 14 Madurai
- 15 Nagapattinam
- 16 Namakkal 17 Nilgiris
- 18 Perambalur
- 19 Pudukottai
- 20 Ramanathapuram
- 21 Ranipet
- 22 Salem
- 23 Sivagangai
- 24 Tenkasi

- 26 Theni
- 27 Thirupathur
- 28 Thiruvallur
- 29 Thiruvannamalai
- 30 Thiruvarur
- 31 Tuticorin
- 32 Tirunelveli
- 33 Tirupur
- 34 Trichy
- 35 Vellore
- 36 Villupuram
- 37 Virudhunagar

