







## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 31, 2020

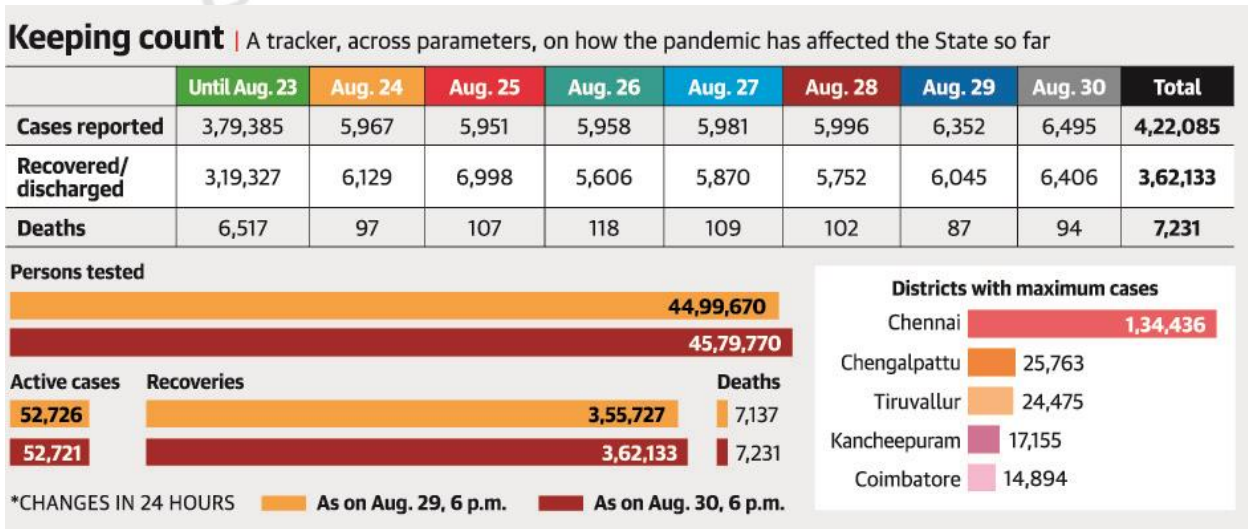
### TAMIL NADU

- On August 30, the Tamil Nadu government – announced major relaxations in the lockdown norms in line with the Centre’s unlock 4.0 norms to boost economic activity and growth.
- ✓ From September 1, e-passes would not be needed for travel within the state, buses could operate within districts, and malls, hotels, resorts, clubs and places of worship were free to open.
- ✓ The State had also decided to remove the intense lockdown in vogue on Sundays, while extending the general lockdown in containment zones in the state till September 30
- ✓ Schools, colleges, swimming pools, amusement parks, big auditoriums, beaches, zoos, museums and cinema theatres, including multiplexes in malls, will, however, remain closed.

### MALLS OPEN; SUNDAY CURBS GO

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No need for e-passes for travel within TN</li> <li>➤ E-pass must for flyers and all those entering TN from other states</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ACs must be followed.</li> <li>➤ Multiplexes, within malls, to remain shut.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All places of worship to be open till 8pm, SOP on crowd management soon</li> <li>➤ Public, private bus operations permitted within districts; buses to ply in city too</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All shops can remain open till 8pm</li> <li>➤ Takeaways in eateries allowed till 9pm</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chennai metro rail service from Sep 7</li> <li>➤ Malls, showroom, big format stores permitted to operate with 100% staff. Guidelines on using</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All industries, offices can work with 100% staff</li> <li>➤ Parks and stadia can operate. No spectators will be allowed</li> </ul>
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Epass must for visiting Nilgris, Kodaikanal and Yercaud from other districts</li> </ul>

- ✓ In Chennai, metro rail services will resume operations from September 7, while suburban train services will remain shut.
  - ✓ Passengers arriving by domestic and international flights, as well as those entering the state in private vehicles and trains would still need to apply for e-pass, which will be sanctioned to all automatically.
  - ✓ Parks and sports stadia will be open for undertaking training, but members of the public will not be allowed inside stadiums.
  - ✓ Supply of essentials would ease as shops can stay open till 8 p.m., restaurants and tea shops between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., while parcel services are allowed till 9 p.m.
  - ✓ However, Section 144 that prevents unlawful assembly of more than five persons will still remain in force
  - ✓ No public meetings or religious gatherings or processions will be permitted.
  - ✓ All industries as well as IT/ITeS sector can have their operations with 100% employees
  - ✓ State government offices will function with 100% employees from September 1, while skill development centres and ITIs will function from September 21.
  - ✓ People visiting hill stations such as Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Yercaud should apply for e-pass from the respective district collector.
  - ✓ Film shootings are permitted to resume, but with a maximum of 75 people, while public will not be allowed to be present at shooting spots.
- **On August 30, Tamil Nadu - reported 6,495 cases and 94 deaths, taking the cumulative Covid-19 tally to 4,22,085 cases and 7,231 cumulative deaths**
- ✓ The state's fresh infections crossed 6,000 for the second day in a row after a month.
  - ✓ Chennai registered more than 1,200 cases for the third day in a row



- ✓ Chennai also recorded the most deaths at 16, followed by Salem with nine and Chengalpet eight.

- ✓ Coimbatore recorded its highest-ever single day tally of 498 cases, remaining the district with the second-highest incidence after Chennai
- ✓ A total of 6,406 persons were discharged from various health facilities after treatment, taking the total cured to 3,62,133 persons.
- ✓ As on date, 52,721 persons were under treatment in hospitals or were in isolation
- ✓ Other districts like Chengalpet with 419 cases, Cuddalore with 383 cases and Salem with 329 cases reported most number of cases.

## STATES

- **The Gujarat Government - recently announced that the first sea plane services in the country is to begin from October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.**
- ✓ The first seaplane is to take off from Sabarmati river front to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district.
- ✓ In July 2020, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani signed an agreement to provide affordable air connectivity in the State
- ✓ Spicejet will be operating around four flights every day, each accommodating 14 passengers, with the tickets priced at Rs. 4800 per person.
- ✓ The Panchmuli lake was selected for landing under the seaplane project, which began in 2018
- ✓ The Water Aerodromes were awarded to the airlines for seaplane operations in the Phase III of UDAN scheme about a year ago in 3 routes - Statue of Unity, Sabarmati river front and Shatrunjay Dam; Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Prakasam Barrage in Andhra Pradesh; Havelock, Neil and Long Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- ✓ The Central Government also has plans to set up a water aerodrome in the Chilika lake of Odisha, which was being criticized, as it affects the Asia's largest salt water lake

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the nation in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on August 30**



- ✓ The PM urged startups and entrepreneurs to develop innovative “toys and games, for India and of India” to meet domestic demand and increase its share in the global toy business, estimated at ₹7 lakh crore.
  - ✓ The Prime Minister had recently chaired a meeting aimed at boosting India’s share in the global toy trade in which China is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters
- ✓ He also called upon people to support indigenously developed apps which could replace the ones currently in vogue and are controlled by foreign companies.
  - ✓ Speaking about apps, the PM appreciated Made in India ones like Koo, StepSetGo, Zoho, Chingari, Kutuki, FTC talent etc.
  - ✓ The ‘Atmanirbhar App Innovation Challenge’ selected the best apps from around 7,000 entries across India
  - ✓ These were designed by Indian youth in different categories like gaming, entertainment, business, utilities, social media and fitness, which included almost two-thirds apps made by youth from tier 2 and 3 cities
- ✓ Further, the PM spoke about new initiatives such as creation of ‘Agricultural Fund of India’ and introduction of the concepts of ‘nutrition monitor’ and ‘nutrition card’ in schools to address nutritional challenges through awareness at all levels.
  - ✓ India will be observing ‘nutrition month’ in September
  - ✓ The Agricultural Fund of India is to have complete information about the crops that are grown in each district and their related nutritional value
  - ✓ Referring to a maxim “Yatha Annam Tatha Mannam”, which means our mental and intellectual development is directly related to the quality of our food intake, the PM appealed to people to “eat nutritious food and stay healthy”.
  - ✓ He also said a food and nutrition quiz will also be organised on the ‘My Gov’ portal, and there will be a meme competition as well on nutrition issues during the course of the nutrition month.
  - ✓ Later, the PM mentioned the stellar role of canine soldiers in detecting explosives, tracking terrorists and rescuing disaster victims and urged people to adopt Indian breed dogs if they were planning to keep pets.
- ✓ The PM talked about two Army “bravehearts”, Sophie (a golden-brown Cocker Spaniel) and Vida (a black Labrador), which received the ‘Chief of Army Staff Commendation Cards’ this Independence Day
  - ✓ Vida was instrumental in the detection of five mines and a grenade buried underground, which prevented casualties among soldiers in Kashmir.
  - ✓ Sophie of the Special Frontier Force (bomb disposal squad), in turn, detected an “initiator or accelerant” that could have been used to fabricate an IED in Delhi.
  - ✓ The PM also mentioned Balram, a dog who uncovered ammunition on the Amarnath Yatra route in 2006, and Bhawna, who detected an IED but was killed along with her handler when it exploded while being defused in 2002.



- ✓ Further, the PM remembered a sniffer dog Cracker (a Belgian Malinois) of CRPF, which attained martyrdom in an IED blast in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh couple of years ago and talked about the final farewell given by the Beed police to their canine colleague Rocky, which helped them in solving over 300 cases

- **On August 30, India - added a record 80,092 fresh Covid cases, becoming the first country in the world to cross the 80,000-mark in a single day since the outbreak of the pandemic**
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded its second highest surge with 16,408 infections – more than 16,000 cases for the second consecutive day
- ✓ Maharashtra registered its highest peak with 16,867 new cases just a day ago.

### GRIM RECORD CAPS WORRYING WEEK

Milestone	1-day tally	Date	Milestone	1-day tally	Date
5K	5,005	May 17	50K	50,362	July 26
10K	10,434	June 6	60K	62,482	Aug 6
20K	20,060	June 27	70K	70,101	Aug 19
30K	30,142	July 14	80K	80,092	Aug 30
40K	40,363	July 19			

	July 27-Aug 2	Aug 3-9	Aug 10-16	Aug 17-23	Aug 24-30
New Cases	3,69,588	4,09,730	4,34,003	4,54,420	5,14,038
Rise in %	16	10.9	5.9	4.7	13.1
Fresh deaths	5,345	6,279	6,555	6,666	6,930
Rise in %	16	17.5	4.4	1.7	3.9

- ✓ With 970 fresh deaths on the day, India's toll inched closer to the 65,000-mark at 64,550.
  - ✓ Maharashtra, the worst affected state, registered 296 fresh deaths on the day, taking the toll to 24399, which is nearly 38% of the country's total fatalities.
  - ✓ While the cumulative caseload of the country crossed the 36-lakh mark on the day at 36,16,730, the number of patients who have recovered is 27,67,412.
  - ✓ The number of active cases is close to the 8-lakh mark at 7,84,768
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh emerged as the second worst affected state in the country, with 10,603 new infections in the country taking the state's caseload to 4,24,767, thereby pushing Tamil Nadu to the third place with a caseload of 4,22,085.
  - ✓ India scaled another high by testing over 10.55 lakh samples in a day, taking the total tests conducted to over 4.14 crore, as on August 29.
- **On August 28, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana - completed six years of its launch**



- ✓ Since its inception, around 40.35 crore beneficiaries have opened bank accounts under the scheme
  - ✓ Out of these, 63.6% were rural accounts and 55.2% were women accounts, highlighting the penetration of the scheme
  - ✓ Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana announced during the Covid-19 induced lockdown, Rs. 8 crore beneficiaries of Jan Dhan Yojana received Direct Benefit Transfer from government under different schemes.
  - ✓ This includes Rs. 30,705 crore credited especially to rural women Jan Dhan Yojana account holders
  - ✓ Further, the government has also deposited Rs. 500 per month to women account holders of the scheme
  - ✓ The PM Jan Dhan Yojana was launched in 2014 as part of the financial inclusion campaign of the government
  - ✓ The scheme entered into Guinness Book of World Records after a record 18,096,130 accounts were opened within one week of launch
  - ✓ Within a year of launch, the scheme had opened 12.54 crores of accounts, which doesn't need any minimum balance and provides Rs 1 lakh accident insurance cover.
- **The NITI Aayog - recently launched Nationally Determined Contributions Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) to decarbonize transport and provide technical support on Green Gas emission reduction measures.**



- ✓ The initiative is supported by International Climate Initiative of German Ministry of Environment
- ✓ It aims to support and regulate policies to promote electric vehicle charging infrastructure and facilitate wider adoption of Electric Vehicles in India
- ✓ The project will include three countries namely India, China and Vietnam for a period of 2020-24
- ✓ It also intends to support 3 NDC targets - to reduce emission intensity of GDP by 33%, to reduce installed capacity of electricity from non-fossil fuels by 40% and to reduce carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by increasing the forest cover.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal - addressed the Association of South East Asian Nation-India Business Council meet on August 27**



- ✓ During the meet, the minister emphasized on 3Cs namely Cooperation, Collaboration and Commitment.
- ✓ Further, the commerce ministers of 10 ASEAN countries resolved to ensure seamless flow of goods and medicines and maintain a resilient supply chain
- ✓ During the meeting, both sides discussed about various concerns and best practices, share ideas, and flag the problems, so that both the partners can succeed, secure future, work together, attain prosperity, and achieve a target of \$300 billion trade.
- ✓ In the year 2020, India's trade with ASEAN countries touched \$86.86 billion
- ✓ The ASEAN-India Business Council report was submitted during the meeting.
  - ✓ The two sides also signed a free trade agreement (FTA) and agreed to review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) that was signed in 2009.
  - ✓ According to the agreement, the partners have set a time line to eliminate duties on as much goods as possible.
  - ✓ Since the agreement was implemented India's trade deficit has increased due to the low utilization of the FTA route by the Indian traders.

- ✓ In FY20, India had a trade deficit of \$23.88 billion with ASEAN.
  - ✓ The ASEAN-India partnership is predominantly occupied by India's Act East policy, launched by PM Modi at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in 2014.
    - ✓ This replaces the Look East Policy, launched in 1991, that focused only on economic ties
    - ✓ India shifted from 'Look East Policy' to 'Act East Policy' by adding 'security cooperation' along with trade and other economic cooperation
  - ✓ ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a 10 member bloc headquartered at Jakarta, Indonesia
    - ✓ Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos are the member countries of the ASEAN group
  - ✓ ASEAN is also a part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade bloc that India exited in 2019.
- **On August 28, the India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue - was held in video conference in New Delhi.**



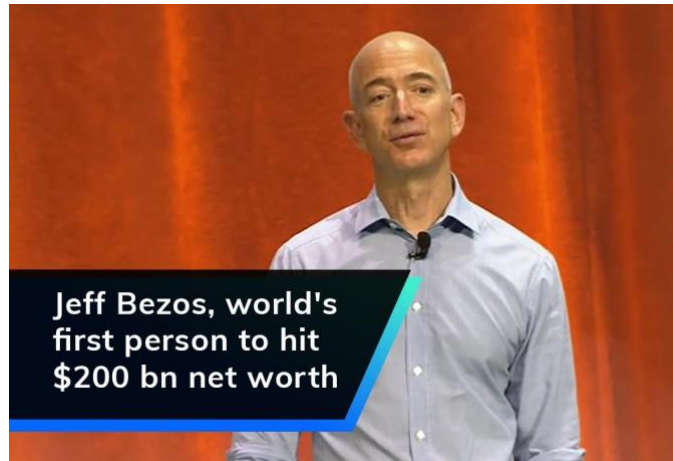
- ✓ During the discussion, both the countries agreed to discuss bilateral defence engagements and to enhance the security partnership.
- ✓ The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) agreement was signed between the countries during the dialogue.
- ✓ India and Singapore began their annual naval combat exercise called the SIMBEX in 1994
- ✓ In 2003, both the countries signed a bilateral agreement that allowed the Singapore army to conduct training on Indian soil.
- ✓ Similarly, in 2018, another agreement was signed that gave Indian Navy ships access to Changi Naval Base of Singapore.
- ✓ Moreover, in 2015 and 2017, both the countries signed agreements for bilateral cooperation in security, military, intelligence etc., and naval cooperation to boost maritime security, mutual logistics etc., respectively



- ✓ India supports Singapore to become a permanent member in the United Nations Security Council
- ✓ As a first step towards internationalization of BHIM UPI, the application was first launched in Singapore

## PERSONALITIES

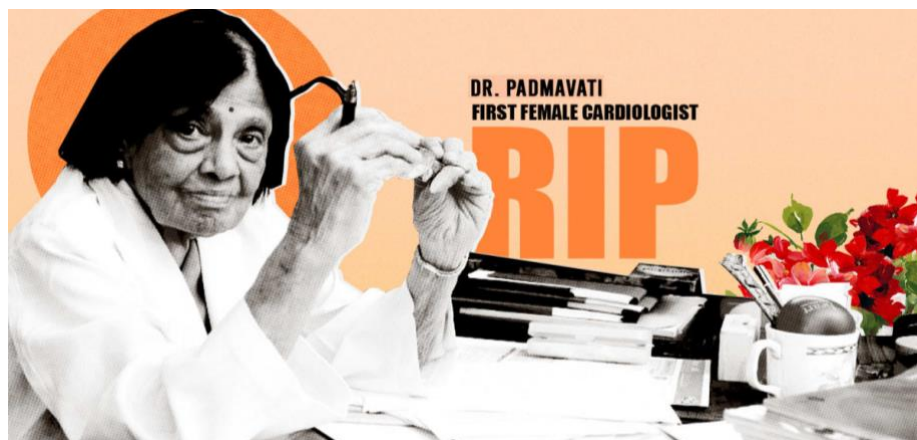
- On August 26, Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO - became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion



- ✓ Amazon's share price on August 26 climbed 2.3% to \$3,423 per share, which helped Jeff Bezos enter the \$200 billion net worth territory
- ✓ Bezos is \$90 billion richer than Bill Gates, who is also the world's second-richest person and is currently worth \$116.1 billion
- ✓ According to the experts, Jeff Bezos is on his path to become the world's first trillionaire in 2026.

## OBITUARY

- Dr. Sivaramakrishna Iyer Padmavati, India's first female cardiologist (103 years)



- ✓ Dr Padmavati, popularly known as "God Mother of Cardiology", succumbed to the novel coronavirus on August 29
- ✓ Born on June 20, 1917 in the town of Magwe in central British Burma, Padmavati obtained MBBS degree at the Rangoon Medical College
- ✓ Following the Japan's invasion of Burma in 1942, Padmavati's family fled Burma and moved to Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Dr. Padmavati soon left for her postgraduate studies in London.
- ✓ She was a fellow at the Royal College of Physicians, London, and the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh.
- ✓ She later joined the Johns Hopkins University in the US and trained under Dr Helen Taussig.
- ✓ Thereafter, she went to study under Dr Paul Dudley White at the Harvard Medical School for four years, in 1952.
- ✓ White is widely regarded as the father of modern cardiology.
- ✓ Dr S Padmavati founded the All India Heart Foundation in 1962, the National Heart Institute in 1981 and set up the cardiology department at G.B. Pant Hospital in 1967.
- ✓ She had established North India's first cardiac catheterisation laboratory in a private hospital at the Lady Hardinge Medical College in 1954.
- ✓ Dr Padmavati got the fifth World Congress of Cardiology to Delhi in 1966, of which she was also the president.
- ✓ She had placed her lifetime earnings in a trust that she and her sister (Janaki, who was a neurologist) had founded.
- ✓ Called the Janaki-Padmavati Foundation, it provides free heart surgeries to financially-poor patients.
- ✓ Dr Padmavati was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan in 1967 and Padma Vibhushan in 1992.

## SPORTS

- **India and Russia - were declared joint winners of 2020 Fide Online Chess Olympiad on August 30**



- ✓ With this, the Indian team has created history by winning its first-ever gold at Olympiad level
- ✓ Earlier, in 2014, India won the bronze in the open section, and the women's best finish was fourth in 2012
- ✓ The announcement of joint winners by the Fide president followed an appeal lodged by the Indian team to the World Chess Federation after a lost connection and two forfeited games 'on time' due to an internet failure
- ✓ India had been at the receiving end of both those games.
- ✓ The much-awaited grand finale — followed by a 64,000-plus strong audience — ended on a tame note due to a technical glitch
- ✓ As many as 163 countries took part in the tournament in which India started as the seventh seed
- ✓ Russia were favourites to win, as the 2419-rated Indian side were pitted against higher ranked Russia with an average rating of 259
- ✓ In the first round, India managed to hold Russia to a 3-3 draw that too without the presence of five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand
- ✓ V Anand returned for the crucial second round, where Anand, skipper Vidit Gujrathi and D Harika drawn their games against their higher-ranked Russian GMs Ian Nepomniachtchi, Dubov Daniil and Alexandra Kosteniuk, respectively
- ✓ In another game, World Rapid champion Koneru Humpy lost in 88 moves playing with black pieces
- ✓ So, the country's attempt at its first-ever shot at Olympiad gold was left in the hands of youngsters in U-20 boards - Divya Deshmukh and Nihal Sarin
- ✓ While Sarin was heading for a draw in his game, Divya had cornered her opponent's black king with a battery of pawns, knights and a bishop
- ✓ That was the exact moment the servers crashed for few seconds due to a global internet outage
- ✓ Within seconds, both Divya and Nihal were declared defeated as they "lost connection to their games and forfeited on time".
- ✓ Both Divya and Nihal had no time to make their moves while their opponents Polina Shuvalova and Andrey Esipenko had 1.22 and 1.31 minutes left on clock.
- ✓ Thereafter, the India team lodged an official appeal on the two games they "forfeited on time."
- ✓ If India had got 1.5 points from those games, the second match also would have been drawn (3-3) like the first one and the Armageddon game (tie-breaker) would have come into play.
- ✓ After an agonizing 42 minutes, FIDE had reached a fair decision to announce the first-ever shared top-spot for the chess Olympiad.

