

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- On September 12, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,495 cases and 76 deaths, taking its cumulative caseload close to 5 lakh mark to 4,97,066 and death toll of 8,307
- ✓ The state has 47,110 active cases as on date.

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

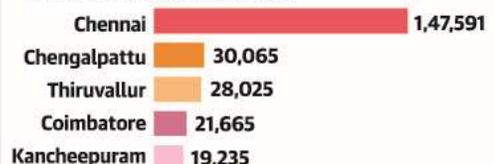
	Until Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Total
Cases reported	4,57,697	5,783	5,776	5,684	5,584	5,528	5,519	5,495	4,97,066
Recovered/discharged	3,98,366	5,820	5,930	6,599	6,516	6,185	6,006	6,227	4,41,649
Deceased	7,748	88	89	87	78	64	77	76	8,307

Persons tested



\*Changes in 24 hours    As on Sept. 11, 6 p.m.    As on Sept. 12, 6 p.m.

Districts with maximum cases



- ✓ At the end of the day, 6,227 people were discharged, pushing the recovery rate close to 90%.
- ✓ This takes the number of persons discharged so far to 4,41,649.
- ✓ The case fatality rate stands at 1.7% and the active cases rate at 9% in the state.
- ✓ Chennai continued to report the maximum of 978 cases and 17 deaths
- ✓ Its three neighbouring districts, Tiruvallur (299), Chengalpet (267), and Kancheepuram (133) together reported 699 cases and 14 deaths.
- ✓ Further Coimbatore reported 428 cases, followed by 289 in Salem and 253 in Cuddalore
- ✓ A total of 88,562 samples were tested in the last 24 hours in the State.
- ✓ With this, 58,03,778 samples have been tested in Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ Following the approval of few more testing labs, the state now has 102 private laboratories and 65 government testing facilities

## SCHEMES

- **On September 7, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YSR Jagan Mohan Reddy - launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana scheme and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus scheme.**



- ✓ The schemes aim to bring down malnutrition and provide nutritious food to lactating mothers and pregnant women in the state.
- ✓ Around 30.16 lakh children and mothers are to be benefitted through the schemes.
- ✓ The scheme will provide supplementary nutrition through Anganwadi centres
- ✓ The state government had allocated an annual budget of Rs 1,863 crores for the schemes, which will also cover 77 tribal areas
- ✓ The scheme involves Rs 1,100 expenditure per beneficiary every month.
- ✓ Around 52.9% of pregnant women in the state are suffering from Anaemia.
- ✓ Also, 31.9% of children are suffering from low birth weight and 31.4% of children are suffering from stunted growth in the state.

## STATES

- **The Jammu & Kashmir government – recently announced a free health scheme in which the government will provide universal health insurance to all its residents**
- ✓ The scheme was announced by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented in convergence with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the Union territory
- ✓ The package covers all-important life-consuming diseases such as cancer and kidney failure, including Covid-19

- ✓ Three days of pre-hospitalization, hospitalization, 15 days of post-hospitalization costs, and other major expenses like, diagnostic care and expenditure on medicine will also be covered under the scheme.
- ✓ Currently, there are about 23,300 empanelled hospitals across the country where residents can avail the benefits.
- ✓ The AB-PMJAY scheme was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide free access to healthcare for about 50 crore poor and vulnerable people across the country
- ✓ The scheme provides beneficiary five lakh per family for a medical treatment

## **NATIONAL**

- **The Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) of the Ministry of Road Transport - will be implemented first in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.**
  - ✓ The initiative is intended to collect accurate road crash data and other inputs from the accident spot
  - ✓ The iRAD App is being customised to enable the police, transport and health department officials to use their mobile phones to collect road crash data.
  - ✓ Based on the feedback and other suggestions received, the app will be customised for the respective state
  - ✓ This project will be rolled out across the country in phases.
  - ✓ The IIT, Madras and NIC have been tasked with development and implementation of iRAD.
  - ✓ The project is proposed on an IT-based system for capturing the spot accident data using a mobile app configured for this purpose.
  - ✓ This data can then be utilised for various purposes like finding the causes of the accidents and remedial measures to improve the road infrastructure, to record the accidents data for the use of police, health services and other departments concerned
- **On September 12, India – reported 95,249 fresh Covid-19 infections, taking the country’s case count to 10,65,796**
  - ✓ The country has accounted for more than 1million Covid-19 infections in the first 12 days of September along with 13,082 deaths, the highest toll recorded in any country so far this month.
  - ✓ By contrast, India had recorded over 19.8 lakh cases in August, the highest by any country for any month.
  - ✓ On Saturday, 1,115 deaths were reported in the country, the toll staying above 1,000 for the sixth straight day.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh became the fifth state in the country to record more than 3 lakh Covid-19 cases.

- ✓ Maharashtra topped the states by adding 22,084 fresh Covid-19 cases on the day.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported 9,901 Covid-19 cases on the day, while Karnataka added 9,140 cases.
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi - held 'Svanidhi Samvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh on September 9**



- ✓ The centre had launched PM Svanidhi scheme on 1st June, 2020 to help poor street vendors, impacted by Covid-19, resume livelihood activities.
- ✓ A total of 4.5 lakh street vendors were registered in Madhya Pradesh in the scheme
- ✓ Out of this, acceptance has been granted to around 1.4 lakh street vendors of amount worth Rs 140 crore.
- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister praised the efforts of the Street Vendors to bounce back and appreciated their self – confidence, perseverance and hard work.
- ✓ The PM said that this is for the first time that lakhs of Street Vendors are directly connected to the system so that they can start getting the benefit
- ✓ The Prime Minister said the aim of the Svanidhi yojana is to provide Swarozgar, Svavlamban and Swabhimaan (Self Employment, Self-Sustenance and Self-Confidence) to the Street Vendors.
- ✓ Prime Minister also said the beneficiaries of the PM Svanidhi Scheme would get access to the Ujjwala gas scheme, Ayushman Bharat scheme, etc on priority basis
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is positioned at the number one in terms of total applications accepted for the scheme, contributing to 47% of the accepted applications
- **On September 10 - the Department of Posts launched a scheme called the "Five Star Villages".**



- ✓ The scheme aims to provide universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of India.
  - ✓ It seeks to raise public awareness about reaching postal services and products in the interior of villages.
  - ✓ The various schemes that will be covered under the scheme includes - Sukanya Samridhi Account, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana account or Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana account, Postal Life Insurance Policy or Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy, Savings Bank Account, NSC or KVP certificates, Recurrent Deposit Accounts and Funded Post Office Savings Account that are linked to India Post Payments Bank Accounts
  - ✓ The scheme is to be implemented by a 5-member team of Gramin Dak Sevak and will be headed by the Branch Post Master.
  - ✓ The team will be conducting door-to-door awareness campaign on all the above schemes
- **On September 10, the Union Minister of Shipping Manusukh Mandaviya - launched a dispute redressal mechanism called SAROD Ports.**



- ✓ SAROD refers to 'Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes'

- ✓ Before this, the SAROD Saroj Port was established to arbitrate the dispute between port and the concessionaire working with the port
    - ✓ However, decisions were not made in timely manner and thereby affecting the ongoing projects
  - ✓ In this context, they are replaced by the SAROD Ports
  - ✓ The new mechanism will designate an expert team to address and resolve disputes on time
  - ✓ SAROD port has been established under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
  - ✓ In January 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the amendment of Model Concession Agreement under which SAROD ports are being established.
    - ✓ The Model Concession Agreement sets regulatory framework to implement PPP (Public Private Projects) in India.
    - ✓ They ensure transparency, uniformity and quality in the development of large scale infrastructure projects.
- **On September 8, the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - launched 22 bamboo clusters in nine states.**
- ✓ The nine states to be benefitted are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Assam, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Tripura and Karnataka.



- ✓ Out of the 22 clusters, six will be located in Maharashtra, five in Tripura, two each in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland, three in Odisha and one each in Karnataka, Assam, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand
- ✓ In 2017, the Central Government amended Indian Forest Act, 1927 to remove bamboo from the category of trees.
  - ✓ The move has promoted the large scale cultivation of bamboo and enhanced business of bamboo products
- ✓ The restructured National Bamboo Mission, with a budget allocation of Rs 1,290 crores, was adopted in 2018-19.
- ✓ It was intended to improve the cultivation and usage of bamboo products in the north eastern states.
- ✓ The bamboo was classified as trees in spite of it being a grass.

- ✓ This prevented the North Eastern states that grow 67% of India's bamboo from exploiting it.
- ✓ Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur Governments have signed agreements to supply bamboo to the bio-refinery in Numaligarh.
- **On September 8, 2020, the Union Cabinet - approved amendments to three Labour Codes.**
  - ✓ These three labour codes were proposed in Industrial Relations Code, 2019.
  - ✓ The three codes include Occupational safety and health, social security and industrial relations.
  - ✓ The Code will mainly replace three existing laws - Trade Unions Act, 1926, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
  - ✓ The Industrial Relations Code, 2019 define areas and conditions under which fixed-term employment shall be allowed.
  - ✓ It recognizes trade unions and seeks to provide pension and medical benefit to workers.
- **The Railway Protection Force (RPF) – has banned the use of Real Mango software, following a nation-wide probe**
  - ✓ Real Mango software is an illegal software developed for booking Tatkal ticket over the IRCTC website.
  - ✓ This illegal and banned software makes the entire process of Indian Rail ticket booking to be completed within seconds.
    - ✓ The software bypasses captcha code which is a major time taking process while booking the tickets over the website.
    - ✓ It also auto-fills the passenger and payment details in the forms and makes the whole process a quick and less time-consuming.
    - ✓ Further, it also gets sync with the bank OTP with the help of a mobile app and feeds it to the application form to book tickets automatically.
  - ✓ The software is mainly used by the ticket booking agent who by illegal means books the tatkal ticket and sells to the customer on a high rate.
  - ✓ The mentioned illegal software is sold through a five-tiered structure, in which the developer gets the payment through Bitcoins
  - ✓ The reason is that while doing payment through Bitcoin the government has no control and restrictions over the transactions

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **On September 12, Afghan government representatives and Taliban insurgents - gathered in Doha, capital city of Qatar for historic peace talks**



- ✓ The talk comes as the second step after the US-Taliban agreement which leads to the withdrawal of US troops from the country.
- ✓ The talks were aimed at ending two decades of civil war that has killed tens of thousands of combatants and civilians.
- ✓ The agenda of the face-to-face negotiation includes reaching an immediate ceasefire with significant reduction in violence and forge an agreement that upholds women's rights.
- ✓ The opening ceremony came one day after the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the US that triggered its military involvement in Afghanistan.
- ✓ Among the government-appointed negotiators are four women.
- ✓ The government of US President Trump, who is eager to claim an end to America's longest conflict as he seeks re-election, expressed its intention to use aid as leverage for a deal.
- ✓ US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo warned that the size and scope of future US financial assistance to the country, which relies heavily on international funding, would depend on their "choices and conduct".
- ✓ The talk comes soon after the release of the last batch of six Taliban prisoners by the Afghan government
- ✓ One of the first items on the agenda will be a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire.
  - ✓ Protection of rights, particularly women's, will also be high on the agenda.
  - ✓ Other important items in the Agenda includes constitutional changes and deciding on the name of the country - Islamic Republic or Islamic Emirate
- **The US - has signed a framework for defence cooperation with Maldives to deepen engagement in support of maintaining peace and security in the strategic Indian Ocean region**
- ✓ The agreement aims to strengthen alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing presence in the region



- ✓ The framework for defence and security relationship was signed on September 10 between the US deputy assistant secretary of defence for south and Southeast Asia, Reed Werner and Maldivian minister of defence Mariya Didi.
- **The Government of Sri Lanka - has decided to ban slaughtering of cows across the island nation**
- ✓ This was announced by the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) under the leadership of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa
- ✓ However, there is no restriction on import of beef in the country yet.
- ✓ The SLPP won a two-thirds majority in the parliamentary elections last month and formed the Government
- ✓ As per the latest census data of 2012, the island country has around 20 crores of population
- ✓ Out of this, 70% practices Buddhism and around 12.6% practices Hinduism
- ✓ Sri Lanka was ranked at third most religious country in the world, as per a poll conducted in 2008
- ✓ Buddhists and Hindus generally don't eat beef, even though most of them eat meat in Sri Lanka
- **The government of Bangladesh - has recently launched a special campaign called, "Asol Chini" to check on rumours and fake news**
- ✓ The meaning of the term 'Asol Chini' is 'Real Sugar'
- ✓ The campaign aims to curb the spreading of fake news in social media platforms
- ✓ During the launch of the campaign, the government has also mentioned about a digital platform called Durbar.
- ✓ Durbar has been developed to register the names of two ambassadors from each union, districts and wards
- ✓ These ambassadors will be responsible for creating awareness among the people and the danger involved with the spreading of fake news by miscreants.

- **Germany – has decided to observe September 10 as National Warning Day or Warn tag across the country.**
- ✓ On the day this year, the whole of Germany resonated with the sound of the emergency siren as an emergency test.
- ✓ This marks the first instance after the cold war in 1990 when more than thousands of sirens were tested
- ✓ After a long 20 minute, the drill ended by providing all-clear message to the people.
- ✓ Various public places were alerted in advance before the siren trial was made to prevent any chaos
- ✓ The siren testing was done to make the population aware and prepare them to face such a catastrophic situation in future.
- ✓ In the coming days, the German population will be trained on how to interpret the sound of a siren and how to tackle it

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **On September 12, External affairs minister S. Jaishankar – addressed the conference on Afghan peace negotiations in Doha, through video conferencing in New Delhi**



- ✓ The peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government commenced in Qatar almost exactly 19 years after the 9/11 terror attacks on New York
- ✓ The terror attacks prompted the US to lead an invasion of Afghanistan that toppled the Taliban regime
- ✓ India participated in the inaugural session of the negotiations with foreign minister S Jaishankar underscoring the need for addressing the issue of violence in the war-torn country and its neighbourhood.
- ✓ Without naming Pakistan, or any Pakistan-based terror group with links to the Afghan Taliban, Jaishankar said that India's expectation was that the soil of Afghanistan is never used for anti-India activities.
- ✓ The inaugural ceremony was attended by a senior-level delegation led by MEA's joint secretary for PAI (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) division J P Singh

- ✓ The intra-Afghan talks followed the US peace deal with the Taliban in February that bypassed the elected government in Kabul.
  - ✓ India's ambassador to Qatar participated in that event representing the country.
- ✓ In his virtual address, the foreign Minister said that India's policy on Afghanistan had been consistent, while calling for immediate and comprehensive ceasefire
  - ✓ He said India believed any peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled, has to respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and preserve the progress made in the establishment of a democratic Islamic Republic in Afghanistan.
  - ✓ Also, the interests of minorities, women and vulnerable sections of society must be preserved and the issue of violence across the country and its neighbourhood had to be effectively addressed, the Minister said.
  - ✓ India also expressed its concerns about the Taliban's links with Pakistan's ISI and efforts by the latter to use the Haqqani network to target India's interests in the country
- ✓ As Jaishankar highlighted in his speech, India has been a major development partner of Afghanistan with over 400 completed projects in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.
- ✓ Meanwhile Pakistan, which facilitated the US-Taliban peace agreement earlier, said the negotiations were a fruit of Pakistan and Afghanistan's "combined efforts".
- **The Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan - represented India at the 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit held virtually recently**



- ✓ The meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the commitments made under 15-year old East Asia Summit platform.

- ✓ The ministers during the meet exchanged their views on speedy and sustainable recovery from COVID-19.
  - ✓ It also reviewed the progress in the Manila Plan of Action, implemented between 2018 and 2022
  - ✓ The first East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, 2005.
  - ✓ The four major economic players at the summit are China, Japan, India and Korea.
  - ✓ EAS will prove crucial to India in implementing its Act East Policy.
- **On September 9, the first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue - was held virtually with a focus on enhancing the cooperation to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region**



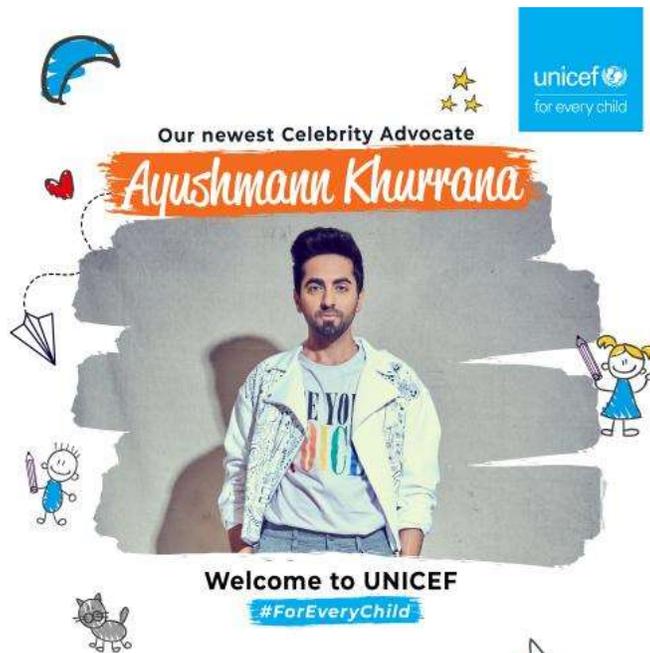
- ✓ The dialogue held discussions on economic and geo-strategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region in context with Covid-19
  - ✓ Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India represented the country in the meeting
  - ✓ It was decided in the meeting that such dialogues will be held annually, going forward
  - ✓ The meeting also discussed about the reforms and cooperation at the regional level and through multilateral organizations also such as ASEAN, IORA and Indian Ocean Commission.
  - ✓ The term Indo-Pacific represents an economic and strategic community comprising the vast areas around Indian and Pacific Oceans between East Coast of Africa and West Coast of America
- **On September 8, India and Angola - held their first joint commission meeting through video conferencing**
- ✓ During the meeting, both countries decided to expand their trade and discuss cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and defence.
  - ✓ Angola is not a member of India Africa Forum Summit, which is held once in every three years



- ✓ The first India-Africa Forum Summit was held in New Delhi in 2008
- ✓ The second summit was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia in 2011, while the third summit was held in 2015 in New Delhi.
- ✓ India exports \$223 million of goods and services to Angola.
- ✓ In 2005, the State Bank of India opened a branch in Luanda in 2005.
- ✓ India has extended \$40 million for the RITES rehabilitation project in Angola.
  - ✓ RITES is Railway India Technical and Economic Consultancy services.
- ✓ Angola is the second largest crude oil supplier in the sub Saharan desert after Nigeria
- ✓ GAIL imports LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) from Angola.
- **India, Israel and the United States - recently held a trilateral summit virtually on collaboration in 5G technology**
- ✓ The trilateral summit was initiated by PM Modi during his visit to Israel in 2017.
- ✓ The outcomes of the summit were not disclosed due to security concerns

## PERSONALITIES

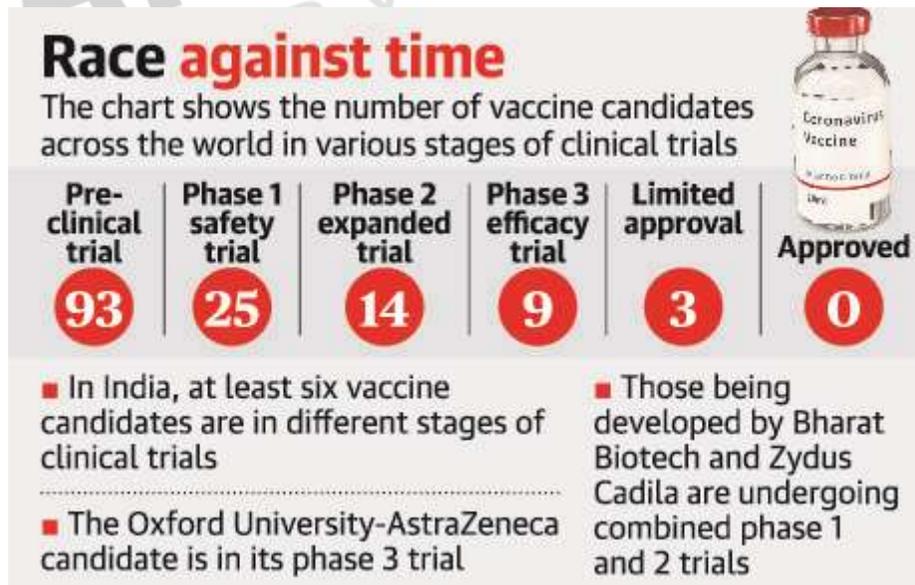
- **UNICEF (United Nations International Children Education Fund) - appointed Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children.**
- ✓ The bollywood actor will spread awareness and bring the child issue in light for public debates
- ✓ The special focus will be towards ending violence and abuse against the child
- ✓ Before this in past, Sachin Tendulkar in the year 2013 has also advocated the UNICEF in India.
- ✓ UNICEF was formed on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1946 and has a presence in 191 countries with its headquarters at New York



- ✓ It has regional offices in seven countries which includes, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, Kenya, Jordan, Nepal, and Senegal

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- On September 12, Swedish-based Pharma giant, AstraZeneca – has announced the resumption of British clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine, one of the most advanced in development, after getting the green light from safety watchdogs.

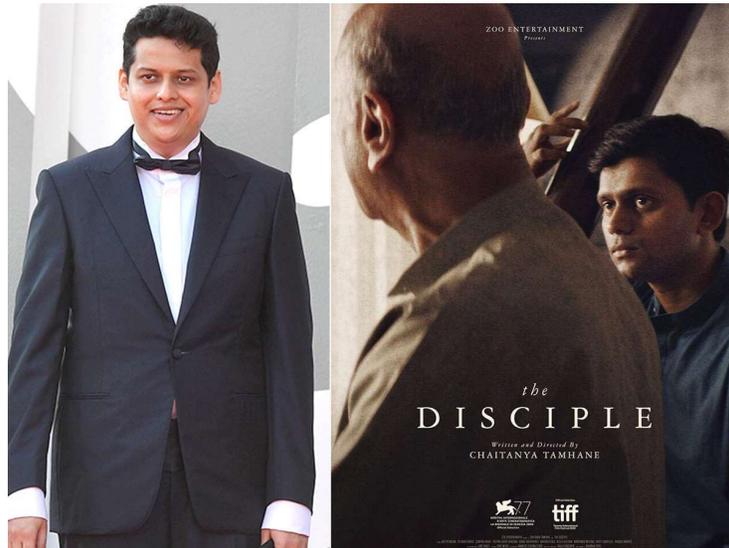


- ✓ The late-stage trials of the experimental vaccine, developed with researchers from Oxford University, were suspended last week after an illness in a study subject in UK.

- ✓ However, the company didn't elaborate further on when other global trials were expected to restart.
- ✓ The trial is being conducted in the United States, Brazil and South Africa.
- ✓ The Serum Institute of India said it would restart its trials once it had permission from the Drugs Controller General of India.
- **Hyderabad-based vaccine major Bharat Biotech - has announced that its Covid-19 vaccine candidate 'Covaxin' was found to be successful during the animal testing trials**
  - ✓ The vaccine was administered on animal rhesus macaques during the testing
  - ✓ The animal has developed a "robust immune response" to the highly infectious coronavirus upon high amounts of exposure to live SARSCoV-2 virus
  - ✓ Adverse events were not seen in 20 animals immunised with a two-dose vaccination regimen of inactivated SARS-CoV-2
  - ✓ The tests on animals, whose detailed results were made public now, were conducted prior to the human trials, which commenced on July 15.
  - ✓ Under the phase-1 human trials, 375 were volunteers and under the phase-II trials, approximately 1,200 volunteers have been given the Covaxin shots
  - ✓ Bharat Biotech has been in the process of developing Covaxin in collaboration with NIV, Pune
    - ✓ The company is simultaneously working on nasal vaccine CoroFlu against Covid-19 in collaboration with American researchers of University of Wisconsin, Madison
    - ✓ It is also leading a CSIR-sanctioned project to develop human monoclonal antibodies as therapy for Covid infection.
  - ✓ Each stage of Covaxin's clinical trial is meant to test its safety and ability to develop an effective immune response.

## **AWARDS**

- **On September 12, Chaitanya Tamhane's 'The Disciple' - won the Best Screenplay award at the world's oldest and prestigious 77<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival, held from September 2-12**
  - ✓ The Marathi-language movie, about the personal and professional experiences of a Hindustani classical singer, was among 18 titles in the competition section.
  - ✓ Earlier at the fest, The Disciple won the FIPRESCI award, conferred by international film critics and journalists.
  - ✓ The Disciple has been produced by Vivek Gomber's company Zoo Entertainment.
  - ✓ Oscar-winning Alfonso Cuarón, the director of Gravity and Roma, is the executive producer.
  - ✓ The jury was headed by acclaimed actress, Cate Blanchett



- ✓ Two Indians have previously won the Golden Lion at Venice - Satyajit Ray for Aparajito in 1957 and Mira Nair for Monsoon Wedding in 2001
- ✓ The Disciple was the first Indian film to have been selected in a major competition category at a European festival in 20 years after Mira Nair's Monsoon Wedding in 2001.
- ✓ The last time an Indian film won the international critics' award at the Venice Film Festival was in 1990, for Adoor Gopalakrishnan's 'Mathilukal'.
- ✓ The 90-year-old FIPRESCI, or The International Federation of Film Critics, hands out awards at major international film festivals.
- ✓ Last year, the Venice FIPRESCI had gone to Roman Polanski's historical drama about the Dreyfus Affair, 'An Officer and a Spy'.
- ✓ Six years ago, Tamhana, had won two FIPRESCIs— one at the Buenos Aires festival and another at the Vienna festival — for his first feature, 'Court', a Marathi-language film
- ✓ The movie was about an activist accused of abetting a manual scavenger's suicide with a song.
- ✓ After gathering critical acclaim, the film had come home to a National Award.

## RANKINGS

- **India – has been ranked at 105<sup>th</sup> position in the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020**
- ✓ As per the last year ranking, the country was ranked at the 79<sup>th</sup> spot.
- ✓ Switzerland ranked first while Hongkong stood at second rank.
- ✓ Some other popular rankings include Japan (20<sup>th</sup>), Germany (21<sup>st</sup>), Italy (51<sup>st</sup>), France (58<sup>th</sup>), Mexico (68<sup>th</sup>), Russia (89<sup>th</sup>) and Brazil (105<sup>th</sup>).
- ✓ Singapore with a score of 89.4 ranked as first in the world's freest economy among 42 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

- ✓ The 10 lowest ranked countries include - Algeria, Angola, African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Libya, Republic of Congo, Sudan, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.



- ✓ The report is an annual index created in 1995 first by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal
- ✓ The main objective of publishing this report is to gauge economic freedom among the various countries
- ✓ The ranking scores countries on an economic freedom scale between 0 to 100 where zero meaning no economic freedom and 100 meaning total economic freedom
- ✓ The ranking rates the countries based on 12 parameters, which are divided into four categories

