

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- **On September 16, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed 19 bills, including splitting of Anna University to establish a new affiliation-university, 'Anna University'.**
  - ✓ The existing Anna university at Guindy in Chennai will be renamed as 'Anna Technological and Research University (ATRU)', with focus on higher learning and research.
  - ✓ The reputed College of Engineering, Guindy, the Madras Institute of Technology, A.C. College of Technology and the School of Planning and Architecture will fall under ATRU.
  - ✓ All engineering colleges in the state will be affiliated to the new Chennai-headquartered 'Anna University' institution
  - ✓ The new Anna University and ATRU will have separate administrative structures and governing bodies, like the syndicate and the academic council.
  
- **The Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a bill to convert former CM J Jayalalithaa's residence into a memorial, with modifications to the ordinance promulgated earlier for temporary transfer of properties**
  - ✓ The Bill sought to enact the Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation Act, 2020, and establish a Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation.
  - ✓ The foundation would have the powers to acquire and maintain the movable and immovable properties from Veda Nilayam, the residence of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa
  - ✓ With the Chief Minister as its chairperson, it will comprise members like the Deputy Chief Minister, the Minister for Information and Publicity and the Chief Secretary.
  - ✓ It will also have six members nominated from the AIADMK, with tenure of three years.

- ✓ The government will also appoint a claims commissioner to decide on the claims over the 32,721 movable properties.
- ✓ Earlier, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced in August 2017 that Veda Nilayam would be converted into a memorial.
- **The Tamil Nadu Assembly - also passed another bill reconstituting the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) on September 16.**
- ✓ The new authority will have CM Edappadi K Palaniswami as chairman and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam as vice-chairman, and the transport minister, chief secretary and vice-chairman of CUMTA as members.
- ✓ The CUMTA is aimed at integrating different public transport facilities, including the Metropolitan Transport Corporation, the Chennai Metro Rail Limited and the Southern Railway
- ✓ The authority will work towards a unified ticketing system aimed at providing better connectivity.
- ✓ When the CUMTA Act was introduced in 2010, the committee had the Transport Minister as the chairman and the Chief Secretary and the Vice-Chairman of the CMDA as ex-officio members.
- ✓ It also had 14 members from various departments, including Home, Transport, State Finance and Housing and Urban Development, along with the General Manager of the Southern Railway.
- ✓ **Among other activities in the assembly, another bill was passed to recognise Madras School of Economics as an institution of special importance and enable it to award its own degrees and diplomas**
- ✓ MSE was set up in Chennai in 1993 as a charitable society
- ✓ **Further, the Assembly passed another Bill making further amendments to the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006, to modify the tax system on petrol and diesel.**
- ✓ It replaces ordinances promulgated in May
- ✓ **The government has also passed a bill to regulate public trusts in the state**
- ✓ The State government has decided to regulate the trusts, with provisions for various factors, including registration of trusts, management of their property, audit and control over their administration.
- ✓ Public trusts must be registered under the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts Act, 2020.
- ✓ **Later, Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami informed the assembly that a university, with headquarters in Villupuram, would be created by bifurcating Vellore-based Thiruvalluvar University.**
- ✓ The new university would cover Villupuram, Kallakurichi and neighbouring districts and will function from this academic year
- ✓ **Further, the Chief Minister allowed the legislators to spend ₹2 crore from the Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) for their respective constituencies without any restrictions.**

- ✓ Each legislator can now spend ₹2 crore from MLACDS without any tied component.
- **On September 16, Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam- presented the first supplementary budget estimates for Rs. 12,845 crore in the state assembly for the current financial year 2020-21.**
- ✓ Out of this budget, around Rs. 9,027 crore has been provided for Covid-19 control, prevention and relief measures
- ✓ This year's first supplementary estimates are higher than those in the previous years, due to the Covid-19 pandemic related expenditures
- ✓ As per the supplementary estimates, the state spent Rs.3,359crore for free supply of commodities through ration shops
- ✓ A sum of ₹4,218.2 crore has been provided under the head "relief on account of natural calamities".
  - ✓ Out of this, a sum of Rs. 3,169 crore from the state disaster response fund was spent for giving cash assistance to ration card holders and members of various welfare boards during the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - ✓ The remaining amount of Rs. 1,050 crore was provided for various corona control and prevention measures.
- ✓ Further, the state provided Rs.1,109 crore to Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation as well as health and family welfare departments for procuring Covid-19 drugs, RT-PCR and related testing kits, besides feeding charges, oxygen supply and ambulance services.
- **On September 16, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,684 fresh Covid-19 cases and 57 deaths**
- ✓ With this, the state's cumulative count has risen upto 5,19,860 and the death toll to 8,559.
- ✓ The number of active cases stands at 46,633, as on date.
- ✓ As many as 5,768 persons were discharged on the day, taking the total recovered to 4,64,668.
- ✓ Chennai continued to report the maximum number of cases (983) and deaths (14).
- ✓ The three neighbouring districts of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur together reported 790 cases and 9 deaths.
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore reported 549 new cases
- ✓ A total of 84,567 samples were tested in the last 24 hours across 170 laboratories in the state, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 61,33,399.

## NATIONAL

- **On September 16, a CBI court - said it would pronounce judgment in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case on September 30.**



- ✓ Special judge S K Yadav directed all the accused, including former deputy prime minister L K Advani, to be present in the court.

### 16 ACCUSED DEAD

- CBI, in its chargesheet in 1993, named 48 accused, including L K Advani, M M Joshi, Uma Bharti, Vinay Katiyar, Champat Rai
- 16 accused, including Bal Thackeray, Ashok Singhal, died during the course of trial
- CBI court will pronounce judgment on September 30; all accused asked to remain present in the court

- ✓ Of the 48 accused named in the original chargesheet filed by the CBI in 1993, 32, including Advani, former UP chief minister Kalyan Singh, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, Vinay Katiyar, Sadhvi Ritambhara and Champat Rai, Ram Mandir TirthKshetra Trust secretary, are facing trial.
- ✓ Kalyan Singh was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh when Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992.

## JUDGMENT DAY AFTER 28 YEARS

The trial in Babri Masjid demolition case has seen many twists and turns

Dec 1992 | Two FIRs are filed in Faizabad after demolition of Babri masjid on **December 6**

- FIR No 197 against 'lakhs of kar sevaks' for actual demolition
- FIR No 198 against 48 functionaries of Sangh Parivar, including Advani, Joshi, Bal Thackeray, Uma Bharti, etc, for conspiracy

**1993**

➤ CBI takes over. Trial starts against 48 saffron netas in Rae Bareli and against kar sevaks in Lucknow

October | CBI files combined chargesheet for both the cases, accuses Advani and other BJP leaders of 'conspiracy'

**1996**

- UP govt issues a notification for both the cases being tried together
- The Lucknow court also adds 'criminal conspiracy' charges

in all cases. It is challenged by Advani and others

May 4, 2001 | The special court drops conspiracy charges against Advani and the other 13 accused. The court also separates both the cases for separate hearings at Rae Bareli court

2003 | CBI files chargesheet. Rae Bareli court says there is not enough evidence to try Advani. HC steps in. The trial continues without conspiracy charges

May 20, 2010 | Allahabad HC absolves Advani; others absolved of conspiracy charges as it upholds May 4, 2001 special court order. Cases to be heard separately by special Rae Bareli court

February 2011 | CBI moves Supreme Court pleading to revive charges of criminal conspiracy

2015 | SC issues notices to all

the accused persons

**2017**

April 19 | SC overturns 2010 HC order, revives conspiracy charges against Advani, Joshi and 13 others. Also orders that both the cases (FIRs 197 & 198) should be heard by special CBI court in Lucknow and trial be finished in two years

May 21 | Special CBI court starts day-to-day hearing as per the SC order. All accused appear before the court to seek bail

**2020**

May 8 | SC extends the time to complete the trial by 3 months. New deadline is Aug 31, 2020, which was extended further to Sept 30 considering the Covid-induced lockdown

Sept 1 | Final argument in the case concluded

Sept 16 | Special judge SK Yadav says verdict would be pronounced on Sept 30

- ✓ The remaining 16, including Bal Thackeray and Ashok Singhal, died during the course of trial.

- ✓ Exactly 10 years ago, on September 30, 2010, a three-judge bench of the Allahabad high court pronounced the verdict in Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit.
  - ✓ The verdict was later challenged in the Supreme Court.
  - ✓ The CBI court had heard the final arguments of the defence and prosecution on September 1, 2020, and reserved its judgment.
  - ✓ In its April 2017 order, the Supreme Court had ordered that the trial should be completed within two years by holding day-to-day hearings.
  - ✓ The hearing of the case at the Lucknow court began on May 21, 2017.
  - ✓ However, the SC extended the deadline by three months and again by a month before the completion of the two-year deadline
  - ✓ The CBI produced 351 witnesses and about 600 documentary pieces of evidence to prove the guilt of accused.
- **Tata Projects Ltd - has emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction and five-year maintenance contract of the new Parliament House building**
- ✓ The infrastructure major has quoted Rs. 861.9 crore, which is 8.4% less than the estimated cost of Rs 940 crore



- ✓ Larsen and Toubro Ltd quoted the second lowest bid amount of Rs. 865 crore.
- ✓ The third bidder, Shapoorji Pallonji and Co. Ltd., did not submit its bid by the deadline
- ✓ The project will be awarded after scrutiny and going by the practice, the lowest bidder would bag the project.
- ✓ As per the terms, the company has to complete the project within 21 months from the day Central Public Works Department (CPWD) allows construction to start.
- ✓ The work could start from December or latest by January
- ✓ The successful bidder will be allowed to carry out construction round-the-clock in three shifts
- ✓ The CPWD had estimated the cost of the project at Rs. 899 crore.
- ✓ Earlier, the government had targeted to complete the new Parliament building by July 2022

- ✓ However, the timeline has been pushed now by at least six months due to Covid pandemic.
  - ✓ The project has undergone a few changes, including the interiors, and the plan to have a tall spur has been replaced with a big National Emblem, which was suggested by the urban affairs ministry.
  - ✓ The ceiling of the new Parliament building will have fresco paintings like that of Rashtrapati Bhawan and the carpets will have traditional designs instead of the current single colour carpets.
  - ✓ To retain some of the characteristics of the existing Parliament, the interior walls of the new one will have shlokas inscribed on them.
  - ✓ Further, Dholpur stone will be largely used like that of the existing Parliament and in some interior portions, red granite may be used in place of the red sandstone.
  - ✓ This is the first construction project of the government's mega plan of redevelopment of Central Vista.
  - ✓ The full design of the Central Vista redevelopment plan includes a new PM's residence and Vice-President House on two sides of the President's House.
  - ✓ As per the bid document, the construction work of the new Parliament won't have any impact on holding of sessions in existing Parliament.
  - ✓ The preparation for getting necessary approvals for the other components of the overall project, including construction of new office complexes along Rajpath, would start after December.
- **On September 16, the Lok Sabha - passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**
- ✓ The new amendment seeks to bring cooperative banks under the direct supervision of the RBI and bring them under some of the same governance norms as commercial banks.
  - ✓ The amendment bill was moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
  - ✓ It will also allow the RBI to amalgamate or reconstruct a stressed cooperative bank without first imposing a moratorium, thus protecting the interests of the depositors
  - ✓ The Bill replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which was approved by the Union Cabinet on June 26, 2020 when the Parliament was not in session
  - ✓ Presently, cooperative societies as well as the Reserve Bank of India regulate the co-operative banks.
  - ✓ The bill will enable the co-operative banks to raise the money through public issues and private equities, the preference shares and unsecured debentures
  - ✓ Presently, the co-operative banks have only limited access to capital.
  - ✓ The act is being amended to prevent Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank like scenarios in the future, which have faced huge distress especially due to bad loans.



- **On September 16, Parliament - passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with approval from Rajya Sabha.**
  - ✓ The lower house, Lok Sabha had already passed the bill on March 19
  - ✓ The bill seeks to establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) at Jamnagar, Gujarat
  - ✓ The institute is to be declared as an Institution of National Importance, becoming the first such institute in the AYUSH sector
  - ✓ The ITRA will be established by merging the presently the three existing Ayurveda institutes at Gujarat Ayurved University campus in Jamnagar
  - ✓ These institutions include highly-reputed Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences.
  - ✓ Maharshi Patanjali Institute for Yoga Naturopathy Education & Research is to be made part of the Department of Swasthviritta of the proposed ITRA
  
- **On September 16, India – reported a record high of 98,100 new cases, taking the country’s Covid-19 caseload to 51,12,368.**
  - ✓ The number of discharged patients rose to 40,15,542, which translates to a recovery rate of 78.5%.
  - ✓ A total of 1,162 Covid deaths were reported on the day, taking the cumulative casualties to 83,159
  - ✓ The total active cases rose to 10,13,667, a day after crossing the one-million mark.
  - ✓ While Maharashtra has 2,97,125 active cases, the highest by far in the country
  - ✓ Karnataka became the only other state to have more than one lakh active cases (1,01,630) on the day.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh ranks number three with 90,279 active cases and Uttar Pradesh at the fourth place with 67,793 infections.
  - ✓ Maharashtra reported the maximum of 23,365 fresh cases and 474 deaths on the day
  - ✓ It was followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which reported 9725 and 8835 new infections respectively
  
- **The central government - introduced the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, in Lok Sabha on September 14, the first day of the monsoon session of the Parliament**
  - ✓ The new Bill seeks to control and regulate assisted reproductive technology services across the country to ensure ethical practices.
  - ✓ The ART Bill makes it mandatory for all fertility clinics and banks in India to register with a national registering authority and periodically report all procedures undertaken.

- ✓ It has also laid down strict age bar for men (marriageable age but less than 55 years) and women (marriageable age but less than 50 years) who can avail themselves of assisted reproductive technology services.
  - ✓ Only married women with a child of three years can be an egg donor and can do it only once in her lifetime.
  - ✓ Further, a national registration authority would be set up and all clinics and banks would have to mandatorily register within sixty days.
  - ✓ The bill also provides for the setting up of national and state boards to ensure that clinics follow the rules
  - ✓ Any clinic or bank promising or advertising facilities of sex selective assisted reproductive technology would face cancellation of registration and owners could face 5-10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10-25 lakh.
  - ✓ Any medical geneticist, gynaecologist or medical practitioner indulging in trading of human embryos or exploitation of surrogate mothers or commissioning couple would face an imprisonment of 8-12 years and a fine of Rs 10-20 lakh.
  - ✓ The ART, also called as fertility treatment, is the procedure to address infertility
  - ✓ The egg of a female and the sperm of a male are mixed to create embryos and it is then planted to the woman's body.
  - ✓ In vitro fertilization (IVF) is a type of ART.
- **The Centre – had banned the export of all kinds of onions with immediate effect from September 14**
- ✓ This was announced through a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
  - ✓ The DGFT, an arm of the commerce ministry, deals with exports and imports-related issues.
  - ✓ The move is aimed at increasing availability and checking the increasing price of the commodity in the domestic market
  - ✓ Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat are major onion producing states
  - ✓ The ban is imposed three months after the central government made changes in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
  - ✓ **On September 15, Lok Sabha passed the bill to amend Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**
  - ✓ The bill seeks to deregulate food items, pulses, cereals and onion.
  - ✓ In the recent change, the Central Government made the imposition of stock limit and movement restrictions on commodities only applicable in extraordinary conditions like war, famine or natural calamity.
  - ✓ The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities to consumers at fair prices.
  - ✓ The amendment is not applicable to food items that are included in Public Distribution Systems



- ✓ Currently there are seven commodities that are scheduled under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- ✓ They includes essential drugs, fertilizers (inorganic, organic or mixed), food stuffs including oils and edible oil seeds, raw jute and jute textiles, hank yarn made from cotton, petroleum and petroleum products, seeds of fruits and vegetables, and seeds of food crops; seeds of cattle fodder and jute seeds and cotton seeds

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Former Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, Yoshihide Suga- became Japan's first new PM in nearly eight years on September 16**



- ✓ The 71-year-old Suga said he would stick with his former boss' "Abenomics" economic growth policies while pushing reforms including deregulation, digitalisation and smashing of bureaucratic barriers.
- ✓ About half of the new cabinet consists of ministers from the earlier cabinet of Abe.
- ✓ Abe's younger brother, Nobuo Kishi, who has close ties with Taiwan, was appointed defence minister.
- ✓ Suga, unlike Abe, does not hail from a political dynasty.
- ✓ The self-made politician, Suga was born to a strawberry farmer and a school teacher in Japan
- ✓ The longest serving Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe resigned in August 2020 due to health reasons.
- ✓ He was first elected to the Japanese Parliament, Diet in 1996
- **The Peace agreement signed on September 15 between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and foreign ministers of Bahrain and UAE - is called 'Abraham Accord'**
- ✓ The agreement was signed in the presence of US President Donald Trump
- ✓ It is the first peace deal between Israel and Arabs in the last 26 years.

- ✓ As per the deal, the UAE and Bahrain will exchange ambassadors with Israel, and will cooperate mutually in range of sectors such as trade, tourism, healthcare and security



- ✓ Egypt was the first Arab country to sign peace deal with Israel in 1979.
- ✓ In 1994, Jordan signed peace pact under the watch of President Bill Clinton.
- ✓ Apart from Abraham Accord, Israel and Bahrain signed separate agreements called the Normalization Agreement

## COMMITTEES

- **On September 14, Union Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism, Prahlaad Patel - announced the formation of an expert committee to conduct a study on the origin and evolution of Indian culture.**
- ✓ The committee consists of 16 members that include K.N. Dikshit, Chairman, Indian Archaeological Society and former Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, among others
- ✓ It will also look into the interface of Indian culture with other cultures around the world.
- ✓ The study will deal with the evolution of Indian culture dating back to around 12,000 years ago

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On September 16, the tenth Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting - was held through video conferencing for the first time**
- ✓ The meeting is usually held twice a year alternating between India and US.
- ✓ The virtual meeting focused on measures to strengthen defence technology cooperation between both the countries
- ✓ The main aim of the group is to focus on land, air, naval and aircraft carrier technologies that were established under the Group.
- ✓ The DTTI Group was established in the year 2012

- ✓ It has paved way for the signing of several agreements like BECA, LEMOA, COMCASA, GSOMIA, apart from conducting bilateral military exercises
- ✓ The meeting also discussed about various undergoing projects and classified them as near, medium, and long-term projects
  - ✓ The near-term projects include Air-launched Small Unmanned Systems, ISTAR (Intelligence-Surveillance-Targeting and Reconnaissance) and Small Arms Technology.
  - ✓ The medium-term projects under the initiative are maritime domain awareness solution and VAMRAM (Virtual Augmented Mixed Reality for Aircraft Maintenance).
  - ✓ The two long term projects include CURAM (Counter-UAS, Rocket, Artillery and Mortar) system for Indian Army and Terrain Shaping Obstacle system.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Russia's sovereign wealth fund, Russian Direct Investment Fund — has partnered Hyderabad-based drug maker Dr Reddy's Laboratories to cooperate on clinical trials of Sputnik V vaccine in India**
- ✓ Dr Reddy's Laboratories will distribute the vaccine in India, with deliveries for general use expected to begin late this year.

PHASE-3 TRIALS AWAIT GOVT NOD	
<p><b>Vaccine 'Sputnik V'</b>, named after the first artificial satellite Sputnik 1 launched by the USSR in 1957, is an adenovirus vector-based vaccine developed by Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow</p> <p><b>According to Russia</b>, phase I and phase II trials of the vaccine completed in August showed no adverse effects and produced desired immune response</p>	<p><b>Covaxin</b>, developed by Biotech International Limited in collaboration with the ICMR, is touted as India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine. Oxford vaccine is also in Phase-3 trials with India's Serum Institute contracted to produce it</p> <p><b>Phase I/II trials of Oxford vaccine</b> provoked a T cell response within 14 days of vaccination and an antibody response within 28 days</p>

- ✓ Once regulatory approvals are granted for conducting trials in India, RDIF will supply 100 million doses of the vaccine to DRL.
- ✓ The agreement does not include manufacturing the vaccine in India
- ✓ The results of the Phase 1 and 2 of trials with the vaccine were recently published in Lancet
- ✓ Now, India and Russia were in talks to pursue further trials and manufacture of the vaccine in India.
- ✓ AstraZeneca or Oxford vaccine is already in Phase-3 trials, with India's Serum Institute collaborated to produce it.
- ✓ There are two other Indian vaccines that are being developed and are in Phase I and II stage trials and have shown no significant side-effects yet.

- ✓ Dr Reddy's will perform Phase 3 clinical trials — where a vaccine is tested on thousands of human beings to establish efficacy and safety — for Sputnik V in India.
  - ✓ According to RDIF, deliveries could potentially begin in late 2020, subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by regulatory authorities in India.
  - ✓ Sputnik V is an adenovirus vector-based vaccine that was registered by the Russian ministry of health on August 11.
  - ✓ It is the world's first registered Covid-19 vaccine.
  - ✓ It was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology
  - ✓ The Dr. Reddy's-RDIF agreement constitutes the second major international deal for supplying a potential vaccine after the tie-up between British company AstraZeneca and the Pune-based Serum Institute of India.
- **The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) - gave its nod to Serum Institute of India (SII) to restart the advanced human trials of the Oxford vaccine candidate in the country.**
- ✓ The SII is partnering with Oxford University to manufacture the vaccine, called Covishield in India.
  - ✓ The medical institutions at 17 trial sites in the country will now start phase 3 of the trials, which is set to test the vaccine on a large number of volunteers.
  - ✓ The trials were paused on September 11, soon after a volunteer at a trial site in the UK developed an adverse reaction.
  - ✓ AstraZeneca halted the clinical trials that were conducted in four countries - Brazil, South Africa, UK, and USA.
  - ✓ But the DCGI has applied certain conditions, such as additional precautions during screening, additional information to volunteers while seeking informed consent, and close monitoring for adverse events during follow-ups.
  - ✓ The SII has also given the DCGI a revised participant information sheet, a revised consent form and an additional safety monitoring plan for the trial participants.
  - ✓ On September 15, the UK Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) recommended that trial investigators “recommence all immunisation in their clinical trials”.
  - ✓ A total of 100 volunteers in India have already received the trial dose of the vaccine as part of phase 2 trials.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- **The Supreme Court - has extended the tenure of Justice Manmohan Singh as chairperson of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) by three months.**





Justice (Retd.) Manmohan Singh

- ✓ This is the second time Justice Manmohan Singh's tenure has been extended.
- ✓ His term was set to expire by the end of September.
- ✓ A bench, comprising Justice L Nageswara Rao, Justice Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat, passed the order while hearing a batch of plea concerning the appointments to tribunals.
- ✓ Justice Singh's tenure as IPAB chairman was initially set at three years when his appointment order was issued in July 2017.
- ✓ However, in December 2017, a letter was issued intimating that his term would come to an end on September 21, 2019.
- ✓ On September 22, Justice Singh attained 65 years of age.
- ✓ However, since no chairman was appointed to replace him, the court extended his tenure.

## OBITUARY

- **Kapila Vatsyayan, art historian, dance scholar, ethnographer and institution builder (91 years)**



- ✓ Vatsyayan passed away in her Gulmohar Park residence in New Delhi on September 16 due to age-related issues.
- ✓ Encouraged by Jawaharlal Nehru as a cultural administrator, Vatsyayan took Indian art and culture to the international circuit through festivals, dialogues and events in her initial days
- ✓ Vatsyayan was born in 1928 into a Punjabi Arya Samaji family
- ✓ She had completed her studies in Delhi, the University of Michigan and the Banaras Hindu University.

- ✓ She also travelled across India, immersing herself in its dance and artistic traditions.
- ✓ Vatsyayan studied dance in her early life, notably Kathak and Manipuri.
- ✓ She learnt Kathak under Acchan Maharaj, and brought his son Birju Maharaj to Delhi.
- ✓ She had also travelled and learnt Kathakali, Bharatanatyam (from guru Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai) and other dance forms, apart from learning the nuances of sculpture and painting.
- ✓ She performed a Kathak recital at the first Dance Festival held at the Feroz Shah Kotla Grounds in 1945.
- ✓ Vatsyayan is the author of about 20 books, including The Square and the Circle of Indian Arts (1997) and Bharata: The NatyaSastra (1996).
- ✓ From the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1970 to the Padma Vibhushan in 2011, she was a proud recipient of several awards and honorary degrees from India and abroad.
- ✓ In 1998, she was recognised for outstanding contribution by the US-based Congress for Research in Dance.
- ✓ She was on the executive committee of Unesco.
- ✓ She has been a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, and was a lifetime trustee of the India International Centre.
- ✓ She set up many institutions, including the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training and the Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies among others.

## SPORTS

- **The BCCI - has decided to engage Sportradar to work alongside the Board's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) in monitoring and safeguarding the integrity of the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 13th edition in the UAE this year.**
- ✓ Sportradar is a leading supplier of sports integrity solutions and data products
- ✓ The tournament is scheduled to start on September 19 with defending champions Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings.
- ✓ Sportradar's integrity services will help monitor all the 54 matches this season to detect betting irregularities and provide the board with risk assessment by gathering intelligence and data-driven insights
- ✓ Sportradar had recently red-flagged six suspicious matches in the Goa Professional League
- ✓ The company's Fraud Detecting System (FDS) monitors odds in the markets over 600 bookmakers and these bookmakers are of different kinds, from different countries, different regions, including the so-called grey market or the illegal operators

- ✓ The FDS is set-up to track changes in these odds and the system generates alerts when there is potentially suspicious and unusual movement in the market, which is flagged, and then the analysts take over.
- ✓ It is for the first time that the BCCI has taken a step forward to curb the bookie-menace outside of its own existing ecosystem.
- ✓ Until now, the Board was primarily dependent on its ACU team that would work with local police intelligence and force to track illegal betting across the country.
- ✓ Sportradar's Integrity Services works with several sports governing bodies, leagues and law enforcement agencies around the world to support the fight against betting-related match-fixing.

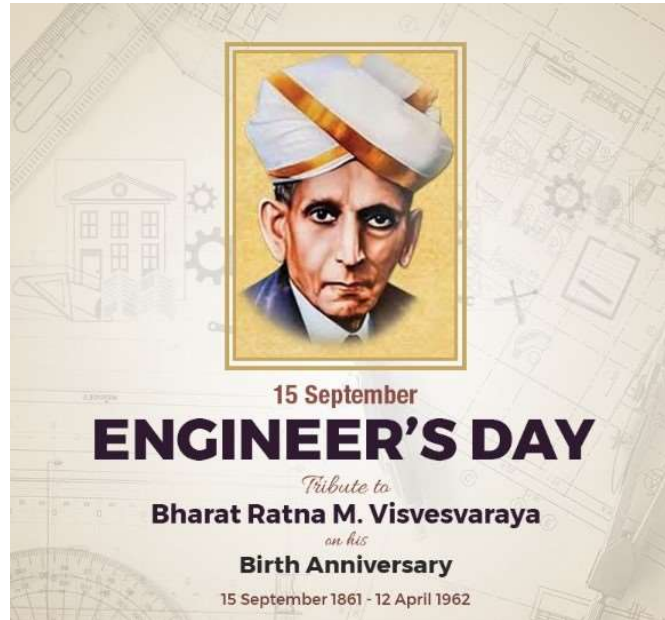
## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Ozone Day – September 16



- ✓ The day, also called the International Day for the preservation of the ozone layer, is being celebrated since 1994
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as World Ozone Day to commemorate the signing of Montreal protocol in 1987
- ✓ The Protocol aims to reduce usage of harmful substances that deplete ozone layer.
- ✓ The Montreal Protocol was framed at the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
- ✓ Till date, Montreal Protocol is the only UN treaty that has been ratified by every country on the earth
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection
- ✓ Later, the Kigali Amendment came into force in 2019 in support of Montreal protocol.
- ✓ According to the agreement, the countries agreed to reduce the usage of HFCs (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons) by 80% to 85% by 2040.
- ✓ Kigali agreement aims to reduce hydrofluorocarbons and greenhouse gases.
- ✓ The ozone layer blocks UV rays from the sun and thus protects the mankind.

## ➤ National Engineers' Day - September 15



- ✓ The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of engineer M Visvesvaraya, one of the great engineers of India.
- ✓ Popularly called 'Sir MV', M Visvesvaraya was born in 1861 at Chikkaballapur, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.
- ✓ M Visvesvaraya was one of the first in India to think about irrigation techniques and flood disaster management.
- ✓ Sir Visvesvaraya served as the 19<sup>th</sup> Diwan of Mysore from 1912-1918 and also an Indian Civil Engineer.
- ✓ He founded the Mysore Soap Factory, Bangalore Agricultural University, State Bank of Mysore and Mysore Iron and Steel Works.
- ✓ He also designed and patented the automatic weir water floodgates, first installed at the Khadakwasla reservoir, Pune 1903.
- ✓ He is also credited with inventing the Block System -- automated doors that close in the conditions of overflow.
- ✓ He was the chief Engineer of Krishna Raja Sagara dam, one of the largest reservoir in Asia at that time
- ✓ He also served as the chief engineer of flood protection system in Hyderabad.
- ✓ He also founded the Government Engineering College, now known as University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
- ✓ He transformed the Mysore state into what was then known as 'model state'.
- ✓ His books, "Reconstructing India" and "Planned Economy of India" were published in 1920 and 1934, respectively.
- ✓ He was awarded knighthood in 1915 by King George V and received Bharat Ratna in 1955 for his immense contribution to India's early infrastructure development, education and social welfare



# INDIA BREACHING 5-MILLION COVID-19 CASES – A REPORT

## How India Raced To 5 Million Covid Cases

Among the three worst-hit countries, India was the slowest to reach 100,000 cases and took another two months to hit one million. But since crossing a million cases, each of the next million cases came quicker than the last. India grew from four million to five million cases in just 10 days, reports **Atul Thakur**

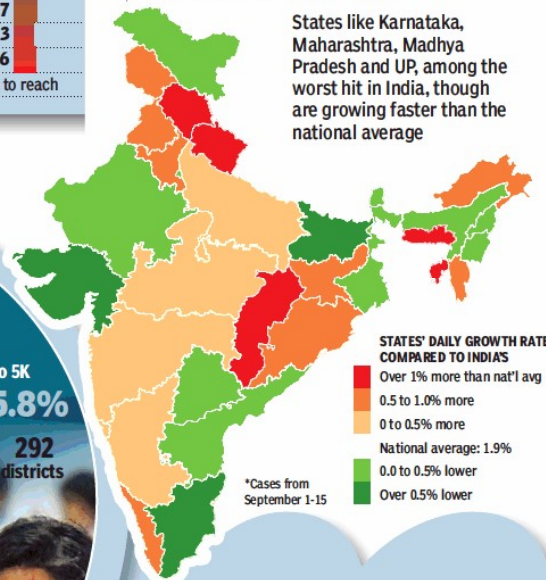
### 1 DAYS TAKEN BY WORST 3 COUNTRIES TO GET HERE

	US	INDIA	BRAZIL
1st case	Jan 21	Jan 30	Feb 26
100,000 cases	67	110	68
100,000 to 500,000	14	39	28
500,000 to 1 million	18	20	19
1 million to 2 million	43	21	27
2 million to 3 million	28	16	23
3 million to 4 million	15	13	26
4 million to 5 million	17	10	Yet to reach

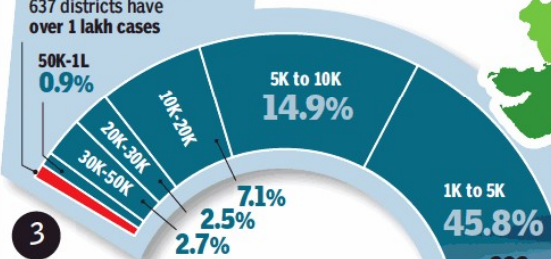
### 2 In Sept, 20 states/UTs have grown faster than nat'l average

Large states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Delhi that were the initial epicentres of the outbreak are still growing faster than many countries. But they seem to have slowed down a bit compared to the India average

States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and UP, among the worst hit in India, though are growing faster than the national average



6 districts or **0.9%** of the total 637 districts have over 1 lakh cases



### 3 75% of districts have reported over 1,000 cases

The virus has spread to all corners of the country. Only a handful of districts for which data is available have less than 100 cases



### 4 Many countries have fewer cases than Indian states, districts

Of the 187 countries for which Johns Hopkins University has compiled data, 153 are yet to cross the 1 lakh mark. Maharashtra, India's worst-hit state, is behind only US, Brazil and Russia in its case tally

Graphics: Sajeew Kumarapuram  
Source: ECDC, Popper.ai, Johns Hopkins University, covid19india.org

WORST-HIT STATES, WITH OVER 2 LAKH CASES	WORST-HIT STATES, WITH OVER 1L CASES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND CASES REPORTED
Maharashtra <b>10.8L</b>	Pune <b>2.4L</b>	>10L cases 4
Andhra Pradesh <b>5.8L</b>	Delhi* <b>2.2L</b>	5-10 lakh 6
Tamil Nadu <b>5.1L</b>	Bengaluru Urban <b>1.7L</b>	1-5 lakh 24
Karnataka <b>4.7L</b>	Mumbai <b>1.7L</b>	50K-1 lakh 21
Uttar Pradesh <b>3.2L</b>	Thane <b>1.6L</b>	30K-50K 15
Delhi <b>2.2L</b>	Chennai <b>1.5L</b>	20K-30K 9
West Bengal <b>2.1L</b>		10K-20K 15
		5K-10K 17
		1K-5K 47
		<1K 29

\*Includes all districts in Delhi