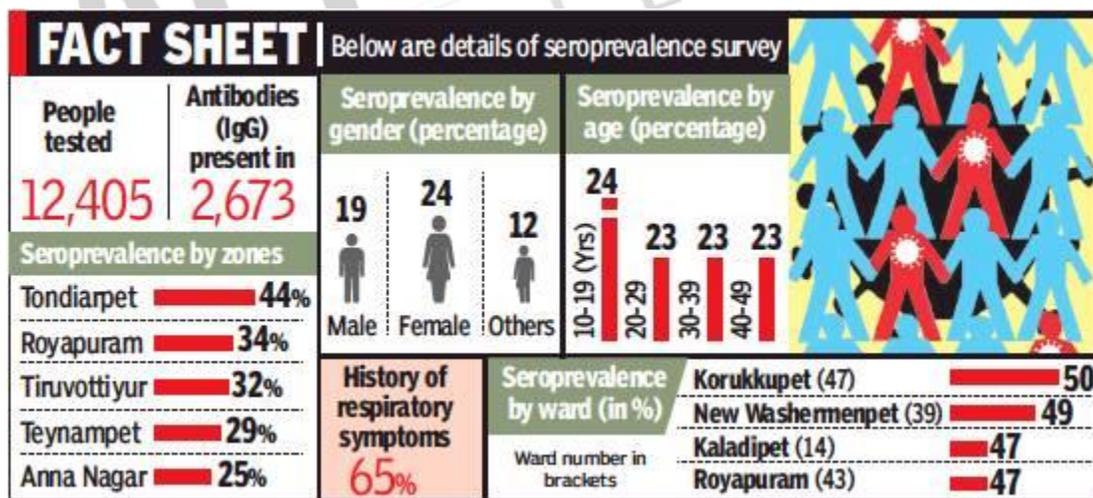


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On September 1, Greater Chennai Corporation – has announced the results of a seroprevalence study conducted in Chennai between mid-July and early August
- ✓ The study was conducted by the National Institute of Epidemiology of the Indian Council of Medical Research for the Greater Chennai Corporation.
- ✓ It has revealed that 21% of the city’s population has been infected with SARS-COV2 or Covid-19
- ✓ That means, around 80% of the population is still susceptible to the virus



- ✓ The NIE collected blood samples from 12,405 people from 51 of the 200 most populated wards of the corporation in July.
- ✓ Of these, 2,673 had evidence of catching the infection with their blood showing the presence of Immunoglobulin-G (IgG) antibodies.
- ✓ As per the seroprevalence data, more women (24%) showed the presence of antibodies than men (19%).

- ✓ It had also indicated a huge variation in seroprevalence across zones — ranging from 7.1% in Madhavaram to 44.2% in Tondiarpet
 - ✓ The seroprevalence was as high as 65% among those with a history of respiratory symptoms.
 - ✓ Among age groups, it was highest in the 10-19 age group and the 40-49 age group and only 16% among those aged above 60.
- **On September 1, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,928 fresh Covid-19 cases and 96 deaths, taking the case tally to 4,33,969 and the toll to 7,418.**
- ✓ There were 52,379 people still under treatment in the state.
 - ✓ In total, 3,74,172 people have recovered, while 6,031 people were discharged on the day.

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

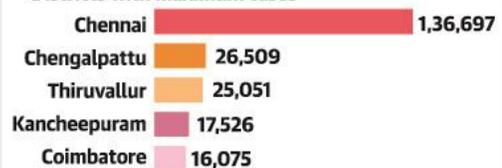
	Until Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Total
Cases reported	3,91,303	5,958	5,981	5,996	6,352	6,495	5,956	5,928	4,33,969
Recovered/ discharged	3,32,454	5,606	5,870	5,752	6,045	6,406	6,008	6,031	3,74,172
Deceased	6,721	118	109	102	87	94	91	96	7,418

Persons tested



*Changes in 24 hours As on Aug. 31, 6 p.m. As on Sept. 1, 6 p.m.

Districts with maximum cases



- ✓ Chennai, the worst affected district, continued to report the maximum number of cases, with 1,084 new infections and 22 deaths.
- ✓ Neighbouring districts – Chengalpet (384), Tiruvallur (296) and Kancheepuram (191) – together reported 871 cases and 19 deaths.
- ✓ Coimbatore reported 581 cases, followed by 335 in Salem, Cuddalore 286, Kallakurichi 209, Ranipet 182, Villupuram 166, Tiruvannamalai 154, Kanyakumari 153, Tirunelveli 152, Vellore 137, Thanjavur 132, Madurai 128 and Dindigul with 111 cases.

NATIONAL

- **The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) – has released the report on ‘Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India’ (ADSI) for the year 2019**
- ✓ Suicides
 - ✓ As per the report, the overall total suicides in the country rose 3.4% from 1.34 lakh in 2018 to 1.39 lakh last year.
 - ✓ Rate of suicides too (suicides per lakh of population) too went up from 10.2 to 10.4 in the corresponding period.

- ✓ Family problems, marriage-related issues and illness together accounted for around 55% of the total suicides in the country.
- ✓ Out of the total suicides, 70.2% of the suicide victims were male, 29.8% were women.
- ✓ Based on the profession-wise break up of suicides, 23.4% were daily wagers, while 15.4% were housewives as against 22.4% and 17.1% for both the categories respectively in 2018.
- ✓ Five States — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka — accounted for 49.5% of the suicides reported in the country.
- ✓ Maharashtra continued to lead with the highest share (13.6%) in countrywide suicides, followed by Tamil Nadu (9.7%) and West Bengal (9.1%).
- ✓ UP, which has 16.9% of the country's population, reported just 3.9% share in total suicides
- ✓ Among metropolitan cities, Chennai was at the top with 2,461 suicides recorded in 2019, while Delhi reported 2,423 suicides, Bengaluru 2,081 and Mumbai 1,229.
- ✓ The most cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).
- ✓ Farm suicides
- ✓ The number of suicides by those engaged in the farm sector witnessed a marginal decline in 2019 as compared to 2018
- ✓ Out of the total 1.39 lakh suicides reported, the farm suicides have fallen to 7.4% in 2019 (10,281 suicides) from 7.7% during the corresponding period in 2018 (10,349 suicides)
- ✓ Out of 10,281 suicides reported in 2019, 5,957 were farmers or cultivators and 4,324 agricultural labourers.
- ✓ Maharashtra accounted for the highest share (38.2%) in farm suicides in 2019, followed by Karnataka (19.4%), Andhra Pradesh (10%), Madhya Pradesh (5.3%) and Telangana/Chhattisgarh (4.9% each).
- ✓ Interestingly, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry reported 'zero' suicides in farm sector in 2019
- ✓ In 2018, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Goa, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Ladakh and Puducherry returned with 'nil' suicides.
- ✓ Accidental deaths
- ✓ India registered 48 accidental deaths every hour last year, which was marginally higher than 2018
- ✓ The major causes were 'traffic accidents' (43.9%), 'sudden deaths' (11.5%), 'drowning' (7.9%), 'poisoning' (5.1%), 'falls' (5.1%) and 'accidental fire' (2.6%).
- ✓ Deaths caused due to traffic crashes which include road and railway accidents accounted for nearly 44% of the total 4.12 lakh fatalities
- ✓ These are counted as accidental deaths other than those due to the forces of nature including flood, avalanche, heat stroke and lightning.

- ✓ Out of the total accidental deaths, only 8,145 were due to forces of nature and the rest were due to other causes
 - ✓ In 2019, there was an increase of 18.2% in deaths due to forces of nature and 2% due to other causes as compared to 2018
 - ✓ Road accidents had the major share of traffic crashes related deaths at 1.55 lakh out of the total 1.81 lakh fatalities, as against 1.53 lakh in 2018
 - ✓ Cause-wise analysis of road accidents show that nearly 60% of total accidents deaths were due to speeding
 - ✓ As per the data, nearly 28,000 “railway accidents” claimed 24,619 lives and another 1,762 persons died in “railway crossing accidents”.
 - ✓ The report shows the number of persons killed in heart attacks increased to 28,000 last year compared to 23,900 in 2018, which saw the maximum jump in deaths among all causes.
 - ✓ Earlier, the NCRB released “Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India” report in October 2019.
 - ✓ However, it did not include the data on farmer suicides, as the data about farm suicides were available only till 2015 at that time.
- **On September 1, the Centre - approved 27 projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana for setting up integrated cold chains in fruits and vegetable sector.**
- ✓ The new projects, aimed to benefit 2,57,000 farmers, will generate direct and indirect employment for 16,000 people.
 - ✓ The projects will be provided with an investment of Rs 743 crores to create modern innovative infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing sector.
 - ✓ The cold chain facilities are to be opened in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ The SAMPADA is Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters.
 - ✓ It was approved in 2017 under 14th Finance Commission.
 - ✓ It was then renamed as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.
 - ✓ The main aim of the scheme is to modernize agricultural processing and to decrease agri-waste.
 - ✓ This will be achieved by setting up mega food parks, integrated cold chains, preservation infrastructure, value addition infrastructure, infrastructure for agro processing clusters and food processing and preservation, food safety and quality assurance infrastructure
 - ✓ The scheme was launched with a budget allocation of Rs 6,000 crores and is expected to leverage Rs 31,400 crores of investment.
 - ✓ Ultimately, the scheme is designed to handle 334 lakh metric tonnes of agro-produce.

- ✓ It will help to provide better prices to farmers and thereby help India achieve its target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- **On September 1, Ladakh and Lakshadweep - joined the One Nation One Ration (ONOR) card scheme.**
 - ✓ With this a total of 26 states and union territories are now linked under the scheme.
 - ✓ The 26 states already joined the scheme includes Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Punjab, Odisha, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gijarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The scheme aims to benefit mainly the migratory National Food Security Act, 2013 beneficiaries, who frequently change their dwelling place in search of employment
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the beneficiaries can get their quota of food grains from any state.
 - ✓ In order to make the scheme digitally compliant, a portal called <http://www.impds.nic.in/> has been opened.
 - ✓ Also, the Annavitran portal enables a migrant worker and their family to avail the benefits of the Public Distribution System, wherever they are present, either outside or within the district, separately
- **On September 1, India – reported more than 80,000 cases, registering the second highest daily count so far**
 - ✓ The number of deaths recorded in the country too rose beyond 1,000 after a gap of three days to 1,021 casualties.
 - ✓ The country reported 80,024 new Covid-19 infections, taking the total caseload in the country to 37,62,063, as per data collated from state governments on September 1.
 - ✓ In another grim milestone, the number of active cases in the country crossed 8 lakh, having risen from the 7-lakh mark in just 11 days.
 - ✓ India has the second biggest pool of active cases in the world after the US.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Maharashtra's case count crossed 8 lakh with 15,765 fresh cases reported on the day.
 - ✓ Maharashtra's tally is not just the highest among all states in India, it's the fifth highest among all countries.
 - ✓ With 320 new deaths being recorded, the death toll due to the pandemic in Maharashtra reached 24,903.
 - ✓ Karnataka reported 9,058 fresh infections, while Andhra Pradesh reported 10,368 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking its cumulative caseload to 4,45,139

- ✓ Daily tests to detect Covid-19 crossed the 10 lakh mark for the third time on the day (with 10,16,920 samples) after it first achieved the milestone on August 21, leading to a significant drop in daily positivity rate to 6.8%
- ✓ While a total 4.33 crore tests have been conducted so far, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra accounted for nearly 34% of the total testing.
- ✓ On the day, UP conducted around 1,36,585 tests, while Tamil Nadu — the high burden state that comes second to it in daily testing — recorded almost half as many samples as compared to UP.
- ✓ UP has a total positivity rate of 4.49%, whereas Tamil Nadu has over 8% and Maharashtra is over 18%.
- ✓ India now has over 1,500 labs across the country equipped for Covid-19 testing with a capacity to test more than 10 lakh samples a day.
- ✓ Five states, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, contributed 60% of the total 36,91,166 confirmed cases reported from across the country till August 31.
- ✓ Of this, Maharashtra alone witnessed more than 21% cases.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On September 1, the Supreme Court - granted telecom companies 10 years to clear AGR (adjusted gross revenue) payment dues of around ₹1.43 lakh crore to the Centre**
- ✓ A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah agreed with the Centre's plea that staggered payment option be given to bail out the companies
- ✓ The verdict provides relief to some of the telcos which could have faced the prospect of winding up their operations for being unable to pay the entire amount at one go.

FIRMS TO PAY UP IN ANNUAL INSTALMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AGR dues on Vodafone Idea are ₹54,754 cr, RCom ₹24,194 cr, Tata group ₹12,601 cr and Aircel around ₹12,389 cr ➤ Reliance Jio and Airtel are not liable to pay past AGR dues of RCom and Aircel for using their spectrum and will have to pay AGR charges only for the period during which the spectrum was used, held SC ➤ SC set March 31, 2031 deadline for operators to pay the amount in annual instalments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Companies have to pay the first instalment of 10% of dues by March 31, 2021 ➤ Annual instalments have to be paid by the end of every financial year, failing which there will be a penalty ➤ Total dues were around ₹1.7 lakh cr in October 2019 when SC directed companies to clear their dues of last 20 years ➤ Till March 31, 2020, a sum of ₹25,901 crore was deposited by operators
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- ✓ The court, which set a deadline of March 31, 2031 for the companies to pay the amount, made it clear that the companies have to pay the dues without further review

- ✓ The centre had proposed 20 years time frame to avoid the adverse impact not only on the telecom and banking sectors but also on the overall economy.
- ✓ The apex court directed the companies to pay the first instalment of 10% of dues by March 31, 2021.
- ✓ The total dues on telecom companies were around ₹1.69 lakh crore in October 2019 when the apex court passed the verdict to pay the amount in favour of the Centre.
- ✓ The court had said that adjusted gross revenue (AGR) should include dividends, handset sales, rent and profit from the sale of scrap and fixed assets, apart from revenue from services and directed the companies to clear the dues of the last 20 years
- ✓ An October 2019 judgment of the court in the AGR issue originally wanted the telcos to make the repayments in three months.
- ✓ Earlier on February 14, the Supreme Court had directed the Telecom companies to pay their AGR related liabilities to the central government by March 17
- ✓ Till March, ₹25,901 crore were deposited by some of the telecom companies
- ✓ AGR dues on Idea Vodafone are around ₹54,754 crore, Anil Ambani-led RCom faces dues of ₹24,194 crore, Tata group is to pay ₹12,601 crore and Aircel's tab is around ₹12,389 crore.
- ✓ AGR is the usage and licensing fee that the Department of Telecommunication charges on the telecom operators
- ✓ It is fixed between 3%-5% and 8% respectively.
- ✓ In 2015, the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) said that the AGR included all receipts and revenue from non-core sources such as license fees, spectrum usage charges and miscellaneous income etc.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On August 31, AstraZeneca Plc - has begun a large-scale phase three human clinical trial of its coronavirus vaccine in the US with plans to enroll as many as 30,000 adults to test the shot.**
- ✓ The AstraZeneca shot, invented by researchers at the University of Oxford, is one of the numerous Covid vaccines in last stages of development.
- ✓ In addition to the US trial, a final-stage test of the inoculation is underway in the UK and could yield preliminary results as soon as next month.
- ✓ Other companies that have vaccines in phase 3 trials include Moderna and Pfizer.
- ✓ Trial participants will receive either two doses of the experimental vaccine, dubbed AZD1222, four weeks apart, or a placebo
- ✓ President Trump suggested the possibility of a fast-track approval in the country.
- ✓ Trump has earlier said a vaccine could be available before the November election, much sooner than most experts anticipate.
- ✓ Meanwhile, AstraZeneca has expanded its deal with firm Oxford Biomedica to mass-produce the vaccine.

- ✓ The UK drugmaker has targeted 3 billion doses, globally.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **China - has start constructing a missile launch site in Kailash-Mansarovar.**
- ✓ The Kailash-Mansarovar is revered by four religions (Hindus, Tibetan Buddhists, Jains and Bons) and is linked to high spiritual scriptures in India.
- ✓ The region is also the origin of four transnational rivers namely Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali.
- ✓ China is building the missile site in the region for greater militarisation of Tibet.
- ✓ In the region where the launching site is developed, the Chinese has mounted missile DF-21
- ✓ The missile is a medium range missile with a range of 2,200 kilometres.
- ✓ It can cover all cities of north India under its range, including New Delhi.

- **On September 1, India and Nigeria - agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation to exchange information regarding counter terrorism, piracy and insurgency to boost trade exchanges.**



- ✓ Further, both the countries agreed to their cooperation in defence equipment, maintenance services and medical.
- ✓ During the meet, Nigeria appreciated donation of essential medicines to India.
- ✓ Earlier, in July 2020, India donated \$50 million worth essential medicines to Nigeria to fight Covid-19.
- ✓ During the meeting, both the countries also agreed to strengthen their cooperation in extradition treaty, mutual legal assistance and transfer of sentenced persons.
- ✓ India is the largest trading partner of Nigeria.
 - ✓ The bilateral trade between India and Nigeria was \$13.9 billion in 2019-20.
 - ✓ Moreover, Nigeria is the largest crude oil supplier to India in the continent of Africa.
 - ✓ Currently, India purchases 30% of Nigeria's every day crude oil production, amounting to around 4,00,000 barrels

- ✓ India launched duty-free tariff preferential scheme for the Least Developed Nations in 2008, which has benefitted 33 African countries

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- India's first multi-wavelength satellite "Astrosat" - detected the farthest galaxy 'AUDFs01' that is located 9.3 billion light years away from the earth

INDIAN SATELLITE "AstroSat" MARKS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

DISCOVERS ONE OF THE FARTHEST & EARLIEST GALAXIES IN EXTREME-ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT

The discovery has been made by an India led international team at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune. This team includes scientists from India, Switzerland, France, USA, Japan and The Netherlands.

India's first multi-wavelength satellite, AstroSat, has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy, called UDFs01, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.

With UVIT observation, AUDFs01 became the first example of a galaxy with clumpy morphology and leaking ionizing radiation at 60 nanometers.

Combined four-colour image of the Astrosat Uv Deep Field (AUDF). Red and green colours from HST while cyan and dark blue are from Astrosat. AUDFs01 is in the square box. Highlighted images in the boxes below are from HST and Astrosat. Image Credit: Kanak Saha (IUCAA).

- ✓ The Astrosat space observatory has detected extreme Ultra Violet light reflected from the galaxy
- ✓ Also, the background noise in the Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope detector of the satellite is very less than on the Hubble Space Telescope of NASA in the US.
- ✓ The telescope, weighing 230kg, is capable of detecting far ultra violet, near ultra violet and visible bands
- ✓ The galaxy has been discovered by a team of astronomers led by Dr. Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune
- ✓ AstroSat is India's first Space Observatory launched on September 28, 2015
- ✓ The observatory was developed by a team of researchers led by Shyam Tandon, ex-Emeritus Professor of the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, with complete support of ISRO.

DEFENCE

- India and Russia - are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca later this week
- ✓ Three Russian Navy ships will take part in the exercise on September 4 and 5 along with an equal number from the Indian Navy, along with some aircrafts

- ✓ This is also the first bilateral naval exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The bilateral engagement also comes just after India withdrew from the Kavkaz-2020 multinational exercise in Russia that is scheduled for later this month.
- ✓ In July, frontline warships of the Indian Navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz strike group in the same area near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ 'Passex' means that it was arranged suddenly without a proper pre plan.
- ✓ The exercise was held as USS Nimitz was just transiting the region after returning from the South China Sea through the Malacca Strait.
- ✓ The timing of the exercise coincides with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Russia, scheduled from September 3 to 5
- ✓ In Russia, the Defence minister will attend the Defence ministers meet of Shanghai Cooperation organisation (SCO), Collective Security Treaty Organization and Commonwealth Security Treaty Organization.
- ✓ The combined meeting of the Defence Ministers of the eight SCO member nations is being held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of victory in World War II.
- ✓ He had earlier represented the country at the Russian Victory Day Parade on June 24 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On September 1, Rajiv Kumar, a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch from the Bihar/Jharkhand cadre - took over as Election Commissioner, filling the vacancy after Ashok Lavasa moved to the Asian Development Bank.**



- ✓ Kumar retired as Union Finance Secretary last February, and had been Chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board from April 2020 till demitting office on August 31.
- ✓ He will be working alongside Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.

- ✓ Kumar was appointed as the new Election Commissioner by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 21, 2020
 - ✓ His appointment to the post will take effect on August 31, the day Lavasa leaves his office
 - ✓ Kumar will serve a five-year term as Election Commissioner and is scheduled to retire from the post in 2025, after overseeing the 2024 Lok Sabha polls
 - ✓ He is also known to have initiated and implemented the 59-minute loan scheme for the MSME sector.
- **IGP Charu Sinha, an IPS officer of the 1996 batch from the Telangana cadre - will now head the Srinagar sector for CRPF as inspector-general**
- ✓ She gets the distinction of being the first woman to become IG for CRPF in Kashmir.



- ✓ Charu Sinha replaces IG Rajesh Kumar and will assume command next week.
- ✓ She is currently posted as the CRPF IG heading Jammu sector and was previously the CRPF IG heading Bihar sector.
- ✓ Charu Sinha is the first woman CRPF IG to command sectors for anti-Naxal operations (in Bihar) and anti-terrorist operations (in Jammu).
- ✓ Prior to being deputed to the CRPF, she handled different positions in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ She was also posted as SP, intelligence security wing, and then as SP of Nizamabad district in Telangana
- ✓ After this posting, she went to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo on deputation for peacekeeping in an area torn by conflict between Albanian Muslims and Christian Serbs
- ✓ She has also served as director, anti-corruption bureau, Telangana and as DIG for Anantapur range, consisting of Anantapur, Chittoor and Tirupati districts in Andhra Pradesh, handling extremely violent factional feuds, communalism and other issues in the region

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Coconut Day - September 2



- ✓ The day is mainly celebrated by the Asian and the Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Invest in Coconut to save the world
- ✓ The first World Coconut day was observed in 2009.
- ✓ It is celebrated to commemorate the formation of APCC.
- ✓ The APCC operates under United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and consists of 18 members.
- ✓ It is an inter-governmental organization that promotes, coordinates and harmonizes coconut development activities in the Asia Pacific region.
- ✓ The headquarters of APCC is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ✓ Coconut is believed to have originated from Melanesia, which is the region of modern Indonesia
- ✓ In India, Coconut grows in Kerala, Karnataka, Sundarbans, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ The Coconut development board focuses on coconut production and utilisation in the country.
- ✓ Established in 1981, it functions under the Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, India is one of the largest producers of coconut in the world
- ✓ The exports of coconut contributes more than 10% of India's total export earnings

