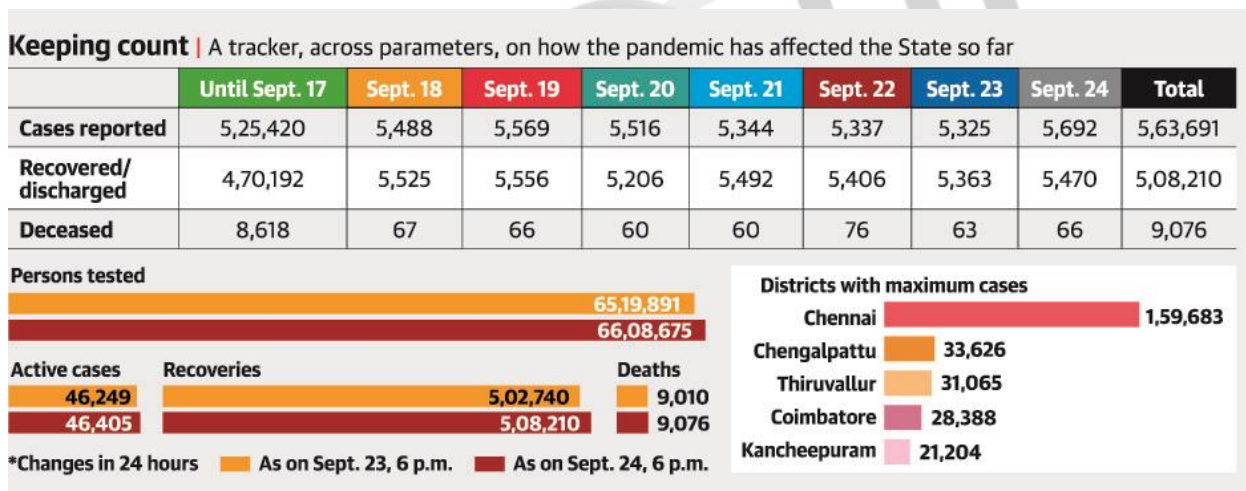


## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 25, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has permitted students of Classes 10-12 to come to schools from October 1 on a voluntary basis**
- ✓ The students are allowed to come to seek guidance from their teachers.
- ✓ This is applicable to government, government-aided and private schools outside the containment zones
- ✓ Further, the students and teachers living in containment zones are not allowed to visit the schools.
- ✓ Schools are allowed to call 50% of their teachers at a time to provide guidance.
- ✓ Earlier this month, the Health Ministry issued guidelines for the partial reopening of schools.
- ✓ As per the centre's norms, students of Classes 9-12 can be called by the schools to meet their teachers for guidance.
- ✓ According to the guidelines, the students of Classes 10-12 shall be divided into two batches to come on alternate days.
- ✓ The first batch can come to school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the other batch on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- ✓ Only 50% of the students in a class will be allowed to come on any given day so as to maintain social distancing.
- ✓ Teachers will also be required to work in two batches and can work for two days at a stretch, alternatively.
- ✓ Prior to the classes, the written consent has to be taken from the parents or guardians of students
- ✓ Meanwhile, education through online or distance mode will also continue.
- ✓ Physical distancing of at least 6 feet should be followed while seating arrangements are made in classrooms
- ✓ Schools are encouraged to use outdoor spaces for conducting teacher-student interactions

- ✓ The schools should disinfect their premises before calling the students to the classes
  - ✓ School managements have been asked to take responsibility for the upkeep of their premises
  - ✓ The school principals should ensure that all persons on campus wear face masks.
  - ✓ Thermal screening will have to be done compulsorily for all the students and others entering the campus
  - ✓ Further, a back-up of items, such as masks and sanitisers, should be ensured by the school managements.
  - ✓ Schools have remained shut since March following the Covid-19 induced nationwide lockdown
- **On September 24, Tamil Nadu - recorded 5,692 fresh Covid-19 cases and 66 deaths, taking its cumulative case tally to 5,63,691 and casualties to 9,076**
- ✓ As many as 5,470 persons were discharged from various hospitals after treatment, taking the number of those recovered to 5,08,210.



- ✓ The State has 46,405 active cases undergoing treatment at various health facilities
- ✓ The capital city Chennai reported the maximum of 1,089 people testing positive for the infection along with 15 deaths
- ✓ Among the districts, Coimbatore recorded the highest number of cases at 642, followed by 311 in Salem
- ✓ Further, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore and Tiruvallur reported 299, 250 and 265 positive cases respectively.
- ✓ The state has 178 testing facilities as on date, with 66 in the government sector

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On September 24, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar – participated at the Foreign Minister’s meetings of the 8-nation South Asian Association for**

## Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the 27-nation Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

- ✓ The meeting was hosted by Nepal



- ✓ Speaking at the SAARC meeting, the foreign minister called on all SAARC members to collectively resolve to defeat terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage an environment of terror and conflict
- ✓ The meeting was attended by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, along with the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- ✓ The CICA Special Ministerial conference brought together Asian nations ranging from Russia and Central Asia to the Gulf and South-East Asia.
- ✓ Last week, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had walked off from a virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) after his Pakistani counterpart shown a Pakistani version of its map that included Indian territories.
- ✓ Last year, at the SAARC Foreign Minister's meeting held on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly in New York, both Indian and Pakistan foreign ministers had boycotted each other's speeches.
- ✓ In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also refused to attend the 19th edition of the SAARC summit, due to be held in Islamabad, over the issue of Pakistan's continued support to terror groups.
- ✓ The External Affairs Minister Jaishankar listed a number of measures taken by India in the past few months
- ✓ The measures include the SAARC Leaders video-conference convened by the PM Modi, a 'COVID-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX), a SAARC Food Bank mechanism, as well as the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund, to which India has contributed \$10 million, making essential drugs.
- ✓ The Minister emphasized India's extended \$150 million support to the Maldives, currency swap support of \$400 million to Sri Lanka, and \$200 million to Bhutan during the course of 2020.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - have developed a new microprocessor 'Moushik', exclusively for the IoT devices



- ✓ Moushik, a processor-cum-system on a chip, was conceptualised, designed and developed at Pratap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PS-CDISHA) of RISE group, Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the institute.
- ✓ The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ✓ The design of the microprocessor, motherboard printed circuit board design, assembly and post-silicon boot-up were done at IIT-Madras.
- ✓ The foundry-specific back-end design and fabrication was undertaken at the Semi-Conductor Laboratory of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Chandigarh and manufacturing of this motherboard was done at Bengaluru.
- ✓ Shakthi Moushik SOC consists of an indigenously-developed motherboard, called Ardonyx 1.0.
- ✓ The field application of Moushik includes smart cards, such as credit and debit cards, ID cards, travel cards for Metro Rail and driving licences, electronic voting machines, office management systems, including attendance, surveillance cameras and safe locks, personalised health management systems, and consumer electronics.

## ECONOMY

- The U.S-based motorcycle giant Harley-Davidson Inc. - has announced that it will discontinue its sales and manufacturing operations in India
- ✓ The company has curtailed about 70 jobs in the country as part of a global strategic restructuring plan 'The Rewire' for 2021-25.
- ✓ The company expects to complete restructuring within the next 12 months.

- ✓ It plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon
- ✓ The decision of Harley is prompted by the sale of less than 2,500 units in the last financial year of its bikes, including the highly popular 'Street' model
- ✓ However, the domestic motorcycle and scooter sales in the 12 months ended March 2020 exceeded 17 million units
- ✓ The U.S. Company's decision to exit manufacturing also undermines the government's efforts to attract and retain global manufacturers against the backdrop of more companies looking to exit China.
- ✓ Last year, Ford Motor Co terminated independent operations in India by entering into a joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra.
- ✓ General Motors, which stopped domestic sales in 2017, also plans to stop manufacturing and exports from India by the end of this year.

## APPOINTMENTS

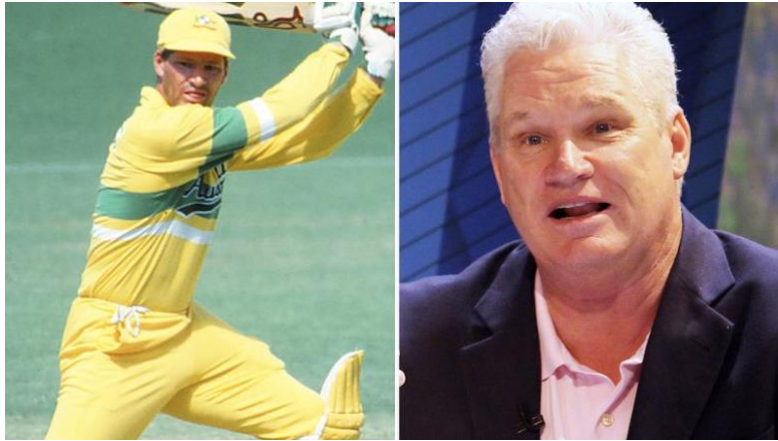
- **Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi - has been appointed life trustee of the India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi**



- ✓ He fills the vacancy after the death of Kapila Vatsyayan.
- ✓ Gopalkrishna Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is a retired diplomat.
- ✓ He served as the Governor of West Bengal from 2004 to 2009.
- ✓ He has held various important positions in the State of Tamil Nadu and at the National Capital

## SPORTS

- **On September 24, Dean Jones, former Australian batsman – passed away in a hotel in Mumbai due to a massive cardiac arrest**
- ✓ 59-year old Jones was in the country as part of the Star Sports commentary team covering the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indian Premier League



- ✓ Jones was one of the greatest ambassadors of the game, contributing to the development of cricket and nurturing youngsters
- ✓ He played 52 test matches for Australia, scoring 3,631 runs, including 11 centuries and 2 double tons, at an average of 46.55
- ✓ Jones's most notable innings of 210 runs came in only his 3<sup>rd</sup> test against India in the famous tied Test in Chennai (Madras) in September 1986.
- ✓ The score still remains as the highest score by an Australian Cricketer in India.
- ✓ Jones is one of the prolific One day international batsman during his period
- ✓ He played 164 One Day Internationals (ODIs) for Australia, in which he managed to score 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61.
- ✓ Jones was famously part of the Allan Border-led squad that won the 1987 World Cup held in India and Pakistan.
- ✓ After retiring from his cricket playing career in 1998, Jones became a reputed commentator.
- ✓ He was also inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2019.

