

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 19, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On October 18, Tamil Nadu – reported 3,914 new Covid-19 cases and 56 deaths, taking the state’s total count to 6,87,400 and death toll to 10,642
- ✓ The state had 39,121 patients undergoing treatment in various health facilities.
- ✓ A total of 4,929 people were discharged on the day following treatment, taking the recovered people count to 6,37,637.

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

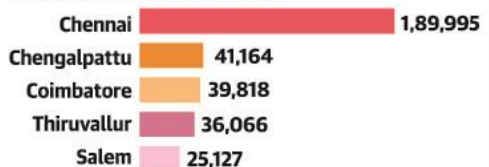
	Until Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Total
Cases reported	6,56,385	4,879	4,666	4,462	4,410	4,389	4,295	3,914	6,87,400
Recovered/ discharged	6,02,038	5,165	5,117	5,083	5,055	5,245	5,005	4,929	6,37,637
Deceased	10,252	62	57	52	49	57	57	56	10,642

Persons tested



*Changes in 24 hours As on Oct. 17, 6 p.m. As on Oct. 18, 6 p.m.

Districts with maximum cases



- ✓ Chennai reported the maximum number of new cases (1,036) and deaths (17) on the day
- ✓ The neighbouring districts of Chengalpet (174), Tiruvallur (195) and Kancheepuram (130) reported 499 cases and 9 deaths.
- ✓ Coimbatore reported the next highest number of cases (319) after Chennai, while Salem logged 268 cases.

STATES

- The government of Gujarat - proposed to set up world’s biggest zinc smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district of Gujarat.

- ✓ In this regard, the state government signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) on October 14, 2020.
- ✓ HZL will be investing upto Rs. 10,000 crores for setting up 300-kilo tonnes per annum (KTPA) greenfield zinc smelter in the industrial region of South Gujarat.
- ✓ The 1st phase of the proposed zinc smelter project will be in operation within the next 3 years.
- ✓ The new facility will use modern discharge technology and automation facilities, besides having a state-of-the-art Research and Development Centre.
- ✓ The project will be among the lowest cost smelters in the world.
- ✓ The facility will be occupying an area of 415 hectares and will be located over 100 km from Hazira port and 90 km from the Magdala port.

NATIONAL

- **The government expert committee on Covid-19, comprising scientists from IITs, IISc Bengaluru, ISI Kolkata and CMC Vellore – has released its report on future course of Covid-19 pandemic on October 18**
- ✓ The panel, headed by Prof M Vidyasagar of IIT Hyderabad, was appointed by the ministry of science and technology
- ✓ As per the report based on a mathematical model, the number of active and symptomatic Covid-19 cases in India has already peaked at around 10 lakh on September 17
- ✓ It had predicted that the cumulative total cases may reach 1.06 crore, with only a 'minimal' cases by the end of February, thereby signalling a consistent downturn
- ✓ The number of active cases will drop to less than 50,000 from December
- ✓ This means the pandemic can be controlled by early next year with "minimal active symptomatic infections" in February 2021.

'FESTIVALS MAY HIKE INFECTIONS'

1.06cr total Covid-19 cases projected in India by 2021 Feb-end. So far, **75L Indians** have been infected, of which 66L have recovered

1.4cr+ cases in June 2020 & 26L eventual fatalities (**actual 1.14L deaths till now**) would have happened without lockdown, according to a mathematical 'super model'

50L peak load of active cases by June '20 in India had lockdown been clamped in May, not March; actual peak (10L) came in Sept

“Festivals & winter may increase chances of infection... but fresh lockdown should not be imposed on district & statewide levels

PROF M VIDYASAGAR
IIT HYD & CHAIR OF
STUDY PANEL

- ✓ The committee had also warned that the numbers would start rising if proper practices of wearing masks, disinfecting, tracing and quarantine were not followed.

- ✓ The Covid-19 curve would also depend on the testing of states and implementing containment protocols, it said.
- ✓ The modelling study, called the “COVID-19 India National Supermodel”, is the result of analysis by an expert committee of mathematicians and epidemiologists

KEY CONCLUSIONS

FUTURE IS WHAT WE WILL MAKE IT

U pcoming festival and winter seasons may increase the susceptibility to infection	R elaxation in protective measures can lead to a significant rise: up to 26 lakh infections within a month	D istrict and higher level lockdowns not much effective now	A ll activities can be resumed provided proper safety protocols continue to be followed	I f all of us follow these protocols, the pandemic can be controlled by early next year with minimal active symptomatic infections by February-end
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IMPACT OF VARIOUS LOCKDOWN SCENARIO

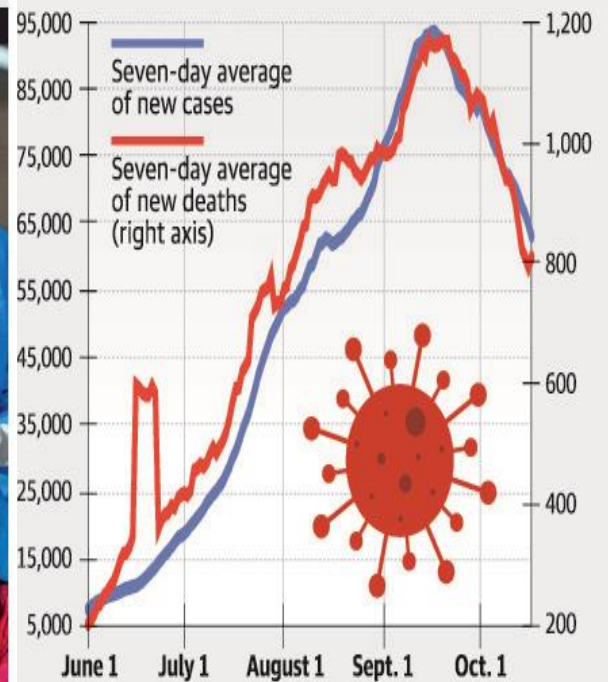
Actual Lockdown:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of active symptomatic cases peak in September at: 10 lakh ➤ Total symptomatic infections by February 2021: 106 lakh ➤ Number of deaths by September: 1 lakh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total symptomatic infections by February 2021: 150-170 lakh ➤ Number of deaths by August end: 7-10 lakh
Lockdown between April 1 - May 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of active symptomatic cases peak by July at: 40-50 lakh 	<p>No Lockdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of active symptomatic cases peak in June at: 140+ lakh ➤ Total symptomatic infections by February 2021: 204+ lakh ➤ Number of deaths by August end: 26+ lakh



FUTURE TRAJECTORIES	TOTAL PROJECTED INFECTIONS BY FEBRUARY, 2021
No measures: Sharp rise to 26 lakh peak active cases in Oct	No measures: 176 lakh
Reduced measures: Rise limited to 13 lakh	Reduced measures: 137 lakh
Stricter measures: Do not help much (Lockdown now undesirable, move towards full resumption)	Current measures: 106 lakh
	Strong measures: 92 lakh
	Stronger measures: 83 lakh

Climbing down

After peaking in mid-September at about 93,000 new COVID-19 cases and 1,170 deaths, the seven-day average of infections and fatalities declined to about 63,000 and 800 a day respectively, as of Saturday



- ✓ India has reported around 75 lakh cases and the report’s findings would indicate an addition of around 26 lakh cases.
- ✓ The committee found 30% of the country’s population projected to have antibodies as against 14% in August-end.
- ✓ This is, however, at variance with the ICMR sero survey that indicated 7% antibody prevalence in August-end.
- ✓ According to the panel, India reached its peak four days earlier than the projection (September 21) made by it
- ✓ But, without preventive measures, cases can rise by 26 lakh in a month, it said
- **On October 18, India - reported 57,174 cases and 590 deaths across the country**
- ✓ With this, the country’s Covid-19 case count went past the 75-lakh mark, 33 days after the tally had crossed 50 lakh mark on September 15
- ✓ India is the second country after the US to reach the grim milestone.

- ✓ India recorded its highest count of daily cases on September 17, when 98,795 infections were reported
- ✓ The country also reported its highest daily death toll around the same time — 1,275 on September 15.
- ✓ Maharashtra reported the most number of cases with 9,060 fresh infections and 150 deaths
- ✓ Further, Kerala logged 7,631 cases on the day, while Karnataka reported 7,012 fresh cases

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Bangladesh - has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join the celebrations of the 50 years of the country's independence.**
- ✓ The country will complete its 50 years of Independence on March 26, 2021
- ✓ The leader of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared its independence from Pakistan on 26 March 1971.
- ✓ Bangladesh got its independence from Pakistan after the Bangladesh Liberation War, which is also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence or the Liberation War.
- ✓ It was a revolution and armed conflict that was spread and sparked by the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in East Pakistan (Current Bangladesh) during 1971 Bangladesh genocide.
- ✓ The war began on 25 March 1971 and ended after West Pakistan (Current Pakistan) surrendered to Dacca on 16 December 1971
- ✓ The Bangladeshi Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by members of Mukti Bahini from Chittagong.
- ✓ India had also joined the war on 3 December 1971 in the aftermath of Pakistan's launch of air strikes on North India.
- ✓ The United Nations recognised Bangladesh as a sovereign nation in 1972.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile - was successfully test-fired on October 18, 2020.**

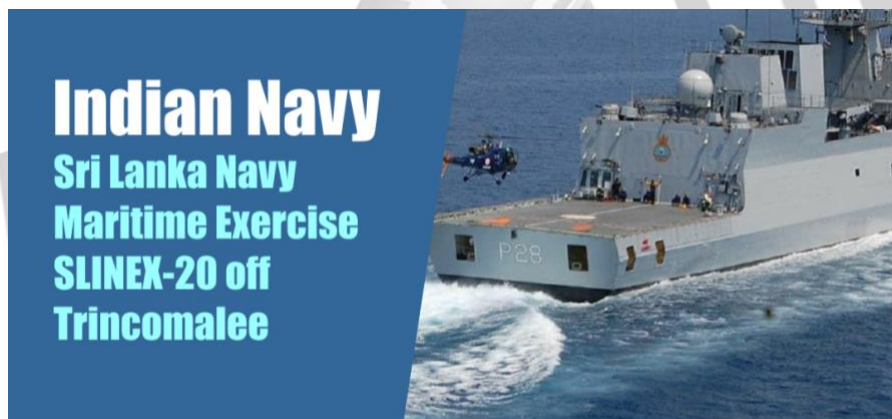


BrahMos supersonic cruise missile
 Successfully Test Fired from Indian Navy's Stealth Destroyer,
INS Chennai

- ✓ It was test-fired from INS Chennai, an indigenously built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ The missile hit the target with pin-point accuracy after performing “extremely complex” manoeuvres.
- ✓ BrahMos is the main strike weapon of warships that engages the naval surface targets at long ranges.
- ✓ It was developed as a joint venture of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia.
- ✓ The missile has been named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- ✓ The DRDO and NOPM together produce other supersonic cruise missiles which can be launched from any of the platform including the submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

DEFENCE

- **The 8th annual joint exercise between the navies of India and Sri Lanka – SLINEX-20 - will commence on October 19, 2020 off the coast of Trincomalee**



- ✓ The 3 day joint exercise will end on October 21, 2020.
- ✓ Indian navy would be represented by indigenously built ASW corvettes Kamorta and Kiltan in the exercise
- ✓ Both the ships would be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding of the Eastern Fleet
- ✓ Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft and Chetak helicopter will also take part in the exercise onboard the ships
- ✓ India is taking part in the exercise as per its India’s Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR) Policy and Neighbourhood first policy.
- ✓ SLINEX refers to the abbreviation of ‘Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise’
- ✓ The first in this series of naval exercises between the navies of both the countries began in 2005.
- ✓ The current edition of exercise is aimed at enhancing inter-operability, improving mutual understanding and exchanging best practices and procedures for various maritime operations between both the navies.

- ✓ Both the countries had signed a trilateral maritime security cooperation agreement alongwith Maldives, in order to improve surveillance, anti-piracy operations and to reduce maritime pollution in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ Further, India and Sri Lanka also undertake a joint Military exercise called 'Mitra Shakti' regularly to counter insurgency and terrorism operations as per the United Nations mandate.
- ✓ The 7th edition of the exercise was recently held in 2019.

AWARDS

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - awarded the Raksha Mantri Trophy to the top Command Hospitals of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) for the year 2019 on October 16, 2020.**



- ✓ Air Force Command Hospital in Bengaluru was adjudged the Best Command Hospital for the year 2019
- ✓ The Command Hospital of the Eastern Command in Kolkata won the award for Second Best Command Hospital for the year 2019.
- ✓ The Armed Forces Medical Services has been providing a range of services including medical support to the troops deployed in operational roles and healthcare services at zonal, mid-zonal and tertiary care AFMS hospitals.
- ✓ The Raksha Mantri Trophy, set up in 1989, recognizes excellence in healthcare services provided by AFMS Command Hospitals
- ✓ A selection committee headed by an AFMS officer of Lt General rank or an equivalent one recommends hospitals for the award every year.
- ✓ The recommendations are made through a comprehensive selection process, based on objective performance indicators assessed during on-site visits to the hospitals.

SPORTS

- **Elavenil Valarivan - won the women's gold in the Sheikh Russel international air rifle championship organised online by the Bangladesh Shooting Federation on October 18**



- ✓ The women's world No. 1, the 21-year-old Elavenil defeated Shiori Orata of Japan to grab the gold medal
- ✓ In another event, the 18-year-old Youth Olympic Games silver medallist Shahu Tushar Mane won the men's silver medal
- ✓ Japan's Naoya Okada won the men's gold in the event.
- ✓ The gold medallists won \$1000 each while the silver and bronze medals were worth \$700 and \$500 respectively.