

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 3, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On October 2, Tamil Nadu - recorded 5,595 new Covid-19 cases and 67 deaths, taking the cumulative case tally to 6,08,885 and total death toll to 9,653.
- ✓ There are 46,294 active cases in the state undergoing treatment at various health facilities
- ✓ A total of 5,603 persons were discharged on the day, taking the total recovered to 5,52,938
- ✓ Chennai (1,278) recorded the maximum number of fresh cases followed by Coimbatore (495) and Salem (355)

STATE TRACKER

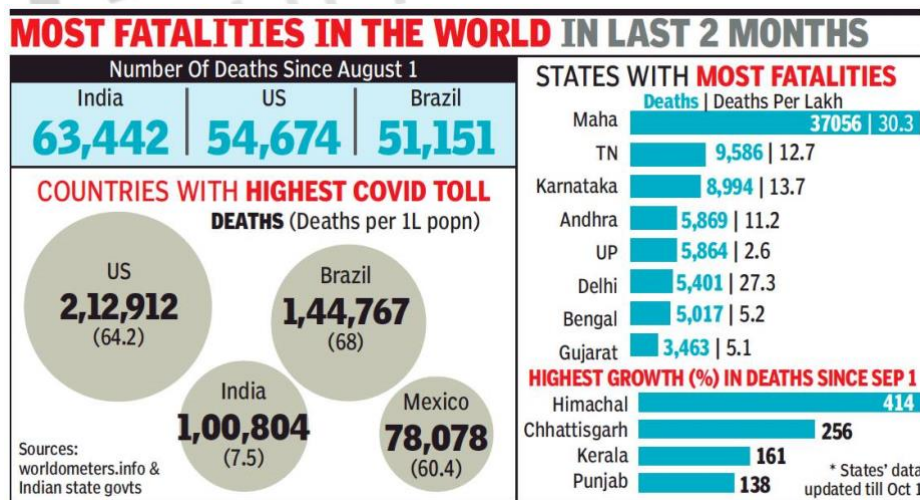
Zone	Cases today	Deaths today	Active cases	Total toll	Cured
Chennai Region	2,086	20	16,832	4,676	2,39,959
North	721	10	5,460	1,165	84,508
Central	688	11	5,393	733	47,160
South	531	6	4,752	1,869	1,06,177
West	1,567	20	13,840	1,209	72,846
Other	2	0	17	1	2,288
Grand total	5,595	67	46,294	9,653	5,52,938

- ✓ Chennai's neighbouring districts Chengalpet (396), Tiruvallur (255), and Kancheepuram (157) together reported 808 cases.
- ✓ A total of 84,991 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested till date to 75,26,688

- **The Centre - has selected Tirunelveli as the 'Best District' in the country in terms of implementing the government's scheme for the construction of individual toilets in houses**
- ✓ The honour also recognizes the district's effort in constructing and maintaining integrated sanitary complexes with adequate water facility.
- ✓ At an online function, Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat awarded a memento and a certificate of merit to Collector Shilpa Prabhakar Satish on October 2
- ✓ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, individual household toilets and integrated sanitary complexes are being built with the government's assistance.
- ✓ The assistance to construct individual toilets is being extended to beneficiaries who have space in their houses for the construction of toilets
- ✓ Further, integrated sanitary complexes with bathrooms and toilets are being built in rural and urban areas for those who do not have these facilities in their rented residences.

NATIONAL

- **On October 2, India - has become the third country after the US and Brazil to record 1 lakh deaths due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ The country's cumulative death toll went up to 1,00,800 on the day when 1,076 deaths were reported from across the country
- ✓ The highest number of deaths was reported from Maharashtra (394), followed by Karnataka (130), Uttar Pradesh (80), Tamil Nadu (66), West Bengal (59), Punjab (45), Andhra Pradesh (41), Delhi (40), and Kerala and Chhattisgarh (29 each)



- ✓ The U.S. leads the world's Covid-19 related death count with over 2.1 lakh deaths, while Brazil comes next with just over 1.4 lakh deaths, although with far less number of cases.
- ✓ However, India is still far below the world's worst-hit countries in terms of deaths per lakh population and case fatality rates (CFRs).


- ✓ At 7.5 deaths per lakh population, India is in the 18th position among the world's topmost 20 countries worst hit by the pandemic.
- ✓ India's CFR, at 1.6, is far better when compared with other countries like the US (2.8), Brazil (3), Mexico (10.4), the UK (9.2) and even Pakistan (2.1).
- ✓ On October 2, India recorded 80,446 fresh cases, taking the country's caseload to 64,71,244.
- ✓ Kerala breached the 9,000 mark on the day after recording 9,258 fresh infections.
- ✓ Karnataka reported 8,793 cases, while Andhra Pradesh logged 6,555 cases on the day.
- ✓ Maharashtra continued to add fewer than 20,000 cases for the sixth day in a row.

INTERNATIONAL

- **US President Donald Trump - has tested positive for the Covid-19 viral infection on October 2**
- ✓ Along with him, the First Lady Melania Trump also tested positive for the infection

MILD SYMPTOMS, 'ON THE JOB'

- Trump has mild symptoms, on the job, his chief of staff says
- Joe Biden, Mike Pence test negative
- The US president has **several strikes against him – age, obesity, elevated cholesterol** – that could put him at greater risk of severe infection, and a notional risk of around 4% of dying
- **Wall St stocks fell almost 1%**, Europe indexes slipped, initial sell-off in Asia



- ✓ Both the leaders were on the home quarantine with the immediate commencement of recovery process
- ✓ Vice-President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence tested negative as per a tweet on the day
- ✓ Further, Hope Hicks, a White House aide who traveled with the US President for recent campaign rallies, also tested positive for the disease.
- ✓ The US president repeatedly predicted the virus is going to disappear and it will be gone one day like a miracle.
- ✓ He also ridiculed and challenged pandemic experts and health/ medical professionals about their over-hyped severity of the situation
- ✓ All along, the US President was seen without masks and not ensuring social distancing, promoting random remedies, and urging school and businesses to open.
- ✓ Trump's Democratic challenger Joe Biden and his wife were tested 'negative' for the virus on the day.
- ✓ Biden's running mate Kamala Harris also tested negative as part of her campaign's routine screening.

- ✓ A total of 2,08,000 Americans have died and 7.3 million have been infected since the virus hit the U.S.

OLDER, OVERWEIGHT, MALE IS TRUMP MORE VULNERABLE?

US President Trump, who turned 74 in June and is reportedly overweight, **faces greater risk** of developing severe Covid-19 and has a notional risk of around 4% of dying from it, experts say. **Melania, 50**, is at **lower risk** as majority of women to have died from Covid-19 in the US were over 65

▶ CDC says those aged 65-74 are 5 times more likely to be hospitalised, 90 times more likely to die than those aged 18-29. Also, Chinese CDC analysis shows older men are twice as likely to die from Covid-19 as women of same age

▶ But Trump has no reported chronic conditions and is active – he plays golf, walks briskly – which may offset some risks

Trump's 'obesity' triples his risk of hospital treatment

NEXT WEEK IS CRITICAL

An Exeter medical school expert said that Trump is likely to have few symptoms over the next 4-5 days. 'The classic respiratory symptoms would occur midway through next week. His physicians will be aware of the risk that a crash, similar to that ... PM (Boris Johnson) experienced at around day 10, may occur. Should this occur at his age, he would need to be hospitalised...'

▶ President's close aide, Hope Hicks, began experiencing symptoms on Wednesday during a rally in Minnesota

A RUNDOWN OF SOME WORLD LEADERS WHO HAVE FALLEN ILL

UK PM Boris Johnson, 56
When he caught Covid-19 in March, he tried to work through the illness 'in denial' – but ended up wearing an oxygen mask in an ICU and was out of action for almost a month

Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, 65
Like Trump, Bolsonaro was cavalier about the disease, calling it a 'measly cold'. His case appeared

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, 66
Dismissed concerns about the virus as 'psychosis' and recommended drinking vodka to stay healthy. In July he contracted it himself but was asymptomatic

Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernandez, 51 | He kept working during mild symptoms, but his health worsened & he was hospitalised
Bolivia President Jeanine Anez, 53 | Self-isolated for 14 days | **Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei, 64** | Tested +ve in September

- ✓ India's President Ramnath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin were among the leaders who wished quick recovery for Trumps
- ✓ United States will go to the Presidential polls on November 3

DEFENCE

- **On October 3, India and Bangladesh - will kick off the second edition of their "Bongosagar" naval exercise in the northern Bay of Bengal**
- ✓ The naval exercise will be followed by a coordinated maritime patrol by their warships in the region.
- ✓ India will deploy INS Kiltan, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette, and INS Khukri, an indigenous guided-missile corvette, alongwith other maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters.
- ✓ Bangladesh, in turn, will participate with BNS Abu Bakr, a guided-missile frigate, and BNS Prottoy, a guided-missile corvette
- ✓ The first edition of the bilateral exercise Bongosagar was held in 2019
- ✓ The current edition of Exercise has great significance as it is being conducted during Mujib Barsho, the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✓ The third edition of India – Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) will be held in Northern Bay of Bengal beginning from 4 to 5, October 2020.

- ✓ During the exercise, the units of both the country will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).
- ✓ The first edition of CORPAT began in 2018

APPOINTMENTS

- **State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Charanjit Attra, a consultant with EY, as its chief financial officer (CFO).**



- ✓ This is the first time that the bank is hiring laterally for the position.
- ✓ He replaces former CFO Prashant Kumar who resigned from SBI to join Yes Bank as an RBI-appointed MD & CEO to implement a rescue package
- ✓ In the interim, C Venkat Nageshwar was officiating as the CFO.
- ✓ Attra was serving as EY India's financial services and financial accounting advisory services (FAAS) partner.
- ✓ He is a chartered accountant from India and has cleared the CPA from Denver, Colorado (US).
- ✓ He was earlier a CFO with ICICI Securities.
- ✓ While SBI's former CFO Kumar was a deputy managing director at SBI, the new incumbent Attra will report to the deputy managing director (finance) — a new position created by the bank.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

CFO | Should be **qualified CA** with 15 years' experience in overseeing financial ops, preferably accounting and taxation matters, of which 10 years should be in banks/financial institutions (of which 5 years at senior mgmt level)

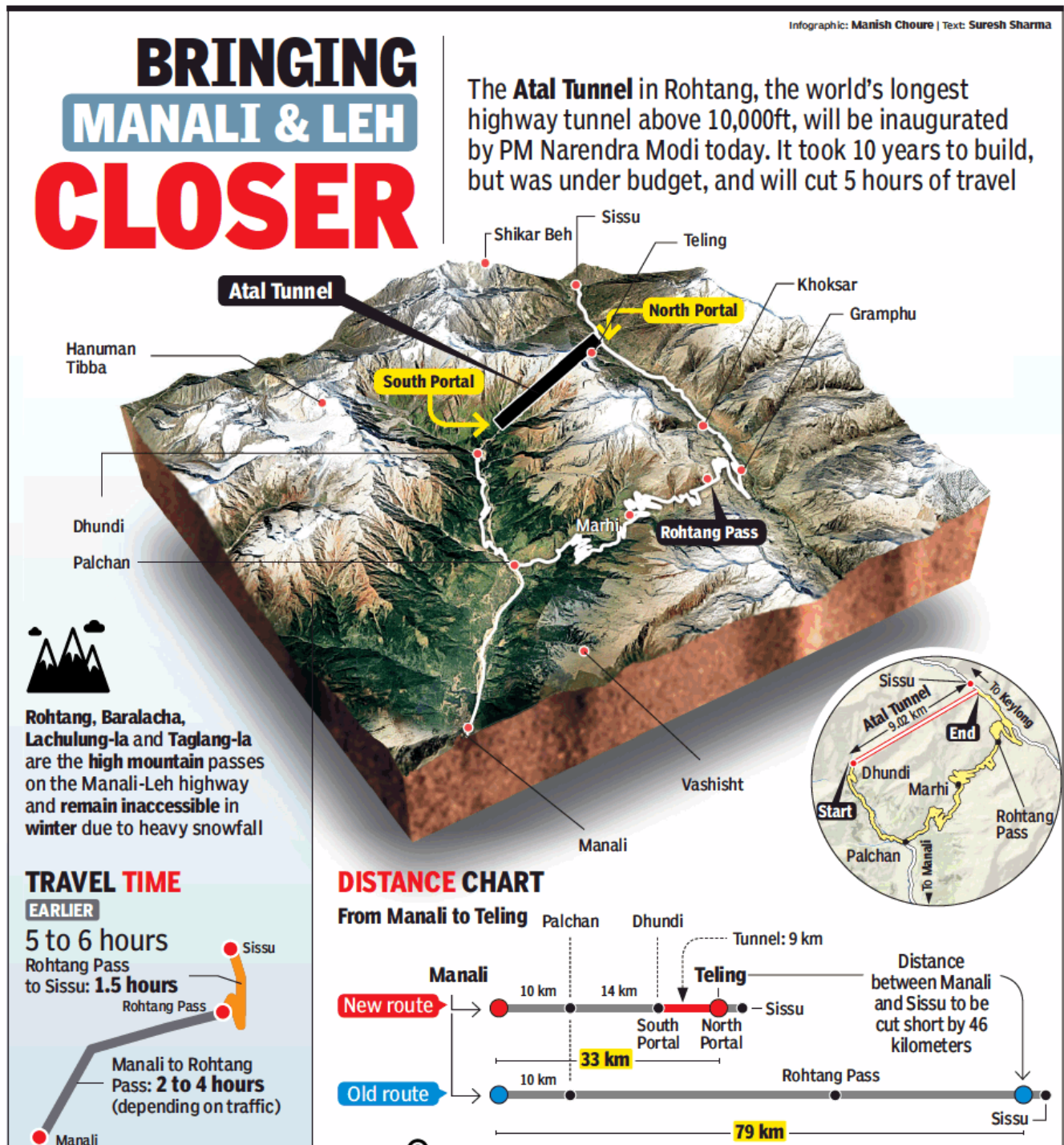


CTO | Engg graduate or **MCA or equivalent** with 15 years' experience in relevant areas. Should have worked in banking-IT related areas/projects (of which 5 years at senior mgmt level)

- ✓ SBI was forced to look outside for a CFO after the RBI insisted on minimum qualification for the post as well as for a chief technology officer (CTO).

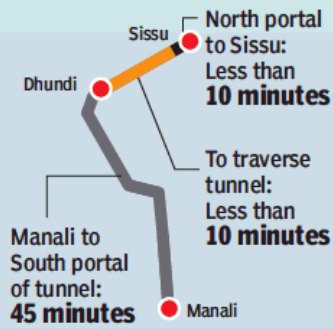
ATAL TUNNEL – A REPORT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to inaugurate Atal Tunnel, the world's longest highway tunnel at Rohtang on October 3
- ✓ The 9.02 kilometres long tunnel was built at an altitude of 3000 meters
- ✓ It will connect Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.



NOW

55 min to 1 hour



From Manali to Leh
Via Atal Tunnel

428 KM

Via Rohtang Pass **474 KM**

69 km
Distance between Palchan and Gufa Hotel, near Sissu

14 km
Distance between Palchan and Dhundi

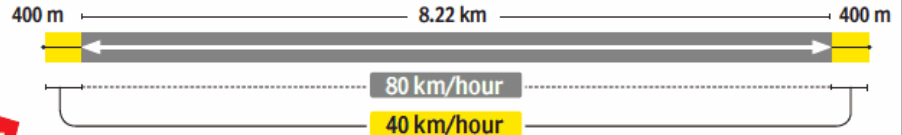
9 km
Length of tunnel, from south portal to north portal

200 m
Distance from the end of tunnel to Leh highway

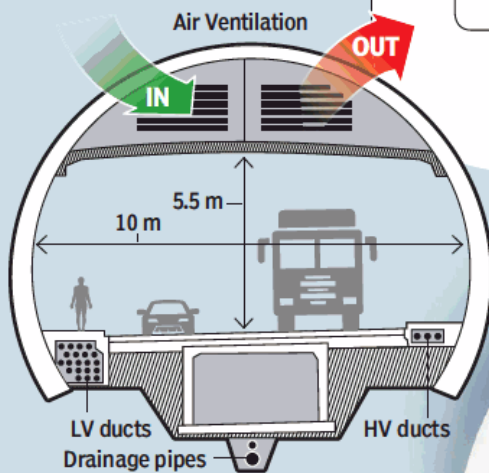
46 km
The distance reduced between Manali and Keylong

SPEED BREAKER

In the first and last 400 meters, speed limit is fixed at 40 km per hour, for the remaining length of the tunnel, the maximum speed is 80 km per hour to maintain smooth traffic flow



INSIDE THE TUNNEL



Inside the tunnel, **overtaking** is strictly prohibited



Also, there is an **emergency exit** every 500 meters

Every few meters, the tunnel will have:

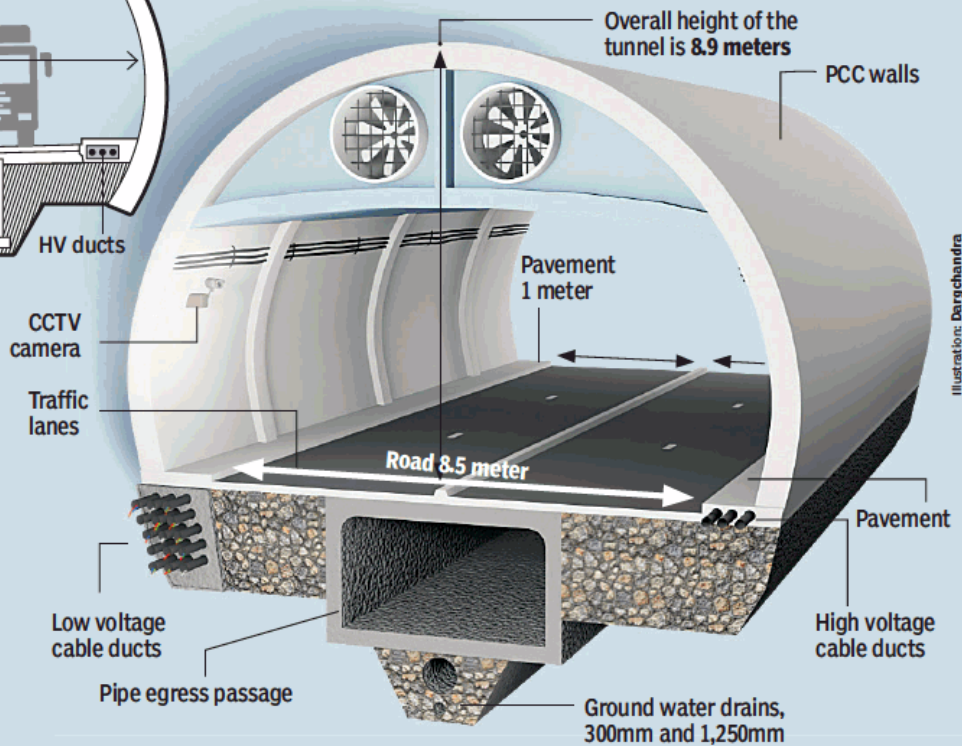
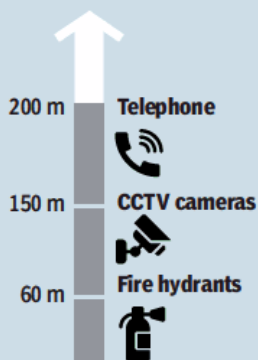


Illustration: Dargachandra

