

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 7, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – reported 5,017 fresh Covid-19 cases and 71 deaths on October 6, taking the cumulative caseload of the state to 6,30,408 and death toll to 9,917

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

	Until Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Total
Cases reported	5,91,943	5,659	5,688	5,595	5,622	5,489	5,395	5,017	6,30,408
Recovered/ discharged	5,36,209	5,610	5,516	5,603	5,596	5,558	5,572	5,548	5,75,212
Deceased	9,453	67	66	67	65	66	62	71	9,917

Persons tested



Active cases



Recoveries



Deaths



*Changes in 24 hours As on Oct. 5, 6 p.m. As on Oct. 6, 6 p.m.

Districts with maximum cases

Chennai	1,75,484
Chengalpattu	37,757
Coimbatore	35,000
Tiruvallur	33,746
Kancheepuram	22,851

- ✓ The state has 45,279 active cases as on date, which is the fourth highest in the country next to Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Chennai reported the maximum of 1,306 fresh cases on the day, while its neighbours, Chengalpet (283), Tiruvallur (263) and Kancheepuram (156) reported a combined total of 702 cases
- ✓ A total of 5,548 people recovered on the day after treatment in various health facilities, taking the total recovered persons to 5,75,212
- ✓ Next to Chennai, Coimbatore had the most cases at 434.
- ✓ Further, Salem and Thanjavur reported 326 and 224 persons testing positive for the viral infection.
- ✓ A total of 81,128 samples were tested in the last 24 hours across the network of laboratories

STATES

- **On October 5, the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - launched a Mega Anti-Pollution Campaign, called “Yudh Prasudushan ke Virudh”**
- ✓ The campaign was launched to reduce pollution levels in Delhi.
- ✓ Under this campaign, the state has prepared separate plans for the 13 pollution hotspots chosen by the government in the city
- ✓ During the campaign, the Delhi Government will focus on technology developed by Pusa Agriculture Institute to control stubble burning
- ✓ A new policy for anti-air pollution and a new anti-dust campaign have been introduced by the government
- ✓ According to the new policy, any agency that cuts down trees in Delhi has to plant 80% of them in a new spot.
- ✓ During the launch event, the CM also announced that a mobile app named "Green Delhi" is also under development to bring pollution causing activities to the notice of Delhi Government.
- ✓ While launching the campaign, the CM announced that a "war room" is under development in the state
- ✓ It will monitor all the anti-pollution measures taken by the government to check air pollution

NATIONAL

- **The Information and Broadcasting Ministry – announced a set of guidelines for the reopening of cinema halls after six months since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic**
- ✓ The cinema halls and theatres in non-containment zones are allowed to reopen on October 15 with stringent protocols under Unlock 5 guidelines
- ✓ The new guidelines include only 50% seating, no food delivery inside the halls, only packaged food to be sold, mandatory face masks, thermal screening, staggered show timings and registration of phone numbers for contact tracing later
- ✓ The guidelines also include observance of the 6 ft distance norm, hand sanitisers in common areas and adherence to alternate seat only arrangement.
- ✓ Seats that are “not to be occupied” shall be marked ‘as such’ during booking in both online and at the box office
- ✓ Cinema halls will have to ensure that there is no overcrowding in the common areas, lobbies and washrooms during the intermission, which could be staggered
- ✓ The exit too will be staggered and done row-wise to avoid crowding.
- ✓ Further, theatres have been advised to keep the temperature of air-conditioners in the range of 24-30°C

- **On October 6, the Health Ministry – issued the standard operating procedures (SOP) on preventive measures during the upcoming festival season to contain the Covid-19 spread.**
 - ✓ The guidelines were aimed at cautioning people against public gatherings during the festival season to prevent the expected surge in Covid-19 cases
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, no festive events can be conducted on open areas within the containment zones, while organizers, staff and visitors from these zones are not permitted
 - ✓ Further, the government urged people among vulnerable population including pregnant women, elderly people above 60 years and those with co-morbidities to celebrate all festivals inside their homes and not move out.
 - ✓ Gatherings will also have to ensure adequate area for events with a detailed site map and proper markings to comply with thermal screening, wearing of masks, physical distancing, sanitisation, route planning etc.
 - ✓ The touching of idols and holy books are not allowed to prevent the spread of infection
 - ✓ The ministry also advised to keep support of ambulance services on alert during such events.
 - ✓ Staggered timings and restricted entry may be considered, as per the new norms
- **On October 6, the health minister Harsh Vardhan and Ayush minister Shripad Naik – released the national clinical management protocol for Covid-19 based on Ayurveda and Yoga**
 - ✓ During the event, the minister also released “AYUSH Standard Treatment Protocol”, consisting of self-care guidelines on preventive health measures.
 - ✓ The protocol recommends the usage of common ayurvedic formulations such as Guduchi, Ashwagandha, Kadha, boiled water with herbs and milk with turmeric in treating mild and asymptomatic Covid-19 patients.



- ✓ The protocol was designed in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- ✓ It was developed based on recommendations made by a National Task Force constituted by the Ministry of AYUSH.

- ✓ The task force was set up based on the recommendations made by Katoch Committee.
 - ✓ Further, specific measures were also advised for preventing the disease in high-risk people and primary contacts of infected people.
 - ✓ The protocol suggests use of medicines such as Ashwagandha, Guduchi Ghana Vati or Chyawanaprasha as prophylactic care for high risk population and primary contacts of patients.
 - ✓ The guidelines offer standard treatment protocol to be followed by all Ayush practitioners treating mild to moderate Covid-19 cases, as per the Union health ministry's National Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19.
 - ✓ The main aim of the Ayush protocol is to develop the body's immunity to fight the viral infection.
- **On October 6, the Centre – decided to refer the Telangana government's dispute with Andhra Pradesh on Krishna river to the inter-state water disputes tribunal**



- ✓ On Godavari river, the Centre will set up a new tribunal after getting formal requests from both the states.
- ✓ It had further notified jurisdictions of both the river management boards, as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, despite objection on this move from Telangana
- ✓ These decisions were taken in an apex council meeting, chaired by Union Jal Shakti (water resources) minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ✓ It was attended through video conference by Telangana chief minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao and the Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Jaganmohan Reddy.
- ✓ This was the second apex council meeting conducted since 2016
- ✓ The meeting is primarily to resolve the conflict between the two States over executing irrigation projects and sharing water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
- ✓ Following the meeting, Telangana chief minister, agreed that his state would withdraw the case that it had filed in the Supreme Court on the issue

- ✓ Both the chief ministers agreed to submit 'detailed project reports' (DPRs) of all the projects, taken up by their respective states on Krishna and Godavari, to the Centre for final decision.
 - ✓ It was also agreed in the meeting to shift the headquarters of the Krishna river management board to Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ The Centre proposed to explore an option of interlinking of Godavari with Krishna (up to Cauvery) so that water-deficit areas along the region will get benefited.
- **On October 6, the Centre – has initiated the process of making NCERT textbooks available in Indian Sign Language (ISL) to the hearing impaired children**
- ✓ The move is seen as the first step towards the process of delivering “inclusive education” as envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020
 - ✓ Educational print materials such as NCERT textbooks, teachers handbook and other supplementary materials and resources of class I-XII of all subjects of both Hindi and English Medium will be converted into ISL in digital format.
 - ✓ The process of conversion is taken up by the NCERT in association with the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, a national institute of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
 - ✓ The initiative, to be rolled out in a phased manner, will enable the deaf children to study the textbooks and education materials in ISL mode
 - ✓ Initially, the ISLRTC and NCERT are planning to prepare textbooks in ISL for children upto Class V over the next five to six months and then extend it to other levels.
 - ✓ So far, hearing impaired children used to study only through verbal or written medium under the guidance of special educators
 - ✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recently launched the second edition of Indian Sign Language Dictionary.
 - ✓ The dictionary was developed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre.
 - ✓ ISL has 6,000 words in the dictionary as of now and work is on to add 4,000 more soon.
 - ✓ The learning in ISL will also enhance the vocabulary of the children and their capabilities to understand concepts
 - ✓ According to Census 2011, around 18.9% of the Indian population is deaf
 - ✓ The international day of sign languages is observed on September 23, the day on which the World Federation of the Deaf was formed
- **On October 6, India – reported 72,552 fresh Covid-19 cases and 980 casualties, taking the overall Covid-19 caseload to over 67.5 lakh and death toll at 1,04,515**
- ✓ The number of active cases stands at around 9.2 lakh, while recoveries stood around 57.3 lakh

- ✓ Maharashtra reported 12,258 new Covid-19 cases on the and 370 deaths, taking the total caseload to 14,65,911 and deaths to 38,717.
- ✓ Karnataka reported 9,993 new cases on the day, while Kerala and Andhra Pradesh logged 7,871 and 5,795 infections respectively

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On October 6, the Madras high court - upheld mandatory state service for all postgraduate medical students in Tamil Nadu admitted under the All India Quota (AIQ).**
- ✓ As per admission prospectus, all PG students must compulsorily serve two years in government hospitals.
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice A P Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy observed that the mandatory serving at state hospitals is for a benevolent public purpose
- ✓ It held that there is no material difference between the status of students occupying the state seats (who are also bound by compulsory service condition) and All India Quota seats, as the state government spends the same expenses for all the students
- ✓ The bench also made it clear that candidates who have not been offered appointment within two years from the date of completion of the course would be entitled to release their certificates accordingly and are not bound by the condition.
- ✓ The court passed the order while setting aside an order passed by a single judge dated October 1, 2018 quashing the condition for compulsory government service in the prospectus for PG medical admission.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India's foreign minister S Jaishankar – represented the country in the second meeting of the QUAD (Australia-India-Japan-US) foreign ministers in Tokyo on October 6**
- ✓ US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Japanese foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi represented the other partner countries of the QUAD grouping
- ✓ The leaders agreed to make the QUAD ministerial meeting an annual event.
- ✓ The meeting reaffirmed a “collective vision” of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region against the backdrop of growing Chinese assertiveness
- ✓ MEA, S Jaishankar highlighted the group's respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of other nations
- ✓ The Minister stated that the group's objective was to advance the security and the economic interests of all countries having legitimate and vital interests in the region.



- ✓ Pompeo also made a specific reference to the India-China stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the “Himalayas”, and regional tensions with China
- ✓ He also blamed the Chinese Communist Party for a “cover-up” of the Covid pandemic, and accused its “authoritarian” regime of “silencing” citizens who raised the alarm.
- ✓ Further, Australia and Japan have assured huge investments in India under QUAD
- ✓ The Indo-Pacific Region is largely viewed as area that comprises of western and central Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean including South China Sea.
- ✓ The first ministerial meeting of QUAD was held in New York in September 2019 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - have developed an instrument that can predict in real time onset of sepsis, by continuous monitoring and measuring one of its indicators.**
- ✓ The project, funded by IIT-M and ministry of education under ‘IMPRINT’ scheme, won the ‘SITARE- Gandhian Young Technological Innovations Award 2020’.



- ✓ Sepsis is a life-threatening condition when the body’s extreme response to an infection triggers inflammation.
- ✓ In 2017, an estimated 50 million people were diagnosed with the condition, which causes one in five deaths globally

- ✓ The device works on microfluidic-based chip technology which uses sound waves, chemical probes, microfluidic mixer and reactor and laser to measure levels of certain gaseous molecules in blood plasma.
- ✓ The team has applied for a patent and is looking for an industry partner to manufacture a prototype to validate the technology already tested on animals.
- ✓ The new instrument measures levels of gasotransmitters —hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen peroxide, nitric oxide and carbon monoxide in plasma — that are biomarkers for an early warning for sepsis.
- ✓ At present, there is no technique for continuous monitoring of gasotransmitters or any biomarker in blood
- ✓ Currently, diagnosis involves blood culture and manual intervention that require up to 48 hours.
- ✓ IIT-M collaborated with Apollo Hospitals and Institute of Biomedical Studies to develop the device.


ECONOMY

- **On October 6, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) – announced the investment of ₹6,248 crore in Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., for a 1.4% share**
- ✓ With this, Reliance Retail has raised ₹37,710 crore from seven external investors by selling 8.5% stake.
- ✓ Earlier, Abu Dhabi-based Mubadala invested in the retail arm of the Reliance group
- ✓ The two funds from Abu Dhabi, the richest of the seven emirates that form the UAE, have a diversified portfolio of investments spanning from infrastructure to technology
- ✓ Both the companies have earlier invested money into Ambani’s digital and telecom services unit Jio Platforms.
- ✓ The investments have valued India’s largest and most profitable retailer at ₹4.3 lakh crore.
- ✓ Significantly, UAE has a strong political and economic relationship with the Narendra Modi government.
- ✓ ADIA is a sponsor of India’s sovereign wealth fund National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- ✓ Besides NIIF, Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail, ADIA has investments in HDFC, Infosys, Bandhan Bank and Kotak Realty Fund, among other Indian companies.
- ✓ ADIA is the world’s third-largest sovereign wealth fund after China Investment Corporation and Norway Government Pension Fund Global
- ✓ The billionaire Mukesh Ambani has so far raised ₹1.9 lakh crore by selling 8.5% and 33% stakes in Reliance Retail and Jio Platforms respectively

APPOINTMENTS

- **On October 6, the government – appointed Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of State Bank of India**
- ✓ He replaces Rajnish Kumar, whose term ended on October 7 after being at the helm for three years.
- ✓ Khara is currently serving as one of the four Managing Directors of the country's largest bank, SBI
- ✓ Separately the Banks Board Bureau has recommended the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari as SBI MDs.

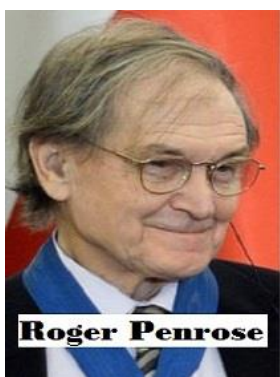
LEADING THROUGH PANDEMIC	NEW CHIEF'S TO-DO LIST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 1961-born Dinesh Khara is an alumnus of Delhi University, where he did MBA (finance)➤ He had joined State Bank of India (SBI) as a probationary officer in 1984➤ He led SBI Mutual Fund as its MD & CEO between Nov 2013 and Aug 2016➤ Khara was made MD of SBI in Aug 2016 and is the senior-most person in that position➤ He currently holds charge as MD (global banking) and is part of the lender's board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Raising capital for growth➤ Recovery/ resolution of written off NPA accounts➤ Listing of MF and non-life arms➤ Creating value for shareholders by ensuring asset quality



- ✓ Janakiraman, currently deputy MD of the bank, and Tewari, CEO of SBI Card, will replace Khara and Arijit Basu, who will retire this month-end.
- ✓ Further, the bureau, which interviewed 16 top SBI group executives, named P C Kandpal, MD of SBI General, and AK Choudhary, DMD of SBI, on the reserve list.
- ✓ Khara will serve as the Chairman of the bank for a term of three years.
- ✓ The 59-year old Khara, who joined the bank as a probationary officer in 1984, is a commerce graduate and holds an MBA degree from Delhi University's faculty of management studies.
- ✓ He was earlier head of SBI Mutual Fund, where he ramped up a business, which had been stagnating for a decade.
- ✓ He was head of the bank's Bhopal circle.
- ✓ As MD, he oversaw the merger of five associates and Bhartiya Mahila Bank with SBI.

AWARDS

- **On October 6, Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and American Andrea Ghez - won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics for their discoveries on the black hole**
- ✓ Penrose won half the prize of 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million) for his work on black holes



Roger Penrose



Andrea Ghez



Reinhard Genzel

4TH WOMAN TO GET PHYSICS PRIZE

- Penrose proved black holes are a consequence of Einstein's theory of relativity
- Genzel and Ghez discovered a super massive black hole at the heart of Milky Way
- Ghez, 55, is the 4th woman to get the physics Nobel after Marie Curie (1903), Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1963), Donna Strickland (2018)

- ✓ The 89-year old Professor at the University of Oxford used mathematical modelling to prove that black holes are a direct consequence of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity.
- ✓ The 68-year old Genzel, of the Max Planck Institute and University of California, Berkeley, and 55-year old Ghez, at the University of California, Los Angeles, shared the other half of the prize money
- ✓ They were awarded for the discovery that an invisible and extremely heavy object governs the orbits of stars at the centre of our galaxy.
- ✓ Ghez is just the fourth woman to receive the physics prize since 1901 when the first Nobel prizes were handed out.
- ✓ The first woman to win the prize was Marie Curie in 1903, who was also the first person to receive two Nobel prizes when she won the 1911 chemistry prize
- ✓ The other two women to win the Nobel Physics prize were Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1963) and Donna Strickland (2018)
- ✓ The term "black hole" refers to a point in space where matter is so compressed as to create a gravity field from which even light cannot escape.
- ✓ They are super dense objects, which are formed when a heavy star collapses under the weight of its own gravity
- ✓ In 1965, Penrose proved that black holes can really form — describing them in detail and stating that, at their center, time and space cease to exist.
- ✓ Penrose also worked closely with famed physicist Stephen Hawking
- ✓ Since the 1990s, subsequent efforts to find a black hole by Genzel and Ghez focused on the clouds of dust in a region of the Milky Way called Sagittarius A*.
- ✓ They have used world's largest telescopes and discovered an extremely heavy, invisible object — around 4 million times greater than the mass of the Sun – based on observing the movement of stars
- ✓ This object, occupying the region of the size of our solar system, pulls the surrounding stars, giving the galaxy its characteristic swirl.
- ✓ The only Indian who has received Nobel Prize for Physics was Sir C V Raman in 1930, for the discovery of the Raman Effect.
- ✓ The Nobel Prize for Physics was not awarded in six years - 1916, 1931, 1934 and in 1940, 1941 and 1942 because of world wars.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Ganga River Dolphin Day – October 5



- ✓ The day was first celebrated in 2010
- ✓ On this day, the dolphins were declared as National Aquatic Animal.
- ✓ This year, the National Mission for Clean Ganga launched Dolphin Safaris in six sites in three states - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal - to celebrate Ganga River Dolphin day
- ✓ Under the safari, the “Ganga Praharis” (trained volunteers) will take the tourists on boat rides to view Dolphins.
- ✓ Further, a new campaign called “My Ganga My Dolphin” was also launched in the 250 km stretch of the river, to conduct dolphin census in the stretch
- ✓ The Central Government recently launched “Project Dolphin” to conserve and protect dolphins in the marine (sea) and river ecosystems.
- ✓ The Project Dolphin, announced by the Prime Minister during his 2020 Independence speech, was approved by National Ganga Council in December 2019
- ✓ The 10-year Project Dolphin is to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ The Gangetic Dolphins are included under First Schedule of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ They have been declared “Endangered” under IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- ✓ The Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary was established in Bihar under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ India has around 2,500 to 3,000 Gangetic dolphins

➤ World Space Week – October 4 to October 10, 2020



- ✓ The observance of the week celebrates the contributions of space science and technology to the mankind
- ✓ The week is being celebrated under United Nations resolution that was passed in 1999
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Satellites Improve Life
- ✓ Next year, the week will be observed under the theme "Women in Space"
- ✓ The World Space Week begins on October 4 every year, because, the first man-made satellite, Sputnik was launched from the earth on October 4, 1957.
- ✓ The World Space Week celebrations end on October 10.
- ✓ This is because the 'Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and use of outer space' was signed on October 10.
- ✓ The treaty is also called the Magna Carta of Space.
- ✓ It is also called the Outer Space Treaty, 1967

