

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JUNE 12, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- On June 11, Tamil Nadu government - extended the statewide Covid-19 lockdown with further relaxations by another week till June 21
- ✓ The new relaxations were announced in districts in 27 districts where the spread is declining
- ✓ Accordingly, schools, colleges and universities are permitted to commence administrative work relating to admissions, while Tasmac outlets are allowed to operate from 10am to 5pm.
- ✓ Beauty parlours and salons will be allowed with 50% customers between 9am and 5pm.
- ✓ However, the additional relaxations are not applicable to Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Tirupur, Erode, Salem, Karur, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai districts where Covid-19 cases are high.
- ✓ The new relaxations would take effect on June 14, 2021
- ✓ Industries can function with 33% workforce following the SOPs, except the export and vendor units, which are allowed to have 50% workforce

**SANITISER, THERMAL SCREENING MUST**

 <p>➤ Industries to operate with 33% workforce</p>	<p>➤ Farm machinery and pumpset repair shops allowed between 9am and 5pm</p>
<p>➤ Beauty parlours, salons and spas allowed without AC and with 50% customers from 6am to 5pm</p> 	<p>➤ Pottery &amp; handicraft shops allowed between 6am and 5pm</p> 
<p>➤ Govt parks, parks and playgrounds under local bodies open between 6am and 9am</p> 	<p>➤ Optical shops and service centres, mixer, grinder and television repair and service centres, mobile and accessories shops &amp; shops selling construction material and home appliances can operate between 9am and 2pm</p> 

- ✓ Workers are allowed to travel in four-wheelers and two-wheelers, alongwith e-registration for the vehicles and identity cards
- ✓ IT/ITES offices have been directed to work with only 20% workforce or with a maximum of 10 employees.
- ✓ Housing finance companies, non-banking financial companies and all insurance corporations are allowed to function with 33% workforce.
- ✓ The state government also announced certain relaxations in the 11 districts where the number of cases is still high.
- ✓ Export units and vendor units are allowed to operate in these districts with 25% workforce, ensuring the SOPs.
- ✓ Private security services, agencies for maintenance and upkeep of office, and housekeeping in residential complexes can operate with e-registration.
- ✓ Passengers with e-registration are allowed to travel in rental vehicles, taxis and autos.
- ✓ Self-employed electricians, plumbers, motor mechanics and carpenters shall work between 6am and 5pm with e-registration.
- ✓ Cycle and twowheeler repair shops, agriculture equipment-selling shops, pump set repair shops, optical shops and service centres are allowed to operate from 9am to 2pm.

## NATIONAL

- **An international team of 53 scientists – have identified the reason leading to the Uttarakhand floods in February this year**
- ✓ The team of scientists has used a computer model to reconstruct “in almost real time” how the flood unfolded
- ✓ According to them, an “extraordinary rock and ice avalanche and debris flow” was the cause of the sudden floods on February 7, 2021
- ✓ Earlier, it was believed that a glacial lake outburst or rockslide would have been the reason for the disaster.
- ✓ However, the scientists warned that only a part of the rock-ice mass has collapsed from Ronti Peak in February, leaving a substantial chunk still vulnerable, as per high-resolution Google Earth data.
- ✓ The findings was released by scientists from the universities of Colorado, Washington, Zurich, Potsdam, Utah, Toulouse, Heidelberg, Geneva, Newcastle, Oslo and Utrecht, among several others on June 10
- **The Union government - has extended validity period of Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate from 7 years to lifetime with retrospective effect from 2011.**
- ✓ Accordingly, respective state government and union territories will have to revalidate or issue a fresh TET certificates for candidates whose period of 7 years have expired already.

- ✓ As per the new announcement, necessary changes will be made in the guidelines of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) dated February 11, 2011
- ✓ As per the guidelines, TET would be conducted by state governments and validity of TET Pass certificate was 7 years from the date of passing.
- ✓ TET is an essential qualification for those who seeks appointment as a teacher in schools.
- ✓ There is no restriction on number of attempts a person can take the TET exam to acquire a certificate.
- ✓ TET is conducted by each state separately whereas, Central TET or CTET is conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On June 11, the Supreme Court – accepted the sharing formula of ₹10 crore compensation as agreed by the Centre, the Kerala government and families of the two fishermen shot dead by two Italian marines in February 2012**
- ✓ The ₹10 crore compensation was provided by Italy to withdraw the charges against the two Italian marines
- ✓ Henceforth, Italy will be responsible for trial of the two navy officers on murder charges.
- ✓ As per the accepted agreement, ₹4 crore each would go to the legal heirs of the two dead fishermen while ₹2 crore would be given to the boat owner.
- ✓ The bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and M R Shah will pass orders in the case on June 15

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **The US Food and Drug administration (FDA) - has denied approval for emergency use of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in US**
- ✓ The US partner of the Indian vaccine maker, biopharmaceutical Ocugen has announced that the FDA has asked for additional data
- ✓ As per Ocugen, FDA recommended to “pursue a Biologics Licence Application (BLA) submission instead of an EUA application” and “requested additional information and data”.
- ✓ Ocugen anticipates that data from additional clinical trials will be needed to support the BLA submission.
- ✓ Ocugen recently announced that it had obtained exclusive rights to commercialise Covaxin in Canada and had initiated discussions with Health Canada for regulatory approval.
- ✓ Covaxin has so far emerged safe in clinical trials to date
- ✓ India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reported no potential thromboembolic events after administering over 6.7 million doses of Covaxin in the country

- ✓ Covaxin was developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)- National Institute of Virology (NIV).

## COMMITTEES

- **The government – has recently set up a six-member committee, comprising economists and bureaucrats, to recommend the minimum wage floor**
- ✓ The panel has been given three years tenure to submit their recommendations
- ✓ The labour code on wages passed by Parliament in August 2019 has a provision to declare a 'mandatory national wage floor' or minimum wage
- ✓ This is the second committee, which has been formed by the labour ministry, after rejecting the Anoop Satpathy Committee report in 2019.
- ✓ The seven-member Satpathy panel had recommended a national minimum wage of ₹375 per day and a monthly salary of ₹9,750.
- ✓ In addition to the monthly wage, the committee had also suggested that a housing allowance of ₹1,430 be provided for city-based workers.
- ✓ The newly formed expert panel is chaired by Ajit Mishra, professor and director of Institute of Economic Growth
- ✓ It comprises Tarika Chakraborty from IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, senior fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research; Vibha Bhalla, a joint secretary in the labour ministry; H. Srinivas, director general; V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, and D.P.S. Negi, a senior labour and employment adviser in the ministry.

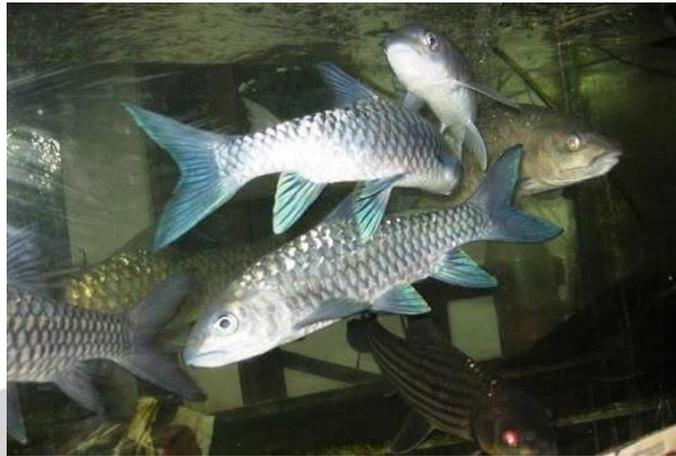
## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **China – recently launched Fengyun-4B satellite successfully into space aboard a Long March 3B rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province**



- ✓ Fengyun-4B will operate in geostationary orbit at an altitude of 35,786 kilometers above the Earth for seven years
- ✓ It is the first satellite of the second generation geostationary meteorological satellites

- ✓ Fengyun-4B will be mainly used for weather analysis and forecasting, short-term meteorological disaster warning, short-term climate forecasting and environmental monitoring
  - ✓ The satellite will provide information security services in sectors including agriculture, meteorological, marine, aviation, and environmental protection.
  - ✓ It aims to cover the regions of Asia, central Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean regions.
- **Blue-finned Mahseer - has been moved to “least concern” status from the red list of endangered species of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

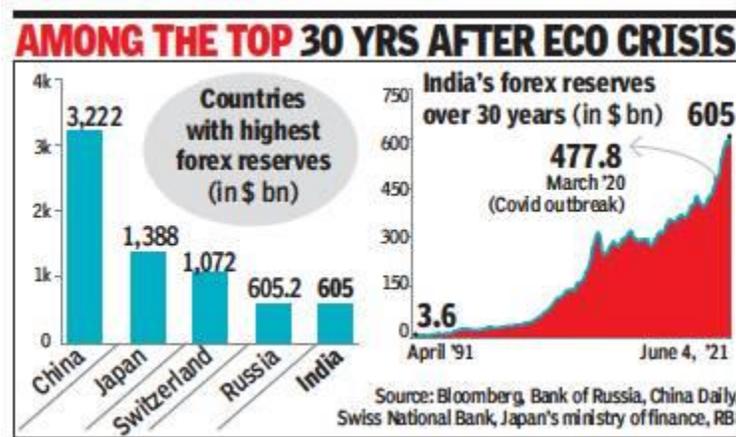


- ✓ In India, TATA group is involved in conservation of blue-finned and golden mahseer for 50 years at Walvan Hatchery in Lonavala.
- ✓ Mahseer fishes are found across Vietnam, China, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, southern Asia, Indian Peninsula, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.
- ✓ They are commercially important food fish and have a high market price
- ✓ However, due to pollution, overfishing and habitat loss, they are on the decline

## **ECONOMY**

- **The country's forex reserves - crossed the \$600-billion mark for the first time due to continued foreign investment flow into the capital markets.**
- ✓ According to the RBI, forex reserves increased by \$6.8 billion to \$605 billion in the week ended June 4.
  - ✓ The current level of forex reserves are enough to cover nearly 16 months of imports.
  - ✓ The accumulation of forex reserves helps the RBI to maintain the exchange rate at a comfortable level.
  - ✓ India is now less than \$200 million behind Russia which has an almost identical level of reserves.

- ✓ The increase in foreign exchange reserves is due to the RBI's strategy of buying dollars when there is a sudden rise of inflows which causes volatility in the forex markets.



- ✓ In FY20, the RBI added over \$100 billion to the reserves and sold dollars when the rupee came under pressure.
- ✓ In February and March, the central bank had sold almost \$10 billion by selling dollars.
- ✓ In FY21, net inflows of about \$37 billion came in through foreign fund buying of shares and debt in India, while another \$400 million net flow were added to it.
- ✓ Every \$1 billion that RBI purchases results in around ₹7,300 crore of rupee funds being released.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Zahid N Quraishi, a federal magistrate judge and the son of Pakistani immigrants - was confirmed by the US Senate for a federal judgeship in New Jersey on June 10**



- ✓ With this, Quraishi has become the first Muslim federal district court judge in the nation's history.
- ✓ The US Senate confirmed the historical appointment with a vote of 81-16
- ✓ Earlier, President Biden announced his intention to nominate him in March 2021.
- ✓ Quraishi, who was born in New York City and raised in Fanwood, New Jersey, graduated from Rutgers Law School in 2000.

- ✓ After clerking for a judge, he went to work at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP
- ✓ In 2003, Quraishi joined the army and was deployed to Iraq.
- ✓ He was awarded the Bronze Star and was discharged in 2007.

