

**While it took 97 days for India to reach 50,000 cases it took just 7 days for India to cross 200,000 from 1.5 lakh. 1091 new cases reported in Tamil Nadu.**

1. Trump invites Modi for G 7 Summit.
2. Pashmina Goats affected by LAC conflict.
3. Farmers can sell their produce anywhere in Tamil Nadu with the promulgation of an Ordinance amending The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing ( Regulation ) Act.
4. Remdesivir cleared for emergency use against COVID.
5. The most dominant coro navirus clade in India is the A2a, and of 213 genomes analysed by the group, 62% of them were A2a. The newly identified type, that the scientists have christened A3i, comprised 41% of those analysed. With this, there are 11 SARSCoV2 types identified globally, with at least six of them identified in India.

**U** The Group of Seven (G7) is a forum of the world's seven largest developed economies whose government leaders meet annually to discuss international economic and monetary issues.

The G-7 has its roots in an informal meeting of the finance ministers of France, West Germany, the U.S., Great Britain, and Japan (the Group of Five) in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. That, in turn, inspired the French President to invite the leaders of those countries, and Italy, to Rambouillet in 1975 for further discussions on global oil.

The next year, Canada was also invited to join the group and the first meeting with all G-7 nations was hosted by the United States which was held in Puerto Rico in 1976.

Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members.

The 2018 summit was hosted by Canada in Quebec from June 8-9.

The 45th G7 summit was hosted by France from August 24-26, 2019, in Biarritz in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.

### **Members**

The G7 members are recognized as the seven wealthiest and most advanced nations in the world. The members are:

France,  
Germany,  
The United Kingdom,  
Italy,  
The United States of America,  
Canada,  
Japan

The European Union is sometimes considered an eighth member of the G-7, since it holds all the rights and responsibilities of full members except to chair or host the meeting.

### **Expansion to G-8 (the Group of Eight)**

The G-7 responded as the global economy evolved. In 1991, the Soviet Union pledged to create an economy with freer markets and held its first direct presidential election.

Following the 1994 G7 meeting in Naples, Russian President held meetings with G-7 member countries, in what became known as the P-8 (Political 8).

In 1998, after urging from leaders including U.S. President, Russia was added to the G-7 group as a full-time member, creating a formal G-8.

However, in 2014, Russia was suspended from the group after the annexation of Crimea and tensions in Ukraine.

### **Purpose**

The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss and deliberate on international economic issues. It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.

G7 fills out numerous global top lists:

Leading export countries,  
Largest gold reserves,  
Largest nuclear energy producers,  
Top contributors to the UN budget.

**Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity.**

#### **Significance and the need for certification:**

**The certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina.**

**Protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.**

**Assure the purity of Pashmina for customers.**

**Discourage counterfeit or substandard products presently mislabeled and sold as genuine Pashmina in the market.**

**Motivate the younger generation to continue in this profession as well as encourage more families to take up this occupation.**

#### **Background:**

**The nomadic Pashmina herders live in the hostile and tough terrain of Changthang and are solely dependent on Pashmina for their livelihood. At present, there are 2400 families rearing 2.5 lakh goats.**

#### **About Changthangi or Pashmina goat:**

**It is a special breed of goat indigenous to the high altitude regions of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.**

**They are raised for ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina once woven.**

**These goats are generally domesticated and reared by nomadic communities called the Changpa in the Changthang region of Greater Ladakh.**

**The Changthangi goats have revitalized the economy of Changthang, Leh and Ladakh region.**

#### **About BIS:**

**The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.**

**It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.**

**The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.**

**Composition: As a corporate body, it has 25 members drawn from Central or State Governments, industry, scientific and research institutions, and consumer organisations.**

**It also works as WTO-TBT enquiry point for India.**

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave emergency approval to use the drug remdesivir for critical Covid-19 patients.

### What is Remdesivir?

It was manufactured in 2014 to treat for Ebola, by US-based biotechnology firm Gilead Sciences. It has since been used to treat for MERS and SARS, both caused by members of the coronavirus family. Current research is looking at whether the drug's antiviral properties work against SARS-CoV2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 disease.

### What does the Remdesivir do?

The drug remdesivir is designed to obstruct the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV2 at the stage of replication. At this stage, the virus creates copies of itself, followed endlessly by the copies creating copies of themselves.

Researchers have described the exact mechanism of interaction between the virus and the drug. How does replication take place?

Once the virus enters the human cell, it releases its genetic material, which is then copied using the body's existing mechanism.

At every stage of infection, various human proteins, virus proteins, and their interactions come into play.

At the replication stage, the key protein of the virus at play is an enzyme called RdRp.

RdRp makes copies by processing components of the RNA of the virus.

Scientifically, such an enzyme is called a polymerase or a replicase.

In any case, RdRp is the enzyme that is targeted by remdesivir.

How does remdesivir target the RdRp enzyme?

In order to replicate, RdRp processes raw material from the RNA of the virus, broken down by another enzyme with that specific function.

When a patient is given remdesivir, it mimics some of this material, and gets incorporated in the replication site.

With remdesivir replacing the material it needs, the virus fails to replicate further.

### What are some new findings?

As far as SARS-CoV2 is concerned, a Chinese research paper has added to the emerging knowledge about the action of remdesivir.

They have imaged the high-resolution structure of the SARS-CoV-2 replicase complex, with remdesivir bound to it.

The structure shows where the RNA template of the virus enters the replication spot.

It also shows where the remdesivir is incorporated, and where the process of replication is terminated.



