

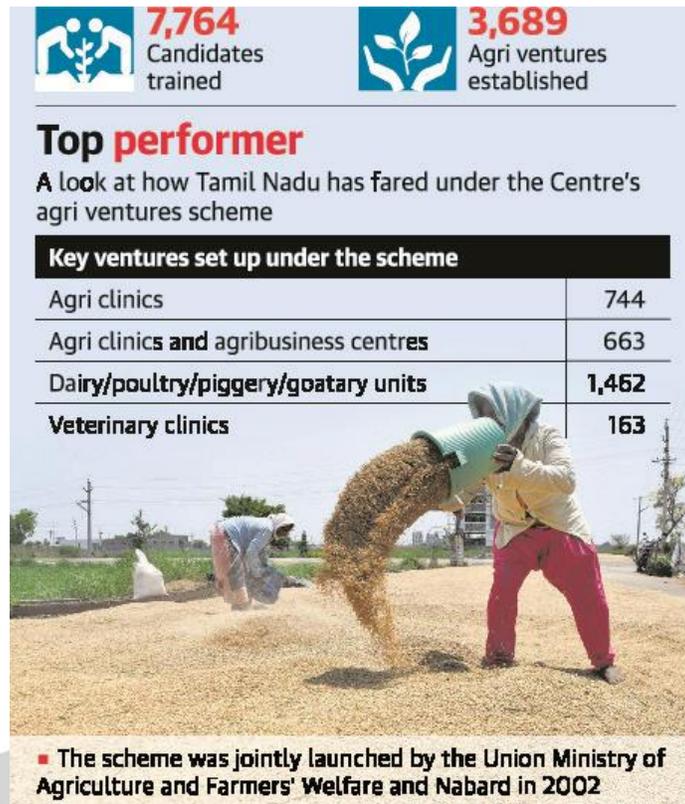
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 3, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - had allotted an additional ₹7 crore for speedy implementation of the memorial project for former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.**
- ✓ The phoenix-styled mausoleum for former chief minister, with the wings of the mythological bird, is nearing completion.
- ✓ The construction of the memorial began in May 2018, on nine acres of land next to MGR's memorial on the Marina Beach.
- ✓ Initially, the state government had allotted ₹50.8 crore for the project and an additional sum has now been approved to give the final touches for the “engineering marvel”.
- ✓ Nearly 90% of the work on the main structure will be completed by the end of August
- ✓ The design of the phoenix was developed by experts from IIT-Madras' structural engineering department.
- ✓ The work on the phoenix alone has taken more than a year.
- ✓ Originally, the work was scheduled to be completed by August 2019, but it was delayed due to the intricacies of the structure.
- ✓ After experts approved each stage and procedure, the construction was taken up.
- ✓ Work on other components of the memorial that included a knowledge park, museum, library, pavilion, cascade, lawn and service block has been completed.

- **Tamil Nadu - stands third among the States under the Union government's scheme to create agri-ventures.**
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, together with NABARD, launched a scheme in 2002 to create new 'agri-ventures'
- ✓ As per the scheme, a large number of agriculture graduates will be trained and supported to open their own agriclincs or agribusiness centres.

- ✓ So far, 7,764 candidates have been trained and 3,689 agri-ventures have been established under the scheme in Tamil Nadu.

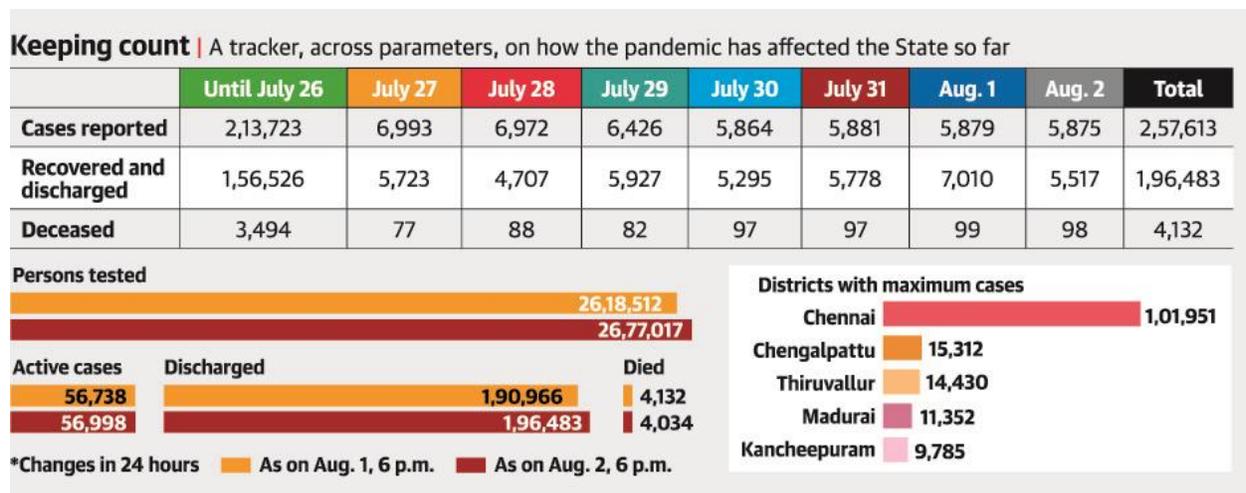


- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks third after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh where 8,155 and 7,152 ventures have been established.
 - ✓ The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) is the nodal agency for providing training to the eligible candidates.
 - ✓ To start the ventures, bank loans are provided based on the techno-economic viability of projects and a moratorium of 2 years is applicable.
 - ✓ The loans can be repaid within a period of 5 to 10 years.
 - ✓ A subsidy is available up to a project cost of ₹20 lakh for an individual project (₹25 lakh in case of extremely successful individual projects) and up to ₹1 crore for a group project.
 - ✓ A composite subsidy of 36% of the project cost is granted, as per the revised guidelines issued in 2019.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) - has commenced work on developing a third Miyawaki forest in Chennai, in Alandur zone.**
- ✓ The city already has two such forests – near the Kotturpuram MRTS station in Adyar zone and in Rayala Nagar in Valasaravakkam
 - ✓ Miyawaki method is a Japanese technique of growing different varieties of trees in a small area of land using organic manure.



- ✓ The Miyawaki forest in Adyar has 2,000 saplings of 40 species of trees on around 20,000 square feet of land
 - ✓ The second forest in Valasaravakkam has more than 700 saplings of 45 different species on a 6,000 square feet land.
 - ✓ The proposed forest in Alandur zone will come up in Blooming Garden Road in Mugalivakkam
 - ✓ There will be 2000 saplings planted in 35 cents of land.
 - ✓ The trees would turn into a dense forest within two years.
 - ✓ In the Miyawaki scheme, trees are grown at a gap of 1 metre and soil will be dug upto four feet to plant the trees
 - ✓ Traditional tree varieties like Poongan, Peepal and Neem trees would be planted on this.
 - ✓ Fruit-bearing trees would also be part of the forest
 - ✓ In the Miyawaki system, wet waste (converted to manure), coir, cow dung and other similar material are used as organic manure.
 - ✓ According to GCC's calculations, the 2,000 trees in Kotturpuram would consume 11.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide and give out four tonnes of oxygen in the first year.
- **Researchers from Anna University - have developed a 'wearable' Covid-19 early warning system to monitor risky Covid-19 patients**
- ✓ The low-cost 'smart' health device will track the vital parameters such as temperature, oxygen saturation rate, heart rate and respiratory rate of the Covid-19 patients and sends the data to a server for analysis
 - ✓ The server uses a machine learning algorithm to calculate scores for each user and then classifies them according to their health conditions.
 - ✓ If there are any abnormal variations in these biomarkers, the system generates an alarm so that the user can immediately consult doctors.
 - ✓ Based on machine learning algorithms, each of the four measurements of vital parameters will be converted on a scale of 0 to 3 developed by Royal College of Physicians in the UK.
 - ✓ If the cumulative score is above 7, the smart device will recommend a RT-PCR test

- ✓ The system will be helpful for doctors and nurses to monitor the health conditions of the admitted patient from a relatively safe distance in a hospital environment
 - ✓ The team also developed an app for doctors to enable them to monitor up to 20 patients on their phone.
 - ✓ The team is now preparing to test the device at hospitals in Chennai
- **On August 2, Tamil Nadu – reported 98 deaths, taking the cumulative toll to 4,132**
- ✓ The state also reported 5,875 fresh cases, taking the total caseload to 2,57,613
 - ✓ With this, the number of active cases stands at 56,998.
 - ✓ As many as 5,517 persons were discharged after treatment, taking the total figure to 1,96,483.

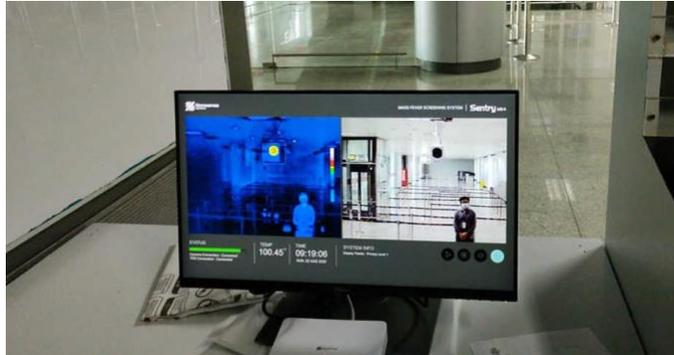


- ✓ Chennai reported 1,065 cases on the day, taking its total caseload to 1,01,951
- ✓ Its three neighbouring districts, Chengalpattu reported 446 cases, while Kancheepuram reported 393 and Tiruvallur accounted for 317 fresh cases
- ✓ Other districts with more than 200 cases includes Virudhunagar (337), Theni (309) and Coimbatore (238)
- ✓ **Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit, 80, has tested positive for Covid-19 infection**
- ✓ The governor was asymptomatic, clinically stable and advised home isolation
- ✓ At least 87 people living on the Raj Bhavan premises have tested positive over the past few days.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested all airlines to ensure passengers boarding domestic flights to Chennai and other airports in Tamil Nadu should hold a TN e-pass and also register with the state government website.
- ✓ Earlier, the passengers were allowed to register for an e-pass after landing at Chennai and other airports.
- ✓ The move comes after the state government revised its guidelines for travellers.

- ✓ It also says that all passengers arriving from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi will be tested for Covid-19 on arrival at Chennai.

STATES

- **The Hyderabad International Airport - is now equipped with a state-of-the-art thermal scanner**
- ✓ It has been provided by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and funded by UNICEF.



- ✓ The ceiling-mounted mass fever screening system is capable of scanning, detecting and tracking persons with elevated temperature.
- ✓ It automatically adjusts and adapts to the surrounding ambient temperature without any human intervention.
- ✓ With its intuitive user interface and dual-displays (day camera + infra-red), it provides easy identification of passengers with fever symptoms, while simplifying operations and minimising handling
- ✓ The GMR Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has been handling international relief flights under the government's 'Vande Bharat Mission', apart from other domestic flights.

NATIONAL

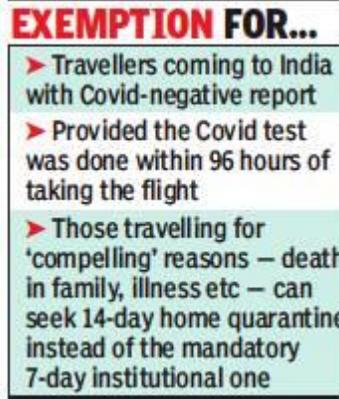
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is likely to announce the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) on August 15**
- ✓ The NDHM is designed as a complete digital health ecosystem with personal health IDs for every Indian, digitisation of health records as well as a registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.
- ✓ The proposal has already received in-principle cabinet approval and the final nod is expected by the end of this week
- ✓ The digital platform will be launched with four key features – health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor and health facility registry.
- ✓ Further, it will include e-pharmacy and telemedicine services at a later stage, for which regulatory guidelines are being framed.

PARTICIPATION IN SYSTEM TO BE VOLUNTARY

AIMS TO	KEY BUILDING BLOCKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Establish digital health systems and managing health data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Health ID ● Personal health records ● Digi Doctor ● Health facility registry ● Telemedicine ● e-Pharmacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Improve quality of health data collection, storage and dissemination	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provide a platform for interoperability of healthcare data	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Fast-track creation of updated and accurate health registries for the entire country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voluntary participation ● Privacy and security by design ● Inclusivity ● Seamless portability

- ✓ The platform is purely voluntary as it will be the decision of an individual to get enrolled on the app.
- ✓ Health records will be shared only after authorisation by the individual.
- ✓ Similarly, the hospitals and doctors have to decide on providing details for the app.
- ✓ As per the government, the implementation of NDHM is expected to significantly improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health service delivery overall
 - ✓ Further, it will accelerate India's progress towards achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.8 of universal health coverage, including financial risk protection
- ✓ The NHA, the implementing agency for Ayushman Bharat, has created the platform for NDHM
- ✓ It will be available in the form of an app and also as a website.
- ✓ The initiative is seen as another flagship measure in the healthcare sector after health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana)
- ✓ The mission will be launched initially in select states and expanded throughout the country in a phased manner.
- ✓ The finance ministry has already approved a budget of Rs 470 crore for the proposal
- ✓ The mission ensures the privacy of an individual, as the ownership of data remains with individuals and consent is required to access it.
- ✓ The individual will have a choice to allow a medical practitioner or facility to access the data even for a limited period of time.
- ✓ People will also have a choice to link their unique health ID with Aadhaar as per their wish
- ✓ This ID will be applicable across states, hospitals, diagnostic laboratories and pharmacies.

- **The government – has announced new guidelines regarding quarantine procedures for passengers returning or travelling back to India**
- ✓ Accordingly, people flying into India need not undergo 'mandatory' institutional quarantine if they come with a corona-negative report.
- ✓ The new norm will be applicable from August 8, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare guidelines issued on August 2



- ✓ However, the test should have been conducted within 96 hours of undertaking the journey.
- ✓ Passengers submitting false or forged medical reports will be prosecuted.
- ✓ The RT-PCR test report can either be uploaded on the portal for consideration or shown upon arrival at the point of entry in the airport
- ✓ Further, those coming to India for “compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below” can seek home quarantine for 14 days, instead of seven-day paid institutional quarantine and seven-day home quarantine.
- ✓ In case the passengers seek such exemption, they should apply for the same on 'www.newdelhiairport.in' at least 72 hours before boarding.
- ✓ These guidelines supersede those issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 24. Earlier, passengers were required to register with the Indian embassy in their country
- ✓ Further, all passengers are advised to download the Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices before boarding the flight/ship
- ✓ At the time of boarding the flight/ship, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- ✓ Passengers arriving through land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above
- ✓ On arrival, a symptomatic passenger shall be immediately isolated and taken to a medical facility.
- ✓ Other passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective state/UT governments, for being kept there at least for seven days.

- ✓ States can develop their own protocol regarding the quarantine and isolation as per the assessment of passengers in airports.
- **The Centre - has set December 2022 as the deadline for rail connectivity to Kashmir and all-weather road connectivity to the Valley next year.**
- ✓ Similarly, to improve road connectivity to villages in this newly created Union territory, 5,300km of rural roads would be built during the current financial year.
- ✓ Out of this, 4,600km of roads under PM Gram Sadak Yojna will be built in Jammu province, the rest 700km will be constructed in Kashmir.
- ✓ The railway ministry had recently claimed that the world's highest railway bridge over river Chenab in Jammu & Kashmir being built at a height of 359 metres from the river bed level will be ready by December 2021.
- ✓ This will be higher than the Qutub Minar and Eiffel Tower.
- ✓ The maximum designed wind speed for the bridge is 266kmph
- **On August 2, India - reported more than 53,500 fresh Covid-19 cases and 758 deaths**
- ✓ In the last one week, Maharashtra topped the caseload with 65,429 cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 62,466, Tamil Nadu with 43,890 and Karnataka with 38,678
- ✓ On the day, India recorded 53,641 new cases, a slight dip from the count in the previous two days (57,151 and 55,919, respectively).
- ✓ **Meanwhile, Home minister Amit Shah was admitted to Medanta hospital in Gurgaon after testing positive for Covid-19 and remained 'stable'**
- ✓ **Further, Karnataka CM B S Yeddiyurappa announced that he was also tested positive for Covid-19.**
- ✓ The chief minister is also 'stable' and is being hospitalised as a precaution on the recommendation of doctors.
- ✓ On the same day, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Kamla Rani Varun, who held the technical education portfolio, died from novel coronavirus infection at a Lucknow hospital during treatment.
- ✓ In the last fortnight, between July 15 and 28, India conducted over five million Covid-19 tests (50,04,250), as against 3.4 million in the preceding fortnight.
- ✓ After China, the US and Russia, India is the fourth country to have conducted over 20 million tests.
- ✓ Among states, Uttar Pradesh conducted the highest number of 7.55 lakh coronavirus tests in two weeks, followed by Tamil Nadu (7.31 lakh), Maharashtra (5.59 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (5.31 lakh) and Karnataka (3.40 lakh)
- ✓ In terms of tests per million, Delhi continues to remain at the top with 53,682 tests/million, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with 38,539 and 35,916 tests respectively.
- ✓ Maharashtra has conducted 18,000 tests/million, UP 10,751, while the all-India tests per million stand at 14,352

- ✓ The positivity rate, or total confirmed cases per 100 tests, remains at 11.23% over the last 14-day period between July 15-28.
- ✓ A positivity rate of 5% and above over a two-week period is considered as 'red zone', which means a larger infected population remains to be tested.
- ✓ Maharashtra continues to be at the top with 21%, followed by Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, each having positivity rate between 14% and 18%.

SPORTS

- **On August 2, the IPL governing council – announced its decision to conduct the IPL tournament from September 19 to November 10.**
- ✓ Earlier, the Union Government has granted provisional clearance for IPL 2020 to be shifted to the UAE in the wake of Covid-19
- ✓ The date for the final on a week day, November 10, was fixed following a request from the broadcaster.
- ✓ Further, the governing council also approved the proposal to advance the start of the night matches to 7.30 p.m. from 8 p.m.
- ✓ The size of the teams will be capped at 24 players
- ✓ Also, it was decided not to allow spectators in any of the three venues — Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah — during the initial phase of the tournament.
- ✓ The governing council discussed the comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which will be finalised and published in due course
- ✓ It includes the details of agencies to execute and deliver a bio-secure environment for safe and successful conduct of IPL 2020 season
- ✓ Further, BCCI said that it will review IPL's sponsorship deals for this year
- ✓ This assumes significance, as Chinese mobile company VIVO is the title sponsor of IPL

