EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 21, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai - bagged the award for the country's best mega city in adopting innovative and best practices in solid waste management among cities with a population of more than 40 lakh**
- ✓ The award was announced as part of the rankings in the nation-wide annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020.
- ✓ Chennai received the award for the initiatives taken to reduce dumping of waste in Perungudi and Kodungaiyur by promoting decentralised waste management
- ✓ The city got a score of 62 out of 80 in the category of "Innovation and best practices," which is two marks more than that of the cleanest city, Indore.
- ✓ However, Chennai fell from 61st rank last year to a poor 312 this year in the overall rankings for this year.
- ✓ Chennai was also ranked 45th among the 47 cities with a population of more than 10 lakh in the country in 2020.
    - ✓ The city only managed a score of 2,010 out of 6,000.
- ✓ Chennai scored just 23 out of 400 in complaint resolution on the Swachhata App and also done poorly in solid waste management by getting only 334 marks out of 800
- ✓ Further, the capital city has scored 343 out of 500 in collection and transportation of waste, 358 out of 700 in waste processing and disposal, 386 out of 500 in sustainable sanitation and 45 out of 60 in capacity building.

- **Tamil Nadu - jumped to the 10th spot in 2020 from 12th last year in the overall ranking for cleanest cities, according to the Swachh Survekshan 2020 report**
- ✓ However, none of the cities from the State made it to the top 25.
- ✓ In terms of cities with a population of more than 10 lakh, apart from Chennai, Coimbatore maintained last year's rank of 40 this year too, with a score of 2,337.12.

- ✓ Madurai progressed significantly to the 42nd rank in 2020 with a score of 2,255.81, when compared to 201 in 2019.
- ✓ In terms of cities with 1 lakh-10 lakh population, Tiruchi's rank slipped to 102 with a score of 3,360.47 points in 2020 from 39 last year.
  - ✓ The ranking of Salem dropped to 173 in 2020 from 156 in 2019, while Tiruppur's rank also declined to 223 in 2020 from 209 last year.
  - ✓ Vellore improved its ranking to 272 from 301 last year, while Tirunelveli's ranking jumped to 159 from 244 in 2019.
- ✓ In terms of cantonment boards, St. Thomas Mount moved up to the 10th spot in 2020 from 17th last year while Wellington dropped to 21 from 8.
- ✓ Among Municipalities, Tambaram's ranking slipped to 269 this year from 260 in 2019 while Pallavaram improved to 241 from 278.
  - ✓ Avadi's ranking improved to 321 in 2020 from 385 in 2019.
  - ✓ Kancheepuram's ranking improved to 280 in 2020 from 333 last year, according to the report.

➢ **On August 20, Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed S Gowri, a professor of Anna University, as the new vice-chancellor of Madras University.**

- ✓ He will be the 45th vice-chancellor of the 163-year-old university and will hold the post for three years.
- ✓ Prof Gowri, a post-doctoral fellow of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore, has a teaching experience of 37 years
- ✓ He is the present director of The Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), an inter-university centre of UGC at the Anna University.
- ✓ He was also an honorary professor in the Department of manufacturing engineering, Anna University, and was visiting professor at NTU and other universities.
- ✓ S Gowri was one of three candidates shortlisted by a search panel headed by Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar.

- ✓ The committee began its search in June after delays due to Covid-19
- ✓ It had initially shortlisted12 candidates from a pool of 177 applicants and narrowed down to the final three — S Gowri, S Ganesan and Usha Natesan all from Anna University.
- ✓ The three had an interview with the governor on August 20, after which Gowri was appointed.
- ✓ Apart from his teaching experience, Prof Gowri is familiar with university administration too, having functioned as the registrar of Anna University of Technology (before 2012).

- ➢ **On August 20, a new ship, C-449 - was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard by Tamil Nadu chief secretary K Shanmugham at a ceremony in Chennai Port.**

- ✓ The 27.8m long ship has a displacement of 105tons and maximum speed of 45knots (85kmph).
- ✓ It is capable of surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, in addition to providing assistance to boats and craft in distress at sea.
- ✓ It is the 49th of the series of 54 indigenously designed ships for coast guard and was built by Larsen and Toubro Ltd, Hazira Surat.
- ✓ The induction of this ship is a part of ongoing efforts by the coast guard to strengthen maritime and coastal security along the coast of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh

- ➢ **On August 20, Governor Banwarilal Purohit- appointed G Sugumar as vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University in Nagapattinam.**
- ✓ He will hold the post for three years from the date of his assumption of office.
- ✓ Sukumar has published 24 research articles in reputed journals and was a member of various international societies

- ✓ He has a teaching experience of 33 years and is currently a professor and the head of the department of fish processing technology at the Fisheries College and Research Institute, Tuticorin.
- ✓ Sugumar is also experienced in university administration, having functioned in various capacities including dean, Fisheries College and Research Institute, dean, faculty of fisheries in Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University.

- ➢ **On August 20, Tamil Nadu - reported 5,986 fresh Covid-19 cases and 116 deaths, taking the case tally to 3,61,435 and the cumulative toll to 6,239.**
- ✓ A total of 5,742 people were discharged from various hospitals, taking the number of people cured of the infection over the 3 lakh mark to 3,01,913.
- ✓ As on date, 53,283 people were still under treatment.

COVID TRACKER

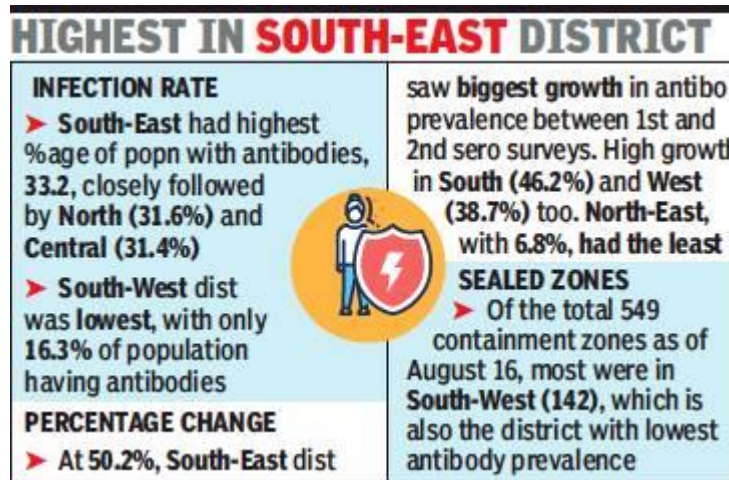| ZONE	New cases	Deaths	Active cases	Positive deaths
Chennai Region	2,323	35	21,411	1,79,980
North	894	23	8,146	47,947
South	1,211	25	10,852	79,831
Central	525	12	5,364	24,975
West	1,027	21	7,405	26,628
Other	6	0	105	2,074
Total	5,986	116	53,283	3,61,435

(Across TN, August 20)

- ✓ Chennai remained the hotspot with 1,177 cases and 22 deaths
- ✓ The neighbouring districts Chengalpet (462), Kancheepuram (291) and Tiruvallur (393) together reported 1,146 cases and 13 deaths.
- ✓ Further, Cuddalore (270), Theni (233), Ranipet (145), Trichy (128), Vellore (124), Thanjavur (117), Tiruvannamalai (109) and Pudukottai (102) continued to report high number of cases.
- ✓ The number of samples tested in the last 24 hours is 75,076, taking the total number of samples tested till now to 39.88 lakh.

✓ The state has 139 testing facilities as on date, following the approvals of few more labs
✓ This includes 63 in the government sector and 76 in private sector

STATES

➢ **Punjab government – announced the findings of its first serological survey undertaken in five containment zones**
✓ The findings have revealed that 27.7% of people residing in them have already developed antibodies, after been exposed to Covid-19 and cured.
✓ The survey was conducted from August 1-17 in a systematically-selected sample size of 1,250 people above 18 years.
✓ The findings of the survey were submitted to chief minister Amarinder Singh during a Covid review video meeting on August 20.
✓ According to the survey, the prevalence of antibodies in the containment zones is highest at 40% in Amritsar district, followed by 35.6% in Ludhiana, 33.2% in Mohali, 19.2% in Patiala and 10.8% in Jalandhar district.
✓ On the same day, Delhi released its second sero-findings, which showed around 29% prevalence in the national capital.
✓ Incidentally, ICMR had earlier conducted a similar survey in four districts — Patiala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Pathankot — in mid-May and collected 1,600 samples.
✓ At that time, only 1% was found to be positive.

➢ **The government of Delhi – has announced the findings of the second serological survey conducted across the capital city**
✓ The findings have revealed that the prevalence of Covid-19 antibodies has gone up to 29.1% of the population, up from 23.5% in the first survey.
✓ This means that over 58 lakh of the two crore population of Delhi has been infected with the coronavirus and has recovered successfully.
✓ Their risk of getting infected again is now low, after the development of antibodies.

HIGHEST IN SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT

INFECTION RATE
➤ South-East had highest %age of popn with antibodies, 33.2, closely followed by North (31.6%) and Central (31.4%)
➤ South-West dist was lowest, with only 16.3% of population having antibodies

PERCENTAGE CHANGE
➤ At 50.2%, South-East dist

saw biggest growth in antibo prevalence between 1st and 2nd sero surveys. High growtl in South (46.2%) and West (38.7%) too. North-East, with 6.8%, had the least

SEALED ZONES
➤ Of the total 549 containment zones as of August 16, most were in South-West (142), which is also the district with lowest antibody prevalence

- ✓ The second sero-survey was conducted by the Delhi government in association with Maulana Azad Medical College.
- ✓ The State has also announced that a third serological survey will be conducted in the capital from September 1 while the fourth survey will be taken in October.
- ✓ The prevalence of antibodies was higher in women (32.2%) than men (28.3%).
- ✓ Further, the highest prevalence was among people below 18 years (34.7%) and lowest in the 18-49 age-group (28.5%).
- ✓ However, the city is still far from acquiring herd immunity, which is at least 40%, as per the experts
- ✓ The survey, however, reveals that the spread of the infection has not been uniform in the city
- ✓ The survey was conducted in all 11 districts of the capital
- ✓ A total of 15,000 blood samples were collected from the districts between August 1and 7.
- ✓ Of these, 25% of the samples were collected from people in the 5-17 age group, 50% from the 18-49 age group and 25% from those above 50 years.
- ✓ The antibodies prevalence among these age groups has been found to be 34.7%, 28.5% and 31.2%, respectively.

- ➢ **The Kerala government – has launched exclusive 'online' classes for tribal children in the state under the name 'Namath Basai' in tribal villages.**

- ✓ The programme was implemented by the Samagra Siksha Kerala (SSK) a few weeks ago.
- ✓ The 'online' class sessions have appealed hundreds of tribal children by making them feel comfortable in their own language of instruction.
- ✓ The SSK has distributed some 50 laptops exclusively for Namath Basai.
- ✓ Pre-recorded classes are offered through a YouTube channel.
- ✓ Classes are being offered in three tribal languages in the village of Attappady.
- ✓ While the Irula language has the largest number of takers, the Muduka and Kurumba language do not have as many.
- ✓ Out of the 192 hamlets in Attappady, 149 belong to the Irula tribe, 24 to the Muduka tribe and 19 to the Kurumba tribe.

- ✓ Naturally, the project got its name in Irula language. 'Namath Basai' in Irula means 'our language'.
- ✓ The State education department is planning to encourage schools in tribal areas too to promote classes in tribal mother tongue.
- ✓ The resource persons are from the locality, mainly drawn from the tribal communities.
- ✓ Though the textbooks are in Malayalam, the media of instruction are the tribal languages.

NATIONAL

- ➢ **Indore city in Madhya Pradesh- retained the title of cleanest city for the fourth time in a row, by scoring 5,647 out of 6,000 .**
- ✓ In a significant jump, Surat (Gujarat) moved to second position in this year's swachhta ranking from 14th place in 2019 among cities with more than one lakh population.
- ✓ Also, Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai improved its position this year to become the third cleanest city from last year's rank of seven.
- ✓ Among the cities with over 1 lakh population, Indore was ranked number one, followed by Surat, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysore, Vijayawada, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Chandrapur and Khargone

SWACHHTA SCORECARD

Ranking	More than 1-lakh population	Less than 1-lakh population
1	Indore (MP)	Karad (MH)
2	Surat (Guj)	Sasvad (MH)
3	Navi Mumbai (MH)	Lonavala (MH)
4	Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)	Nawanshahr (Punjab)
5	Mysuru (Karnataka)	Panhala (MH)
6	Vijayawada (AP)	Jejuri (MH)
7	Ahmedabad (Guj)	Shirdi (MH)
8	NDMC (Delhi)	Mauda CT (MH)
9	Chandrapur (MH)	Kagal (MH)
10	Khargone (MP)	Ratnagiri (MH)

Source: Swachhta Survekshan, 2020

- ✓ New Delhi (NDMC) slipped to the eighth position this year compared to fifth rank last year.
    - ✓ It has been ranked as the country's cleanest capital city.
- ✓ Further, two cities each from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra made it to the top 10 cleanest cities in this million plus population category.

SWACHH RANKINGS 2020
INDORE TOPS AGAIN

CLEANEST CITIES

Over 10 Lakh Population	1 To 10 lakh Population
1. Indore (4th year running)	1. Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)
2. Surat	2. Mysuru
3. Navi Mumbai	3. New Delhi (NDMC area)

CANTONMENT BOARDS

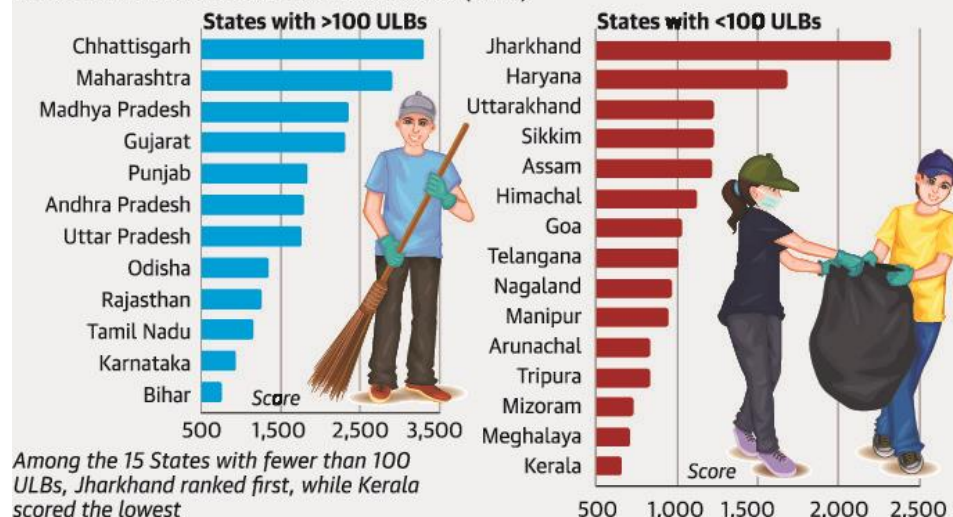| 1. Jalandhar	2. Delhi

Best 'Ganga Town' | Varanasi

4,242 CIVIC BODIES COVERED

This is the 5th edition of the cleanliness survey & it covered areas under 4,242 urban local bodies; for the past two years, the ministry of housing and urban affairs has discontinued the practice of putting out the entire list of cities and their ranking

✓ Among cities with less than one lakh population, Karad in Maharashtra held its position as the cleanest city, followed by Sasvad and Lonavala in that order.
  ✓ As many as nine out of the top 10 cities and towns in this category were from Maharashtra.
✓ Chhattisgarh was ranked the cleanest State out of those with over 100 cities, while Jharkhand was the cleanest among those with fewer than 100 urban local bodies (ULBs) or cities.

State of cleanliness

Chhattisgarh scored the highest in the Swachh Survekshan assessment among the 12 States which have more than 100 urban local bodies (ULBs)

States with >100 ULBs: Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar

States with <100 ULBs: Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Assam, Himachal, Goa, Telangana, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Kerala

Among the 15 States with fewer than 100 ULBs, Jharkhand ranked first, while Kerala scored the lowest

- ✓ Mysuru won the award of cleanest city in India.
- ✓ Jalandhar Cantonment, which is a cantonment town in Jalandhar District of Punjab, was named as India's Cleanest Cantonment.
  - ✓ It is one of the oldest cantonments in India, the construction of which had begun after the first Anglo-Sikh War in 1848.
- ✓ PM's constituency, Varanasi was declared as the cleanest Ganga city in this year's survey.
  - ✓ The town is popularly regarded as the spiritual capital of India.
- ✓ The results of the Swachh Survekshan 2020 were announced by housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri during the 'Swachh Mahotsav' ceremony on August 20, 2020.
- ✓ This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey, which covered areas under 4,242 urban local bodies , 62 cantonment boards and 97 "Ganga towns" in a record 28 days in 'digital mode' for the first time.
- ✓ Overall, 129 top performing cities and states were awarded this year during the virtual 'Swachh Mahotsav', which was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ This year, the fifth edition of the survey had become the world's largest sanitation survey, with 1.8 crore citizens giving their feedback.
- ✓ The Swachh Survekshan survey was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2016.
  - ✓ It was first conducted in 2016 with the rating of 73 major cities.
  - ✓ The second survey was held in 2017 that included 434 cities, while the third survey that was held in 2018 ranked 4,203 cities and the fourth survey was held in 2019.
- ✓ This year, for the first time, the centre had integrated Swachh Survekshan League with the survey.
  - ✓ The Swachh Survekshan league made cleanliness assessments throughout the year.
  - ✓ The parameters considered in the assessment were waste water treatment and reuse and faecal sludge management.

- ➢ **The Centre - is considering initial procurement of around 50 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine for front-line workers, army personnel and certain other categories of individuals.**
- ✓ The prioritisation of the vaccine has been under discussion in government along with planning supply chains and distribution.
- ✓ In this regard, the government has assured the local vaccine manufacturers about a large demand, once the vaccine passes regulatory requirements and becomes available.
- ✓ The local vaccine manufacturers have asked government for estimates of an assured market

- ✓ There are indications that more than one vaccine shot is likely to be developed around the same time, perhaps with a gap of few weeks by end-2020 or early next year

3 VACCINE CANDIDATES FOR NOW
- ➤ Three vaccine candidates are undergoing human trials in India
- ➤ Pune-based Serum Institute of India is ahead with conducting Phase 2 and 3 of clinical trials for Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate
- ➤ Other two vaccine candidates being developed by Bharat Biotech and Zydus Cadila, which are conducting early phase 1 and 2 clinical trials at present
- ➤ Oxford vaccine candidate likely to be first vaccine for Covid-19 to secure regulatory approvals in India

- ✓ On August 17, the expert group on Covid vaccine administration, headed by NITI Aayog member VK Paul and health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, conducted a meeting with major vaccine developers
- ✓ The expert group had asked the companies to submit proposals detailing capacities for manufacturing, price ranges and suggestions on how the government can support them.
- ✓ The expert committee is considering various options, including financial assistance for advance manufacturing of vaccines, if required.
- ✓ At present, there are three vaccine candidates undergoing human trials in India.
- ✓ Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) – conducting Phase 2 and 3 of clinical trials for the Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate – is ahead of the other two vaccine candidates developed by two local companies – Bharat Biotech and Zydus Cadila.
- ✓ Both Bharat Biotech and Cadila are doing early phase 1 and 2 clinical trials at present.
- ✓ The Oxford vaccine candidate has already shown promise in early phases conducted in UK
  - ✓ It is likely to be the first vaccine for Covid-19 to secure regulatory approvals in India
- ✓ However, the other two locally developed candidates may also not be far off if they successfully prove safety and efficacy

- ➢ **On August 20, India – has reported its second highest single-day tally of 69,317 fresh Covid-19 infections, taking its cumulative caseload to over 29 lakh and over 12 lakh mark in August month alone**
- ✓ This is higher than in any previous month and the highest count by any country during this month.
- ✓ The tally for the whole of July was 11,09,444

- ✓ Thus, India's count of cases in August continues to the world's highest, with the US in second place (9,94,863 cases till August 19) and Brazil third (7,94,115), according to worldometers.info
- ✓ The country has also reported 986 deaths on the day.

NO. 3 IN DEATHS

➤ **12.1 lakh** Covid cases in Aug so far — **highest for any month.** 11.1 lakh cases in whole of July

➤ India's tally **highest for any country in August.** Till August 19, **US cases were 9.9 lakh** and Brazil's 7.9 lakh

➤ **India No. 3** in deaths in August, behind US & Brazil

Thurs | Cases 69317; Deaths 986

- ✓ Maharashtra crossed the 14,000 mark on the day to report its highest single-day spike in infections with 14,492 cases
- ✓ With this, the state's total case tally touched 6,43,289, close to the 6.5 lakh mark.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported 9,393 fresh cases, taking the cumulative tally to 3,25,396.