

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 22, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Two teachers from the State – have been selected for the National Awards 2020 for best ‘teachers’**
- ✓ R C Saraswathi, headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar and S Dhilip, an English teacher from Government Higher Secondary School were announced among the winners this year
- ✓ The state school education department has recommended six teachers - three headmasters and three teachers – for the awards this year



- ✓ The Union ministry of education released the list of 47 teachers selected for the award on August 21.
- ✓ R C Saraswathi is heading one of the largest girl’s schools in the city with best infrastructure including smart classes and science labs.
 - ✓ She worked as postgraduate chemistry teacher for more than 20 years before taking over as headmistress in 2014.
- ✓ S Dhilip was selected for his contributions in improving the reading and writing skills of rural children in English.
 - ✓ He is also involved in providing English and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) training to teachers.

- ✓ The teachers are likely to receive the awards from the President on September 5, Teachers Day.
- **The Centre - has cleared a proposal for environment impact assessment (EIA) study and public hearing to set up the Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project stage I (4x250MW) in the Nilgiris.**
- ✓ Further, a sub-committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment chose a route for the tunnel to be laid that was assessed to be the cheapest budget at ₹4,131 crore.
- ✓ Tangedco designed the multicore project utilising the waters of Sillahalla, a tributary of river Kundah.
- ✓ 'Sillu Halla' means "stream" in the tribal Badaga language.
- ✓ But, ecologists and a section of locals have opposed the project, ever since it was conceptualized.
- ✓ As per the initial design, Tangedco estimates that 170 hectares of land will be submerged at full reservoir level.

THE BLUEPRINT

Highlights of the Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project Stage I in the Nilgiris

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sillahalla, a stream, rises near Melkaave and flows 12km to join Kundah River, where it is called Diddamanore Halla 	<p>peak hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tangedco estimates that annual energy generation will be 6,000MWh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A concrete gravity 82mX327m upper dam across Sillahalla River and a 112mX470m lower dam across Kundah river are planned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total land requirement is 315 hectares, including 134.7 hectares of private land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The dams will be interlinked by a tunnel to generate electricity during peak hours and recycle the water from lower to upper dam during non- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total catchment area of the upper dam is 65sqkm, while the lower dam is 183.5sq km ➤ About 1,600 workers will be employed during the construction phase

- ✓ As per the Sillahalla Ecology and Social Association (SESA) that has spearheaded the protests, around 20 Badaga villages will be affected and consequently 20,000 members of the indigenous community will also be displaced.
- ✓ Among these villages, the villages of Kallakorai, Bembetti, Thulithalai, Kanneri, Thangadu, T Oranalli, Meekari and Balacola have already been declared landslide vulnerable by the Nilgiris district administration.
- ✓ An expert appraisal committee of the ministry sanctioned additional terms of reference for the study after the recent site visit.

- ✓ This included suitable compensation for the land besides forest and National Board of Wildlife clearance, as Mukurthi National park and Mudumalai-Mukurthi tiger corridor are located less than 5km away
 - ✓ Acknowledging representations from ecologists, scientists and NGOs, an expert appraisal committee had advised Tangedco to address them and submit a detailed reply to the ministry.
- **On August 21, the Tamil Nadu government - entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nabkisan, a subsidiary of Nabard**
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu has become the first state to sign a MoU with Nabkisan



- ✓ The agreement is intended to provide finance options for farmer producer companies (FPCs).
 - ✓ As per the MoU, “NABKISAN” has been designated as the implementing partner for administering the three schemes launched for financing of FPCs in Tamil Nadu viz., Mezzanine Capital Assistance (Rs.50 crore), Credit Guarantee fund (Rs. 50 crore) and Revolving Fund scheme (Rs. 166.70 crore)
 - ✓ These schemes, announced by Government of Tamilnadu, involve a total contribution of Rs.266.70 crore spread over 4 years.
 - ✓ The MoU was signed by S J Chiru, Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, and Suseela Chintala, managing director, Nabkisan.
 - ✓ The State is targeting to establish 1,000 FPCs in the state over the next four years.
- **On August 21, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,995 new Covid-19 cases that took the case tally to 3,67,430.**
- ✓ The cumulative toll touched 6,340 after the state accounted for 101 deaths on the day.
 - ✓ Another 5,764 persons were discharged, taking the total number of persons discharged so far to 3,07,677.
 - ✓ At the end of the day, 53,413 people were under treatment.

- ✓ Chennai continued to report the maximum infections with 1,282 cases and 23 deaths

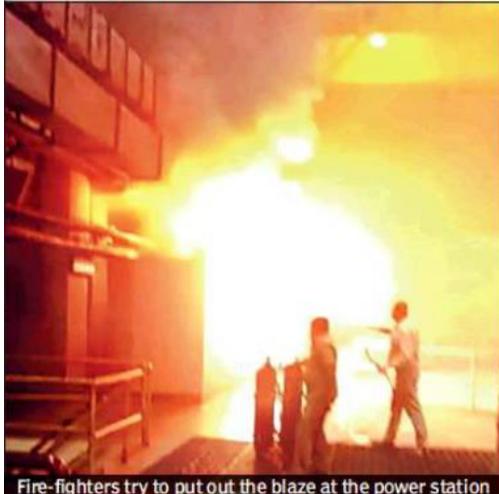
TN COVID TRACKER				
(August 21)				
Zone	New cases	Deaths	Active cases	Total cases
Chennai region	2,301	34	21,677	1,82,281
North	960	18	8,030	48,904
South	1,089	21	10,250	80,921
West	1,048	15	7,856	27,678
Central	587	13	5,495	25,562
Other	10	0	105	2,084
Grand Total	5,995	101	53,413	3,67,430

- ✓ The three adjacent districts – Chengalpeta (430), Tiruvallur (369) and Kancheepuram (220) – together accounted for 1,019 cases
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore (395), Salem (269), Cuddalore (242), Vellore (200), Ranipet (178), Tirunelveli (163), Kanyakumari (153), Dindigul (128), Tuticorin (127), Theni (122), Villupuram (129), Trichy (110), Ramanathapuram (107), Thanjavur (100) and Tirupathur (100) continued to report high number of cases
- ✓ In the last 24 hours, 74,344 samples were tested, taking the total number of samples tested to 40,62,943.

STATES

- On August 20, a major fire – broke out in the 900-MW Srisaillam Left Bank Hydrel Power Station (SLBHP) in Telangana

SHOCKER OF A BLAZE & DEATH OF BRAVE



Fire-fighters try to put out the blaze at the power station

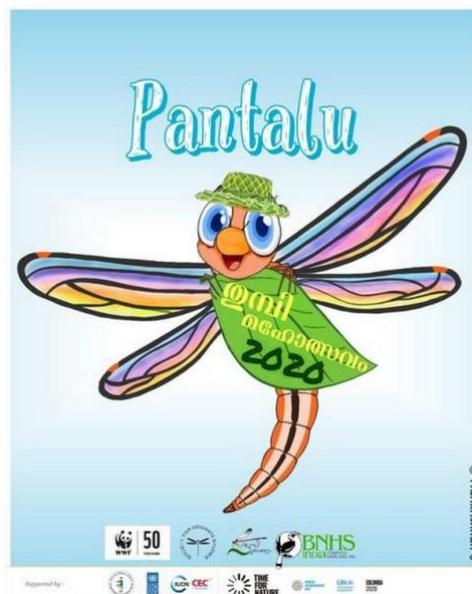
- SLBP is on the Telangana side of the Srisaillam reservoir on Krishna river
- It is a joint irrigation project of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- The plant was constructed in a tunnel under Nallamala forests adjacent to the reservoir
- The reservoir is presently brimming with heavy inflows of rainwater forcing authorities to lift all gates

Fire at the Srisaillam hydroelectric plant is deeply unfortunate. Thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those injured recover at the earliest – Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter

- ✓ The fire incident in one of the 150-MW units of the State-run hydrel station left nine people, including five engineers, killed and eight others injured

- ✓ The underground power plant is located about 220-km from Hyderabad, across the river Krishna
 - ✓ As per the preliminary investigation, the fire could have been sparked by a short circuit in one of the electric panels of the power house and then spread to other parts.
 - ✓ The hydel station was equipped with fire-fighting equipment, including a fire tender, foam, CO2 facility and even an alarm, but the officials struggled to control the flames due to a thick smoke engulfing the 1.2 km long tunnel leading to the plant
 - ✓ Before going in, rescue teams from National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), CISF, Singareni Collieries and Telangana Fire Services had to take information from the escaped Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TSGenco) employees about the internal layout of the plant.
 - ✓ Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has ordered two inquiries into the fire – one by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) and another by top officials for TSGenco, to identify the cause of the fire and fix responsibility.
 - ✓ The CM announced Rs. 50 lakh ex gratia to deputy engineer Srinivas Goud's family who died in the fire and Rs. 25 lakh each for the families of other victims.
 - ✓ Besides, the state government will give a job to one family member of the deceased.
 - ✓ During the incident which occurred at 10.30 pm on August 20, there were only 17 engineers inside the station.
 - ✓ Eight of them, who were in the upper floors, managed to escape through an underground tunnel linked to the power station.
 - ✓ The remaining nine were stuck deep inside the power house on the left canal of the project, which serves Telangana.
 - ✓ The right canal meets the irrigation requirements of Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The power station was set up with a loan of around ₹600 crore from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation and had several inbuilt protection features.
 - ✓ The project is fitted with generators and control systems developed by Mitsubishi Corp and Turbines and Gas Insulated Switchgear manufactured by Hitachi.
 - ✓ It is equipped with emergency lighting systems operated through UPS in times of emergency
- **In a first such instance, the Nagaland government - took the unprecedented step of requesting the Supreme Court to divest the State Lokayukta Justice Uma Nath Singh (retired) of all his powers and functions.**
- ✓ Justice Singh had retired as chief justice of Meghalaya high court.
 - ✓ The move follows the “unjust and arbitrary” personal demands of Lokayukta, causing embarrassment and dismay to the state government.

- ✓ On August 21, Nagaland advocate general K N Balgopal urged the bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian to transfer all pending cases to Upa-Lokayukta Mayang Lima.
 - ✓ The bench sought the Lokayukta's response in two weeks regarding the state's concern.
 - ✓ The state government had appointed Justice Singh as Lokayukta in February last year
 - ✓ The state cited several reasons for seeking the Lokayukta's removal
 - ✓ In one instance, Justice Singh sought permission to take up arbitration work in Synergy Ispat Pvt Ltd vs Barbara Elizabeth Simoes case despite clear prohibition for Lokayukta to take up any work other than those related to the statutory position occupied by him
 - ✓ In May last year, Justice Singh wrote a letter to the government saying he would function "online" from his Delhi residence and even "fabricated" a letter from the state chief secretary's office, without the incumbent's knowledge, to that effect
 - ✓ As the chief secretary withdrew the purported letter and ordered an inquiry as to how the permission letter came into existence, the Lokayukta started taking out vengeance by harassing "honest officers" by issuing indiscriminate notices, the state claimed.
 - ✓ He then demanded that the Kohima commissioner of police be present to receive and see him off at the airport for his arrival and departure every time.
 - ✓ Lokayukta had also made an "unjustified request" to be allotted the former office-cum-bungalow of the CM and ordered a "preliminary enquiry" against the Deputy CM earlier this year.
- **The WWF-India Kerala unit – to collaborate with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuram for the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, named Thumbimahotsavam 2020.**



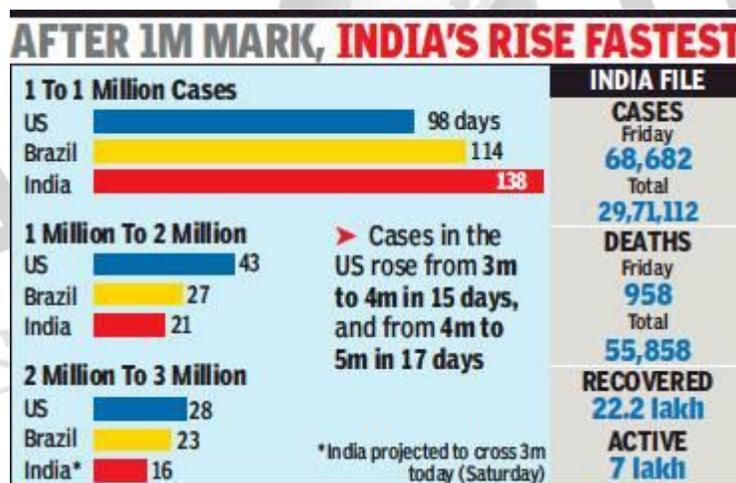
- ✓ 'Pantalu' is the official mascot for the festival.
- ✓ Several programmes and competitions are set to be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of society.
- ✓ A 'dragonfly backyard watch' has been announced to enhance the participation of people and improve their observation skills
- ✓ A field guide on the common dragonflies of Kerala, and children's dragonfly colouring and activity book are also under development.
- ✓ A digital knowledge hub will also be set up under the SOS/Thumbipuranam Facebook page, which will host all available material in the form of scientific papers, posters, videos and stickers on dragonflies.
- ✓ The festival is expected to culminate with the State dragonfly summit, which is likely to be held in January.
- ✓ The events are a part of a national dragonfly festival being organised by the WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and the Indian Dragonfly Society in association with the National Biodiversity Board, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

NATIONAL

- **The Election Commission – issues broad guidelines for all stages of Bihar assembly polls, due in October-November and other by-polls to be held amidst the Covid-19 outbreak**
- ✓ As per the guidelines, there was no bar on a person with fever or Covid-19 from voting under current rules, in a bid to facilitate maximum voter turnout.
- ✓ The EC has asked gloves to be provided to every voter for signing the voter register and pressing the EVM button in Bihar and elsewhere
- ✓ All the voters will be scanned at the entry points to the polling station with thermal scanners
 - ✓ If they show high temperature, their reading will be taken again and if still high, they shall be provided with a token/certificate to come back for voting in the last hour of polling.
 - ✓ Voters who display high temperature as well as quarantined Covid-19 patients, will be allowed to cast their vote in the last hour of polling, subject to preventive measures, under strict supervision of health authorities
- ✓ Also, Covid-positive patients and suspected cases under home or institutional quarantine will also have the option of voting via postal ballot.
 - ✓ As of now, postal ballots can be used by disabled voters, senior citizens and those engaged in essential services.
- ✓ The public gatherings and rallies are also allowed subject to adherence to Covid-19 norms.
 - ✓ The meetings may be held in grounds to be identified by the district election officer, with clearly marked entry and exit points.

- ✓ Circles will be marked in these grounds to ensure minimum six-foot distance between those attending.
 - ✓ DEO and district police shall ensure that maximum attendees do not exceed the limit prescribed by the state disaster management authority for public gatherings.
 - ✓ Only a group of five persons are allowed to carry out door-to-door campaign.
 - ✓ Convoy of vehicles in roadshows must be broken after every five vehicles, with a 100-metre gap and 30-minute interval between two sets.
 - ✓ The EC norms prescribe mandatory sanitisation of polling stations, preferably a day before the poll.
 - ✓ Separate guidelines will be issued for voters residing in containment zones, the EC said.
 - ✓ These steps, to be decided by state and district administrations, could include use of PPE kits and social distancing.
 - ✓ The 'Unlock 3' guidelines of the home ministry, applicable till August 31, bar large congregations and political functions.
 - ✓ These will, however, be reviewed closer to August 31.
- **The 'desi' version of the US president's iconic 'Air Force One' for the secure official travel of the President and the Prime Minister – will arrive in India early next week**
- ✓ The first of the two Boeing 777-300 extended range (ER) aircraft will reach the country next week, while the second will be delivered by the end of theyear
 - ✓ The aircraft is retrofitted with advanced security systems to jam and defeat hostile incoming missiles and encrypted communication facilities
 - ✓ These aircrafts were to be equipped with large aircraft infrared countermeasures (LAIRCM) self-protection suites (SPS) in the US.
 - ✓ These security systems alone have cost ₹1,365 crore in the foreign military sales deal signed with the US
 - ✓ The LAIRCM-SPS protects large aircraft from shoulder-fired and intermediate range missiles.
 - ✓ It increases crew warning time, decreases false alarm rates and automatically counters hostile missiles.
 - ✓ It has been customised to have big cabins with bedrooms, apart from a mini hospital and conference room.
 - ✓ Both these aircrafts, capable of flying non-stop for over 17 hours, were delivered by Boeing to Air India in January 2018
- **On August 21, the government - said JEE (Main) and Neet for admission to engineering and medical courses will be held as per the revised schedule in September**

- ✓ Meanwhile, the National Testing Agency (NTA) started releasing admit cards for the exams after the Supreme Court dismissed petitions seeking their postponement.
 - ✓ JEE (Main) is scheduled to be held from September 1-6 while Neet is scheduled for September 13.
 - ✓ JEE (Main) and Neet-UG were deferred earlier due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - ✓ NTA has also prepared standard operating procedures (SOP) for the conduct of these two tests
 - ✓ It had made arrangements to sanitise the centres before and after the conduct of the examinations, give fresh masks and (on demand) hand gloves based on the comprehensive guidelines.
- **On August 21, India – reported its third-highest tally of 68,682 fresh cases, taking the cumulative caseload to 29,71,112**
- ✓ With this, the country is all set to become only the third nation in the world to reach another grim milestone of 3 million cases on August 22.
 - ✓ For the fourth day running, deaths from the virus remained over 950, with 958 fatalities taking the total toll to 55,858.



- ✓ When it hits the 3 million mark on August 22, Covid-19 cases in India will have risen from the 2 million mark in just 16 days — the fastest rise among the three countries, the US and Brazil being the other two, which have already reached the mark.
- ✓ The rise from 2 million to 3 million cases happened in 23 days in Brazil and 28 days in the US.
- ✓ Of the three countries, India took the most number of days to reach the 1million mark (138 days).
 - ✓ But since then, cases in India have risen the fastest.
 - ✓ The country took 21 days to go from 1million to 2 million cases, compared to 43 days in the US and 27 days in Brazil.
- ✓ However, India's death toll remains far lower than the other two countries.

- ✓ At the 3 million mark, the death toll in the US was more than 1.3 lakh while fatalities recorded in Brazil at the same stage were just over 1 lakh.
- ✓ For the second day in a row, Maharashtra added over 14,000 cases — 14,161, the second highest on a day — taking the state’s Covid-19 cases past the 6.5 lakh mark.
 - ✓ Also, for the third day in a row, the state added over 300 deaths (339), taking the overall toll to 21,698.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported the next highest of 9,544 Covid-19 cases on the day, taking the total caseload to 3,34,940

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On August 21, the Supreme Court - permitted devotees to pray at three main Jain temples in Mumbai during the last two days of the annual holy event of Paryushan Parv festival**
- ✓ The temple administration had earlier agreed to allow only five devotees at a time and a maximum of 250 people a day in the temples at Dadar, Byculla and Chembur in Mumbai on August 22 and 23.
- ✓ However, a bench of Chief Justice Sharad A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian was quick to clarify that this was a one-off relaxation and would not apply to Ganesh Chaturthi festival
- ✓ The Maharashtra government strongly opposed permission for opening Jain temples to devotees against the backdrop of the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the state

INTERNATIONAL

- **On August 21, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan - ordered another ancient Orthodox church that became a mosque and then a popular Istanbul museum to be turned back into a place of Muslim worship.**



- ✓ Turkish President reconverted the historic 1000-year old Chora church into a mosque, a month after opening the famed UNESCO World Heritage-recognised, Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship

- ✓ The mediaeval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora is built near the ancient city walls of Constantinople on the historic western bank of the Golden Horn estuary on the European side of Istanbul.
- ✓ Chora church is one of Istanbul's most celebrated Byzantine buildings containing 14th century Byzantine mosaics and frescoes showing scenes from biblical stories.
- ✓ The Holy Saviour in Chora was a medieval Byzantine church decorated with frescoes of the Last Judgment that remain treasured in the Christian world.
- ✓ They were plastered over and the Church was converted into the Kariye Mosque half a century after the 1453 conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks.
- ✓ But, they were again brought to life when — like Hagia Sophia — the building was converted to Kariye museum by Turkey's secular republic more than 70 years ago, after the second world war.
- ✓ A group of American art historians then helped restore the original church's mosaics and opened them up for public display in 1958.
- ✓ Last November, a Turkish court overturned a 1945 government decision converting Chora — known as Kariye in Turkish — into a museum.
- ✓ On August 21, an edict signed by Erdogan declared the Kariye Mosque opened to worship.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A team of scientists – have further categorized Type 2 Diabetes into at least four subtypes in Indians**
- ✓ Till now, Diabetes is classified only under two types - Type 1 or Type 2
- ✓ These new classification will help doctors cut down on medications for some patients and help them prescribe drugs to prevent complications such as blindness, kidney or nerve damage in some others.
- ✓ The new categorization was done by the India-Scotland Partnership for Precision Medicine in Diabetes (INSPIRED) study, which was published in the BMJ Open Diabetes Research and Care recently
- ✓ **It had classified type 2 diabetes in Indians into four distinct clusters -- SIDD (Severe Insulin Deficient Diabetes), IROD (Insulin Resistant Obese Diabetes), CIRDD (Combined Insulin Resistant and Deficient Diabetes) and MARD (Mild Age-Related Diabetes).**
- ✓ A team of scientists analysed nearly 20,000 case sheets of patients with Type 2 diabetes from Dr Mohan's Diabetes Speciality Centre, Chennai in association with the University of Dundee, School of Medicine, Scotland
- ✓ Based on the data obtained, the team had categorised patients into four clusters, two of which were unique to Indians -- IROD and CIRDD.
- ✓ The scientists then replicated the findings in a representative population-based ICMRINDIAB study, which was done across 15 Indian states

BASIC TYPES OF DIABETES

Type 1 diabetes | Body can't make insulin – a hormone that helps glucose get into cells. Patient is dependent on insulin shots

Type 2 diabetes | Body does not make or use insulin well and is associated with poor quality diet and sedentary lifestyle. Patients may not always require insulin shots

WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

A study of 19,084 individuals with T2D, based on eight variables – age at diagnosis, body mass index, waist circumference, glycated hemoglobin, triglycerides, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and C peptide fasting and stimulated – yielded four clusters of diabetics, two of which were unique to Indians

Cluster 1 | SIDD (Severe Insulin Deficient Diabetes)

➤ Found in 26.2% of patients with lowest BMI and waist circumference, lowest C-peptide (fasting and stimulated), low insulin resistance, highest HbA1c values.

Treatment: More likely to be using insulin compared to the other clusters.

Risk: Prone to diabetic retinopathy

Cluster 2 | IROD (Insulin Resistant Obese Diabetes)

➤ Found in 25.9% of patients. They had among the highest BMI, waist circumference, highest C-peptide levels, highest insulin resistance

Treatment: Intermediate metabolic control

Risk: Prone to diabetic kidney disease

Cluster 3 | CIRDD (Combined Insulin Resistant and Deficient Diabetes)

➤ Found in 12.1% patients with lowest age at onset, BMI and waist circumference were intermediate between SIDD and IROD, highest triglyceride and lowest HDL cholesterol levels, insulin resistance values were intermediate

Treatment: Only 15% on insulin

Risk: Prone to retinopathy & kidney disease

Cluster 4 | MARD (Mild Age-Related Diabetes)

➤ Found in 35.8% of patients. They had late onset, highest HDL cholesterol, fairly preserved C-peptide values and the best metabolic control.

Treatment: Least use of insulin

Risk: Less prone to develop complications

BENEFITS | Helps doctors prescribe more accurate medications and to prevent complications

APPOINTMENTS

- Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar, who retired earlier this year - was appointed election commissioner on August 21.



- ✓ Kumar, a retired 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre, fills up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ashok Lavasa, who will be moving to Manila as vice-president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - ✓ Incidentally, Lavasa too had retired as finance secretary before his appointment in Nirvachan Sadan (Election Commission)
 - ✓ Kumar's appointment would be from the date he assumes charge, while Lavasa will demit office on August 31.
 - ✓ He will be the chief election commissioner (CEC) in the next general election in 2024, going by the seniority convention.
 - ✓ Kumar, as per the seniority principle, will take over as CEC when Sushil Chandra retires in May 2022.
 - ✓ He will have tenure of two years and nine months in the top post.
 - ✓ Kumar had taken over as finance secretary after Subhash Chandra Garg, then the seniormost bureaucrat in the finance ministry, had resigned in July 2019 after the government shifted him out as power secretary.
 - ✓ After retirement, he was appointed as Chairperson of the Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board, which selects top officials for PSUs.
 - ✓ During his tenure in the finance ministry, Kumar is credited with having overseen the merger of 10 public sector banks and recapitalisation of these state lenders.
 - ✓ He had forced these banks to recognise bad debts on their books
- **The appointments committee of the Cabinet - has approved SBI Mutual Fund MD Ashwani Bhatia's appointment as MD, State Bank of India.**



- ✓ His appointment is until his retirement in May 2022.
- ✓ The MD of the SBI MF is equivalent to the position of deputy managing director.
- ✓ Bhatia's appointment is in place of P K Gupta, who completed his term earlier this year.
- ✓ His appointment was earlier recommended by the Banks Board Bureau, which shortlists candidates for senior positions in public sector financial institutions.
- ✓ The current term of SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar will end in October.

SPORTS

- **Cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, table tennis player Manika Batra, para-high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu and women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal - will be conferred with the country's highest sporting honour – Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna – this year**



- ✓ On August 21, the government has announced the winners of sports awards
- ✓ This will be the first time that five sportspersons will be receiving the Khel Ratna
- ✓ The Dronacharya Awards will be given to 13 individuals, including eight in the lifetime category, while 15 athletes will receive the Dhyan Chand Awards.
- ✓ Six institutions have been recommended for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.
- ✓ Panjab University has been chosen for the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.
- ✓ Also, for the first time, a total of 27 athletes will be bestowed with the Arjuna award
- ✓ The names of past Khel Ratna awardees, wrestler Sakshi Malik and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, were not considered by sports minister Kiren Rijiju for the Arjuna award
- ✓ The names of two were not recommended by the 12-member selection committee in the originally approved list of 27 sportspersons.
- ✓ In a first, the awards will be held virtually on August 29, the National Sports Day, instead of the Rashtrapati Bhavan this year due to COVID-19.

- ✓ The National Sports Day marks the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand

LIST OF AWARDS

- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** - Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Mariyappan T. (Para Athletics), , Manika Batra (Table Tennis), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling), Ritu Rani (Hockey)
- ✓ **Dronacharya Award - Lifetime category** - Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery), Purushotham Rai (Athletics), Shiv Singh (Boxing), Romesh Pathania (Hockey), Krishan Kumar Hooda (Kabaddi), Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar (Para Powerlifting), Naresh Kumar (Tennis), Om Parkash Dahiya (Wrestling).
- ✓ **Dronacharya Award - Regular category** - Jude Felix Sebastian (Hockey), Yogesh Malviya (Mallakhamb), Jaspal Rana (Shooting), Kuldeep Kumar Handoo (Wushu), Gaurav Khanna (Para Badminton)
- ✓ **Arjuna Award** - Atanu Das (Archery), Dutee Chand (Athletics), Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty (Badminton), Vishesh Bhriguvanshi (Basketball), Subedar Manish Kaushik (Boxing), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Ishant Sharma (Cricket), Deepti Sharma (Cricket), Sawant Ajay Anant (Equestrian), Sandesh Jhingan (Football), Aditi Ashok (Golf), Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), Deepika (Hockey), Deepak (Kabaddi), Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), Manu Bhaker (Shooting), Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), Madhurika Suhas Patkar (Table Tennis), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), Divya Kakran (Wrestling), Rahul Aware (Wrestling), Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para Swimming), Sandeep Para (Athletics) Manish Narwal (Para Shooting)
- ✓ **Dhyan Chand Award** - Kuldip Singh Bhullar (Athletics), Jincy Philips (Athletics), Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe (Badminton), Trupti Murgunde (Badminton), N. Usha (Boxing), Lakha Singh (Boxing), Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football), Ajit Singh (Hockey), Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi), J. Ranjith Kumar (Para Athletics), Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton), Manjeet Singh (Rowing), Late Shri Sachin Nag (Swimming), Nandan P Bal (Tennis), Netarpal Hooda (Wrestling).
- **Colonel Sarfraz Singh from Sansarpur - has been selected for this year's Tenzing Norgay Award, the highest honour for adventure sports in India.**
- ✓ It will be the first time that a native of the village will be given the highest honour for adventure sports.
- ✓ Sansarpur village in Punjab's Jalandhar district is hailed as the cradle of Indian hockey that has produced a record 14 Olympians
- ✓ As the list of awardees was announced, Col Sarfraz was leading an expedition to Kangto with the elite Para Regiment of the Indian Army



- ✓ Kangto is a 7,060m peak close to the China border in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ An adventure sports lover, Col Sarfraz is a skydiver, a combat free-faller and certified scuba rescue diver besides being an avid mountaineer.
 - ✓ He has the distinction of climbing the highest peaks of four continents— Mount Everest (Asia), Mount Aconcagua (South America), Mount Elbrus (Europe) and Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa).
 - ✓ He is amongst the few mountaineers of India who reached the base of Mount Nyegi Kangtang (a virgin 7,000m peak) from Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ In 2018, he successfully conducted the first international rafting expedition on the untamed and technically challenging Kameng river of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ He also led the first high altitude MTB expedition from Bomdila to Bumla pass (15,200ft) covering a total distance of 300km.
 - ✓ Son of hockey Olympian (retired) Colonel Balbir Singh, Col Sarfraz is currently the Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) at Dirang in West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **T Mariyappan - became only the second sportsman from the state after Viswanathan Anand to be conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the country's highest sporting honour.**

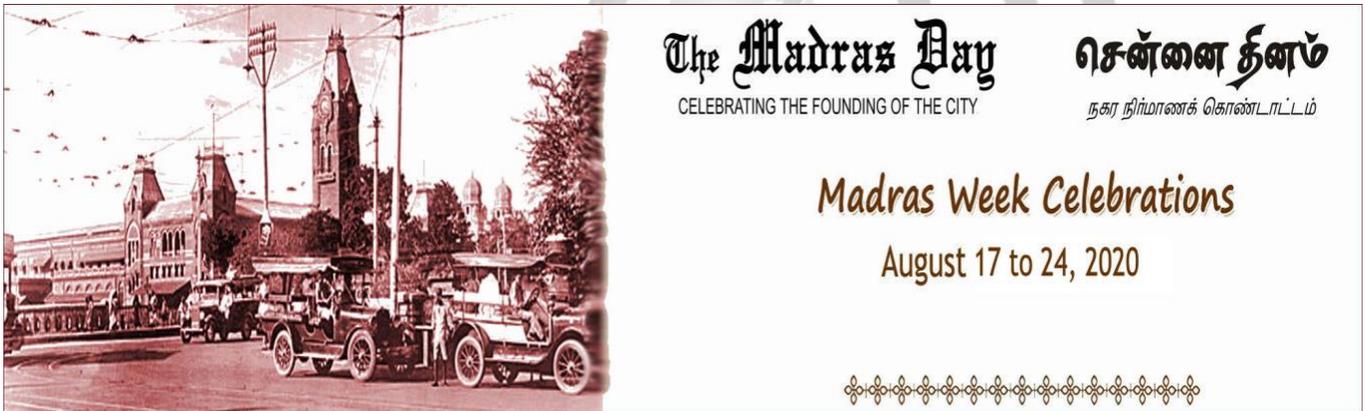


- ✓ On August 21, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami congratulated T Mariyappan, a para athlete, named for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award
- ✓ Mariyappan hails from Salem, the native district of the Chief Minister.
- ✓ The 25-year-old from Salem caught the nation's attention when he won the highjump gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

- ✓ Three years later, Mariyappan bagged bronze in the men's high jump event of the World Para Athletic championships in Dubai to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ✓ Further, his achievements includes winning gold in 2016 IPC Grand Prix at Tunisia and a bronze in 2018 Par Asian Games in Jakarta
- **A dominant India – clinched three easy wins against Zimbabwe, Vietnam and Uzbekistan respectively in the Fide Online Chess Olympiad on August 21.**
- ✓ India defeated Zimbabwe 6-0 and rolled over Vietnam 4-2 but the highlight certainly was the victory against Uzbeks by 5.5-0.5 margin
- ✓ India got two points for victory in each rounds, totally notching up six points
- ✓ This places the Indian team on top of the pool, while they also have the best game points 15.5 after 18 matches.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ Madras Day – August 22



- ✓ Chennai, formerly known as Madras, is celebrating its 381st birthday today
- ✓ Madras Day is celebrated on 22 August every year as it is widely believed that Chennai (Madras) was founded on this date in 1639.
- ✓ It is believed that it was on this date in 1639 that the deed for the purchase of the village of Madraspatnam (Chennapatnam) was signed between the East India Company (represented by Andrew Cogan and Francis Day) and Damarla Venkatadri Nayaka, the viceroy of the Vijayanagar Empire.
- ✓ On this very day, the deal was struck to buy a piece of land, where Fort St. George, the seat of power in the state, was to be built to establish the East India Company
- ✓ Rechristened Chennai in 1996 to get rid of the colonial tag, the capital of Tamil Nadu is now home to over four million
- ✓ The city was initially called Madrasatnam and Chennapattinam, which soon became Madras and then Chennai.

- ✓ The idea to mark Madras Day celebrations was started by Chennai Heritage Foundation in 2004

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT's 74th INDEPENDENCE DAY AWARDS – A REPORT

நல் ஆளுமை விருது	சென்னை மாநகராட்சி, கருவூல கணக்கு துறை, தமிழக இணையவழி குற்றங்கள் தடுப்பு பிரிவு, மருத்துவ சேவை கழகம்
முதலமைச்சரின் சிறப்பு விருது	சௌமியா சுவாமிநாதன் (WHO) (கொரோனா தடுப்பு பணி)
அப்துல் கலாம் விருது	க.செல்வகுமார்
கல்பனா சாவ்லா விருது	செந்தமிழ்ச்செல்வி, ஆனந்தவள்ளி, மற்றும் முத்தம்மாள்
சிறந்த மாநகராட்சி விருது	சேலம்
சிறந்த நகராட்சி விருது	1.விழுப்புரம், 2.கரூர், 3.கூத்தநல்லூர்
சிறந்த பேரூராட்சி விருது	1.வனவாசி (சேலம்), 2.வீரவாண்டி, 3.மதுகரை
மாவட்ட கூட்டுறவு வங்கி விருது	சேலம் கூட்டுறவு வங்கி
சிறந்த சமூக பணியாளர் விருது	கோதணவள்ளி
மாநில இளைஞர் விருது	புவனேஷ்வரி, அம்பேத்கர் மற்றும் அருண்குமார்
கொரோனா முன்கள தடுப்பு பணி விருதுகள்	26 பதக்கங்கள்
கொரோனா தடுப்பு பணி சிறப்பு பதக்கம்	1.ஆதிலட்சுமி, 2.எஸ்.ராஜு மற்றும் 3.முத்துக்குமார்

