

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai's Omandurar Government Medical College and Hospital – bagged the first prize among 'large' hospitals in the recently concluded national level competition on excellence in worker and workplace safety during Covid-19 pandemic.**



- ✓ The competition was organised by ICMR-NIOH (National Institute of Occupational Health) and Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organisations (CAHO), India
- ✓ Christian Medical College in Vellore bagged the first prize for hospitals in the very large category.
- ✓ More than 100 hospitals, both within India and abroad, participated in the competition.
- ✓ The hospitals made the submissions of facilities provided to the workers along with photographic evidence to the organizers.
- ✓ They were evaluated by a joint committee of experts from ICMR-NIOH, CAHO and Global Society of HSE Professionals.
- ✓ The award was announced to mark World Patient Safety Day on September 17.
- ✓ This year, the theme of the day was “Health worker safety: a priority for patient safety.”

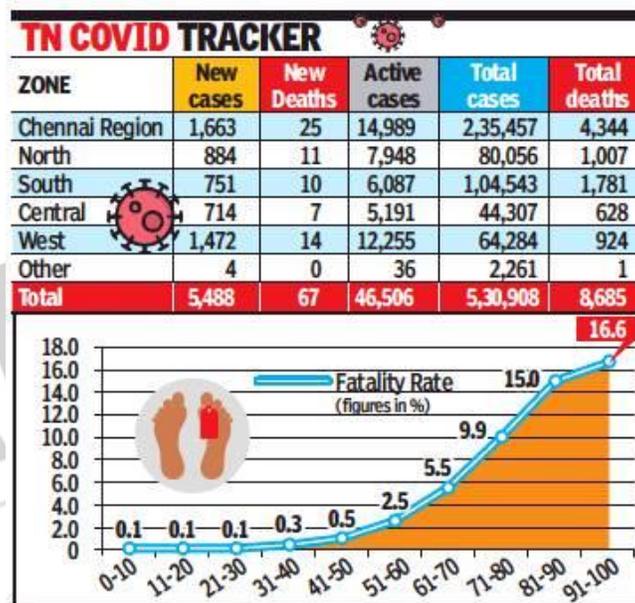
- **KA Padmanabhan, former dean of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - has been selected for the 'Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering 2020' by Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE).**



- ✓ He has nearly 48 years of experience in research and development, consulting and teaching in materials science and engineering.
- ✓ Padmanabhan was also credited with the establishment of Centre for Continuing Education at IIT-M
- ✓ He was its founder-chairman during the 1986-90 period
- **Women's self-help groups in four districts of Tamil Nadu - are enrolled on the e-Shakthi platform of NABARD**
- ✓ The platform is an initiative of the funding agency to digitize the Self-help groups
- ✓ Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai, Nagappattinam and Virudhunagar are the four districts which are on the e-Shakthi platform.
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has instructed all districts to be part of the platform by December end.
- ✓ This was announced by NABARD chairman G.R. Chintala on September 18
- ✓ E-Shakthi provides grading reports on SHGs, so as to enable banks to take credit decisions
- ✓ The system would help the credit flow to increase to ₹8,000 crore from the present ₹4,000 crore, based on the comfort level of banks.
- ✓ Recently, the weightage for priority sector lending in 32 districts of Tamil Nadu has been reduced to 90%
- **The state-owned Sipcot - has mapped around 33,000 acres of its land located in 19 industrial estates spread across the state under the geographic information system (GIS).**
- ✓ The GIS mapping will enable corporate investors, from any part of the world, to 'virtually' choose the industrial land required for their project in the state and apply for allotment.
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami will launch the new initiative shortly.
- ✓ The new system is intended to avoid numerous site visits of the foreign investors, involving manpower and time, to choose the apt location.

- ✓ During the visits, the Sipcot officials provide AutoCad diagrams to the visiting teams for detailed processing.
 - ✓ Under the new system, the foreign investors are provided with the Google Pin and other coordinates to make a virtual choice
 - ✓ The system is investor-friendly and an investor can see the layout plan by themselves after choosing an industrial park
 - ✓ In the new system, land parcels available for allotment will be in green, while those already allotted will be in red bearing just the name of the allottee to safeguard privacy
- **Thanjavur district - has created a record in kurvai paddy cultivation this season**
- ✓ The district has grown the short term kurvai paddy crop on a record 1.48 lakh acres between June and August or July and September
 - ✓ This is the highest area covered under the season in the last 35 years.
 - ✓ This was a 62% increase over last year, when only 92,900 acres was covered, as per the district collector.
 - ✓ Also, the samba cultivation has been completed on 17,932 acres so far in the district.
 - ✓ An area of 2.58 lakh acres was under samba cultivation in 2019-20 in the district.
 - ✓ Farmers had taken up thaladi cultivation, which is done after harvesting kuruvai, on 80,337 acres last year.
 - ✓ Compared to last year, the area covered for thaladi during this season is also expected to touch a record 1.25 lakh acres.
 - ✓ Timely opening of Mettur reservoir on June 12 and good seasonal rain in the delta districts have encouraged more farmers to take up paddy cultivation this year.
 - ✓ Thanjavur also became the first district to resume farmers' grievance meeting 'online' on September 18 after a break of five months.
- **Southern Railway - has identified 300 acres of vacant land and 160 acres of land alongside tracks to set up solar plants in power purchase agreement (PPA) mode.**
- ✓ The plants in vacant land will have a capacity of 67MWp and those alongside tracks will have a capacity of 40MWp.
 - ✓ Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL) has floated the tender for around 67 MWp land-based solar plants and bidders are doing surveys.
 - ✓ Another tender for 40 MWp plants is expected to be floated by REMCL shortly.
 - ✓ There are also plans to provide rooftop solar plants of 2.69 MWp at Perambur and Golden Rock workshops.
 - ✓ The total capacity of solar power plants installed by Southern Railway is 4.74 MWp
 - ✓ Out of this, 3.985 MWp solar plant was installed under PPA mode and 0.755 MW was installed departmentally.

- ✓ Solar plants and windmills have helped the zone to achieve a savings of ₹16.64 crores from renewable energy sources during the year 2019-20.
 - ✓ Solar power panels have been installed at various railway stations like MGR Central Central, MMC complex, Katpadi, Tambaram EMU car-shed, Mambalam, Guindy and Chengalpet suburban stations
 - ✓ The divisional railway managers' offices at Trichy and Madurai, chief workshop manager's office at Trichy Golden Rock workshop are also powered by the solar power panels
 - ✓ Further, they are installed at level crossing gates in Nagercoil-Thiruvananthapuram section, signal and telecom workshop at Podanur, Salem Jn, Namakkal, Tiruppur and Sivakasi.
- **On September 18, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,488 fresh cases and 67 more deaths, taking the cumulative casecount to 5,30,908 and death toll to 8,685**



- ✓ As many as 5,525 persons were discharged on the day after treatment, taking the total recovered to 4,75,717
- ✓ The state has 46,506 active cases as on date
- ✓ On the day, Chennai reported 989 cases, while its neighbours Chengalpet 265 cases, Kancheepuram 151 and Tiruvallur 258 cases.
- ✓ Cases remained high in Coimbatore, with the district seeing 543 new cases.
- ✓ Cuddalore topped with 254 cases, while Salem reported 288 cases.
- ✓ A total of 85,543 samples were tested on the day across 175 testing centres, taking the total number of samples tested till date to 63,03,466.

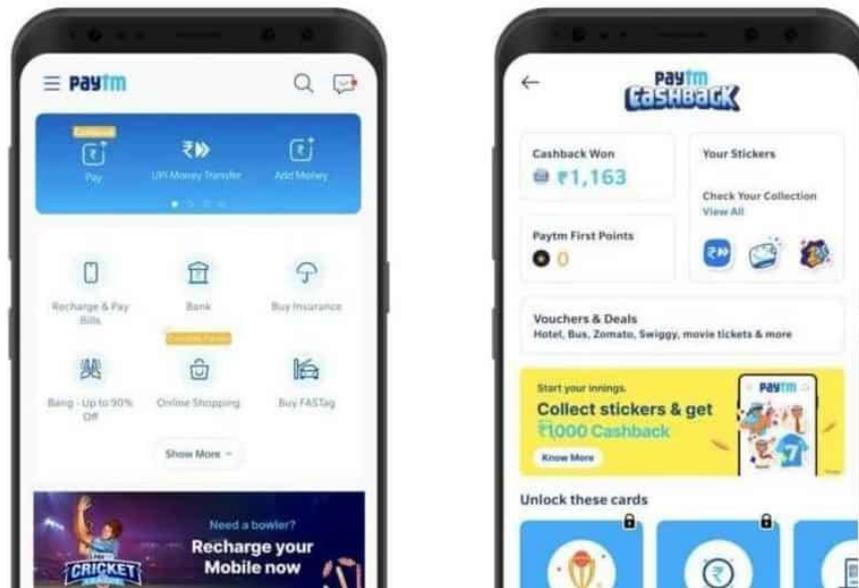
NATIONAL

- **On September 18, the Rajya Sabha – approved two health bills, replacing ordinances related to the Central Council of Homoeopathy and the Indian Medicine Central Council.**

- ✓ The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to further extend the time to form the Central Council of Homeopathy by a year, after delaying the same in the last two years.
- ✓ The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks a year's time to reconstitute the central council and provides for a board of directors to exercise its powers in the interim period.
- ✓ Both the bills were introduced in the Upper House on September 14, the first day of the ongoing monsoon session
- ✓ The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973
 - ✓ It replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, promulgated on April 24.
 - ✓ The 1973 Act was amended in 2018 to provide for the supersession of the Central Council of Homoeopathy.
 - ✓ The council was required to be reconstituted within a year from the date of its supersession.
 - ✓ This provision was further amended in 2019 to require the reconstitution of the council in two years.
 - ✓ In the interim period, the Centre constituted a board of governors to exercise the powers of the council.
 - ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Act to increase the period for the supersession of the council from two to three years.
- ✓ The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 amends the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
- ✓ **On September 18, the Rajya Sabha – passed a bill reducing salaries of MPs by 30% for a year to meet exigencies arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic**
- ✓ Lok Sabha had passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 bill earlier this week.
- ✓ It will replace the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, that was cleared by the Cabinet on April 6 and promulgated the next day.

- **On September 18, Google - removed mobile payment application Paytm from its Play Store, citing breach of its policies related to gambling**
- ✓ Few hours later, the search engine giant had restored the app on its application store
- ✓ Paytm's fantasy gaming application was also removed ahead of the start of the Indian Premier League on September 19
- ✓ The removal of Paytm's application from the Play Store prevents further download of the App for new users
- ✓ According to Paytm's founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the company was notified in the morning that the app was being taken down due to a cricket sticker promo on payments it was running.

- ✓ In the promo, a user who collects five stickers is entitled to a cashback.
- ✓ However, many such schemes run across other payment platforms as well.



- ✓ It had also received warnings for promoting Paytm First Games, a sports fantasy platform, on its main application thrice.
 - ✓ Once the Paytm First Games within the main Paytm app is clicked, it will take the person to the fantasy gaming platform of Paytm, which includes betting
 - ✓ According to PayTM, it had temporarily removed the cashback component to meet the Play Store policy rules.
 - ✓ In the meantime, US-based internet giant Google said that its Google Pay App doesn't allow online casinos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate sports betting
 - ✓ Other online fantasy platforms like Dream11, MPL and My11Circle have also not been available on Google's Play Store for the last couple of years due to its policy.
 - ✓ While betting is not allowed in India, various state high courts have called fantasy sports a game of "skill" and not of "chance", making it legal as of now.
- **On September 18, the government - further tightened public procurement norms to allow ministries to compulsorily purchase over 50% local content**
- ✓ Further, the overseas companies are mandated to set up an Indian venture to execute a contract instead of supplying goods through imports.
 - ✓ Besides, the government has inserted a reciprocity clause in the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order to block foreign entities of countries that do not allow Indian companies to participate in their government contracts
 - ✓ All procurement on government e-marketplace will also have this provision for items identified by the ministries.
 - ✓ The new norms were announced by the commerce and industry ministry

- ✓ An exception will, however, be made for a specified list of items that will be notified by government departments.
 - ✓ The railways will be among the first ministries to notify more than 50% local content for production of Vande Bharat train sets, with the threshold likely to be fixed at 70-80%
 - ✓ The order also said that this stipulation on reciprocity will be part of all tenders invited by the central government procuring entities
 - ✓ Further, all ministries — whose annual procurement tops Rs 1,000 crore — will now have to notify their purchase projections for the next five years on their respective websites
 - ✓ Also, specifying foreign certifications, unreasonable technical specifications, brands or models in a bid document will be treated as restrictive and discriminatory practice against local suppliers.
- **In terms of Covid-19 cases, Goa – tops the country with 17,392 cases per million, and Puducherry is at second place with 14,097, followed by Delhi (11,770) and Andhra Pradesh (11,496).**
- ✓ Maharashtra, with more than 1.1 million infections so far, comes in sixth in cases per million, at 9,352.

TN NO. 7 IN FATALITIES/MILLION			
CASES			
State/UT	Popn (Lakh)	Cases	Cases Per M
Goa	15.4	26,783	17,392
Pondy	15.2	21,428	14,097
Delhi	199.4	2,34,701	11,770
Andhra	523.2	6,01,462	11,496
Maha	1225.3	11,45,840	9,352
A&N	4	3,593	8,983
Chandi	11.8	9,246	7,836
K'taka	659.7	4,94,356	7,494

DEATHS		
State/UT	Deaths	Deaths Per M
Pondy	431	284
Maha	31,351	256
Delhi	4,877	245
Goa	327	212
A&N	52	130
K'taka	7,629	116
TN	8,618	114
Andhra	5,177	99

- ✓ In terms of Covid-19 induced deaths, Puducherry is at the top with 284 deaths per million, higher than Maharashtra, which is placed second with 256 fatalities per million.
- ✓ Delhi comes third with 245 deaths per million, while Goa has 212 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands 212 deaths per million.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On September 18, the US commerce department - said it will ban Chinese-owned TikTok and WeChat from downloads at the US app stores on September 20, with a total ban proposed on the use of WeChat**

- ✓ Further, the department is expected to announce more technical restrictions that could seriously limit their functionality in the US.



- ✓ The order cited national security and data privacy concerns, following weeks of deal-making over the video-sharing service TikTok.
- ✓ President Donald Trump has pressured the app's Chinese owner, ByteDance Ltd., to sell TikTok's US operations to a domestic company.
- ✓ Recently, California tech giant Oracle struck a deal with TikTok to address US concerns over TikTok's data collection and related issues to avert a ban on the App
- ✓ The commerce department is enacting a ban order announced by Trump in August, which has been later sued by TikTok
- ✓ The action is the Trump administration's latest attempt to counter the influence of China.
- ✓ The order requires Tencent-owned WeChat to end payments through its service and prohibits it from getting technical services from vendors
- ✓ WeChat has millions of US users who rely on the app to stay in touch and conduct business with people and companies in China
- ✓ Similarly, a total ban on TikTok will be put into effect from November 12, shortly after the US election.
- ✓ TikTok says it has 100 million US users and 700 million globally.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Nepal – is to hold a virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of Saarc countries next week.**
- ✓ External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi are both likely to participate in the meeting
- ✓ The foreign minister of Nepal will chair the online video conference.
- ✓ Both leaders had attended the same meeting last year in New York, even while boycotting each other's statement.
- ✓ Nepal will hold the Saarc Council of Ministers' meeting on September 24, which is traditionally held coinciding with the UN General Assembly session.

- ✓ The Saarc summit process though has remained stalled since the Uri terror attack carried out from across the border in 2016.
- ✓ As its aftermath, India boycotted the 19th Saarc summit because it was to be held in Islamabad.
- ✓ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an intergovernmental organization.
- ✓ It comprises of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, The Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- ✓ The platform was launched on 8th December 1985 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Department of Science and Technology and the Defence Research and Development Organisation -will be organising a month-long session of webinars and online discussions involving non-resident Indian (NRI) scientists.**
- ✓ The event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2.
- ✓ The sessions are to be conducted as part of the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit
- ✓ It is organised to develop a comprehensive road map to utilise the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving emerging challenges.
- ✓ The summit will be held from 3rd October to 25th October 2020 involving virtual sessions
- ✓ The key areas of discussion will include - quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, electronics and semi-conductor technologies, communications technologies, photonics, computational and data sciences and aerospace technologies among others.
- ✓ The session would conclude on 2nd November 2020.

SPORTS

- **Defending champion Mumbai Indians – to take on last year’s runner-up Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Abu Dhabi’s Sheikh Zayed Stadium on September 19**
- ✓ The match will kick off the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League
- ✓ Originally scheduled to start on March 29 in India, the IPL had to be paused as the coronavirus pandemic started across the country.
- ✓ The hosts, UAE, will conduct the matches at three venues – Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai
- ✓ A total of eight teams participate in the tournament lasting 53 days and 60 matches

DUEL IN THE DESERT

MI TAKE ON ARCH-RIVALS CSK AS BIO-BUBBLE IPL BEGINS

Covid-19 delayed IPL 2020, even forced a shift to faraway UAE. But armed with the bio-bubble shield, IPL is ready to fight back. Beginning today with IPL's version of El Clasico, the world's best cricketers will once again showcase their wares in the game's glitziest version over the next seven weeks

First Day, First Show: 7.30pm IST, Abu Dhabi
Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings

Head To Head: 28 matches
Wins: MI 17, CSK 11

CSK Previous Best:
Winners
(2010, 2011, 2018)

Strong Suit: Filled with proven match winners. Handle pressure situations with poise. Astute long-lasting coach Stephen Fleming. Ice-cool skipper MSD's oak-like strength and monk-like presence. Lethal leggie Imran Tahir

Weak Spots: Hit by two major withdrawals (prolific Raina, wily Harbhajan). Slowed down by Covid cases. Overloaded with aging aces in Tahir (40), Dhoni (39), Watson (38), Bravo (36), Du Plessis (35), Murali Vijay (35), Jadhav (34), Rayudu (34)

Current Status:
Runners-up
Captain:
MS Dhoni, who else?

MI Previous Best:
Winners (2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019)

Strong Suit: Packed with players at peak of their powers (Rohit, Jasprit, Quinton de Kock). Three quality all-rounders (Hardik, Krunal, Pollard). Captain Rohit and coach Mahela

Current Status:
Champions
Captain:
Rohit Sharma

Jayawardene both good readers of the game. Sharp fielding unit
Weak Spots: Will miss the experience of paceman Malinga, IPL's all-time highest wicket-taker. Slow bowling isn't Mumbai Indians' forte either

FULL COVERAGE, P 15

WHAT BOTH SIDES WANT TO KNOW: How will the pitch behave? What would be a competitive score?

ALL-TIME IPL LEADERS

Most Runs: **Virat Kohli, RCB: 5,412**

Maximum Sixes: **Chris Gayle, KXIP: 326**

Highest Strike Rate: **Andre Russell, KKR: 186**

Highest Wicket-Taker: **Amit Mishra, DC: (157 wkts), has withdrawn**

Best Economy Rate: **Rashid Khan, SRH: 6.5 rpo**

DID YOU KNOW?

An IPL match was played between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians in UAE on April 25, 2014. Mumbai Indians (141/7) lost to CSK (142/3) by 7 wickets in this Dubai game

Sanath Jayasuriya smashed 114 off 48 balls in 2008, the only hundred by an MI batsman against CSK in the IPL

FAB FOUR THE HIGHEST PAID PLAYERS OF IPL 2020

Virat Kohli (RCB):
₹17cr



Pat Cummins (KKR):
₹15.5cr



MS Dhoni (CSK):
₹15cr



Rohit Sharma (MI):
₹15cr



- ✓ The matches will be held in a bio-bubble environment, without the presence of spectators and media personnel

REPORT

- For India, the sex ratios at birth (SRB) or the number of female births for every 1,000 male births – stands at 924 for rural areas and 918 for urban localities.
- ✓ However, in Tamil Nadu, the urban SRB was 939 compared to just 901 for rural births, recording the biggest gap of 38 in the country.
- ✓ In Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh too the urban ratio was better than the rural one by over 30 points.

- ✓ In Maharashtra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana too, the urban SRB was higher than the rural one, but with a lesser margin.
- ✓ There are still a handful of states where the rural SRB is much higher than the urban
- ✓ Among such states, West Bengal has the biggest gap, where SRB is 984 in rural areas as against 930 in urban births.
- ✓ Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in that order also have much higher rural SRB than urban SRB.

THE GENDER STORY: INDIA vs BHARAT

State	Sex Ratio At Birth		
	Rural	Urban	State as a whole
Andhra Pradesh	890	924	912
Assam	905	914	908
Bihar	939	936	938
Chhattisgarh	950	926	939
Delhi	913	925	924
Gujarat	914	889	897
Haryana	901	904	903
Himachal Pradesh	926	929	928
Jammu & Kashmir	967	927	952
Jharkhand	885	843	871
Karnataka	951	935	938
Kerala	967	961	963
Madhya Pradesh	897	903	901
Maharashtra	902	920	916
Odisha	911	911	911
Punjab	898	891	892
Rajasthan	882	916	901
Tamil Nadu	901	939	930
Telangana	921	925	924
Uttar Pradesh	930	907	922
Uttarakhand	962	938	948
West Bengal	984	930	958
India	924	918	921

