

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The School education department – has issued a set of mandatory guidelines for holding ‘online’ classes in the state**
- ✓ According to the new norms, attendance is not mandatory for online classes in the state and assignments given to children during such classes will not be part of their final performance evaluation

WHAT'S NEW?

➤ **Online classes aren't a must.** Terms such as “shall, should, must, compulsory, will be counted in attendance, grades/marks/evaluation is based on this, etc.” won't be used as they may cause stress or deprivation

➤ Attendance won't be counted for final marks

➤ **Assignment** conveyed through electronic modes will not be counted for final performance evaluation



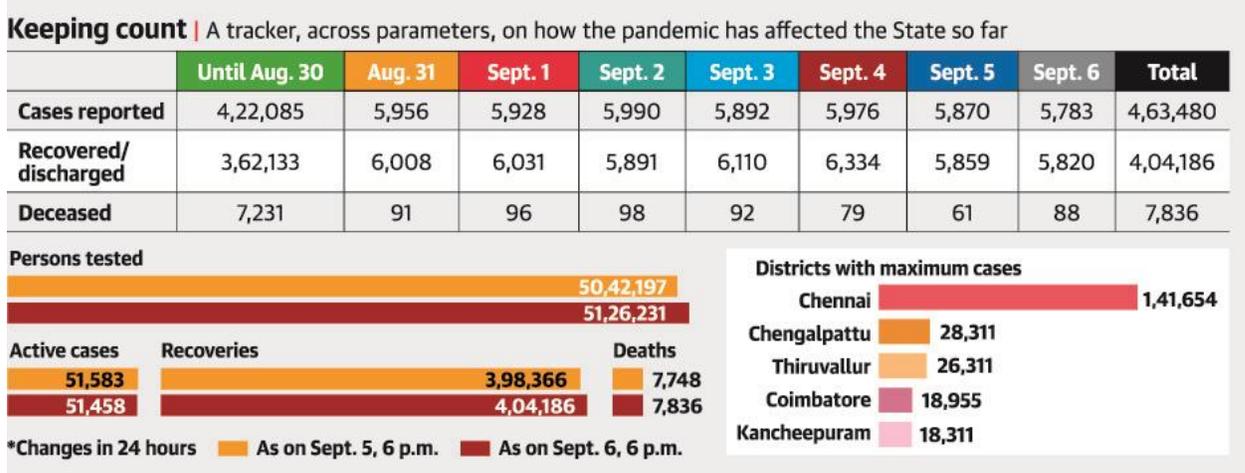
➤ If there is a **shortage of devices** and simultaneous online classes for more than 1 child in a house, it may be informally established that the elder child gets access to device

➤ **Students absent for online sessions** should be coached and brought up to date when schools reopen

➤ Teachers must teach **children healthy practices, right nutrition & extend emotional support**

- ✓ According to the order, students who missed these classes will be taught again when schools reopen, so that they stand on an ‘even’ scale with other students who have attended online classes.
- ✓ No student must be compelled to attend these classes, and terms like “shall, should, must, compulsory, will be counted in attendance, grades/marks/evaluation is based on this, etc.” should not be used by teachers.
- ✓ The schools have also been asked to appoint a counsellor to monitor these classes.
- ✓ Teachers have been directed to inculcate healthy practices among children such as physical exercises and good nutrition

- ✓ They are also instructed to hold regular discussions with children and their families about online learning and related issues.
- ✓ On July 30, the State government issued guidelines for online learning, specifying the duration of classes for primary, middle and senior schools
- **Guidance Tamil Nadu – will be launching an all-new single window portal that will offer 180 ‘government to business’ services fully ‘online’.**
- ✓ Guidance Tamil Nadu is the first point of contact for industrial investors looking at investment opportunities in the state
- ✓ TCS, India’s largest IT services giant, has bagged the contract and is expected to roll out the new portal in six to eight months
- ✓ The initiative will enable pushing the state’s rank in Ease of Doing Business index, while making the state ‘most transparent’ in its services.
- ✓ In the latest Ease of Doing Business rankings for Indian states, Tamil Nadu was placed 14th, one spot higher than the 15th ranking it got in 2018.
- **On September 6, Tamil Nadu – added 5,783 more Covid-19 infections, taking the total caseload in the state to 4,63,480**
- ✓ The state witnessed 88 deaths on the day, taking the total casualties to 7,836
- ✓ As on date, there are 51,458 active cases undergoing treatment in the state



- ✓ A total of 5,820 people were discharged on the day after treatment, taking the total cured to 4,04,186
- ✓ Chennai continued to record less than 1,000 cases for the fourth consecutive day with 955 fresh infections.
- ✓ It was followed by Coimbatore which reported 538 new cases, while Chengalpet and Cuddalore logged 361 and 388 cases respectively.
- ✓ The State currently has a total of 161 testing facilities, of which 64 are in the government sector and 97 in the private sector.
- **The inter-district buses in the state - will start operating from September 7, after the relaxation of norms by the government.**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) will operate 1,500 services out of its fleet strength of 3,000 buses
- ✓ The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) is expected to run 400 buses out of the total 1,100 buses.
- ✓ These buses will run with 50% passenger seating capacity in order to maintain social distancing
- ✓ Passengers with valid tickets will be allowed inside terminals after checking their body temperature and they will be asked to sanitise their hands before boarding a bus.
- ✓ Masks are compulsory throughout the trip.
- ✓ All the buses have been cleaned and disinfected by the respective corporations
- ✓ Further, Southern Railway has announced to operate three inter-state special trains from September 12.
- ✓ These will be the first inter-state services post unlock period.

STATES

- **On September 6, the Delhi Government - launched a mass campaign '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' against Dengue and other vector borne diseases.**



- ✓ The campaign urges the Delhi citizens to call up 10 of their relatives and friends and advise them on measures to prevent Dengue
- ✓ It asks the people to spend 10 minutes to inspect their own residence for stagnant water in order to avoid breeding of mosquitos and prevent the spread of malaria, dengue and Chinkungunya.
- ✓ In 2018, the number of people infected with the dengue remained at 1,01,192
- ✓ The Dengue vaccine Dengvaxia was approved by USFDA (United States Food and Drug Administration) in 2019
- ✓ The government has launched 'National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme' to control Malaria, Kala-azar, Filaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Chikungunya and Dengue under National Rural Health Mission.
- **Canada – becomes the first foreign country to invest in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir**

- ✓ The first-ever Cannabis Medicine project will be set up at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir is to be the first in the country to develop medicines from the cannabis plant.
- ✓ According to the UN 'World Drug Report', around 2.83% of Indians of age 10-75 years use Cannabis products

NATIONAL

- **On September 6, India – registered yet another record high with more than 94,000 fresh Covid-19 infections**
- ✓ Meanwhile, with a total caseload of nearly 42 lakh, India became the pandemic's second worst-hit country after the US, overtaking Brazil
- ✓ Maharashtra reported a massive addition with its record single-day jump of 23,350 fresh cases, contributing to the country's day count of 94,107, as per the data collated from state governments.
- ✓ With this, the country's total caseload was just 2,000 short of 42 lakh.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh reported 10,794 new Covid-19 cases and 70 deaths on the day, while Karnataka accounted for 9,319 cases and 95 deaths
- ✓ Further, Uttar Pradesh too reported its highest day count of 6,777 fresh infections.
- ✓ The country registered 994 deaths on the day, dropping below the 1,000 mark for the first time in the last six days.
- ✓ The number of active cases rose sharply by over 20,000 to nearly 8.9 lakh while recoveries rose to over 32.4 lakh.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - held a bilateral meeting with Iran's Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Brigadier General Amir Hatami at the latter's request on September 5 in Tehran**



- ✓ Singh was on a transit halt in Tehran en route from Moscow to New Delhi where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers meeting.

- ✓ Iran is an observer at the SCO.
- ✓ The Defence Ministers of India and Iran discussed ways to take forward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stability in Afghanistan

PERSONALITIES

- **Josef Koeberl of Austria – set a new record for full-body contact with ice, beating his own record set earlier.**



- ✓ The 42-year old Josef endured a box full of ice cubes, lasting a teeth-chattering two hours, 30 minutes and 57 seconds
- ✓ Wearing only a pair of swimming trunks, Josef was covered in ice up to his shoulders in a transparent box.
- ✓ He beat the previous record of two hours, eight minutes and 47 seconds, which he set himself last year.

ECONOMY

- **India - recorded a 23% increase in total export of farm produce in the April-June period compared to the corresponding period last year**
- ✓ The country, as a whole, recorded an increase of ₹4,818 crore of export compared to April-June 2019.
- ✓ Rice and sugar dominated the exports this year, despite the Covid-19 induced lockdown.
- ✓ Basmati rice topped the list of exported farm commodities in terms of value (₹8,591 crore), accounting for one-third of India's agri export in first quarter of 2020-21
- ✓ However, the non-Basmati rice had contributed to the highest increase of ₹2,392 crore this year, when compared with last year during the said period.
- ✓ Export of refined sugar contributed an increase of ₹1,719 crore, while the export of raw sugar ₹448 crore during the period
- ✓ Accordingly, non-basmati rice and sugar (refined and raw) together contributed to ₹4,559 crore (over 95%) in total increase of agri commodities export.

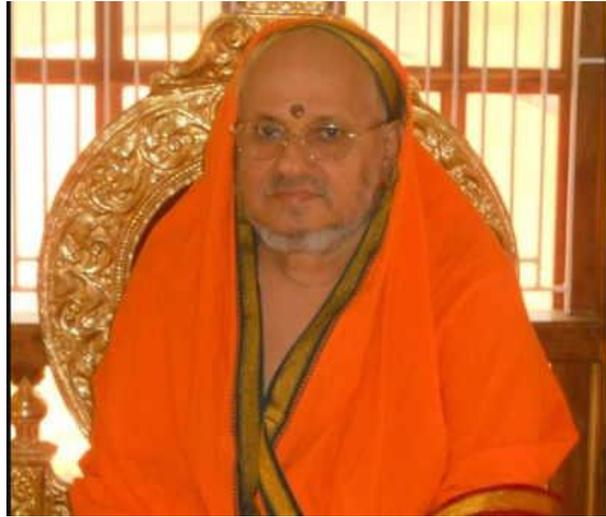
EXPORT OF AGRI COMMODITIES

<p>Apr-Jun 2019-20 ₹20,735cr</p> <p>Apr-Jun 2020-21 ₹25,553cr</p> <p>Total increase ₹4818cr</p> <p>Growth 23%</p>	Performance of key farm commodities in export basket during pandemic:			
	Items	Apr-Jun 2019-20	Apr-Jun 2020-21	Change
	Basmati Rice	8660	8591	-69
	Non-B Rice	3408	5800	+2392
	Refined Sugar	2144	3863	+1719
	Raw Sugar	1168	1616	+448
	Tea	1406	1013	-393
	Onion	810	1197	+387
	Soya meal	880	751	-129
	(All figures in Rs crore are rounded off)			

- ✓ Further, pigeon pea (tur), Bengal gram and raw groundnut oil were ranked at the top in percentage term increase
- ✓ But, their contribution in value terms in total export is low compared to rice, sugar and onion during the said Apr-Jun period.
- ✓ In terms of comparison of exports between the said periods, tea and soya meal reported a decline of 27% and 14% respectively, while export of Basmati rice recorded minor decline
- ✓ Analysis of the agri export figures of April-June period shows that pigeon pea recorded highest increase of 440% (from ₹15 crore last year to ₹81 crore this year) while Bengal Gram recorded an increase of 407%, groundnut oil (243%) and wheat (148%).
- ✓ Incidentally, rice (both Basmati and non-Basmati) and sugar (refined and raw), which together account for nearly 78% of total agri export during April-June period, are the two biggest water-guzzling farm commodities
- ✓ Because of this reason, experts on sustainable agriculture urge farmers to go for micro irrigation and diversification towards less water consuming nutri-cereals such as millets.
- ✓ India's contribution to sustaining the global food supply chain through increased export amid Covid-19 situation was appreciated last week during the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) 35th regional conference for Asia and the Pacific, organised by Bhutan on a virtual platform.

OBITUARY

- **Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, the seer of Edaneer Mutt in Kasargod district of Kerala (80 years)**
- ✓ Bharati passed away in the Mutt on September 6 due to age-related ailments
- ✓ Kesavananda Bharati is best known as the sole petitioner in the historic judgment of the Supreme Court on fundamental rights case



- ✓ The case was primarily about the extent of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution
- ✓ Politically, the case represented the fight for supremacy of Parliament led by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who conferred unlimited power to the Parliament
- ✓ Bharati was the head seer of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala since 1961.
- ✓ The seer was known as Srimad Jagadguru Sri Sri Sankaracharya Thotakacharya Kesavananda Bharati Sripadaganlavaru
- ✓ He belonged to the lineage of Thotakacharya, one of the first four disciples of reformer Adi Sankaracharya.
- ✓ Apart from being a proponent of Advaita philosophy, the seer was a good classical singer
- ✓ He ran a 'Yakshagana mela' (troupe) for nearly 15 years and took part as a 'bhagavata' (singer and director), rendering Carnatic music
- ✓ The 30-year old Bharati moved SC on March 21, 1970 challenging the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Act 1969 that was intended to distribute land among landless farmers
- ✓ The petition had led to the landmark doctrine of "basic structure" of the Constitution judgment by the SC.
- ✓ Bharati had contended that the land reforms law by the government was an attempt to impose restrictions on the management of the mutt's property, which was the only source of income for his ashram.
- ✓ His petition also challenged three Constitutional amendments — 24, 25 and 29 — passed by the Indira Gandhi government to give Parliament the power to alter fundamental rights.
- ✓ Bharati argued that the three amendments breached his fundamental rights under Article 25 (right to practice and propagate religion), Article 26 (freedom of religious denomination, including managing and administering its property) and Article 31 (right to property).

- ✓ The Bench gave 11 separate judgments that agreed and disagreed on many issues but a majority judgment of seven judges was stitched together by then Chief Justice of India S M Sikri on the eve of his retirement.
 - ✓ However, the basic structure doctrine, which was evolved in the majority judgment, was found in the conclusions of the opinion written by one judge — Justice H R Khanna after the judges were locked at 6-6 verdicts
 - ✓ It was on April 24, 1973 that the Constitutional Bench headed by then Chief Justice S M Sikri delivered the judgment in the case which held that that Parliament could amend any part of the Constitution so long as it did not alter or amend “the basic structure or essential features of the Constitution”
 - ✓ The mammoth 703-page verdict involved the Supreme Court’s full strength of 13 judges at that time — the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court.
 - ✓ Kesavananda Bharati, in fact, lost the case by a 7-6 verdict and the amendments in the Kerala land reforms law were upheld by the SC
 - ✓ The Emergency was proclaimed shortly after the judgment was delivered on April 24, 1973.
 - ✓ The case of Kesavanand Bharati v. State of Kerala continues to hold the top spot for the longest hearing ever to have taken place in Supreme Court.
 - ✓ The hearing in the matter went on for 69 days — from 31 October 1972 to 23 March 1973 — with acclaimed senior constitutional expert Nani Palkhivala arguing the case on behalf of Bharati.
 - ✓ However, the seer never met or spoke with the great lawyer.
 - ✓ In fact, Bharti was quite surprised at the time to see his name in the newspapers every day and wondered why his case, challenging only certain land reforms in Kerala, was taking so long.
 - ✓ This case was followed by the Ayodhya dispute, in terms of the number of days argued before the Supreme Court.
 - ✓ In 2018, Kesavananda Bharati conferred with Justice VR Krishna Iyer Award
- **M Balasubramoniam, Director of South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur (63 years)**



- ✓ He was a Carnatic musician, mridangam exponent and recipient of several awards including the coveted Raghuvara Puraskar.

- ✓ Balasubramoniam is a member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture and former principal of Chembai Government Music College and RLV College of Music and Fine Arts, in Kerala
- ✓ He had accompanied eminent musicians including Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer for concerts.
- ✓ He was hospitalised in Thanjavur on September 2 after developing breathing difficulties and passed away on September 6.

SPORTS

- **On September 6, the BCCI – announced the tournament schedule of the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled to be held in UAE**
- ✓ Defending champions and four-time winners, Mumbai Indians will take on three-time winners Chennai Super Kings on September 19 in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ The games will be held in the three most popular venues in the UAE — Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.
- ✓ The second game will be held between Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab in Dubai on the next day.
- ✓ The schedule includes a total of 10 doubleheaders.
- ✓ The evening match will begin at 7.30 pm IST (6 pm UAE) while, on the day a double-header is scheduled, the afternoon game will begin at 3.30 pm IST (2 pm UAE).
- ✓ From the total of 56 league matches, 24 matches will be held in Dubai, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in Sharjah.
- ✓ Venues for the playoffs and the final will be decided and announced later.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies – September 7**



- ✓ The first ever International day of clean air for blue skies aims to raise public awareness about the importance of air quality management

- ✓ The day is celebrated to promote solutions that will improve air quality to address the challenges of climate change and Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ The resolution to hold the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was adopted in December 2019 during the 74th session of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ✓ In this regard, India has launched the National Clean Air Programme in 2019 with a budget of Rs 300 crore for the first two years
- ✓ The programme has set a target to achieve 20%-30% reduction in concentration of Particulate Matter 2.5 and Particulate Matter 10, between 2017 and 2024
- ✓ It has been launched in 102 non-attainment cities in 23 states and Union Territories that have been identified by the Central Pollution Control Board.

