EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 12, 2021

TAMIL NADU

➢ **On May 11, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the second Siddha Covid care centre at A M Jain College in Meenambakkam in Chennai.**

✓ The new facility consists of 70 beds for treating Covid-19 patients
✓ It will also offer yoga, pranayama and herbal therapy to the patients
✓ Patients who recover will also be given medical kit titled 'Arogyam'.
✓ Health minister Ma.Subramanian and minister for rural industries T M Anbarasan were also present during the inauguration.
✓ The facility is one of the 14 Siddha Covid care centres that were announced by the state government.
✓ The first centre was established at Vyasarpadi.

➢ **Greater Chennai Corporation – has announced the launching of 'oxygen parlours' to support the Covid patients with breathing difficulty**
✓ It has also decided to modify its testing protocol and announced to use big cars as ambulances.
✓ Chennai continues to remain a hotspot with nearly 7,000 fresh Covid-19 cases being reported.
✓ Henceforth, all patients undergoing RT-PCR test with symptoms such as fever, flu, loose stools, loss of smell and taste, and body pain will be given a medicine kit immediately without waiting for the result.
✓ This is to ensure that the patient isn't left unattended till the arrival of the result and to avoid delaying treatment for those who may get a false negative.

- ✓ For positive patients, their RT-PCR test report will not be given to them.
- ✓ The GCC zonal doctors will intimate the patients about the result.

Pic: Ramesh Shankar R

GCC NEW STRATEGY
- ➤ Symptomatic patients will get medicine kits
- ➤ Oxygen parlours to ensure all those in need of the gas will receive it
- ➤ Final-year MBBS students in zonal telecounselling centres to check patients on home isolation
- ➤ Triaging for patients aged under 60 at home
- ➤ Conversion of cars into ambulances to ensure ambulances are used for more serious patients

HOMEBOUND: A child of a guest worker waits for transport at Saidapet to go to Nepal, following the lockdown in Chennai

What is an oxygen parlour? ➤ It would be a 20-bed facility. Each zone will have one such parlour
- ➤ Purchase order for 2,743 O2 concentrators placed

- ✓ These doctors will check the patient's blood pressure, oxygen saturation and respiration rate.
- ✓ Based on this, medical advice on home isolation, admission to a covid care centre (CCC), or hospital will be provided by the doctors
- ✓ Only patients above 60 years of age will be asked to visit triaging centres in various parts of the city.
- ✓ As many patients face breathing difficulty, the civic body has planned to set up oxygen parlours across the city.
- ✓ As a first step, three parlours will come up in three regions of the city.
- ✓ These parlours will be 100-bedded facilities with oxygen concentrators.
- ✓ About 2,700 concentrators have already been ordered for these parlours.
- ✓ The facility will be used for patients whose saturation is around 90-92 but still need oxygen support.
- ✓ To provide medical advice to patients on home isolation, GCC will start telecounselling centres in every zone, employing final-year MBBS students.
- ✓ To augment its ambulance fleet, GCC has planned to use big cars as ambulances and ensure that regular vans are used for serious patients.
- ✓ The covid care centre (CCC) at Chennai Trade Centre, which has 360 oxygen beds, has already started admitting patients.

STATES

- ➢ **The World Health Organisation – warns the Government of Goa against using 'Ivermectin' to treat Covid-19**

- ✓ A day earlier, Goa health minister Vishwajit Rane announced that the state will give Ivermectin tablets to all those above 18 years of age as a prophylactic treatment
- ✓ He said that the decision to provide the tablets to reduce the severity of the impact of Covid-19 was taken based on studies conducted in the UK and the US.
- ✓ This treatment is much more effective "in clearing the Covid virus" and people have to take it for five days in a row, the health minister had said.
- ✓ According to the WHO, the medication can be prescribed only for clinical trials.
- ✓ Apart from WHO, the German health care has also warned against the use of Ivermectin for Covid-19 treatment.
- ✓ In April 2021, USFDA recommended against the use of Ivermectin in treating Covid patients.

- ➢ **On May 11, the governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - joined several other states which have decided to issue global tenders for procurement of Covid vaccines**
- ✓ This is because the domestic vaccine supply fails to keep up with the rising demand amid the second wave of the pandemic.
- ✓ The Centre said it has so far provided over 18 crore vaccine doses to states and UTs free of cost
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha have also taken the global tender route for procuring vaccines swiftly.
- ✓ Karnataka is planning to procure two crore vaccine doses through global tender to meet the increased demand and to facilitate vaccination of the age group of 18-44 years
- ✓ The Telangana cabinet also decided to invite global tenders, while Andhra Pradesh will float a tender in a day or two.

- ➢ **The Ministry of AYUSH - recently announced that Ayush-64 will be available free of cost for mild, moderate asymptomatic patients in Delhi.**
- ✓ The representatives or patients can visit seven designated centres in Delhi with Aadhaar card and a soft or hard copy of RT-PCR positive report to get the free AYUSH-64 tablets.
- ✓ AYUSH-64 is a poly herbal formulation, which was recommended by National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga.
- ✓ It was repurposed as an add-on to standard care for Covid-19 patients under the guidance of an Ayurveda physician.
- ✓ Ayush 64 was developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi
- ✓ It was originally developed in 1980 for the management of Malaria.
- ✓ The patients with mild to moderate symptoms showing body ache, fever, nasal congestion, headache, nasal discharge, and cough can start taking Ayush 64 within seven days of Covid-19 diagnosis.

NATIONAL

➢ **The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare - recently announced that the area of summer crops has sharply increased by 21.58% this year, as compared to 2020.**

✓ Summer crops are also called Zaid crops and are grown between March and June.

✓ The area under summer crops has increased to 12.75 hectares in 2021 as against 6.45 hectares in 2020.

✓ The increase has been mainly reported in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat.

✓ The area under rice cultivation has increased by 15.59% from 33.82 hectares last year to 39.10 hectares this year.

✓ The area under pulses has increased by 97.58% from 6.45 hectares in 2020 to 12.74 hectares in 2021.

✓ Oil seeds have increased by 15.66%, while the area under coarse grains has increased by 0.93%.

➢ **The Ministry of Health - recently announced that a new security feature of a four-digit security code is being added to the Co-WIN software.**

✓ Co-WIN is COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network.

✓ When a person books vaccination slots through Co-WIN 'online' platform, he or she will get a four-digit security code, which should be produced at the vaccination centre.

✓ The code will also be printed on the acknowledgement slip and digital certificate.

✓ The Co-WIN platform handles the COVID-19 immunisation of the country.

✓ This includes registering beneficiaries, sending them text messages, allocating vaccination centres and also live monitoring of vials in cold storage.

- ✓ This platform was earlier used for conducting Pulse Polio Programme.
- ✓ It is owned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and supported by the National Informatics Centre.
- ✓ The Co-WIN application helps in monitoring and tracking the inoculation drive.
- ✓ The app also helps in tracking the listed beneficiaries on a real time basis.

ECONOMY

- ➤ **On May 11, Moody's Investors Service - slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to 9.3% attributing the second wave of Covid pandemic**
- ✓ Moody's has provided a 'Baa3' rating on India with a negative outlook
- ✓ The US-based rating agency had in February forecast a13.7% economic growth for FY22.
- ✓ According to official estimates, the Indian economy contracted 8% in the previous fiscal ended March 2021.
- ✓ The reimposition of lockdown measures will curb economic activity and could dampen market and consumer sentiment, according to Moody's.
- ✓ However, it does not expect the impact to be as severe as during the first wave.

APPOINTMENTS

- ➤ **Padmakumar Madhavan Nair of SBI – has been appointed as the Chief of the proposed 'bad bank' or the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC).**

- ✓ It will help public sector lenders to sell their non-performing assets at the market price
- ✓ The bad banks basically take over bad assets of lenders and resolve them, so as to free the lenders from the burden of Non-Performing Assets
- ✓ Nair was serving as the chief general manager in charge of stressed assets in the country's largest bank SBI since April 2020
- ✓ The concept of 'bad banks' was suggested by the Indian Banks Association
- ✓ Recently the Reserve Bank of India set up a Committee called the Sudarshan Sen Committee to study about the Asset Reconstruction Companies in the country.

- ✓ The appointment comes at a time when there are indications that public sector banks (PSBs) have a large stressed portfolio.
- ✓ Punjab National Bank's offer document for a qualified institutional placement shows that stressed loans are around 20%.
- ✓ The government has been repeatedly looking into SBI's senior officers for key appointments in the public sector.
- ✓ Last year, in the aftermath of the Yes Bank failure, SBI's chief financial officer Prashant Kumar was chosen to head the reconstructed bank.
- ✓ Earlier, the government had appointed 'State Bankers' Sanjiv Chadha and Padmaja Chunduru to head two of the larger PSBs — Bank of Baroda and Indian Bank, respectively.
- ✓ In the private sector, Dhanlaxmi Bank is headed by J K Shivan, who was also with SBI.

OBITUARY

➢ **Veteran communist and former Kerala minister K R Gouri Amma, one of the architects of Kerala's path-breaking land reforms - died in Thiruvananthapuram on May 11**

- ✓ The 102-year-old leader had been undergoing treatment for respiratory ailment and other age-related illnesses at a private hospital.
- ✓ A six-time minister, Gouri Amma started with the revenue portfolio in Kerala's first cabinet in 1957
- ✓ She was widely expected to become chief minister in 1987 but the CPM settled for the more conservative E K Nayanar.
- ✓ Gouri Amma was a firebrand Communist who had the experience of the peasant agitations that preceded Kerala's formation.
- ✓ Born on July 14, 1919, in Cherthala, Gouri was the first woman from the Ezhava community to secure a law degree.
- ✓ She was formally initiated into the Communist party by its founder leader P Krishnapillai in 1947.
- ✓ She played a key role in organizing agitations for the rights of labourers and underprivileged sections.

- ✓ Gouri entered full-time politics after organizing the agitations against Travancore diwan C P Ramaswamy Iyer.
- ✓ She was subjected to custodial torture by police on multiple occasions, when the party was banned and its leaders were forced to go underground.
- ✓ She won the first election to the Kerala assembly in 1957 and became the first revenue minister of the state.
- ✓ She had contested 17 elections in her life and had won 13 of them.
- ✓ A leader of sharp intellect and astute administrative skill, Gouri handled the revenue, industries and agriculture portfolios in six ministries.

SPORTS

- ➤ **Tennis legend Rafael Nadal - won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award 2021 at the virtual awards ceremony conducted in Seville, Spain recently.**

- ✓ Naomi Osaka won the prestigious Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award 2021.
- ✓ Japan's Osaka won her second U.S. Open title last year, while Nadal equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles by claiming his 13th French Open crown
- ✓ Nadal won his fourth Laureus award this year, having previously bagged the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.
- ✓ American Tennis great Billie Jean King received the Lifetime Achievement award.
- ✓ German soccer champions Bayern Munich, who won last season's Champions League, was named the Team of the Year.
- ✓ Britain's Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton claimed the inaugural Athlete Advocate of the Year Award for his involvement in the fight against racism.
- ✓ Liverpool soccer great Mo Salah (Egypt) won the sporting inspiration award
- ✓ This year the Laureus World sports Award for Action Sports person of the year was not awarded.

- ✓ The awards are presented to honour individuals and teams who have excelled in sports throughout the year.
- ✓ It was established in 1999 by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation and supported by Mitsubishi and Mercedes Benz.
- ✓ The first Laureus World Sports Awards was presented in 2000
- ✓ This year, the awards are presented in eight categories.
- ✓ Roger Federer, a Swiss Tennis player holds the record for the most of the awards.
- ✓ He has won six "Sportsman of the Year" awards and one comeback of the year award.
- ✓ In 2020, Sachin Tendulkar won Laureus World Sports Award for Laureus Sporting Moment 2000-2020.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ➢ **International Nurses Day - May 12**

- ✓ The birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale is celebrated annually as the International Nurses Day.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to mark the contributions made by the nurses to the society.
- ✓ Theme 2021 – A vision for future Healthcare
- ✓ The International Nurses Day has been celebrated by the International Council of Nurses since 1965.
- ✓ Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer and also the founder of modern professional nursing.
- ✓ She trained and managed nurses during the Crimean War.
- ✓ She also took care of wounded soldiers at Constantinople, Turkey.
- ✓ Florence Nightingale was called as "The Lady with the Lamp" as she used to carry a lamp while making rounds of wounded soldiers at night.
- ✓ She established Nursing school at St Thomas hospital in London.
- ✓ It was the first nursing school in the world and is now a part of the King's college of London.
- ✓ The Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest international distinction for the nurses, which is awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

STATE/UT-wise VACCINE ALLOCATION - REPORT

State/UT-wise allocation of Covishield and Covaxin through GoI for first fortnight of May '21

State	Covishield	Covaxin	Total
Maharashtra	17,50,620	5,76,890	23,27,510
Uttar Pradesh	13,49,850	4,11,870	17,61,720
Rajasthan	12,92,460	4,42,390	17,34,850
Gujarat	12,48,700	4,11,490	16,60,190
Karnataka	10,05,370	3,31,300	13,36,670
West Bengal	9,95,300	3,27,980	13,23,280
Madhya Pradesh	8,71,290	2,87,120	11,58,410
Bihar	7,64,850	2,52,040	10,16,890
Andhra Pradesh	6,90,360	2,27,490	9,17,850
Kerala	6,84,070	2,25,430	9,09,500
Chhattisgarh	6,47,300	2,13,300	8,60,600
Telangana	6,28,760	2,07,200	8,35,960
Odisha	5,88,010	1,93,770	7,81,780
Tamil Nadu	5,39,060	1,94,120	7,33,180
Punjab	4,63,710	1,52,810	6,16,520
Haryana	4,23,890	1,39,690	5,63,580
Delhi	3,73,760	1,23,170	4,96,930
Jammu & Kashmir	3,84,700	0	3,84,700
Jharkhand	2,62,790	86,590	3,49,380
Assam	2,53,960	83,690	3,37,650
Uttarakhand	2,42,160	79,800	3,21,960
Himachal Pradesh	3,02,080	0	3,02,080
Tripura	96,670	31,860	1,28,530
Goa	54,620	0	54,620
Mizoram	45,550	0	45,550
Meghalaya	42,520	0	42,520
Arunachal Pradesh	36,510	0	36,510
Chandigarh	32,210	0	32,210
Sikkim	31,600	0	31,600
Manipur	31,590	0	31,590
Nagaland	30,220	0	30,220
Puducherry	29,890	0	29,890
Andaman & Nicobar	19,940	0	19,940
Ladakh	15,260	0	15,260
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8,300	0	8,300
Daman & Diu	7,910	0	7,910
Lakshadweep	4,160	0	4,160
Total	**1,62,50,000**	**50,00,000**	**2,12,50,000**

State/UT-wise availability of 150L Covishield & 50L Covaxin doses for procurement via 'Other than GOI Channel' for all of May '21

State	Covishield	Covaxin	Total
Uttar Pradesh	25,53,340	8,85,510	34,38,850
Maharashtra	13,81,580	4,79,150	18,60,730
Bihar	11,89,250	4,12,450	16,01,700
West Bengal	10,57,610	3,66,790	14,24,400
Andhra Pradesh	9,91,700	3,43,930	13,35,630
Madhya Pradesh	9,04,190	3,13,580	12,17,770
Rajasthan	8,44,750	2,92,970	11,37,720
Tamil Nadu	7,68,530	2,66,530	10,35,060
Gujarat	7,18,650	2,49,240	9,67,890
Karnataka	7,04,050	2,44,170	9,48,220
Odisha	4,78,480	1,65,940	6,44,420
Kerala	3,96,710	1,37,580	5,34,290
Jharkhand	3,87,560	1,34,400	5,21,960
Assam	3,71,480	1,28,830	5,00,310
Punjab	3,29,280	1,14,190	4,43,470
Haryana	3,19,370	1,10,760	4,30,130
Chhattisgarh	2,97,110	1,03,040	4,00,150
Telangana	2,90,010	1,00,580	3,90,590
Delhi	2,67,690	92,840	3,60,530
Jammu & Kashmir	1,84,950	0	1,84,950
Uttarakhand	1,22,180	42,370	1,64,550
Himachal Pradesh	1,07,620	0	1,07,620
Tripura	43,670	15,150	58,820
Meghalaya	42,630	0	42,630
Manipur	39,840	0	39,840
Nagaland	36,580	0	36,580
Chandigarh	33,000	0	33,000
Goa	32,870	0	32,870
Puducherry	30,010	0	30,010
Arunachal Pradesh	20,180	0	20,180
Mizoram	16,340	0	16,340
Sikkim	9,940	0	9,940
Andaman & Nicobar	9,070	0	9,070
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7,480	0	7,480
Daman & Diu	6,050	0	6,050
Ladakh	5,000	0	5,000
Lakshadweep	1,250	0	1,250
Total	**1,50,00,000**	**50,00,000**	**2,00,00,000**

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