

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 4, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On June 3, the Tamil Nadu government - made six announcements related to literature, health care infrastructure and agriculture to mark the 98th birth anniversary of former chief minister, M Karunanidhi
- ✓ The new government, led by Chief Minister M K Stalin, has proposed constructing a 500-bed multi super-speciality hospital in Chennai's King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research at the cost of ₹250 crore.

'ILAKKIYA MAMANI' AWARD, 'DREAM HOME' FOR WRITERS



RESPECT: CM
M K Stalin pays
homage at
M Karunanidhi's
memorial in city

B A Raju

➤ ₹250cr 500-bed
multi super-specialty
hospital in Guindy
➤ Kalaignar

memorial library in
Madurai at ₹70cr

➤ Annual 'Ilakkiya
Mamani' award to
three Tamil writers

➤ Free houses to
writers who have
won international,
national and state
literary awards

➤ Paddy godowns
and drying yards in
Tiruvarur at ₹30cr

➤ Free ride for
differently-abled and
third gender in town
buses

- ✓ On the lines of 'Kalaimamani' awards for excellence in performing arts and literature, the government announced 'Ilakkiya Mamani' awards for three Tamil writers every year.
- ✓ The award will carry a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation.

- ✓ In addition, the state would also provide housing for writers who are recipients of awards such as Jnanpith, Sahitya Akademi and other renowned state/ international literary awards.
 - ✓ The 'dream' houses will be provided in either their district or whichever district in which they wish to reside.
 - ✓ A Kalaignar Memorial Library, spread across 2 lakh square feet, will also be constructed in Madurai at a cost of ₹70 crore.
 - ✓ The scheme of free ride for women in town buses will be extended to disabled people and members of the third gender.
 - ✓ Earlier, the CM had ordered the 'free ride' scheme for women on his first day as chief minister on May 7
 - ✓ The government also proposed to build warehouses for farmers to store their produce and prevent it from being destroyed
 - ✓ A budget of ₹24.30 crore will be allotted to construct to store 16,000-tonne paddy in Tiruvarur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Muthupet, Mannargudi, Kottur, Needamangalam, Nannilam, Kudavasal, Koradacheri and Valangaiman blocks in Tiruvarur district.
 - ✓ The CM also announced financial assistance to police officers to recognise their services throughout the pandemic.
 - ✓ It will cover 1.17 lakh Tamil Nadu police personnel who will receive ₹5,000 as monetary assistance.
 - ✓ Since farmers suffer losses due to improper drying of foodgrain, the state government would be setting up 50 open drying yards in 10 blocks of the Tiruvarur district at a cost of ₹5 crore
 - ✓ Further, the government will also set up recirculating batch dryers in Kottur and Valangaiman blocks at ₹60 lakh, continuous flow dryers in Needamangalam and Mannargudi blocks at ₹60 lakh.
 - ✓ The government statement also recalled the schemes launched by the former five-time CM for the welfare of poor, including Dr Muthulakshmi memorial maternity assistance scheme and insurance scheme.
- **On June 3, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - launched distribution of the second instalment of the Covid relief of ₹2,000 to the rice cardholders in the state.**



- ✓ He also commenced the supply of a free grocery kit of 14 items to the rice cardholders.
 - ✓ The move would benefit 2.1 crore rice cardholders in the state.
 - ✓ The first instalment of ₹2,000 was launched days after the DMK government assumed charge.
 - ✓ This electoral promise of the DMK cost the exchequer ₹8,392.8 crore.
 - ✓ On May 28, the chief minister announced the distribution of grocery kits to the cardholders in the month of June.
 - ✓ Each grocery kit consists of a kilogram each of wheat flour, salt and rava, 500g each of sugar and urad dal, 250g each of tamarind and Bengal gram, 100gm each of mustard, cumin seeds, turmeric powder and chilli powder, 200gm tea dust, a bath and a detergent soap.
 - ✓ The initiative would cost ₹844.5 crore to the exchequer.
- **Tamil Nadu - has risen to second rank in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index for 2020-21 from the third position during 2019-20.**
- ✓ It has improved its performance in 13 of 15 parameters to secure the second position that it shares with Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ As per the report released on June 3, overall, Tamil Nadu had a score of 74 and was behind Kerala which retained the first rank with a score of 75.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu, which topped the country in 'no poverty' and 'affordable and clean energy', was placed second in 'goal of industry, innovation and infrastructure'.
 - ✓ The state ranked third in 'good health and well-being' and was among the five states that are close to achieving the target in institutional deliveries with a value of 99.9%.
 - ✓ It was also the fifth best performing state in 'quality education' and 'decent work and economic growth' and fourth in gender equality.
 - ✓ On the negative side, it was a poor performer 'goal of life below water' having three indicators measuring water quality (biochemical oxygen demand, total nitrogen and pH levels).
 - ✓ It also performed poorly with respect to the aspirant category, securing lowest score among coastal states with just 11.
 - ✓ On the groundwater situation, Tamil Nadu was among three states and Union Territory of Puducherry where the stage of groundwater extraction is between 70% and 100%.
 - ✓ With regard to 'peace, justice and strong institutions', Tamil Nadu was ranked in 19th position behind Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The Index for SDGs assesses the progress of all states and Union territories on key development parameters including education, health, sanitation, employment, infrastructure, energy and environment.

- **The state government - has issued an order bringing the subcastes of Scheduled Castes — Devendrakulathan, Kadaiyan, Kalladi, Kudumban, Pallan, Pannadi and Vathiriyan — under a common category, “Devendrakula Vellalar”.**
- ✓ Earlier, the Parliament had enacted a law in this regard before the assembly elections.
- ✓ The previous AIADMK government had set up a committee to examine the demand of a section of the community in this regard.
- ✓ These subcastes have considerable population in districts like Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam.
- ✓ In its report submitted to the government in November 2020, the committee had recommended grouping of six sub-castes and assigned a common nomenclature - Devendrakula Vellalar.
- ✓ The recommendation was accepted by the state government and the same was sent to the Union government for passing legislation.
- ✓ The Union government enacted the law just ahead of the assembly elections to the state.
- ✓ The Central Act came into force with effect from May 15, 2021.

NATIONAL

- **Kerala - yet again bagged the No.1 slot among front runner' states in the quest for Sustainable Development Goals 2030**
- ✓ It bettered its score from 70 in 2019 to 75 in 2020.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh took the second spot with a score of 74 in this year's NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2020-21, indicating an improvement from their previous scores of 67 and 69, respectively
- ✓ At the bottom of the ranking is Bihar with a score of (52) followed by Jharkhand (56) and Assam (57).
- ✓ In fast moving states (score-wise), top gainers are Mizoram (68), Haryana (67), and Uttarakhand (72) in 2020–21 with improvements of 12, 10 and 8 points from 2019, respectively.

Top 5 positions		Bottom 5 positions	
State	Score	State	Score
Kerala	75	Chhattisgarh,	61
Himachal Pradesh,	74	Nagaland, Odisha	
Tamil Nadu		Arunachal Pradesh,	60
Andhra Pradesh, Goa,	72	Meghalaya, Rajasthan,	
Karnataka, Uttarakhand		Uttar Pradesh	
Sikkim	71	Assam	57
Maharashtra	70	Jharkhand	56
		Bihar	52

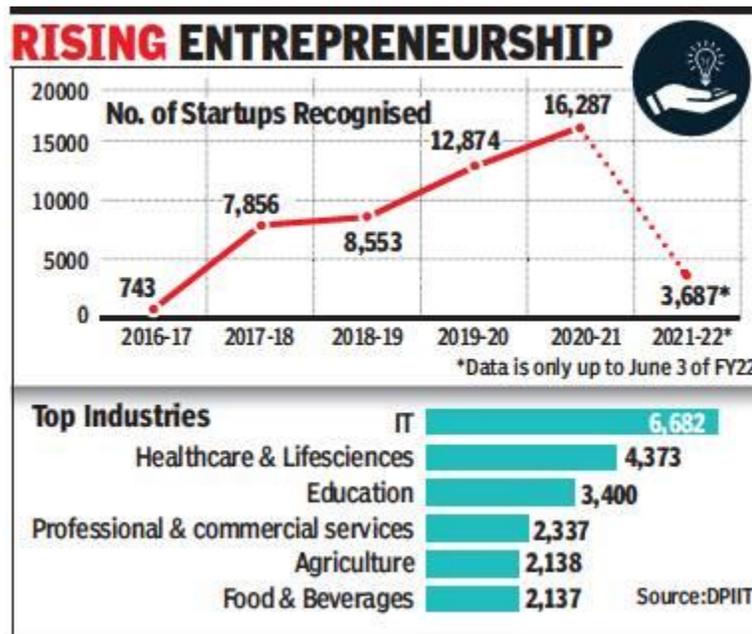
- ✓ The third edition of India's SDG Index along with 'Dashboard 2020-21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action' was launched by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant on June 3.
- ✓ Among the UTs, Chandigarh maintained its top spot with a score of 79, which is an increase over its 2019 score of 70, followed by Delhi (68).
- ✓ While in 2019, 10 states/UTs belonged to the category of front-runners (score in the range 65-99, including both), 12 more states/UTs are added in this category from 'performers' in 2020-21.
- ✓ They are Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana, Tripura, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh
- ✓ As per the Index, Delhi and Gujarat provided best facilities for health and well being as well as industries, innovation and infrastructure.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh scored highest in economic growth
- ✓ The report noted there has been considerable improvement in scores.
- ✓ The range for States has improved from between 50 and 70 to 52 to 75, while for the UTs, the previous range of scores was 59 and 70, which has now improved to 62-79.
- ✓ The country's overall SDG score improved by 6 points - from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21.
- ✓ This was possible due to the impressive performance by states in goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), where the composite goal scores are 83 and 92, respectively.
- ✓ The Index for Sustainable Development Goals evaluates progress of states and Union Territories on various parameters including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment.
- ✓ The score index classifies states based on their performance on goals as aspirant (0-49), performer (50-64), front-runners (65-99) and achiever with a full 100.
- ✓ The SDG India Index was first launched in December 2018
- ✓ It has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the country
- ✓ The index was developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India
- ✓ It measures the progress at the national and sub-national level in the country's journey towards meeting the global goals and targets
- ✓ The first edition of the Index has covered 13 goals, 39 targets, and 62 indicators in 2018-19
- ✓ The second edition of the Index has covered 17 goals, 54 targets and 100 indicators in the year 2019-20
- ✓ The third edition of the index covers 17 goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators.
- ✓ In 2015, all members of the United Nations adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, consisting of 17 SDGs and a further 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

- **On June 3, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) – has directed that a cooling-off period should be mandatorily imposed on all retired government employees before they can take up jobs in the private sector**
 - ✓ Further, vigilance clearance must be sought from their former employer organisations before they are re-hired by the government on a contractual or consultancy basis
 - ✓ The procedure for engaging retired government officers should be ‘transparent’ with equal opportunity to all those willing to offer their services.
 - ✓ The post to be filled up on contractual/consultancy basis should be advertised on the website of the organisation and put in the public domain
 - ✓ The CVC also directed the government to tweak service and conduct rules so that appropriate action can be initiated in case of violation of this ‘cooling-off’ period.
 - ✓ Any failure on part of a retired officer’s former employer organisation to give vigilance clearance within 21 days would be construed as a “deemed vigilance clearance”, as per the CVC
 - ✓ In such a case, the erstwhile employer would be responsible for any consequential actions if the officer is later found to be involved in any vigilance related matter or not clear from the vigilance point of view.
 - ✓ In this regard, the CVC, had sent a circular to secretaries/heads of all ministries/ departments and PSUs on June 3

- **The Union ministry of health and family welfare - has booked 30 crore doses of Biological E’s recombinant protein subunit vaccine “Corbevax” while it is in Phase 3 human clinical trials.**
 - ✓ The Centre will be reserving these doses for an advance payment of ₹1,500 crore to the Hyderabad-based vaccine-maker, which works out to ₹50 a dose.
 - ✓ Biological E’s vaccine is being developed in collaboration with Texas-based Baylor College of Medicine.
 - ✓ The vaccine doses will be manufactured and stockpiled by Biological E Ltd from August-December 2021.
 - ✓ Corbevax is also slated to be one of the most affordable vaccines in the market once it is available for use.
 - ✓ The company is targeting a rollout of 75-80 million doses per month from August onwards after getting emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator.
 - ✓ The department of biotechnology has already provided grant-in aid of over ₹100 crore to Biological E
 - ✓ Further, the department of biotechnology had also partnered with the company to conduct all animal challenge and assay studies through its Research Institute Translational Health Science Technology Institute.

- **The government - has recognised 50,000 startups across the country, as on June 3**

- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has announced that it has recognized 50,000 startups, of which 19,896 have been recognised since April 1, 2020
- ✓ The recognition helps the startups avail of fiscal and infrastructural benefits across a range of laws and regulations
- ✓ Out of the recognized startups, as many as 10,000 have got approval over the last six months.



- ✓ As per the data available with the ministry of corporate affairs, a 27% jump was registered in the number of new companies during 2020-21
- ✓ These startups are present across 623 districts with at least one startup in each state and union territory (UT).
- ✓ While Maharashtra, Karnataka, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have the highest number of startups, 30 States and UTs have announced specific policies to support them.
- ✓ To be eligible for registration under Startup India, a government initiative launched in 2016 to support the domestic startup ecosystem, a company needs to fulfill several criteria
- ✓ This includes being 'incorporated' and registered in India up to 10 years from the date of incorporation and having annual turnover of not more than ₹100 crore for the financial years since registration