



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 24, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu government – has reconstituted the state-level vigilance and monitoring committee for SC/STs with chief minister M K Stalin as chairman.



- ✓ It would include all 45 MLAs of reserved constituencies in the state, irrespective of party affiliations.
- ✓ The 62-member committee is also represented by four ministers, including Palanivel Thiagarajan (finance), N Kayalvizhi Selvaraj (adi dravidar welfare), C V Ganesan (labour welfare) and M Mathiventhan (tourism)
- ✓ It comprises of nine MPs, including VCK leaders Thol Thirumavalavan and D Ravikumar.
- ✓ Former Speaker P Dhanapal, floor leaders, K Selvaperunthagai (Congress), V P Nagai Mali (CPM), T Sadhan Thirumalaikumar (MDMK) are also named as members of the committee
- ✓ The PMK and the BJP have no representation in the committee.

- ✓ The panel will review the implementation of the provisions of the SC/ST Act, relief and rehabilitation of the victims, prosecution, role of officers/agencies, and various reports received by the state government.
 - ✓ While the mandate of the committee is to meet twice a year, the state-level committee met only four times ever since it was constituted under SC/ST (prevention of atrocities) Act in 1995
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded 1,384 cases under the SC/ST Act in 2017, 1,428 in 2018 and 1,175 in 2019, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.
- **The state government - has decided to offer “Procurement Preference” to startups in public purchases, both products and services, by various government departments and connected organizations.**
- ✓ The government has exempted startups from a few conditions including payment of earnest money deposit (EMD), prior turnover and experience
 - ✓ These restrictions have made it difficult for the startups to supply to the government sector in the past.
 - ✓ Further, the state government announced relaxations applicable for purchases up to Rs.20 lakh, which is expected to help several startups get orders from their early stages
 - ✓ According to the GO released, startups in Tamil Nadu are technically capable of providing solutions to governance and other issues faced by the departments in implementing schemes.
 - ✓ Providing procurement preference in varied segments - IT, agritech and edutech - to startups will also help them to develop rapidly and create enormous employment and wealth in the state.

GOVT'S BOOSTER SHOT

Concessions announced for registered startups for public procurements

- Exemption from **payment of earnest money deposit (EMD)**
- Exemption from **condition to have prior turnover**
- Exemption from **condition to have prior experience**
- Exemption from **tender cost**



- ✓ As per the Government order, purchases by government is a great source of recognition to the startups and will also solve the marketing problem of startups to a great extent
- ✓ The procurement preference will apply to all government departments, public sector undertakings of the government, statutory bodies, local bodies, co-operatives, universities and societies.

- ✓ The concessions are made available to startups registered on the portal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) or Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM).
- ✓ Moreover, the startups should have a registered office in Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL

- **The union government - announced the appointment of vice chancellors to 12 central universities (CUs) on July 23**
- ✓ The newly appointed vice chancellors include Tankeshwar Kumar (Central University of Haryana), Prakash Bansal (Central University of Himachal Pradesh), Sanjeev Jain (Central university of Jammu), Kshitij Bhusan Das (Central University of Jharkhand), Battu Satyanarayana (Central University of Karnataka), Muthukalingan Krishnan (Central University of Tamil Nadu) and Basuthkar J Rao (Central University of Hyderabad).
- ✓ Also appointed were Kameshwar Nath Singh (Central University of South Bihar), Prabha Shankar Shukla, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Alok Kumar Chakrawal (Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur), Syed Ainul Hasan, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) and Lokender Singh, Manipur University.
- ✓ According to Union minister of education Dharmendra Pradhan, a total of 22 posts of vice chancellors in central universities are vacant
- ✓ Out of this, appointments to 12 posts have been finalised by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ The 10 universities, which still continue to operate without full time vice chancellors, include Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- **On July 23, Bharat Biotech - said it has terminated with immediate effect its MoU with its Brazilian partners Precisa Medicamentos and Envixia Pharmaceuticals LLC**

VACCINE DEAL COMES UNSTUCK

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| <p>► Bharat Bio terminates MoU with Precisa Medicamentos and Envixia Pharmaceuticals for its Covid vax Covaxin for the Brazilian mkt</p> <p>► The MoU, inked on Nov 24, 2020, was to supply 20 million doses of Covaxin</p> | <p>► BB says it had offered to supply Covaxin to Brazil as part of its global supply outreach</p> <p>► Hyd-based pharma major says the company has not received any advance payments nor has it supplied any vaccine to Brazil</p> |
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- ✓ Brazil has suspended the clinical studies of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin after termination of the company's agreement with its Brazilian partner

- ✓ The termination comes less than a month after Brazil suspended its \$324 million contract for the import of 20 million doses Covaxin over allegations of irregularities.
- ✓ Bharat Biotech signed an agreement with Precisa Medicamentos and Envixia Pharmaceuticals on November 20 for introducing Covaxin in Brazil.
- ✓ Precisa is a Brazil-based firm while Envixia is registered in Dubai.
- ✓ Precisa Medicamentos is Bharat Biotech's partner in Brazil, providing assistance, guidance and support with regulatory submissions, licensure, distribution, insurance and conduct of Phase III clinical trials, among others.
- ✓ The global pricing of the vaccine has been set between \$15-20 and accordingly, the jab was offered to the Government of Brazil at the rate of \$15 per dose
- ✓ The Bolsonaro-led Brazilian government faced allegations of corruption regarding its agreement with Bharat Biotech which is still under investigation.
- ✓ Bharat Biotech confirmed that it has neither received any advance payment from the Brazilian government nor supplied any vaccine.

OBITUARY

- **India's oldest learner and Nari Shakthi awardee, Bhageerathi amma (107 years) of Kollam district in Kerala - passed away on July 22 following age-related illness.**

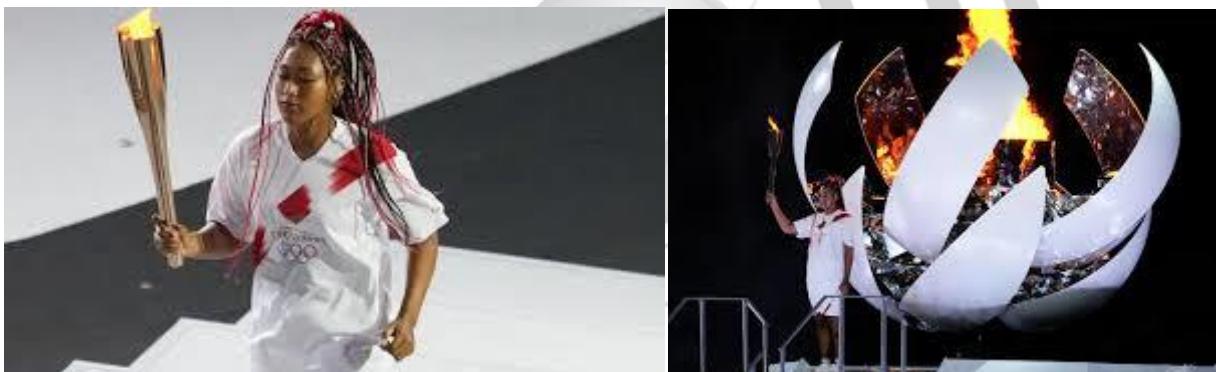


- ✓ At 105-years-old, Bhageerathi Amma had scripted history by becoming the oldest student by clearing the fourth standard equivalency examination conducted by the state-run Kerala State Literacy Mission (KSLM) in 2019 with 75% marks.
- ✓ Bhageerathi Amma had quit formal education in class three at the age of 9.
- ✓ On her achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to her as an inspiration in his monthly radio programme "Mann ki Baat" on February 24, 2020.
- ✓ Following this, the country honoured her with the Nari Shakthi award in 2020 for her exceptional contribution to women empowerment.
- ✓ Upon further inspiration, Bhageerathi Amma had enrolled as a student of the seventh standard equivalency course of the State Literacy Mission.

- ✓ But before she could appear for the exam, she breathed her last, leaving behind a great legacy.

SPORTS

- **Japan's World No. 2 tennis player Naomi Osaka - served as the final Olympic torchbearer for the Tokyo Olympic Games and lit the Olympic flame during the opening ceremony held in Tokyo on July 23**
- ✓ The flame was originally lit at a ceremony in Olympia on March 12, 2020, but as a precaution against the pandemic outbreak, the Greek portion of the torch relay was canceled
- ✓ The Olympic Torch Relay began on March 25, 2021 from the J-Village National Training Centre in Fukushima Prefecture
- ✓ It then traveled through all 47 prefectures across Japan over a period of 121 days before reaching Tokyo on July 9.
- ✓ In order to compete for Japan at the Tokyo Olympics, her first Games, Osaka had to give up her U.S. citizenship



- ✓ When Tokyo hosted the 1964 Olympics, a then 19-year-old Japanese man named Yoshinori Sakai, who was born outside Hiroshima just hours after the atomic bombing, served as the torchbearer who lit the cauldron.
- ✓ Osaka is a four-time Grand Slam champion and the first Asian tennis player to be ranked No. 1 in the world.
- ✓ After winning her first title at the 2018 U.S. Open, Osaka became the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam singles title.
- ✓ She also won back-to-back Slams in late 2018 and early 2019 with the U.S. Open and Australian Open respectively
- ✓ Inspired by the sun, the Tokyo Olympic cauldron is designed to be better for the planet.
- ✓ The flame at Tokyo's National Stadium and another cauldron burning along the waterfront near Tokyo Bay throughout the games will be sustained in part by hydrogen
- ✓ This is the first time the hydrogen fuel source was used to power an Olympic fire.

- ✓ Previous flames have usually run on propane, although magnesium, gunpowder, resin and olive oil have also been used since the first modern cauldron was lit for the Amsterdam Games in 1928.
- ✓ The torch relay was introduced eight years later for Berlin.
- ✓ Unlike propane, hydrogen does not produce carbon dioxide when combusted.
- ✓ The Tokyo cauldron is lit by hydrogen fuel produced by a factory in the Fukushima prefecture that runs on renewable energy.
- ✓ Propane and hydrogen were both used during the torch relay

30 years of Liberalisation - REPORT

10 REFORMS THAT CHANGED INDIA

GST did change the tax regime. But there are other key steps that form the bedrock of India's market-led economy & helped achieve higher growth...

1 NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- Industrial licensing was abolished and 18 PSU industries were gradually liberalised
- Monopolies And Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, was abolished



2 FDI & TRADE POLICY

- Import licensing was abolished for capital goods & intermediates, which became freely importable in 1993, simultaneously with the switch to a flexible exchange rate regime
- India joined the World Trade Organization and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement
- Quantitative restrictions on imports of manufactured consumer goods and agricultural products removed in 2001. The policy now allows 100% foreign ownership in many industries and majority ownership in all except banking, insurance, telecommunications and airlines
- Current account convertibility introduced in 1994



3 NEW INSTITUTIONS

- Securities and Exchange Board of India established
- Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority and Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority set up
- Union Budget created 'development finance institutions' and 'bad banks' to fund infrastructure and resolve stressed assets
- GST Council established



4 GOVERNMENT BORROWING

- Domestic bond markets created and Clearing Corporation of India is set up



5 INTEREST RATE LIBERALISATION

- Interest rate controls were dismantled and savings interest rates were deregulated



6 BASEL ACCORDS

- Basel Accords, a series of 3 international banking regulation agreements, adopted

7 NFSA & MGNREGS

- NFSA legally entitled up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban

population to receive subsidised food grain under the Targeted Public Distribution System

- MGNREGS guaranteed 100 days of wage-employment per year in rural areas



8 AADHAAR

- Aadhaar system provided a single-source offline/online identity verification, boosting the inclusion of programmes like PMJDY, Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala

9 INSOLVENCY & BANKRUPTCY CODE

- A comprehensive law, IBC consolidated both consequential aspects of an economic collapse of a debtor – rehabilitation as well as liquidation



10 MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

- MPC was set up with basic objective to maintain price stability and accelerate the economy's growth rate. It has brought monetary policy decision-making in line with global best practices

(Source: SBI Research)