

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 25, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu government – has made mandatory for employees as well as their family members to take both doses of Covid-19 vaccine to access workplaces or industries, treating them as ‘high priority’ group**
- ✓ In this regard, the state government has issued a new set of guidelines on July 24
- ✓ As per the guidelines, all workplaces and industries with more than 300 employees or 10,000sqft space should appoint a qualified health inspector, ‘at their own cost’, for monitoring and to coordinate/implement health activities on the premises.
- ✓ Health inspectors — who have completed courses in public health at recognised universities — should ensure all staff members are screened at the workplace entrance.
- ✓ Besides measuring temperature, the health inspectors should record details of symptoms and history of family members testing positive in the past week.
- ✓ Staff having symptoms must be quarantined and referred to the nearest health facility for performing further tests and management.

NEW SET OF 12 GUIDELINES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workers & families to be ‘high priority’ group ➤ Workplaces & industries with more than 300 staff or occupying 10,000sqft must appoint health inspector at own cost ➤ They must record temperature & details of symptoms and history of family members testing positive ➤ Staff with symptoms to be quarantined & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> referred to health facility ➤ Administrators must monitor using CCTV cameras if staff wear masks or face shields at all times ➤ Two-metre gap between workstations must ➤ Social distancing mandatory in canteens and dining areas ➤ Administrators should hold online training programmes to ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour of staff
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- ✓ Staff, whose family members test positive in the past seven days, should also be quarantined and referred to a healthcare facility

- ✓ The new set of guidelines seeks to ensure that strict preventive measures are enforced in all places of public gatherings, especially at workplaces and industries.
 - ✓ The decision to issue fresh guidelines under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act was made after a state task force committee meeting held on June 23.
 - ✓ The guidelines cover various issues as transportation of staff, quarters and dormitories, canteen or dining area, health team and awareness creation, besides sanitation, social distancing and vaccination.
 - ✓ Administrators must make necessary arrangements, such as installing CCTVs, to monitor if the staffs are wearing masks or face covers at all times.
 - ✓ There should be at least two-metre gap maintained between workstations.
 - ✓ In places where spacing is not possible, the factory management should ensure they are separated by transparent sheets or screens.
 - ✓ Social distancing should be maintained in canteens and other dining areas.
 - ✓ The guidelines have also asked administrators to organise online training programmes to ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour among staff members.
- **In a major training initiative, the Tamil Nadu school education department – is planning to train all 3 lakh teachers in government schools with basic functional computer skills**
- ✓ The initiative has been designed to prepare the teachers for online learning, teaching and assessment in the future.
 - ✓ The training would enable nearly 50 lakh students enrolled in government schools to learn basic computer skills through online classes.
 - ✓ Each teacher will be trained for five days on creating a word document, PDF, sending e-mails and on how to use online videos in classrooms.
 - ✓ The training will be conducted in hi-tech labs in around 7,000 government high and higher secondary schools throughout the state.
 - ✓ The teachers will also be trained on entering data on EMIS (Educational Management Information System)
 - ✓ The EMIS is a government data repository with enrollment and other details of students across government-run schools in the state.
 - ✓ The 'Resource Persons Training' will be launched by school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi on July 26.
 - ✓ The training will be provided in batches, with each batch having 40,000 to 50,000 teachers.
 - ✓ The department expects to complete the training before August 31.
 - ✓ The training classes will be held in two sessions, one from 10am to 12noon and another from 2pm to 4pm, and teachers will be assessed at the end of it.
 - ✓ The training has been split into five modules — computer basics, use of hitech labs, internet basics and EMIS portal, with the last day meant for a recap of the lessons.

- ✓ The skill training will cover all teachers from primary to higher secondary school levels.
- **The state government – has proposed to redraw the jurisdiction of sub-registrar offices to sync with that of the revenue taluks.**
- ✓ This will bring properties in revenue areas under one umbrella, along with registration offices
- ✓ It seeks to put an end to people travelling long distances to register documents.
- ✓ The move will also eliminate confusion arising out of multiple taluks falling under the jurisdiction of one SRO.
- ✓ It will also decrease the pressure on several registration offices dealing with large volumes of documents, while neighbouring SROs record fewer registrations.
- ✓ The move was initiated two years ago but did not materialize then.

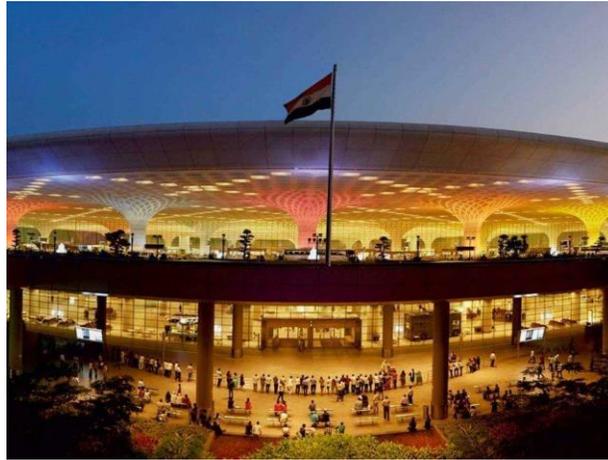
NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - virtually inaugurated a newly-built 318-room five-star hotel on the top of re-developed Gandhinagar railway station recently**



- ✓ Gandhinagar railway station is the country's first re-developed railway station through Public Private Partnership
- ✓ The Station has been provided with world class amenities at par with modern airports.
- ✓ Moreover, special care has been taken to make it a disabled-friendly station with a special ticket booking counter, ramps, lifts, dedicated parking space etc.
- ✓ The complete building is designed and provided with Green Building rating features and the state-of-the-art external façade will have daily theme-based lighting with 32 themes.
- ✓ Gandhinagar Railway and Urban Development (GARUD), a Joint Venture Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), was formed between the government of Gujarat and the Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) for the redevelopment of the station in the ratio of 74:26 respectively

- ✓ The redevelopment of the existing railway station in Gandhinagar and construction of the five-star hotel on top of it began in January 2017 at a budget of Rs 254 crore after PM Modi performed their groundbreaking.
 - ✓ During the virtual event, PM Modi flagged off Gandhinagar-Varanasi weekly superfast train and Gandhinagar-Varetha MEMU train.
 - ✓ In Ahmedabad, the Prime Minister also inaugurated a nature park, an aquatic gallery and robotic gallery at the Science City.
- **National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC - to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat.**
- ✓ NTPC plans to invest Rs.1 trillion between 2019 and 2024 to become a 130GW power producer by 2032, out of which 60 GW will come from renewable energy sources.
 - ✓ Currently, the state owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.
 - ✓ Recently, NTPC has also commissioned India's largest Floating Solar of 10 Mega Watt on the reservoir of Simhadri Thermal Power Plant, Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ Further, a 100 MW Floating Solar Project on the reservoir of Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant, Telangana is in the advanced stage of implementation.
 - ✓ Additionally, NTPC RE Ltd. has recently signed an MoU with UT, Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) for the generation of green hydrogen
 - ✓ NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, has now received the approval from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set up 4750 MW renewable energy park under the ultra-mega renewable energy power parks (UMREPP) scheme
 - ✓ This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country.
 - ✓ NTPC REL has plans to generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale from this park.
- **Gujarat-based Adani group - announced that its subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. (AAHL) has taken over the management and control of Mumbai International Airport Limited from the GVK Group**
- ✓ In this regard, the Adani group had obtained all necessary approvals from the Government of India, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) of Maharashtra, and the Government of Maharashtra.
 - ✓ The AAHL also announced that it will begin the construction of Navi Mumbai International Airport next month and the New International Airport will be commissioned in 2024.
 - ✓ Adani Airport Holdings presently own a 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport.
 - ✓ With this takeover, Adani group has become the top company in airport infrastructure in the country.



- ✓ The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai is the second-busiest in the country after the Delhi airport, in both passenger and cargo traffic segments.
- ✓ The Gautam Adani-led group took over the Mumbai Airport from GVK group last year.
- ✓ AAHL is now India's largest airport infrastructure company, accounting for 25% airport footfalls and 33% of India's air cargo traffic.
- ✓ For the Adani group, Mumbai is the latest in its addition with eight airports in its management and development portfolio
- ✓ Earlier in 2019, the AAHL won the mandate to modernize and operate six airports – Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram – for a period of 50 years through a tendering process conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- ✓ Of these, it took over the operations of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports in 2020.
- ✓ It, however, plans to defer the takeover of the airports in Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram by six months to December as these assets have currently turned financially unviable due to the pandemic situation.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On July 24, the Indian Railway - started an Oxygen Express carrying 200 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) from Tatanagar in Jharkhand to Benapole in Bangladesh**



- ✓ This is the first time ever that the Oxygen Express is put into operation to a neighbouring country
- ✓ The railways had started the operation of Oxygen Expresses on April 24 to provide respite to states requiring medical oxygen.
- ✓ It had transported more than 35,000 tonnes of LMO to 15 states through 480 Oxygen Express trains.
- ✓ Earlier, India has sent Covid vaccines to neighbouring Bangladesh

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India – has proposed to urge all the rich nations to bring down their own per capita emission to global average by 2030.**
- ✓ This was put forth by India on the concluding day of the G20 ministerial meeting on climate change and energy on July 23 in Naples
- ✓ Indian delegation to the meeting was led by environment minister Bhupender Yadav
- ✓ The ministers of G20 countries then jointly agreed to include India's remarks in the Presidency statement.
- ✓ Currently, India's per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is around 1.96 tCO₂e (tonne carbon dioxide equivalent) which is less than one-third of the world's per capita GHG emissions (6.55 tCO₂e).
- ✓ On the other hand, the US has 17.6 tCO₂e, Canada has 15.7 tCO₂e, Australia has 14.9 tCO₂e, Germany has 10.4 tCO₂e, UK has 8.1 tCO₂e, France has 6.6 tCO₂e and China has 6.4 tCO₂e of per capita emission.
- ✓ India's remarks assume significance when the UN climate body has been pushing nations to commit higher emission targets to reach the Paris Agreement goal
- ✓ As per the Paris agreement, the global average temperature rise has to be maintained well below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century and to make efforts to keep it at around 1.5 degree Celsius over the pre-industrial level (1850-1900).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) – have developed an AI tool named as 'NBDriver (NEIGHBOURHOOD driver)' to analyze the cancer-causing mutations in cells**
- ✓ The mathematical model developed based on artificial intelligence technique can be employed to identify changes in cell that can cause cancer.
- ✓ This prediction algorithm studies the DNA structures and characterizes the genetic changes which are responsible for causing cancer.
- ✓ NBDriver (NEIGHBOURHOOD Driver) differentiates passenger and driver mutations using the features derived from the neighbourhood sequences of mutations.

ECONOMY

- **The National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL) - has been registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) in Mumbai with a paid-up capital of Rs.74.6 crore**
- ✓ Called as the 'Bad bank', the new legal entity will be headed by Padmakumar Madhavan Nair, a stressed assets expert from State Bank of India (SBI), as the managing director
- ✓ The other directors are Indian Banks' Association (IBA) chief executive Sunil Mehta, SBI deputy managing director Salee Sukumaran Nair and Canara Bank's representative Ajit Krishnan Nair.
- ✓ NARCL was set up on 7 July with an authorized capital of Rs.100 crore as a one-stop solution for banking systems stressed assets issue and has been classified as a "Union government company"
- ✓ The setting up of the bad bank is part of the government's efforts to clean up India's financial system with biggest piles of bad assets
- ✓ Besides dealing in financial assets, the agency will also manage, enforce, sell or realise any property or asset that may come into its possession, among others.
- ✓ Initially, state-run banks will transfer 22 bad loan assets worth Rs.89,000 crore to NARCL
- ✓ As announced in the budget for FY22, NARCL will house bad loan accounts of Rs.500 crore, or more
- ✓ These stressed assets will be managed and recovered in a structure that will contain an asset reconstruction company and an asset management company, India Debt Management Company
- ✓ NARCL has eight public sector banks as its shareholders, with SBI, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Indian Bank owning 99 lakh shares each, while Canara Bank owns 1.2 crore shares.
- ✓ Other shareholders include — Punjab National Bank (90 lakh shares), Bank of India (90 lakh shares) and Bank of Maharashtra (50 lakh shares).
- ✓ The authorised share capital of the company is Rs 100 crore divided into 10 crore shares of Rs 10 each.

SPORTS

- **Ace Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu - clinched a silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the women's 49kg weightlifting event on July 24**
- ✓ This is the first time India has won a medal on the opening day of the Olympic Games.
- ✓ This was India's first weightlifting medal at the Olympic Games in 21 years, since Karnam Malleshwari won bronze in 2000 Sydney Olympics.
- ✓ Malleshwari became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal, that too in women's weightlifting in the 2000 Games

'THANK YOU FOR A BILLION PRAYERS'

India has often gone through entire Olympics waiting for its first medal, so Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's showing was a welcome change

> Chanu lifted a total of 202kg (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk). China's Zhihui Hou bagged gold with an Oly record total of 210kg. Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah (194kg) got bronze

> The 26-year-old from Manipur is the **6th individual Olympic silver medallist for India** after Norman Pritchard, Rajyavardhan Rathore, Sushil Kumar, Vijay Kumar & P V Sindhu

> India's **last 3 Olympic medals have been won by women**. Sakshi Malik and Sindhu at Rio, and now Chanu

> Chanu holds the clean-and-jerk world record (119kg). She's the **2nd Indian lifter** after Karnam Malleswari (bronze, 2000 Sydney Games) to **win an Olympic medal**



COMEBACK QUEEN

> Chanu, one of the favourites at the 2016 Rio Games, had failed in all her three clean and jerk attempts, which meant she could not log in a total

> She roared back a year later, winning gold at the 2017 World Championship

> With silver at Tokyo, her redemption is complete

STARTED WITH WOOD-LIFTING

> Born on Aug 8, 1994 to a poor family in Nongpok Kakching village, 20km from Imphal, Chanu's childhood was spent fetching firewood from nearby hills

> At 12, she lifted a pile her brother wasn't able to, and carried it for 2km

> Wanted to be an archer. But the archery centre was closed on the day of her visit. Instead, she saw some weightlifters train and was hooked

“It's really a dream come true for me. I would like to dedicate this medal to my country and would like to thank the billion prayers of all Indians which were with me during this journey. I'd like to thank my family, especially my mother, for a lot of sacrifices and for believing in me...” —Mirabai Chanu

- ✓ 21-year old Manipur-based Mirabai, ranked third in the world, had a total lift of 202kg with 87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk
- ✓ This comes as a big achievement for Mirabai, who failed to do a single legitimate lift in Rio 2016 Olympics

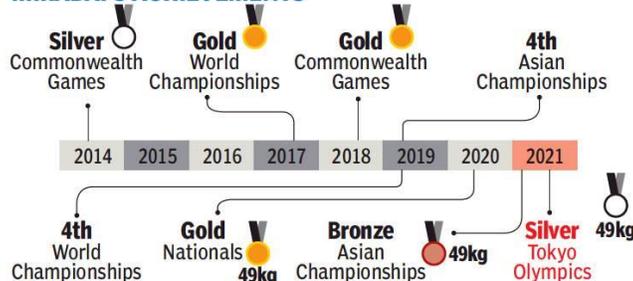
MEDAL & METTLE

MIRABAI'S WEIGHTLIFTING PROGRESSION SINCE THE RIO 2016 DISAPPOINTMENT

● Snatch ● Clean and Jerk

2017	World Championships	85	109	194
2018	Commonwealth Games	86	110	196
2019	Asian Championships	86	113	199
2019	World Championships	87	114	201
2020	National Championships	88	115	203
2021	Asian Championships	86	119	205

MIRABAI'S ACHIEVEMENTS



- ✓ Hou Zhihui of China won the gold medal, setting a new Olympic record of 210kg (94 kg and 116 kg)
 - ✓ She set the record too in snatch with 94kg and 116kg in clean and jerk.
 - ✓ Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah took home the bronze medal with a total lift of 194 kg.
 - ✓ With the silver at the Olympics, Mirabai has now won medals in the Commonwealth Games (2018), Asian Championships and World Championships (2017)
 - ✓ Mirabai holds the World Record for the clean and jerk event with a lift of 119kg which she broke in April at the 2021 Asian Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent
 - ✓ Mirabai became the sixth individual Indian women's medallist since Malleswari in 2000.
 - ✓ Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Sakshi Malik are the other women winners of Olympics medal
- **Papua New Guinea's Loa Dika Toua - made history as the first female to compete in five Olympic weightlifting competitions on July 24**



- ✓ The 37-year old Dika was the bearer of her nation's flag at the Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony.
- ✓ At 2000 Sydney Olympics, Dika became the first female ever to lift at an Olympic Games, when women's weightlifting was first introduced
- ✓ The 12-time continental champion and mother of two, a national hero back in her home country, finished fourth in Group B of the 49kg bodyweight division, with a total of 167kg
- ✓ Dika considered quitting the sport after she was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2013 and almost died, but made an astonishing recovery to win Commonwealth Games gold at Glasgow 2014.
- ✓ She is attempting to participate in her sixth Olympics Games at Paris, which is just three years away when she will be 40

- ✓ **Meanwhile, Yang Qian of China won gold in the women's 10m air rifle final with an Olympics record to secure the first gold medal of the 2020 Summer Games at the Asaka Shooting Range on July 24**
- ✓ Anastasiia Galashina of Russia won silver, while Nina Christen of Switzerland won the bronze medal.
- ✓ The air rifle is one of three shooting events at the Olympics, along with pistol and shotgun

