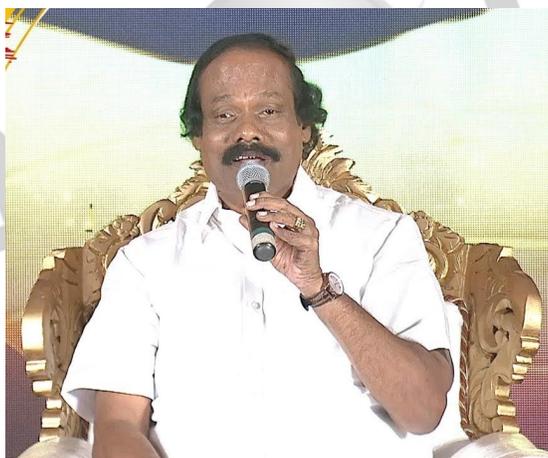




## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 9, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- Dindigul I Leoni, a popular talk show host - has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.



- ✓ The corporation is responsible for publishing, printing, and selling books free of cost to the government and government-aided schools, and also to private schools at a rate fixed by the government.
- ✓ It has been producing books for English and Tamil medium syllabi for students of Classes I to XII.
- ✓ The corporation also prepares technical books for higher secondary books and teacher training diploma syllabus.
- ✓ It has been engaged in the five year plan of reviving and digitizing textbooks of the 1960s and 1970s since 2017 and also engaged in the process of reprinting and translating some rare books
- ✓ The post was previously held by former AIADMK MLA B Valarmathi.
- ✓ A member of the DMK for several years, Leoni had served as a school teacher in a higher secondary school for over 25 years before becoming a public speaker

## STATES

- **The first case of Zika virus – was reported in the state of Kerala**
- ✓ A 24-year-old pregnant woman was found infected with the mosquito-borne Zika virus in the state
- ✓ Though the disease is not life-threatening, the state health department has issued an alert across the state.
- ✓ Earlier, the state has sent 19 samples for testing at the National Institute of Virology in Pune, out of which 13 were tested positive for the virus.
- ✓ All the samples were sent from the state capital, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ The pregnant woman from Parassalla near Thiruvananthapuram who tested positive for the virus is stable and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

## NATIONAL

- **On July 8, the Centre - approved a Rs.23,123 crore package for emergency response for Covid-19, with focus on immediate needs for the next nine months of FY 21-22.**
- ✓ The India Covid-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II will have two components - Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- ✓ The package includes creation of more infrastructure for paediatric care, repurposing of hospital beds for Covid management, strengthening of genome sequencing, augmenting ICU facilities, installation of oxygen tanks and creation of buffer stock of drugs.
- ✓ Of the total outlay, Rs.15,000 crore would be contributed by the Centre and Rs.8,123 crore by states.
- ✓ This is the second package announced by the government following the first one, which was given in April 2020.
- ✓ The fund will be utilised by the Centre and the state government to provide support to government hospitals, agencies to support their existing response to the second wave and the evolving pandemic, including at district and sub district levels in peripheral facilities.
- ✓ Under the central sector component, support would be provided to central hospitals, including AIIMS, and other institutions for repurposing 6,688 beds for Covid management.
- ✓ Besides, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) would be strengthened by providing genome sequencing machines, besides sanctioning scientific control room, Epidemic Intelligence Services (EIS) and INSACOG secretariat support.
- ✓ The fund will also be used for providing support for implementation of Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) in all the district hospitals.

- ✓ The central component will be also used for expanding tele-consultation services up to 5 lakhs per day from the present 50,000, and IT interventions and support, including CoWin platform.
- **London-listed Oil and Gas firm, Cairn Energy Plc – freezes 20 Indian government assets in Central Paris in a tax dispute with the Indian government.**
  - ✓ A French court, Tribunal judiciaire de Paris, has ordered a freeze on residential properties owned by the Indian government in Paris
  - ✓ Around 20 properties, valued at more than 20 million euros (Rs.177 crore), were seized as part of a guarantee of the debt owed to the British company that exited India a few years ago.
  - ✓ Some of the properties are in the 16th Arrondissement of Paris, one of the wealthiest areas in Paris, capital of France.
  - ✓ India has already appealed against an international tribunal's award in the retrospective taxation case arguing that bilateral investment treaties cannot override the legislature's powers
  - ✓ The arbitration tribunal had held that the government had violated provisions of an investment treaty in seeking capital gains tax from the British company.
  - ✓ The company has filed cases in several countries to pursue the unpaid international arbitration award of \$1.7 billion (Rs.12,750 crore).
  - ✓ Cairn Energy was operating with less than 200 employees and a market capitalisation of £755 million (under Rs.7,800 crore)

## RETROSPECTIVE TAX DISPUTE

<p><b>2004-2007:</b> Cairn discovers oil in Rajasthan, lists on BSE</p>	<p>probe on transactions related to asset transfer from 2006, prior to IPO</p>
<p><b>Dec 2011:</b> Vedanta completes acquisition of 58.5% in Cairn India from Cairn Energy</p>	<p><b>March 2015:</b> Cairn Energy initiates international arbitration on case</p>
<p><b>Jan 2012:</b> SC rules in favour of Vodafone in I-T case</p>	<p><b>Dec 2018:</b> Arbitration tribunal rules in favour of Cairn Energy</p>
<p><b>March 2012:</b> Government introduces retrospective amendments to tax laws</p>	<p><b>March 2021:</b> India files appeal against verdict</p>
<p><b>Jan 2014:</b> Tax dept begins</p>	

- ✓ The arbitration award has also been registered in other jurisdictions, including the US, the UK, Canada, Singapore, Mauritius, France and the Netherlands as the company intends to focus on high-value assets.
- ✓ It had filed cases in the Southern District of New York, seeking judicial confirmation that Air India can be classed as the representation of the Indian state and thereby jointly liable for the arbitral award.

- ✓ The case is linked to the retrospective amendments to the law, allowing the government to levy capital gains tax for sale or transfer of assets located in India
- ✓ This was the decision approved by former President, Pranab Mukherjee after the government lost a case in the Supreme Court.
- **On July 8, the Union Cabinet – has announced the extension of Agri Infra Fund loans to Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs)**
- ✓ In this regard, the cabinet approved modifications to financing under the 'agriculture infrastructure fund' to strengthen state-regulated agriculture markets
- ✓ The fund has a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore for financing different farm-related infra works through easy and low-interest loans up to Rs.2 crore under 'interest subvention' scheme.
- ✓ Under the modification, loan eligibility has now been extended to state agencies/ APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and Federations of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ✓ If an eligible entity takes up projects in different locations, all such efforts will be eligible for 'interest subvention' for loans up to Rs.2 crore.
- ✓ However, there will be a maximum limit of 25 such projects for a private sector unit.
- ✓ For APMCs, interest subvention for a loan up to Rs.2 crore will be provided for each project of different infrastructure types such as cold storage, sorting, grading and assaying units, silos, etc. within the same market yard.
- ✓ The period of the financial facility has been extended by two additional years up to 2025-26, while the overall period of the scheme has been extended to 2032-33.

## COURT VERDICT

- **On July 8, the Madras high court - directed the state government to take immediate steps to issue a separate certificate to the families of all eligible Covid-19 victims mentioning the cause of death**
- ✓ The new certificate will help the families in getting claim relief, if any, provided by the government.
- ✓ This shall be in addition to the death certificate issued by the authorities now
- ✓ The ruling in this regard was pronounced by the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy.
- ✓ Presently, death certificates issued by civic bodies do not mention the cause of death.

## OBITUARY

- **Six-time Himachal Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh (87 years) - died at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla on July 8 after prolonged illness.**



- ✓ The nine-time MLA and five-time MP, Singh suffered from a heart attack on July 5 and was critical since then.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and BJP President J P Nadda condoled the demise of the departed leader.
- ✓ The Himachal Pradesh government declared a three-day state mourning as a mark of respect to Singh.
- ✓ Singh had tested positive for Covid-19 on June 11 for the second time in two months.
- ✓ He had earlier tested positive for the disease on April 12.

## SPORTS

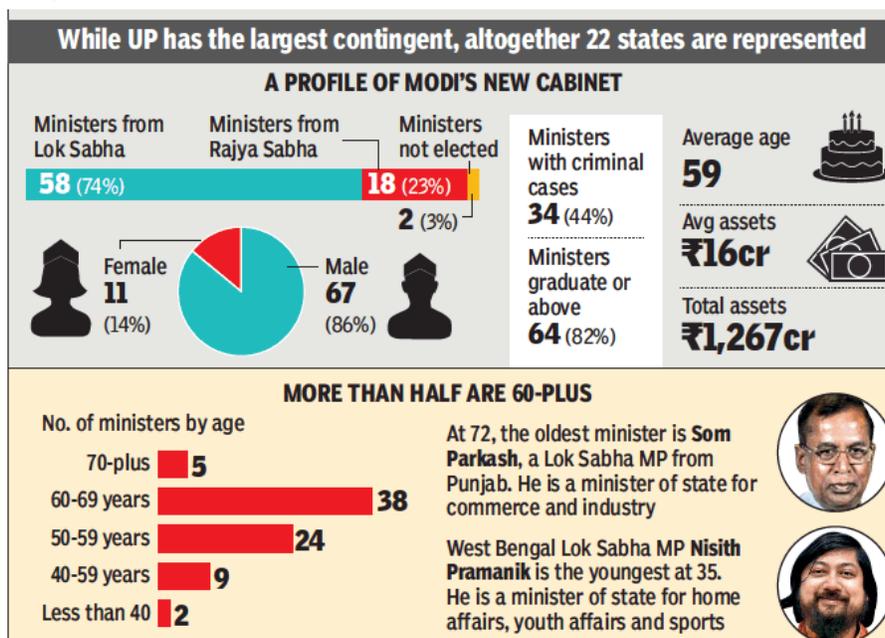
- **Japan – has declared a state of emergency on July 8, while announcing the ban of fans from the pandemic-postponed Tokyo Olympics which will open in two weeks**
- ✓ The ban was announced by the International Olympic Committee and Japanese organisers, reducing the games to a made-for-TV event.
- ✓ Fans from other countries were banned earlier months ago
- ✓ The new measures announced by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will clear venues around Tokyo — indoor and outdoor — of any fans at all.
- ✓ The state of emergency would go into effect on July 12 and last through August 22.
- ✓ This means the Olympics, opening on July 23 and running through August 8, will be held entirely under emergency measures.
- ✓ The Paralympics open on August 24.
- ✓ India's official contingent for the Tokyo Games will depart on July 17 and will have about 90 athletes and officials
- ✓ This was confirmed by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra on July 8.
- ✓ The contingent will leave by an Air India chartered flight with no co-passengers.

- On July 7, global car makers Toyota – were announced as the sponsor of the inaugural season of Minor League Cricket (MiLC) in 2021.
- ✓ The Toyota Minor League Cricket Championship will be telecasted and presented by SLING TV.



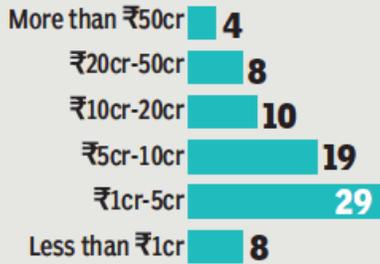
- ✓ The Championship is set to begin in United States on July 31 and will conclude on October 3.
- ✓ The league will feature 10 weekends of T20 games, with the finals weekend scheduled on October 2-3.
- ✓ The total prize money offered in the competition is \$250,000, the largest purse in American cricket ever.
- ✓ Overall, 27 teams will compete for the championship across four geographic divisions in the US — Eastern, Central, Southern and Western — with over 200 games set to take place in 21 cities across the US.
- ✓ With an investment of \$4,000,000 by Minor League Cricket and its 27 team owners into staging the tournament, it is the most extensive competition to ever take place in American cricket.

## PM MODI'S EXPANDED CABINET – A REPORT



### JUST 8 AREN'T CROREPATIS

No. of ministers by assets



**Jyotiraditya Scindia**, the Union civil aviation minister, is the wealthiest member with assets worth ₹379cr



**Pratima Bhoumik**, an LS MP from Tripura and a new minister of state for social justice and empowerment, is the poorest with assets worth ₹10 lakh



### UP, MAHA GET HIGHEST REPRESENTATION

No. of ministers per state

