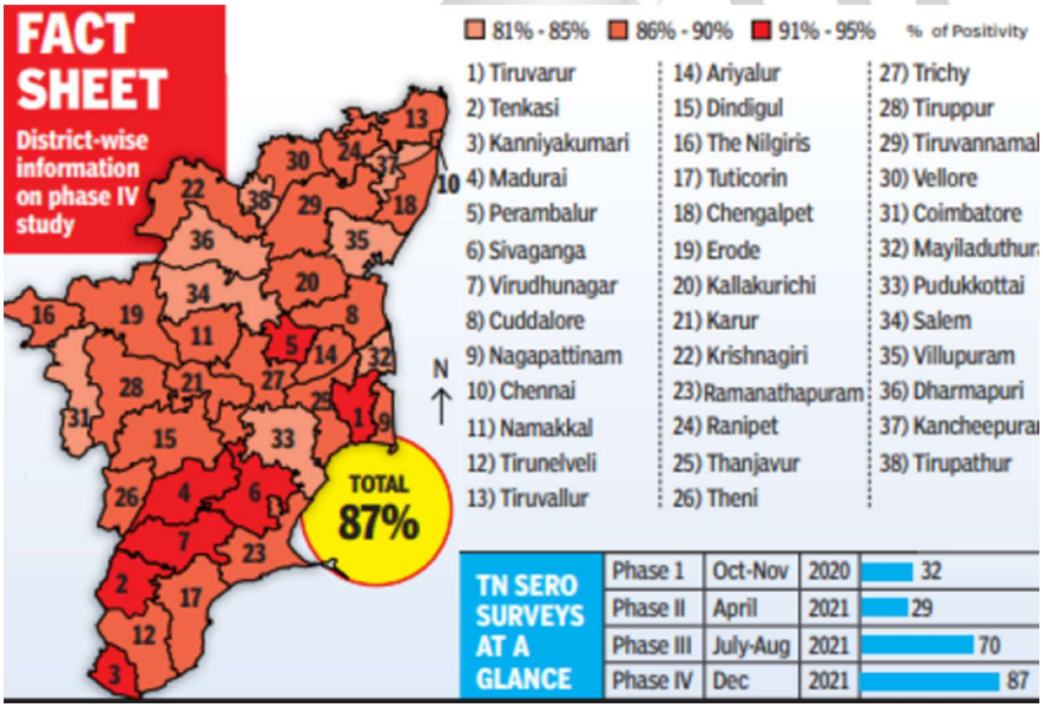
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 10, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On February 9, Health Minister Ma Subramanian – released the results of the fourth serosurvey conducted in the State**



- ✓ The survey indicated that 87% of adults and 68% of children aged above 10 had Covid-19 antibodies.
- ✓ The cross-sectional survey was conducted by the Directorate of Public Health between December 27, 2021, and January 3, 2022
- ✓ Tiruvarur district has a seropositivity of 93%, the highest in the State, while Chennai's seropositivity is 88%
- ✓ Tiruvarur is followed by Tenkasi, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Perambalur, Sivaganga, and Virudhunagar (all 91%), and Cuddalore and Nagapattinam (both 90%).

- ✓ The seropositivity was 89.5% among people in the 18-44 age group, 88.6% in the 45-59 group, and 84.5% among senior citizens above 50.
- ✓ The study highlighted that vaccinated people have better detectable antibody levels
- ✓ The seropositivity rate was below 85% in only four districts - Tirupathur (82%), Kancheepuram (83%), and Villupuram and Dharmapuri (84%).
- ✓ The seroprevalence survey was conducted by 1,076 teams of 30 members each who examined 32,245 people in the rural and urban areas of the state.
- ✓ Seroprevalence refers to the number of persons in a population who test positive for the disease
- ✓ It stood at 32% in November 2020, 29% in April 2021 and 70% in August 2021 during the first, second and third phase of the survey respectively

- ➢ **The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) – has given the nod for the first ever industrial housing project for labourers, besides the furniture park at Tuticorin**
- ✓ The industrial park along with the housing facility would come up in a span of 353 acres of land as part of the Vallam -Vadagal expansion (part-II).
- ✓ The newly formed panel, headed by retired IAS officer K Deenabandhu granted the environment clearance (EC) at the 483rd meeting held recently
- ✓ The state industries promotion corporation of Tamil Nadu would execute the industrial housing project
- ✓ The project was proposed in mid of 2019 after conducting a survey among 719 companies in the industrial parks
- ✓ The housing facility would be developed by utilising the shelter fund of the Tamil Nadu infrastructure fund
- ✓ A total of 3,120 units of dormitory type across 13 blocks, each of 10 floors, will be constructed to accommodate more than 16,000 labourers
- ✓ The State Government has proposed to establish the Furniture Park on 1,150 acre in the SIPCOT Industrial Complex at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore in Tuticorin district

- ➢ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras – have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to study the processes involved in the transformation of biomass to gaseous fuel**
- ✓ The research team used a Machine Learning method called Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) to study the reactions that occur during the conversion of lingo-cellulosic biomass into energy-dense syngas (gasification of biomass).
- ✓ Even though models are being developed across the world to understand the conversion of biomass into fuels and chemicals, a majority of these models take a long time to become operational.
- ✓ Biomass-derived fuels are crucial to India since the nation's present biomass availability is projected at 750 million metric tonnes per year

- ✓ Researchers across the globe are looking for methods to extract fuel from biomass such as wood, grass, and even waste organic matter.

NATIONAL

- ➢ **On February 9, Glenmark pharmaceuticals - launched the first ever nasal spray in India to treat high-risk adult patients suffering from Covid-19**

- ✓ The high-risk patients include non-vaccinated patients, patients in the middle and older age group and patients with co-morbidities.
- ✓ The company has launched Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS), named FabiSpray, in partnership with Canadian pharmaceutical company SaNOtize Research & Development Corp.
- ✓ The Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company received manufacturing-marketing approval from India's drug regulator, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for NONS as part of an accelerated approval process
- ✓ The company had entered into an exclusive long term strategic partnership with SaNOtize to manufacture and market the nasal spray in July 2021
- ✓ According to DCGI, the phase 3 trial in India met the key endpoints and demonstrated reduction of viral load of 94% in 24 hours and 99% in 48 hours.
- ✓ The nasal spray is designed to kill the Covid-19 virus in the upper airways and will prevent the virus from incubating and spreading to the lungs

- ✓ As per studies conducted in the Utah State University USA, NONS is proven to kill 99.9% of SARS-Cov-2 virus including Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon variant within 2 minutes
- ✓ The spray will also be distributed to other Asian markets including Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Nepal, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vietnam

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ➢ **On February 8, municipalities of Indore and Dhaka North - held a virtual dialogue to share best practices in solid waste management**
- ✓ The webinar was facilitated by the High Commission of India and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

- ✓ The webinar is the first of its kind held between the two Municipal bodies.
- ✓ During the webinar, Indore Municipal Corporation officials shared their waste collection methods, innovative practices and technologies adopted by them for efficient waste management.
- ✓ The municipal corporation of Indore detailed the 100% door-to-door segregated waste collection system, biometric attendance system for municipal cleaners, GPS-tracked waste collection vehicles, etc.
- ✓ Indore was ranked the cleanest city of India in the Annual Cleanliness Survey (Swacch Survekshan) carried out by the government of India in 2021.
- ✓ The city in Madhya Pradesh has won this distinction five consecutive times since 2017
- ✓ Indore generates more than 1,115 MT of garbage in a day, mostly from the sources like household or commercial establishment
- ✓ The city has implemented much-applauded waste management system which includes segregation of waste, door-to-door collection, home composting, recycling of day waster and central composting facilities.