

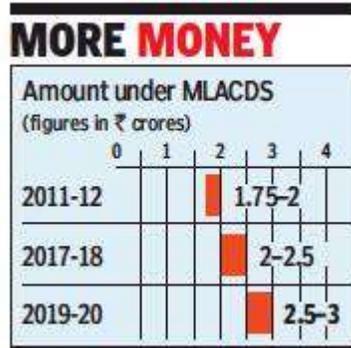


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 20 AND 21, 2019

TAMIL NADU

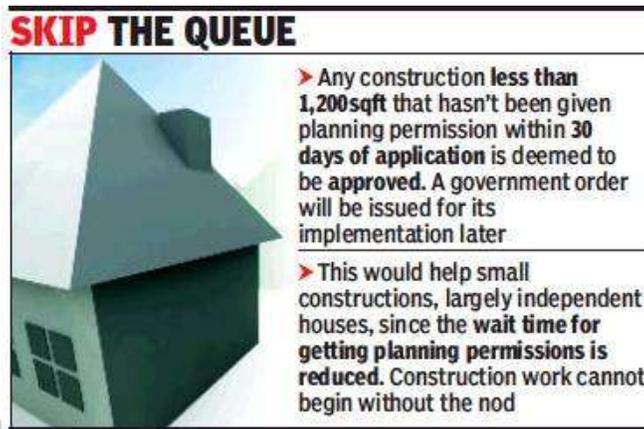
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched the 'Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission' on July 20**
- ✓ It would be a people's movement to conserve and manage water and to ensure that water crises do not recur
- ✓ The mission aims to increase capacity of water bodies, recharge and strengthen them
- ✓ It also intends to undertake eco-restoration of rivers, beaches, estuaries, small streams and marshlands, and tertiary treatment of water to reduce stress on natural resources.
- ✓ Multi-crore projects, including a special allotment of ₹500 crore to rural areas will be part of the mission.
- ✓ A month-long awareness campaign in order to make it a public movement will be launched in August.
- ✓ The mission would be taken forward with the plans evolved under Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Rivers Restoration Corporation established in September.
- ✓ Water Conservation Boards will be set up in each ward in the urban local bodies, villages and panchayat unions
- ✓ District collectors will be roped in to implement the mission
- ✓ The mission will have contributions from corporate social responsibility funds, public, NGOs, private and service organisations and volunteers.
- ✓ In line with the mission's mandate, the municipal administration and water supply department will take up restoration of 114 water bodies in Chennai at ₹100 crore
- ✓ The long-term goals of the mission would be to execute schemes to conserve surplus and flood water, continue with efforts to get inter-linking of Godavari-Cauvery, construct tanks, check dams and irrigation structures in over-exploited and critical blocks, and implement water conservation scheme for rain-fed agriculture

- ✓ The Chief Minister also announced 'Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery', a project to prevent the Cauvery from being polluted.
- **The state government - has increased the MLA Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) allocation from ₹2.5 crore to ₹3 crore per year.**



- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami told the assembly on July 20 that the allocation for every MLA was being increased by ₹50 lakh per year
- ✓ This is the second time within two years that the government is increasing funds for MLACDS.
- ✓ In January 2018, the chief minister announced increasing MLACDS from ₹2 crore to ₹2.5 crore along with the hike in salaries for MLAs.
- ✓ The total expenditure under the scheme for the government will be ₹702 crore per annum.
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - told the assembly that the Goondas Act had been amended to detain sexual offenders and cyber criminals without trial for up to a year**
- ✓ So far it was used only against bootleggers, drug peddlers, poachers, goons, pimps, sand smugglers, slumlords and video piracy racketeers.
- ✓ Though they can be detained under the Act for a year without any trial, the suspects can appeal within three months of the detention.
- **The Assembly - adopted a Bill to increase the number of members of the State Minorities Commission from six to nine on July 20**
- ✓ The revised number is exclusive of the chairman of the panel.
- ✓ The move is made taking into consideration “the increase in population and the welfare of the minorities”
- ✓ Even in March, while reconstituting the Commission, the State government made T. John Mahendran the chairman of the Minorities Commission and nominated nine representatives of minority communities as its members.
- The Tamil Nadu government - will construct a manimandapam (memorial) for the late singer-actor M.K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar in Tiruchi

- ✓ This was announced by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami told the Assembly on July 20
 - ✓ The Chief Minister announced that November 1, the day the State was reorganised, will be celebrated as Tamil Nadu Day.
 - ✓ He also said a chair will be created in the name of scholar-missionary Robert Caldwell at Tamil University.
- **Tamil Nadu Deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam – announced that the planning permission for constructions less than 1,200sqft in area will be granted within 30 days**



- ✓ This would largely benefit small projects such as independent houses, whose constructions could not be commenced due to the delays in obtaining the plan sanction.
 - ✓ In the assembly, the deputy CM said the move will be applicable for all constructions across Tamil Nadu, including areas under the jurisdiction of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).
 - ✓ The deputy CM also holds housing and urban development department portfolio
 - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation provides planning permissions for basic constructions such as ground+one or stilt+two buildings in Chennai while the respective local bodies issue the permits in rest of Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The development comes in the backdrop of the government launching a regularisation scheme for unapproved plots in 2017
 - ✓ The deputy CM also said industries constructing buildings within an area of 25,000sqft and not exceeding the height of 18.30m in approved industrial layouts can self certify the planning permissions.
- **The state government - announced that it would construct a new Tamil Nadu House in Mumbai**
- ✓ MLAs, MPs and officials visiting Mumbai can stay in the accomodation.
 - ✓ It will help officials and others to keep in touch with various companies and the house will also have a Tamil Nadu Culture Centre

- ✓ It will be on the lines of the Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi
- **Deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam - announced an exclusive housing scheme in Chennai for MLAs on July 20**
- ✓ Those who are not beneficiaries of Tamil Nadu Housing Board's schemes in the past are eligible to get housing under the new scheme
- ✓ It could be a heavily subsidised project extended on equated monthly instalment basis
- ✓ The legislators could get independent houses on the outskirts – along Old Mahabalipuram Road or in the western parts of Chennai – or apartments within the core city, even though the details of the scheme were not announced
- ✓ The housing board established as the City Improvement Trust in 1947 has been fulfilling the housing needs of the people
- ✓ A similar scheme was announced during M Karunanidhi's tenure as CM in 2006-11 on a demand from a Congress MLA
- ✓ However, it was dropped after the administrators cautioned about the ramifications
- **The Tamil Nadu government – passed a bill in the assembly on July 20 to put an end to a discriminatory law that prohibited deaf, mute and people with leprosy from contesting local body elections in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ The bill seeks to amend the age-old Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919 (Tamil Nadu Act IV of 1919) and the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920).
- ✓ Introducing the bill, minister for municipal administration S P Velumani said 3% of the state population was disabled, and many among them were highly educated
- ✓ The issue came to light during the local body elections in 2011, when a speech and hearing-impaired woman in Villupuram district was denied permission to contest polls.
- **The Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) - plans to construct a mall in a residential tower in Ashok Nagar**



- ✓ This is the first time a state-owned board is venturing into the mall space business
 - ✓ The 22-storey structure, which appears to be in the shape of a wine glass, would be constructed on the tri-junction plot at Ashok Pillar
 - ✓ It would be a first-of-its-kind initiative for the TNHB that has been traditionally engaged in building shops in commercial space
 - ✓ While the ground and top three floors will constitute a mall, the remaining floors will have 3BHK luxury apartment units
 - ✓ Both the commercial and residential space are up for sale.
 - ✓ As many as 268 apartment units are set to come up
 - ✓ Nearly one-lakh square feet of space in the building will be earmarked for the mall with 24,000 sq ft on each floor.
 - ✓ The size of every apartment unit will be 1,700 square feet and ₹227.26 crore has been earmarked for construction of the entire structure on the 2.13-acre plot.
 - ✓ Construction is expected to be completed within three years
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has also proposed to create a 'commerce hub' in the heart of the city at Nandanam, where the TNHB headquarters is located.**
- ✓ As per the policy note, the hub is an infrastructure project proposed on the lines of Tidel Park to attract multi-national companies to invest in Tamil Nadu and develop Chennai into an international finance centre.
 - ✓ The proposed hub will be used to invite financial institutions, banks, trading and brokering houses to set up their operations.
 - ✓ Located on arterial Anna Salai, the facility will come up on a 12.31-acre land.
 - ✓ Of this, one-million square feet would be utilised for office space.
 - ✓ As per the policy note, the total cost of the project is estimated to be ₹550 crore.
- **Tamil Nadu - to supply Power to Sri Lanka through overhead cables and not through cables laid along the seabed**
- ✓ Power was to be transmitted from Madurai in Tamil Nadu to Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka.
 - ✓ The proposal was signed in 2008 to exchange 500MW power between India and Sri Lanka
 - ✓ For carrying power through the sea, a cable factory should be set up at Rameswaram
 - ✓ For that, the Power Grid Corporation of India had pegged the cost of laying cables along sea bed at ₹2,292 crore and it was to be completed in 42 months
 - ✓ The technical committee set up by the Centre has said that it is not feasible to lay cables along the seabed to transmit power from India to Sri Lanka
 - ✓ Moreover, the cost of transmitting power using seabed cables would be more than that of erecting towers and laying overhead cables
 - ✓ At present India and Bhutan are exchanging power, while India is supplying power to Nepal as well

- **The Kancheepuram district administration - plans to plant about 40,000 fig (athi in Tamil) saplings in Kancheepuram district, on the occasion of the 48-day Athi Varadar festival in Kancheepuram town**
- ✓ In the first phase, the administration has chosen to plant fig saplings in areas that fall under the Uthiramerur union
- ✓ The places include Thandarai, Thirupulivanam, Kaatuputhur, Kattiyampandhal, Arasalimangalam, Agaram Thuli, Kaliyapettai, Pinayur, Sithalapakkam and Ayalakavur where 2,825 saplings will be planted
- ✓ The administration would also plant about 1,200 fig saplings at Pennalur village near Kancheepuram

- **The number of fatalities in road accidents across Tamil Nadu - has come down to 12,216 during 2018, the lowest in the past 10 years**
- ✓ The number of road accidents too is on the decline - 63,920 last year, compared to 71,431 and 65,562 in 2016 and 2017 respectively
- ✓ In 2018, a total of 1,260 casualties (excluding three reported with the railway police) were reported in Chennai district, the highest in the State, followed by 856 in Kancheepuram.
- ✓ As many as 7,580 road accidents were reported in Chennai district followed by 3,493 in Cuddalore during 2018.
- ✓ The Nilgiris accounted for the lowest number of accidents in 2018 (228)

NATIONAL

- **The Union health ministry - has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of antibiotic 'Colistin' and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming, animal feed supplements under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- ✓ According to the Scientists, Colistin is the "last-resort" antibiotic for the treatment of patients with infections by some extensively drug-resistant bacteria
- ✓ The increasing rate of Colistin resistance is a serious challenge in clinical practice with major public-health implications
- ✓ One of the main reasons for resistance is extensive use of the anti-biotic to boost growth of animals and on aqua farms.
- ✓ Now, almost 95% of Colistin and its formulations used by Indian farmers are from China.
- ✓ However, China has banned use of Colistin for any producing animals or fish reared for consumption in 2018 considering the serious health implications
- ✓ In 2017, medical journal Lancet published a study on how extensive use of the antibiotic in animals and fish, showed presence of drug resistant Colistin strains in the gut

- From December 1, all toll lanes - will be designated as “Fastag lane” except one lane in the National Highways

THE ROAD MAP

- All lanes except one to be exclusively available for FASTag vehicles at toll plazas
- Entering FASTag lane without tag to cost twice the toll charge
- No toll charge due to technical fault if tag has enough cash

Total toll plazas: 450 (approx)

- ✓ If vehicles without smart tags enter the dedicated lanes, the drivers will have to pay double of the notified toll charge for that particular category of vehicle.
 - ✓ As per the Centre’s circular, in order to facilitate and monitor the over-dimensional or over-sized vehicles, one lane in the fee plaza may be kept as a hybrid lane accepting Fastags or other modes of payment as per rules which should be converted into dedicated Fastag lane in a time-bound manner
 - ✓ The extreme step has been taken considering that the penetration of Fastags has not increased in the past 4-5 years.
 - ✓ The move is to ensure commuters, road owning agencies such as NHAI and the plaza operators fall in line to accelerate toll payment through digital means and ultimately resulting in no traffic jam at toll plazas
- **Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan - inaugurated the ‘Next Generation Sequencing facility’ at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), a CSIR lab in Hyderabad, on July 20**



- ✓ It is fourth such facility in the country, which can sequence 30 human genomes a day
- ✓ It costs around ₹1 lakh to sequence one genome using this facility.
- ✓ This state-of-the-art genome sequencing facility would be of help, especially to patients suffering from rare genetic disorders.
- ✓ The CCMB can now sequence up to 30 human genomes or 384 diagnostic samples in a day
- ✓ This facility can be used in investigating fundamental biology of individual cells in tissues as well as fighting disease like cancer through understanding the heterogeneity in cell populations
- ✓ By using the facility, scientists hope to find genetic cause of rare diseases and develop kits which can be used to find population at the risk of genetic or other rare diseases
- ✓ These services would be available to hospitals, industry, and academicians by paying charges.

DEFENCE

- **The Navy - to commission the fifth Dornier Aircraft Squadron, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313 at Naval Air Enclave, Meenambakkam on July 22**
- ✓ It is scheduled to be commissioned by Admiral Karambir Singh, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff.
- ✓ It would strengthen Indian Navy's efforts in safeguarding maritime interests in the Eastern Seaboard of India
- **In a first, women personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) - who have to face riotous mobs will soon get a body gear that fits them**

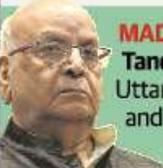


- ✓ The full body protector has been designed by a team of scientists of the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - ✓ Weighing around 6 kg, the gear covers all soft parts of human body such as rib-cage, back of the arm, inner calf, thigh and groin area of females deployed in riot control.
 - ✓ The idea for gender-specific protective gears was first mooted at the National Conference for Women in 2016.
 - ✓ Around 8,000 women deployed in the anti-riot Rapid Action Force (RAF) will get the body protectors
- **The annual joint army exercise - between India and China will be held in December at Umroi, near Shillong**
- ✓ The two-week long company-level exercise will take place in the second half of December.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The Centre - appointed new governors in four states and transferred two governors on July 20**
- ✓ New Governors will take charge of the Raj Bhavans in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura.

THE NEW FACES

<p>UTTAR PRADESH Anandiben Patel has been transferred to Uttar Pradesh from Madhya Pradesh. Her appointment comes at a time when the Opposition is talking about the worsening law and order in the State</p> 	<p>WEST BENGAL: Former Union Minister in the Janata Dal govt., Jagdeep Dhankhar will take charge at a time of tensions between Trinamool and BJP workers</p> 	<p>NAGALAND: A 1976-batch officer of the IPS, R.N. Ravi was formerly the Deputy National Security Adviser and an interlocutor for the Naga peace talks</p> 
 <p>MADHYA PRADESH: Lalji Tandon was a Minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, and is a seasoned hand in the Hindi heartland</p>	 <p>TRIPURA: Ramesh Bais is a seven-time MP from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and a former Union Minister</p>	<p>BIHAR: Phagu Chauhan is a backward leader of the BJP in eastern Uttar Pradesh</p>

- ✓ Former MP and noted Supreme Court lawyer, Jagdeep Dhankhar has been named for the post in West Bengal replacing BJP leader from UP Keshari Nath Tripathi.
- ✓ Dhankhar, 68, who was Union deputy minister of parliamentary affairs in 1990-91, quit the Congress in 2003 and became a member of BJP
- ✓ Anandiben Patel, 77, who was appointed MP governor last year, has been shifted to UP where current governor Ram Naik has completed his term

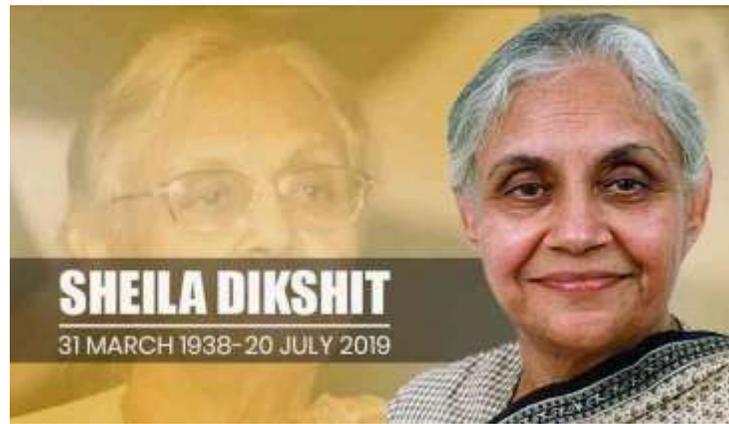
- ✓ With her appointment, Uttar Pradesh will get its first woman Governor since its inception in 1950.
 - ✓ Though Sarojini Naidu was the first Governor in 1947, the State was then known as the United Provinces.
 - ✓ MLA from Ghosi in eastern UP, Phagu Chauhan has been appointed for the Bihar governor's post
 - ✓ Chauhan will replace Lalji Tandon, who will take over as governor of Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ The former interlocutor for the Naga talks R.N. Ravi has been appointed Nagaland Governor while seven-time MP from Madhya Pradesh, Ramesh Bais has been appointed as the Governor of Tripura replacing Kaptan Singh Solanki
 - ✓ Earlier this week, sitting Rajya Sabha member Anusuiya Uikey and senior BJP leader Biswa Bushan Harichandan were appointed governors of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, respectively
- **Vivek Kumar, currently Director of the Prime Minister's Office - was appointed Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Mr. Modi, cleared his new role.**



- ✓ Mr. Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 2004 batch, replaces Sanjeev Kumar Singla, who is taking over as India's Ambassador to Israel

OBITUARY

- **Sheila Dikshit, former Union Minister and Chief Minister of Delhi (81 years)**
- ✓ Dikshit was India's longest serving woman Chief Minister
- ✓ Dikshit served as Chief Minister of the Capital for 15 years from 1998-2013 and was subsequently appointed the Governor of Kerala.



- ✓ Throughout her 15-year tenure, Ms. Dikshit focussed on extending the flagship Delhi Metro project, built a network of flyovers and phased out the killer Blue Line buses.
- ✓ She also briefly served as the Governor of Kerala from March to August in 2014.
- ✓ Ms. Dikshit took the formal plunge in 1984 when she became a Lok Sabha member from Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Known to be a loyalist of the Gandhi family, she was hand-picked by Rajiv Gandhi in his Council of Ministers after he became the Prime Minister in 1984.
- ✓ She was made the Delhi Congress chief ahead of the recent Lok Sabha election and was defeated in the North East Delhi constituency.
- ✓ Earlier, as a legislator, she represented the New Delhi constituency in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.



- ✓ She also holds the distinction of being the only woman chief minister in India who led her party to three consecutive victories in Assembly elections

SPORTS

- **Indian sprinter Hima Das - claims her fifth gold of the month with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds in the 400m in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix, Czech Republic**



- ✓ National 400m record holder Muhammed Anas, who ran the 200m here, clocked 20.95s for the silver.
- ✓ M.P. Jabir won the 400m hurdles gold in 49.66s
- ✓ The timing is slower than her personal best of 50.79 seconds, which she managed at the Jakarta Asian Games and she also narrowly missed out on the World Championships qualifying mark of 51.80.
- ✓ It was Hima's fifth gold medal since July 2 when she ran her first competitive race in Europe
- ✓ In her first competitive 200m race of the year, she clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to gold at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix on July 2.
- **Algeria - clinched its second Africa Cup of Nations title in Cairo, Egypt**
- ✓ It had defeated a strong Senegal team by a solitary goal and lifted the trophy for a first time on foreign soil



- ✓ Algeria earlier became the African champions in 1990
- ✓ Baghdad Bounedjah's deflected goal in the second minute decided the encounter in favour of Algeria
- **Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa - became India's first gold medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan**



Shiva Thapa became the first Indian boxer in the history who bagged Gold-medal at the President's Cup boxing tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan 2019

- ✓ Making his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa got a walkover in the finals against Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin
- ✓ Thapa had lost to Safiullin in the Asian Championship semifinal earlier this year
- ✓ Thapa was earlier fighting the 60kg category, before the rejigging of the Olympic divisions
- ✓ Woman boxer Parveen (60kg) finished with the silver medal after losing her final match against Rimma Volosenko of Kazakhstan
- ✓ Earlier, Sweety Boora (81kg) and Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) had ended their campaign with bronze medals following semifinal defeats.
- **Indian men's and women's Table tennis team - clinched gold at the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack**



- ✓ The Indian men's team defeated England by 3-2 margin to clinch the gold
- ✓ The women's team also prevailed over the English team by 3-0 to win the gold medal
- **Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar - topped the men's 50m rifle 3 position final along with a new junior final World Record at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.**



- ✓ This was his first big medal at this stage as he had finished fourth at the World Championships in Changwon, Korea, last year.
- ✓ Son of a farmer in Khargone village in Madhya Pradesh, Aishwarya defeated World Championships silver medallist Zalan Pekler by 4.5 points
- ✓ The Indian scored 459.3, which is a new finals junior World Record.
- ✓ He broke the earlier record of 458.7 set by Czech shooter Filip Nepejchal in Beijing earlier this year.

- ✓ The 3-position event involves the total score from kneeling, standing and prone position (40 shots each)
- **Delhi's Prithu Gupta – became India's 64th Chess Grand Master on July 18**



- ✓ The Delhi boy, at 15 years, 4 months and 10 days, joined the game's elite after defeating German IM Lev Yankelevich in Round 5 of the Portuguese league, thereby crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark.
- ✓ Prithu had bagged his maiden GM norm at the Gibraltar Masters last year and soon got his second norm at the Biel Masters in 2018.
- ✓ The third and final GM norm for Prithu arrived at the Porticcio Open earlier this month
- **India's top long distance runner, Sanjivani Jadhav - has been banned for two years by the International athletics federation's (IAAF) 'Athletics Integrity Unit' (AIU) for failing a dope test**



- ✓ The two-time Asian Championships bronze medallist will serve a retrospective suspension period (two years), commencing from June 29, 2018.

- ✓ The Nashik-born athlete has been awarded a minimum punishment period of two years for her first-time doping offence
 - ✓ It was due to the fact that it could not be conclusively established as to whether the athlete deliberately consumed the banned substance or it got into her system inadvertently.
 - ✓ Her dope sample contained Probenecid, a prohibited substance under the World Anti-Doping Agency's (Wada) list.
 - ✓ As a result of her ban, all the medals won by Sanjivani post her appearance at the TCS World 10k held in Bengaluru, stand withdrawn
 - ✓ Sanjivani's urine sample was first collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency's (Nada) Dope Control Officers (DCOs) during this event
 - ✓ Sanjivani will forfeit her medals won at the inter-state Guwahati meet (gold in both 5,000m and 10,000m), Federation Cup Patiala (gold in 10,000m and bronze in 5,000m) and Asian Championships in Doha (bronze in 10,000m).
 - ✓ She was also part of the country's athletics contingent for the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, where she had finished seventh in the 5,000m and ninth in the 10,000m events.
- **Sachin Tendulkar - has been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald**



- ✓ Joining them in the Hall of Fame was two-time World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick.
- ✓ With his induction, Sachin Tendulkar becomes the sixth Indian cricketer to be included in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame
- ✓ Others are Bishan Singh Bedi (2009), Kapil Dev (2009), Sunil Gavaskar (2009), Anil Kumble (2015) and Rahul Dravid (2018)
- ✓ Tendulkar, who retired in November 2013, tallied 15,921 runs in Tests and 18,426 in One Day Internationals, both of which remain records
- ✓ He is the only batsman to have 100 internationals hundreds under his belt.

- ✓ Donald, known as the 'White Lightning', was arguably Proteas' fastest bowler ever and finished with 330 Test and 272 ODI wickets before retiring in 2003.
- ✓ Fitzpatrick, the eighth woman to win the award, was the fastest bowler in women's cricket for a period of 16 years
- ✓ Fitzpatrick is the second highest wicket-taker of all time in women's cricket with 180 ODI scalps in 109 matches and 60 in Tests
- ✓ As a coach, she guided the Australian women's team to three World Cup titles.

