

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 2, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - appointed senior bureaucrat S Krishnan as principal secretary to the finance department.**



- ✓ Chief secretary K Shanmugam was helming the finance department for nine years, before taking over the position of the chief secretary after his predecessor Girija Vaidyanathan retired from service on June 30
- ✓ Krishnan, a 1989-batch officer, was private secretary to Union finance minister P Chidambaram between 2004 and 2007 before becoming senior advisor to executive director for India, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC.
- ✓ Later, he held the posts of secretary (expenditure), and planning and programme implementation department and member-secretary, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority
- ✓ Shanmugam also posted Rajesh Lakhoni, the member-secretary of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority to hold full additional charge of the housing and urban development department held by Krishnan, until further orders.
- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has chosen Mahabalipuram beach as a pilot project, in accordance with the principles of blue flag beach programme**



- ✓ The main focus of the programme is to attract the domestic and international tourists besides sustainably manage the beach spaces and conservation of natural resources.
- ✓ The department of town panchayats, Kancheepuram, will act as an executing agency to implement the programme in Mahabalipuram

- ✓ The proposal will be implemented with the financial assistance from the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change
- ✓ Even though the pilot project was chosen to be done at Mahabalipuram beach, other areas like Pulicat are also been considered for it, as the waves and currents at Mahabalipuram beach are found to be quite strong.
- ✓ Many beaches in the U.S., European countries and other nations have received 'Blue Flag' certification for being clean, accessible and conforming to strict standards.
- ✓ This will be an opportunity to have beaches that are plastic-free as well
- ✓ Right now, there are two 'Blue Flag' certified beaches in India, in Odisha and in Gujarat

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Forest Department - has identified 25 destinations for promoting ecotourism under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening project**

- ✓ The initiative will be based on the State Ecotourism policy and will have a participatory approach through the Forest Department - local community linkages, and involving local government institutions
- ✓ Tree plantations will be created in the urban and surrounding areas under the urban forestry programmes with the objective of controlling the adverse effects of air, water and noise pollution and improving the aesthetic appearance of these areas

**STATES**

◆ **Uttar Pradesh government - has launched a campaign called 'Dastak' to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state**



- ✓ It was launched by the state's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath and will run from 1st to 31st July 2019.
- ✓ Under the campaign, teams will go door to door in every village of state's 75 districts to create awareness about communicable diseases such as encephalitis, dengue, kalaazar, malaria, chickungunya, etc.
- ✓ Earlier, the same campaign was started in 2018 in association with
- ✓ UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to control encephalitis and other vector-borne diseases, which had produced excellent results
- ✓ In this large scale campaign, many state departments such as health, primary education, rural development, will work together to spread awareness about the diseases

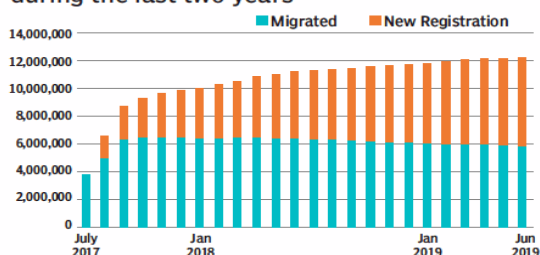
# NATIONAL

## ◆ Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) - launched India's first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dashboard to track the country's progress on UN's 'Agenda 2030'

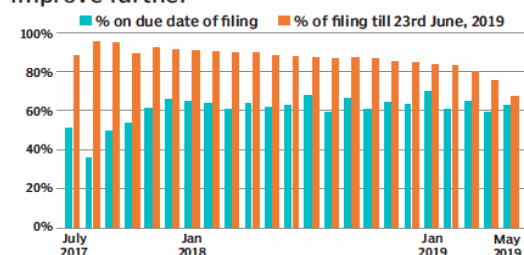
- ✓ It was launched on occasion of National Statistics Day (on June 29) which marks birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis
- ✓ It will be India's official data repository of National Indicator Framework (NIF) on SDGs, which is India's largest monitoring framework with 306 statistical indicators
- ✓ is developed in partnership with United Nation in India, Department for International Development (DFID) India and data intelligence firm Social Cops.
- ✓ SDGs are developed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for action towards ending poverty, improving health and education, protecting planet, and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030

## ◆ The 2nd anniversary of implementation of tax reform of Goods & Services Tax - was observed on July 1, 2019

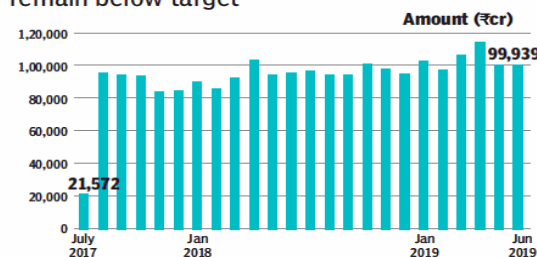
The tax base has more than trebled during the last two years



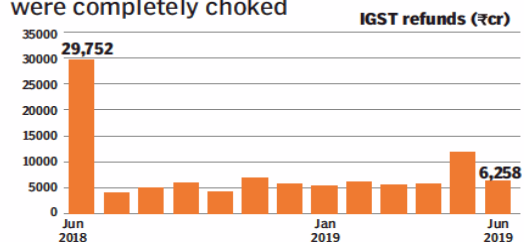
But compliance needs to improve further



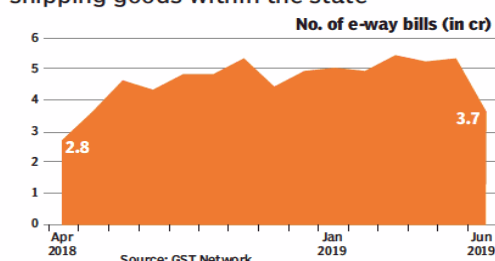
GST collections have improved but remain below target



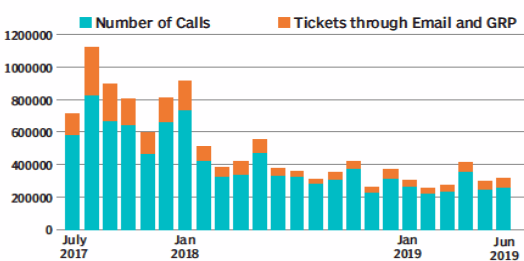
Over last 1 year, refunds to exporters have eased from the time when they were completely choked



Of the 14.4cr e-way bills generated over last 15 months, almost 60% are for shipping goods within the state



Number of queries has come down as the tax system has stabilised



- ✓ The government on June 1 celebrated two years of GST at an event presided over by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur.



- ✓ On the occasion, a book on 'GST for MSME' was released.
- ✓ 'GST Commendation Certificates' were awarded to Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) officers who worked hard in GST implementation
- ✓ Finance Ministry will be introducing new return system on a trial basis from 1 July 2019 and will make it mandatory basis from 1 October 2019
- ✓ It has also launched Sahaj and Sugam for small taxpayers
- ✓ GST was rolled out in intervening night of 30 June and July 1 2017 in a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament.
- ✓ Goods & Services is an Indirect Tax levied on the supply of goods and services, replacing several such taxes
- ✓ On 29th March 2017, Goods and Service Tax Act was passed in Parliament and Act came into effect on 1st July 2017
- ✓ Under GST regime, tax is levied at every point of sale (PoS). In case of Intra-state sales, Central GST (CGST) and State GST (SGST) are charged and the Inter-state sales are chargeable to Integrated GST (IGST)

◆ **The new state-of-the-art office complex of Supreme Court – to be inaugurated on July 17 by President Ram Nath Kovind in presence of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and other SC judges**

- ✓ It was constructed over a period of seven years on a 12.19 acres of land (1.5 million square feet of floor area) that once housed amusement park Appu Ghar in New Delhi
- ✓ The complex is energy efficient and GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated habitat Assessment) compliant
- ✓ It has a roof-top solar power grid that can generate 1,400 KW power, or 14% of electricity demand of the building
- ✓ The foundation stone was laid by then CJI S H Kapadia on September 27, 2012 for the new office of SC
- ✓ The main scale-shaped SC building standing on a 14-acre triangular plot was inaugurated on August 4, 1958 by India's first president Rajendra Prasad
- ✓ It started with eight judges and five court rooms and later added another two lakh square feet floor area by constructing an annexe building
- ✓ With increase in litigation and pendency, constitution was amended from time to time to increase judge strength - 11 in 1956, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1978, 26 in 1986 and 31 in 2009.

◆ **Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) – becomes the first airport in the country to try out its face recognition (FR) system as a pilot project under the Centre's DigiYatra programme**



- ✓ For the time being, the authorities are testing the system at only the airport's entry points.
- ✓ In the long term it will be extended to all security check points, allowing the passenger to virtually board a flight using just their face.
- ✓ The trials will be conducted till July 31 and will be open to all domestic fliers
- ✓ To begin with, the facility is being extended only to passengers with hand baggage and flying to Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
- ✓ In 2018, the FR system was tested on the staff of GMR Hyderabad International Airport limited

◆ **The Centre - has declared the entire State of Nagaland a “disturbed area” for six more months under the controversial AFSPA**

- ✓ The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without notice.

◆ **The Centre – to conduct the 2021 census in two phases**

- ✓ In the first phase, house listing operations would be conducted in any two months chosen by the states between April and Sept in 2020
- ✓ In the second phase, actual population enumeration would be done during February 9 to 28, 2021, followed by the revision round from March 1 to 5, 2021
- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir and snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, population enumeration would be conducted during September 11 to 30, 2020, followed by the revision round from October 1 to 5, 2020.
- ✓ The reference date for the census is October 1, 2020 for Jammu and Kashmir and snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, while for the rest of country is March 1, 2021.
- ✓ A pre-test of the Census 2021 will be carried out across the country from August 12 to September 30 this year
- ✓ For the first time in the 140-year history of the census in India, data is proposed to be collected through a mobile app and enumerators would be encouraged to use their own phone.
- ✓ The census 2021 will be the world's largest enumeration exercise, with around 38 lakh enumerators to conduct door-to-door counting
- ✓ The census is not only an exercise of head count, but also provides invaluable socio-economic data which forms credible basis for informed policy formulation and allocation of resources.

## COMMITTEES

### ◆ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis - will head a new high-power Chief Minister's panel to recommend structural reforms in Indian agriculture



- ✓ It will suggest measures to attract private investment and modernise the agricultural market system
- ✓ It will also recommend changes to the way farmers market their produce and norms for contract farming and essential commodities.
- ✓ The Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will be the members of the committee
- ✓ It will submit its report in two months.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced its formation at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meet in June.
- ✓ The committee has been asked to “discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers’ income.”
- ✓ It will advise modalities for adoption and time-bound implementation of reforms by the States and Union Territories.
- ✓ It will also suggest a mechanism for linking market reforms with existing Centrally sponsored schemes such as e-NAM

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - signed an agreement to have its astronauts for the proposed Gaganyaan mission trained in Russia

➤ Gaganyaan is India's first manned space mission slated for early 2021

➤ The training by Russia will have three levels. Two levels of training will be done at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine and the third one abroad

➤ The two countries had earlier worked together. Russia's Soyuz T-11 had taken Rakesh Sharma to space in 1984

- ✓ On July 1, Natalia Lokteva, first deputy director general of Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of Roscosmos State Corporation (Russia's space agency) and S Unnikrishnan Nair, director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of Isro, signed a

contract for “selection support, medical examination and space training of Indian astronauts”

- ✓ Other countries, including the US and France, were being considered initially, but finally Russia was chosen considering successful previous experience of working together
- ✓ Russia’s Soyuz T-11 had taken Rakesh Sharma to space in 1984.
- ✓ Sharma is the first Indian to travel to space.
- ✓ The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) under the Indian Air Force (IAF) has also worked with Russia.

◆ **The world’s first cruise ship propelled partially by battery power - is set to head out from Norway on its maiden voyage**



- ✓ The hybrid expedition cruise ship, the Roald Amundsen, can take 500 passengers and is designed to sail in harsh climate waters
- ✓ While the engines run mainly on marine gasoil, the ship’s battery pack enables it to run solely on batteries for around 45 to 60 minutes under ideal conditions.
- ✓ The cruise operator Hurtigruten estimates it will save about 20% in carbon dioxide emissions

## DEFENCE

◆ **International Security Alliance's (ISAs) first joint security exercise titled 'ISALEX19' - is hosted at Abu Dhabi, capital of United Area Emirates (UAE)**

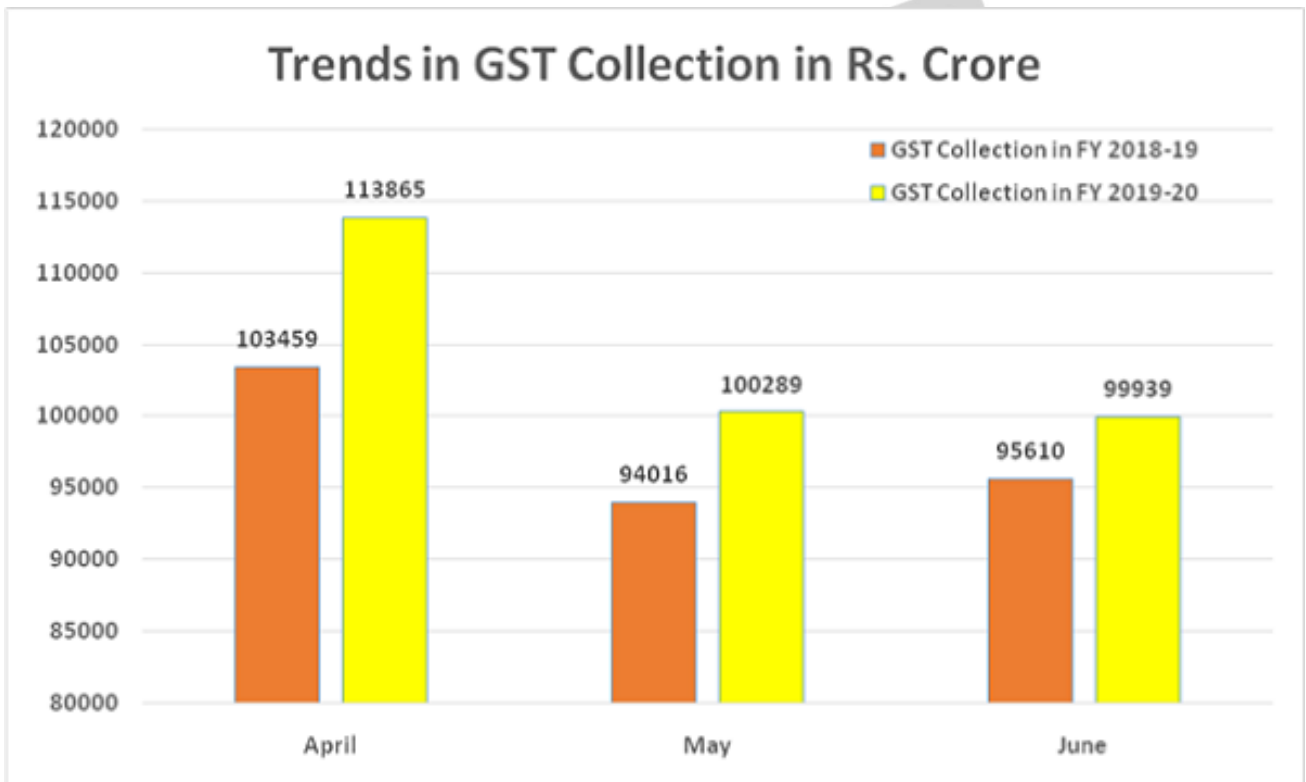
- ✓ The exercise will simulate a real-life security threat in a virtual context, to test readiness of different teams and to evaluate strategies, procedures and tools jointly developed by ISA member countries
- ✓ Participants include 50 law enforcement agency representatives from tactical teams, communications, civil defence, rapid intervention units and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams
- ✓ ISA consists of 9 member countries, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic and United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ It was launched in 2017 with its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, UAE

◆ **India - has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force**

- ✓ Mi-35s are set to be replaced with Apache gunships being acquired from United States (US) and slated to be delivered from August onwards.
- ✓ Under emergency provisions, IAF has also acquired Spice-2000 stand-off weapon system along with a number of spare and air to air missile deals.
- ✓ Under, emergency powers given to three services, they can procure equipment of their choice within 3 months at a cost of about Rs.300 crore per case.

## ECONOMY

◆ **Goods and services tax (GST) collections - dipped below the ₹ 1 lakh crore mark in June for the first time in the current fiscal**



- ✓ Total gross GST revenue collected in June 2019 is ₹99,939 crore, of which CGST is ₹18,366 crore, SGST is ₹25,343 crore, IGST is ₹47,772 crore and Cess is ₹8,457 crore
- ✓ While the collections in June 2019 are 4.5% higher than the collections in June 2018, they are still below collections in the first two months (April & May) of this financial year, and in the last month (March) of the previous financial year.
- ✓ The government collected ₹1.06 lakh crore in March, ₹1.13 lakh crore in April — the highest-ever collection — and ₹1 lakh crore in May.



- ✓ During 2019-20, the government is targeting to collect ₹6.1 lakh crore through Central GST and a shade over 1 lakh crore via compensation cess on luxury and sin goods such as cars, tobacco, aerated drinks and coal.
- ✓ The IGST balance has been estimated at ₹50,000 crore
- ✓ During June, Central GST collections were pegged at ₹18,366 crore, while State GST mop-up was pegged at ₹25,343 crore

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav - became the WBC Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Fahpetch Singmanassak at Pattaya, Indonesia**



- ✓ Vaibhav, a cousin of CWG gold-medallist Vikas Krishan, clinched a third-round knockout over the Thai in the bout conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the World Boxing Council.
- ◆ **Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) - decided to confer its highest honour — the SJFI Medal — to badminton stalwart Prakash Padukone**



- ✓ Padukone was chosen for the honour for his wholesome contribution to sport and for record-breaking reign in the National and international scene
- ✓ It has also decided to jointly award Pankaj Advani (billiards and snooker) and Bajrang Punia (wrestling) with the SJFI Sportsperson of the Year 2019, Saurabh Choudhary (shooting) as the Emerging Talent of the Year 2019 and the Vidarbha cricket team as the Team of the Year 2019.

# LUNAR MISSIONS & CHANDRAYAAN 2 – A REPORT

## COST AND COMPARISON OF KEY LUNAR MISSIONS



### **Luna 1** (USSR)

World's first Moon flyby

**Launch** | Jan 2, 1959

**Arrival** | Jan 4, 1959

programme involved building & launching seven Surveyor craft to the Moon at a cost of **\$469 million**

### **Luna 2** (USSR)

World's first spacecraft to impact the Moon's surface

**Launch** | Sept 12, 1959

**Arrival** | Sept 13, 1959

### **Apollo 8** (US)

In a first, took humans to Moon's orbit

**Launch** | Dec 21, 1968

**Arrival** | Dec 24, 1968

### **Luna 9** (USSR)

First lunar soft-landing and first picture from lunar surface

**Launch** | Jan 31, 1966

**Arrival** | Feb 3, 1966

**USSR's Luna programme**

**| 24 successful missions**

**Cost** | \$4.5 billion

(1959) = \$39 billion

(2019) = ₹2.71 lakh cr

### **Apollo 11** (US)

Historic day for mankind as humans stepped on Moon for the first time

**Launch** | July 16, 1969

**Arrival** | July 20, 1969

**Apollo programme cost**

**| \$25.4bn** or approx

**\$153bn** now or **₹10.6**

**lakh cr**

### **Surveyor 1** (US)

First US moonlanding and first US photo from the lunar surface

**Launch** | May 30, 1966

**Arrival** | June 2, 1966

**Cost** | US's Surveyor

### **Lunokhod 2** (USSR)

Longest-lived rover on the Moon, drove 39 km

(Part of Luna programme)

**Launch** | 8 Jan, 1973

**Arrival** | Jan 15, 1973

**Hiten** First Japanese moon mission as well as Asia's first

**Launch | 24 Jan, 1990**  
**Arrival | 19 Mar, 1990**

**SMART-1**

First European mission  
**Launch | 27 Sept, 2003**  
**Arrival | 15 Nov, 2004**  
**Cost | 110 million euros or about \$170 million**

**Chang'e 1**

First Chinese Moon mission  
**Launch | 24 Oct, 2007**  
**Arrival | 5 Nov, 2007**  
Cost | 1.4 billion yuan or \$180 million

**CHANDRAYAAN-1**

India's first lunar mission where module orbited Moon

First to find evidence of water ice on the Moon  
**Launch | 22 Oct, 2008**  
**Arrival | 12 Nov, 2008**  
**Cost | ₹386cr** (\$50 million) cheaper than Hollywood movie

'Gravity'  
(Budget: \$100m or ₹ 610cr)

**Chang'e 4** (China)  
First lunar farside landing  
**Launch | 7 Dec, 2018**  
**Arrival | January 2019**

**Beresheet** Israel's first Moon module reached lunar orbit but crashed on surface

**Launch | Feb 22, 2019**  
**Arrival | April 11, 2019**  
Cost | \$100 million = ₹661cr

**CHANDRAYAAN-2**

**Expected launch | July 15**  
**Expected arrival | Sept 6**  
**Cost | ₹978cr**  
Cheaper than 2014 Hollywood movie 'Interstellar' (Budget: \$165m or over Rs 1,000cr)



◆ **India's Chandrayaan-2 - to lift off from Sriharikota on July 16**

- ✓ The occasion marks the 50th year of the launch of Nasa's Apollo-11, the mission that took US astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to Moon
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2, involving an orbiter, a lander and a rover this time, will expand the scope of India's first lunar probe 'Chandrayaan-1', which found evidence of water ice on lunar surface.
- ✓ A GSLV-MIII carrying Chandrayaan-2 will lift off on July 15, and its lunar-rover module, which will cover a distance of 384,400km to reach the lunar orbit, is expected to land on the south pole of Moon, which remains virtually unexplored

