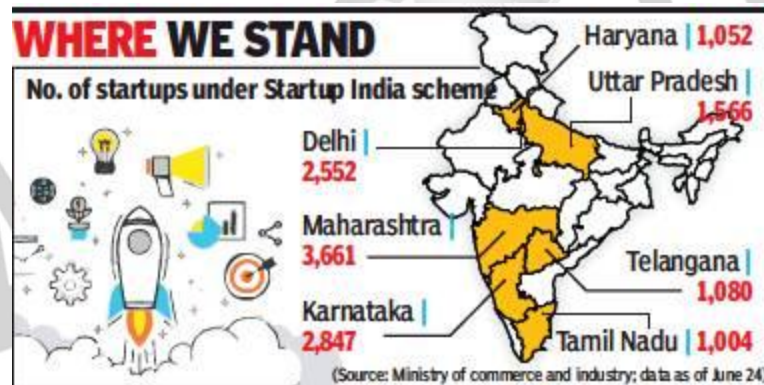


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 3, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - is ranked at the seventh spot with 1,004 startups in the Startup India List**




- ✓ The state is out of the Top 5 in the list according to the number of startups registered with department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) or Startup India initiative
- ✓ Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi are in the top three slots with 3,661, 2,847 and 2,552 startups respectively
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Haryana take the fourth, fifth and sixth spots, while Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal are the last three among the top 10.
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - ranks second in the country in the amount claimed under the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat –Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).**
 - ✓ This is because the State performs high-end procedures including eight procedures that no other State performs under the scheme
 - ✓ However, it is ranked at fourth in the category of total number of claims
 - ✓ Gujarat topped the list with a claim amount of nearly ₹641 crore followed by Tamil Nadu with a claim amount of ₹399 crore as on June 18, 2019

- ✓ Tamil Nadu, which already had its own Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) since 2012, chose to merge it with the Ayushman Bharat Scheme after it was launched in September 2018
- ✓ Following the merger, the coverage was raised to ₹5 lakh per family.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's number of claims (2,11,075) was less when compared to Chhattisgarh (5,07,707), Gujarat (3,94,995) and Kerala (2,74,298)

STATES

- ◆ **The West Bengal cabinet - approved 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in the general category in state government jobs and educational institutions**

STATE RESERVATION MATHS

<p>SC 22%</p> <p>ST 6%</p> <p>OBC(A) 10%</p> <p>OBC(B) 7%</p> <p>Persons with disability 3%</p> <p>Total 48%</p> <p>PROPOSED Economically weaker section (EWS) 10%</p> <p>POSSIBILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% EWS quota would take total quota to 58% • If EWS quota is within 52% general category, then quantum becomes 5.2%. Even then, total quota goes up to 53.2% 		<p>Who will be eligible under the EWS quota?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Anyone who is not covered under any other reserved category ➤ Parameters of land holding and annual income being worked out
		<p>What does SC order say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SC in 1992 capped quota in government jobs and education at 50%. But in 2010, it allowed states to exceed the 50% limit provided they had solid scientific data to justify the increase

- ✓ Bengal so far had a total quota of 48% and with the approval for the 10% quota for EWS, the reservation now exceeds the Supreme Court Cap of 50%
- ✓ This would make Bengal the fourth state after Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Telangana to cross the 50% reservation cap.
- ◆ **The state government of Goa - recently approved an amendment to Factories Act 1948 which will allow the working of women in night shifts, from 7pm to 6 am**
- ✓ It is a revolutionary step which might bring about equality at workplace, however, the necessary provisions to ensure the safety of women should be undertaken by the respective concerns

NATIONAL

◆ **The Lok Sabha - passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 2**



- ✓ The bill allows a government constituted Board of Governors (BoG) to run the Medical Council of India till September 2020.
- ✓ It was introduced by Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan
- ✓ Meanwhile, the government has to come up with a National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill to usher in comprehensive reforms in the medical education sector.
- ✓ This IMC (Amendment) Bill will replace an ordinance promulgated on February 21 with the aim to keep a stringent check on corruption in medical education
- ✓ The NMC bill was earlier introduced by the previous government in December, 2017 but lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha
- ✓ The BoG – headed by Niti Aayog member V K Paul - has granted accreditation to more number of medical colleges, increased number of seats and reduced procedural hurdles.
- ✓ The BOG also includes AIIMS director Randeep Guleria, PGIMER Chandigarh director Jagat Ram, NIMHANS Bangalore director B N Gangadgar and Dr Nikhil Tandon from AIIMS as members
- ✓ The Indian Medical Council or the Medical Council of India (MCI) was set up under the Medical Council Act 1956, for setting standards for medical professionals, new medical colleges and revision of curriculum, among others

◆ **Kaziranga National Park - gets an 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force, including 8 women, to combat poachers and understand animal behavior**

- ✓ The process of setting up a special force was initiated in 2015
- ✓ The special force was then trained at Forest Guard School in eastern Assam's Makum
- ✓ Basically SRPF is a tiger protection force that was named after the rhino since threat of poaching is more for rhino



- ✓ The 430 sq.km Kaziranga national park is located in Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- ✓ In 1968 it was given National Park status and in 1985 it was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS)
- ✓ It is home to World's largest population of One Horned Rhinoceros i.e. about 68%.
- ✓ The one-horned rhinoceroses are listed as vulnerable on IUCN Red list of Threatened Species.
- ✓ Kaziranga is also recognised as a tiger reserve and as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Birdlife International for conservation of avifaunal species.

◆ **Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - recently launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign**



- ✓ The campaign covers the areas of water conservation, water harvesting, afforestation, waterbodies renovation, water reuse and water security in 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.
- ✓ It is coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
- ✓ The campaign will run through two phases - first in monsoon season from 1st July to 15th September, 2019 and the next in additional Phase 2- from 1st October to 30th November, 2019 for States receiving North East retreating monsoons

- ✓ Central government officers, led by joint secretaries and additional secretaries, are assigned to these 256 districts and district administration will also nominate 2 members to join each team
- ✓ With this initiative government aims to provide drinking water to every household on priority apart from educating people about the importance of rainwater conservation

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **New Zealand - has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags with effect from 1 July 2019**

- ✓ It has also introduced huge fines of up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars (\$ 67,000) for businesses that continue to provide them
- ✓ The legislation regarding plastic ban was announced earlier in August 2018
- ✓ New Zealand's major supermarkets have already voluntarily banned plastic bags
- ✓ Single-use plastic bag is one whose thickness is less than 70 microns

◆ **Japan - has resumed commercial whaling within the country's exclusive economic waters, after a period of 31 years**



- ✓ Since 1988, Japan had shifted to the so-called research whaling.
- ✓ On 1 July 2019, Whaling boats resumed their first commercial hunt that has been discontinued since 1988
- ✓ This comes after Japan's 6 month notice to withdraw from International Whaling Commission (IWC) took effect on 30 June 2019.
- ✓ Whaling is considered as part of the Japanese tradition and lifestyle, even though its consumption has come down now to the extent of just 0.1% of the total meat consumption

COMMITTEES

◆ **Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad - had constituted a committee chaired by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan to spell out revival plans for the telecom sector**

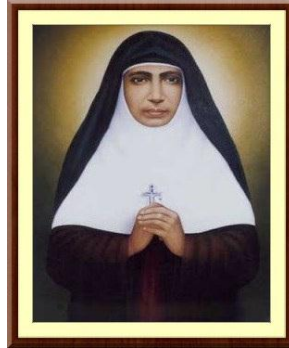


- ✓ The Committee would submit its report in 2 weeks' time
- ✓ It would look into various issues concerning the sector including

- ✓ Reduction of levies and fees, such as licence fee, SUC and universal service levy, review of definition of aggregated gross revenue among others

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Pope Francis - will declare Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan, an Indian nun, a saint on October 13 in St Peters Square**



- ✓ The Pope has formally approved the canonisation of Mariam Thresia, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family, at the Vatican on July 1
 - ✓ The nun from Kerala will be canonized during a Mass along with John Henry Newman from England, Italian Josephine Vannini, Swiss Marguerite Bays and Brazilian Irm Dulce Pontes
 - ✓ The nun belongs to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church
 - ✓ She was born in Puthenchira in Thrissur district on April 26, 1876 and died in Kuzhikkattussery on June 8, 1926.
 - ✓ The nun was declared venerable on June 28, 1999 and beatified on April 9, 2000 by Pope St John Paul II in Rome
- ◆ **Aparna Kumar, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and DIG Frontier in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) - recently scaled North America's Highest Peak Denali (20,310 feet) in Alaska, USA on her third attempt**



- ✓ With this she became the 1st civil servant to climb the rare mountain
- ✓ Mount Denali in Alaska was her seventh Summit in her mission 'Seven Summits' Challenge.
- ✓ She is the 1st civil servant and IPS officer to achieve this rare feat. She has also become 1st woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete South Pole expedition
- ✓ 'Seven Summits' Challenge involves the challenge of climbing highest point in each of the 7 continents

- ✓ The Seven Summit includes -
 - ✓ Carstensz Pyramid– 4884m; Location: Oceania (Australia – New Guinea)
 - ✓ Kilimanjaro– 5892m; Location: Africa
 - ✓ Elbrus– 5642m; Location: Russia
 - ✓ Aconcagua– Height: 6962m; Location: South America
 - ✓ Denali (or Mt McKinley) - Height: 6194m; Location: North America
 - ✓ Vinson Massif– Height- 4892m; Location: Antarctica
 - ✓ Mt. Everest– Height- 8848m; Location: Asia.

DEFENCE

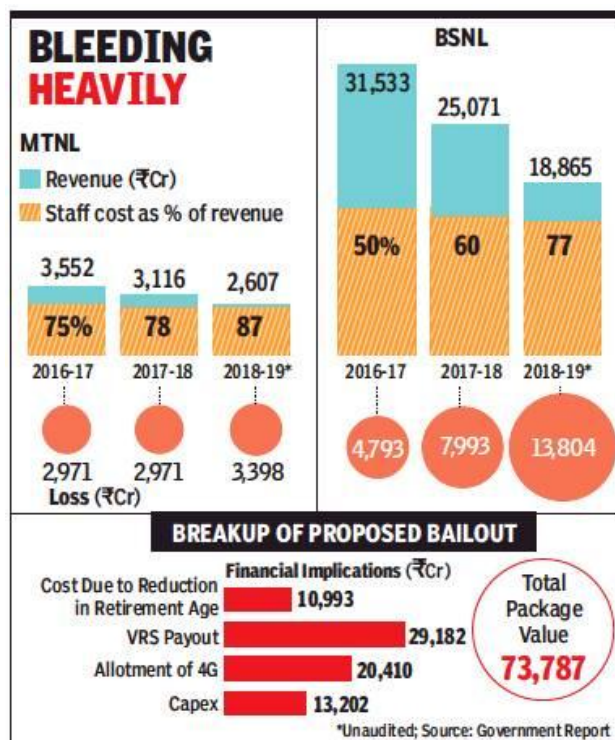
- ◆ **Garuda VI, a bilateral air exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) - begins at Mont de Marsan in France**



- ✓ This year is the 6th edition of exercise which is taking place from 1 July to 12 July 2019
- ✓ The last edition of joint exercise between IAF-FAF was held in June 2014 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ IAF contingent comprises of- 120 air-warriors and 4 Sukhoi 30 MKI along with an IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft.
- ✓ It is expected to showcase fighter jets such as Rafale, Sukhoi 30 and Mirage 2000 from two sides.

ECONOMY

- ◆ **The government - is considering a ₹ 74,000 crore bailout plan for the loss-making state-owned telecom companies BSNL and MTNL**
 - ✓ The strategy involves offering an exit package to thousands of employees, including an additional 5% compensation (ex-gratia), while providing for 4G spectrum and capital expenditure
 - ✓ BSNL is the country's biggest loss-making PSU (estimated ₹ 13,804 crore in 2018-19), while MTNL was third with loss of ₹ 3,398 crore.
 - ✓ Only Air India has higher loss than MTNL



- ✓ BSNL has an employee base of 1.65 lakh and at last count it spent 77% of its total revenue as staff cost (private player Airtel spends 3% of its revenue on staff expenses). On the other hand, MTNL has 21,679 employees and spends 87% of its revenue on them.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The government - has extended the tenure of N.S. Vishwanathan, one of the four Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India, (RBI) by one more year till July 3, 2020**



- ✓ Mr. Vishwanathan is in charge of banking and non-banking regulation, Financial Stability Unit, inspection department and risk monitoring department, among others.

AWARDS

◆ **National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), an Odisha-based Navaratna Company - has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development**

- ✓ NALCO was selected for its Aliali Jhia Scheme, launched in 2015
- ✓ It was on the line of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to adapt and promote the poor and talented girls for education.
- ✓ Under this scheme, NALCO adopted 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages in Anugul and Koraput districts of Odisha.
- ✓ NALCO, coming under Ministry of Mines, was established in 1981 with its headquarters at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha
- ✓ It is one of the largest integrated primary producer of Aluminium in Asia
- ✓ Under Companies Act, 2013 it is a mandatory provision for companies to provide a contribution of 2% of average of their net profits to the CSR activities

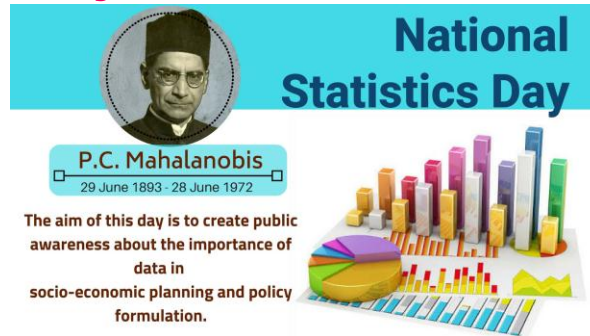
◆ **Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully - was conferred with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at UK-India Awards in London for his contributions to UK-India relationship**

- ✓ He is the former Bureau Chief of BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) in New Delhi, India
- ✓ Previously he had been knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in UK and conferred with Padma Bhushan in India
- ✓ UK-India Awards 2019, marking the 3rd year of Awards, is organised by India Inc., a media house based in London.
- ✓ Other winners

Category	Winner
Social Impact	British Telecom
Market Entrant of the year	Oyo
Global Indian Icon of the year	Kunal Nayyar
Special Significant contribution to UK India Relations	Lord Karan Bilmoria
Start up of the year	Maanch
Fund of the year	SoftBank Investment Advisers
Law Firm of the Year	UK's Baker McKenzie
Trade and Investment Promotion Agency of the year	Manchester India Partnership
Deal of the year	Ever Source Capital / Light Source
Finance Organisation of the year	Axis Bank Limited

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ National Statistics Day - June 29



- ✓ The 13th National Statistics Day was observed on June 29 across the country
- ✓ The day intends to create public awareness among people about importance of statistics in daily life and in process of planning and development
- ✓ Theme 2019 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of India's eminent statistician, Late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
- ✓ It also commemorates contributions made by Mahalanobis in fields of statistics and economic planning.
- ✓ P C Mahalanobis, an Indian scientist and applied statistician, is the first Indian statistician to receive world recognition and is called as Father of Indian Statistics
- ✓ He is the chief architect of Indian statistical system
- ✓ In 1931 he established Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata for large scale sample surveys
- ✓ In 1959 ISI was made an autonomous body of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS&PI)
- ✓ After 1947 (Post-independence), he served as the honorary statistical adviser to cabinet and helped in establishment of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the National Sample Survey (NSS) and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)
- ✓ In 1936 he introduced a statistical measure called Mahalanobis distance, widely used in cluster analysis and classification techniques
- ✓ He was also a member of the 1st Planning commission (1951-56) of free India.
- ✓ The II Five Year Plan (1957-62) relied on Mahalanobis's mathematical description of Indian economy
- ✓ It encouraged the development of heavy industry in India and later came to be known as Basic Industry strategy of economic Growth or Nehru-Mahalanobis Model

