

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 4, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - has ordered disbursement of ₹ 10,000 crore crop loan for the current fiscal year**

HELPING HAND
Crop loans by cooperative societies



YEARS	FARMERS	AMOUNT DISBURSED
2011-12	9.15	₹3,280.42
2012-13	10.20	₹4,069.44
2013-14	10.46	₹4,716.16
2014-15	10.36	₹5,279.91
2015-16	10.74	₹5,868.31
2016-17	7.62	₹4,227.98
2017-18	10.63	₹6,220.27
2018-19	12.37	₹8,127.68

(in crore)

- ✓ The primary agricultural cooperative credit societies (PACCS) provide short term crop loan to small, marginal, SC/ST farmers and to the members of joint liability groups
- ✓ The loan is extended based on the scale of finance for up to ten acres or registered sugarcane crop and for other crops, loan up to 1.6 lakh is extended on personal surety
- ✓ Cultivation takes place in certain districts like Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Theni, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri with the aid of southwest monsoon, while the rest of the state predominantly relies on northeast monsoon in the last quarter of the year
- ✓ Cooperatives extend crop loan at 7% interest rate
- ✓ While the state government provides 4% interest incentive, the Centre offers 3% to those who repay promptly
- ✓ In all, no interest is charged on crop loan for prompt repayment.

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu Government – has allocated around Rs 500 crore for the ‘kudimaramathu’ scheme that aims at restoration of waterbodies with the participation of people**



- ✓ As many as 1,828 works across 29 districts will be taken up this year under the scheme, which was being implemented for the last two years
- ✓ The works include repairing, rehabilitating and strengthening waterbodies, supply channels/canals, sluices and surplus weirs.
- ✓ In the inaugural year (2016-17), a sum of ₹100 crore was set apart for around 1,500 works and the next year, around ₹330 crore for a similar amount of works.
- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu Government – allocates Rs 1.60 crores for the 10th World Tamil Conference to be held in Chicago from July 3 to 7**



- ✓ Out of the allocated amount, Rs 1 crore was requested by The International Association of Tamil Research (IATR), which has been organising WTCs for over five decades
- ✓ The balance Rs 60 lakhs was allocated to meet out the travel expenses of 20 guests who will attend the conference on behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, including the state minister for Tamil development K. Pandiyarajan
- ✓ The 10th conference will be jointly hosted by Federation of Tamil Sangams in North America (FeTNA) and Chicago Tamil Sangam (CTS).
- ✓ The theme song of the 10th World Tamil Conference was composed by Raleigh based American Composer Rajan Somasundaram, titled 'Yathum Oore Anthem'
- ✓ The ninth edition was held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 2015.
- ✓ The inaugural edition of the conference was also held at Kuala Lumpur in 1966

STATES

◆ **Jammu and Kashmir - will host its first-ever investor summit in September-October of this year in Srinagar**

- ✓ The summit will have an exclusive chapter in Jammu to attract investment and counter perceptions about the State.
- ✓ The Government is expecting participation from at least eight countries, besides the rest of India
- ✓ The State is presently under President's Rule, which was extended by another six months last week after a vote in Parliament.
- ✓ The strong points of the State are tourism, horticulture and handicrafts along with the power sector and manufacturing

NATIONAL

◆ **For the first time ever, the foreign ministry's annual Heads of Missions conference - to move out of Delhi and be held next to Patel's 182-m 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat's Narmada district.**

- ✓ The conference, India's foremost exercise in strategic thinking, is a gathering of all Indian ambassadors and high commissioners meant to strategise on promoting India's interests abroad
- ✓ A 'tent city' will be set up near the tallest statue in the world for the conference which will be addressed by PM Modi after its inauguration by foreign minister S Jaishankar.
- ✓ This won't be the first time though that the Statue of Unity will play host to a high-level conference.
- ✓ The annual DGP conference too was held last year at the same venue and addressed by the PM, Modi.

◆ **Airports in Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru - will now be run by the Adani Group in public-private partnership (PPP), like the Metro ones in Mumbai and Delhi, for a lease period of 50 years**



- ✓ The government had decided to lease out six airports — Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Trivandrum, Lucknow and Guwahati — for 50 years to run them in PPP mode
- ✓ AAI had invited bids for them in December 2018 and Gautam Adani's infra major Adani Group had emerged as the highest bidder for all the six.

◆ **The Centre - increased minimum support price (MSP) of all 14 Kharif (summer sown) crops**

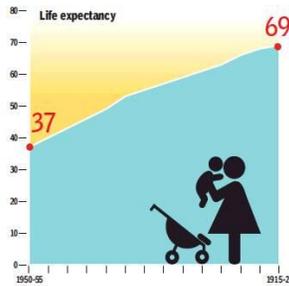
EXTENDING SUPPORT			
HIKE IN MSPs OF KHARIF (SUMMER-SOWN) CROPS			
Crops	*MSP (2018-19)	* MSP (2019-20)	% Hike
	(₹ per quintal)		
Soya bean	3,399	3,710	9.1
Ragi	2,897	3,150	8.7
Jowar (H)*	2,430	2,550	4.9
Sunflower seed	5,388	5,650	4.9
Groundnut	4,890	5,090	4.0
Sesamum	6,249	6,485	3.8
Paddy (C) [‡]	1,750	1,815	3.7
Maize	1,700	1,760	3.5
Bajra	1,950	2,000	2.6
Tur (Arhar)	5,675	5,800	2.2
Cotton (A) [#]	5,150	5,255	2.0
Urad	5,600	5,700	1.8
Moong	6,975	7,050	1.0
Nigerseed	5,877	5,940	1.0

& Paddy (C) - common variety; * Jowar (H) - Hybrid; # Cotton A - medium staple; (% is rounded off)

- ✓ It has provided less water consuming and climate resilient millets (like Ragi and Jowar) a bigger hike than water guzzling paddy
- ✓ In percentage terms, the MSP of key oilseed, Soyabean (yellow), got the highest increase (over 9%).
- ✓ The move may spur farmers to opt for this crop which may, in turn, reduce India's import of edible oil.
- ✓ The only commodities with MSP that will ensure a higher than 50% return over input costs are bajra (85%), urad (64%) and tur dal (60%).
- ✓ However, even for these crops, returns are lower than last year.
- ✓ The Centre had increased the MSP of kharif crops for 2019-20 in line with the principle of fixing MSPs at a level which is at least 1.5 times the cost of production, which was announced last year.
- ✓ The MSP is the rate at which the Centre procures these crops from farmers.
- ✓ The government had notified millets (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) as 'nutri-cereals' due to their high nutritional value early last year.
- ✓ Later, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) had approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.

◆ **On an average, Indians - live 32 years longer now than they did in the 1950s**

- ✓ Access to better healthcare and sanitation has increased average life expectancy everywhere in the world.

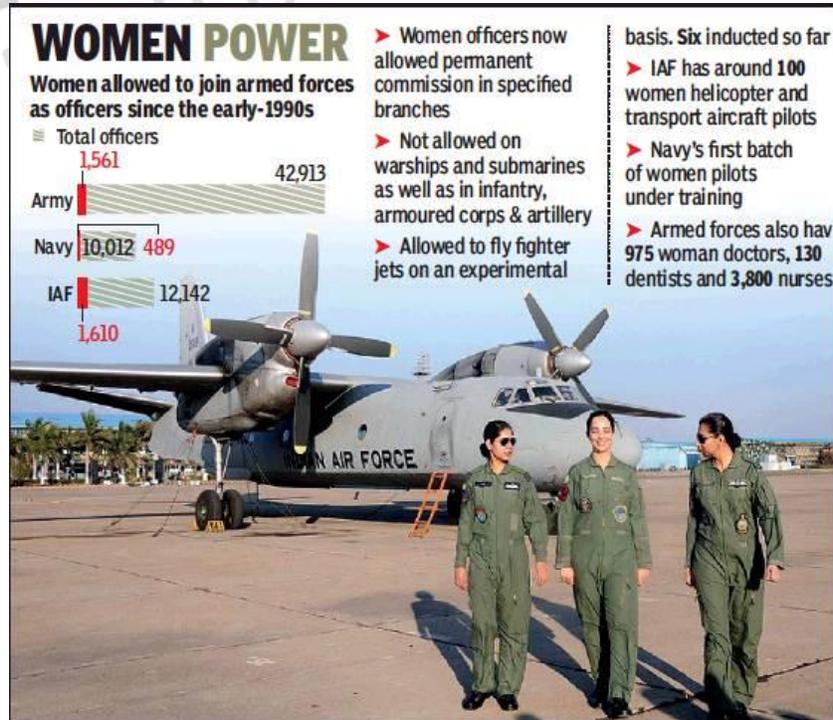


- ✓ In India, it has increased by 32 years since Independence.
- ✓ Better sanitation, housing and availability of medical facilities, as well as the development of vaccines, have significantly reduced early- and mid-age deaths

DEFENCE

◆ The Army - plans to induct 1,700 women in the PBOR (personnel below officer rank) category in the corps of military police (CMP) in a phased manner over the next 17 years

- ✓ With 100 of them being inducted every year, women will eventually constitute 20% of the CMP
- ✓ The Army is concurrently also planning to raise a “Mahila Provost Unit” in the Territorial Army for the first time with two officers, three junior commissioned officers and 40 soldiers
- ✓ The armed forces till now have inducted women only as officers, and kept them firmly away from serving on board warships and submarines as well as joining “fighting arms” in the Army like infantry, armoured corps and artillery.



- ✓ The Army plans to deploy women soldiers, who will be trained at the CMP Centre in Bengaluru, for crowd control and frisking of women protesters in militancy-hit areas like Jammu & Kashmir and the northeast.
- ✓ Women can serve on warships in many countries ranging from Malaysia and Singapore to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- ✓ Women in the US serve on nuclear submarines with ballistic missiles.
- ✓ Much before India, there have been women fighter pilots in several countries like the US, Russia, Turkey and Pakistan

ECONOMY

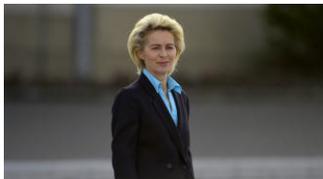
- ◆ **Thrissur-based Catholic Syrian Bank - has been renamed as CSB Bank Ltd, effective June 10**



- ✓ The move follows an exodus of NRI customers owing to troubles in flow of remittances to India over the word 'Syrian' in its name.
- ✓ This was because many foreign banks have put Syria as a banned country (in their list) and hence NRI remittance transactions were automatically filtered out by foreign banks on seeing the name 'Syrian.'
- ✓ The bank had moved the Reserve Bank of India for the change in name in 2015 itself

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **German defence minister Ursula von der Leyen - to become the First woman president of the European Union's powerful executive arm, the European Commission**



- ✓ Von der Leyen, a close ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, is due to replace Jean-Claude Juncker as president of the EC
- ✓ France's Christine Lagarde, another woman holding the top EU post for the first time, will head the European Central Bank.

GLOBAL & ISRO SPACE MILESTONES

