



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JUNE 18, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On June 17, Chief Minister M K Stalin - met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at New Delhi to discuss various issues related to the state**
- ✓ This was the CM's first visit to Delhi, and his first meeting with the PM after assuming office in May 2021
- ✓ The CM presented a memorandum to the PM containing 25 demands for Tamil Nadu in various sectors
- ✓ Water Resources Minister Durai Murugan, DMK Parliamentary party leader T R Baalu and Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu were present on the occasion.
- ✓ The key issues raised during the meeting include the withdrawal of Chennai-Salem greenfield expressway project, scrapping NEET and similar entrance exams, early commencement of vaccine production at the HLL Biotech Chengalpattu complex and Pasteur Institute in Coonoor

117-PAGE LIST OF DEMANDS



➤ Release dues under GST, other schemes	water level to 152ft
➤ Approve Chennai Metro Rail Project phase II under 50:50 JV basis	➤ Give nod for linking Godavari and Cauvery, Cauvery & Gundar
➤ Cancel sanction for Mokedatu dam plan	➤ Retrieve Katchatheevu. Restore fishing rights
➤ Restore Mullaperiyar	➤ Give citizenship for SL Tamil refugees in India

- ✓ The state's demands' included revival of Sethusamudram shipping canal project, Maduravoyal-Chennai Port elevated road project, Godavari-Cauvery and Cauvery-Gundar linkage schemes
 - ✓ It has also sought setting up of the apex court bench in Chennai.
 - ✓ The CM also requested the PM to release pending GST dues to the state and grant citizenship to Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ He also asked the PM to drop hydrocarbon and neutrino projects planned for the state in his 25-minute meeting with the PM
 - ✓ The CM also pointed out that the Centre was not supplying adequate quantity of Covid vaccines to Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Urging speedy construction of AIIMS in Madurai, the state government has also demanded that an AIIMS-like institution be set up in Coimbatore.
 - ✓ On the agriculture front, the DMK government urged the Centre to repeal the three farm laws.
 - ✓ It also demanded that the Citizenship Amendment Act, electricity amendment bill 2020, national education policy and the draft EIA notification 2020 be withdrawn.
 - ✓ The CM also requested PM to declare Tamil as official language of India, to carry out proceedings in the Madras high court in Tamil and Thirukkural be named as the 'national literature'.
 - ✓ The State also expressed its stand against the Mokedatu dam across the Cauvery and sought an increase in the height of the Mullaperiyar dam
- **Rajagopal Echambadi of Tamil Nadu - has been appointed as the president of 131-year-old Illinois Institute of Technology in the US**



- ✓ He will be take charge on August 16 and will be the first person of Indian origin to head the only technology-oriented university in Chicago.
- ✓ The 53-year-old Echambadi was an engineering and MBA graduate from Anna University's College of Engineering, Guindy
- ✓ He is currently working as Dunton Family Dean at the D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University in Boston

- ✓ He also has experience in building entrepreneurial hubs in Indian universities, including Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati.
- ✓ Echambadi was born in Tiruvarur and did his schooling in Shrine Vailankanni Senior Secondary School in T Nagar and Santhome Higher Secondary School in Mylapore.
- ✓ He went on to pursue BE Mechanical Engineering in College of Engineering, Guindy, (1985-89) and MBA in (1990-92).
- ✓ He worked in TAFE and Castrol in Chennai before moving to the US to get a PhD from University of Houston (1994-98).
- ✓ Echambadi has several innovations to his credit including introducing an online MBA programme known as iMBA in partnership with Coursera, which was hailed as a breakthrough in graduate education.

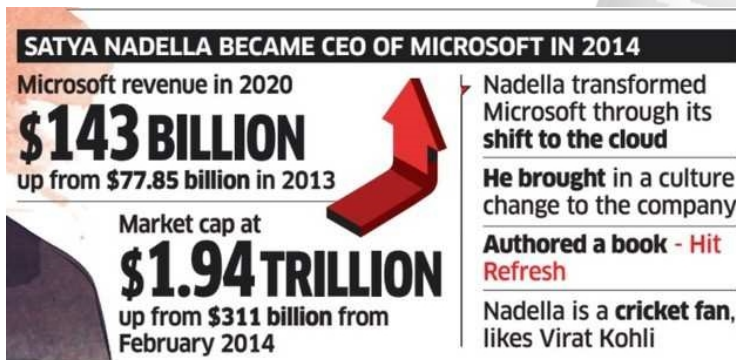
NATIONAL

- **On June 17, the Supreme Court – approved the evaluation criteria proposed by the CBSE and CISCE for Class 12 students**
 - ✓ As per the assessment scheme proposed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), students will be evaluated for theory based on 30% marks from Class X, 30% from Class XI and 40% from Class XII
 - ✓ The marks for practicals/internal assessment will be taken on actual basis as uploaded by the Schools on CBSE Portal.
 - ✓ The Class X marks will be based on the best three performing subjects in the board exams, while the Class XI marks will be based on the final exam
 - ✓ The Class XII component will be based on unit test/mid-term/pre-board marks.
 - ✓ The CISCE or Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, however, said that it would consider the performance of students for the last six classes
 - ✓ Schools will have to finalise the results and upload marks on the Board's link by July 15
 - ✓ The CBSE and CISCE are expected to declare the results before July 31.
 - ✓ A vacation bench consisting of Justice AM Khanwilkar and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari was hearing pleas seeking directions to cancel the class 12 exams of the CBSE and CISCE amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation.
 - ✓ On June 1, the Central Government had decided that Central Board of Secondary Education Class XII Board Exams would not be held this year.
 - ✓ While 14.5 lakh Class XII students appear for the CBSE board, nearly 1 lakh take the exams conducted by CISCE.
- **Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V - will be available in nine more cities across India soon**
 - ✓ Initially, the two-dose vaccine was launched only in Hyderabad.

- ✓ The cities where the vaccines will be available are Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Baddi, Kolhapur and Miryalaguda
- ✓ Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories has partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to sell the first 125 million people doses (250 million vials) of Sputnik V in India
- ✓ The Indian drug-maker recently received nearly three million doses of Sputnik V.
- ✓ The first phase of the Sputnik V rollout by Apollo Hospitals and Dr Reddy's Laboratories had started on a pilot basis on May 17 in Hyderabad and on May 18 in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ Currently, the vaccine's registration on CoWIN is not open for the public and will become open after the commercial launch

APPOINTMENTS

- **Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft, Satya Nadella - has been elevated as its new chairman**
- ✓ The elevation is recognition of the dramatic transformation of the world's largest software maker over the past seven years.



- ✓ He will continue to hold the CEO position.
- ✓ This is the first time since 2000, when co-founder Bill Gates stepped down as CEO, that the same person is holding both positions
- ✓ Nadella took over as CEO in February 2014 from Steve Ballmer
- ✓ He has been instrumental in developing its business including billion-dollar acquisitions like LinkedIn, Nuance Communications and ZeniMax.
- ✓ In 2014, Microsoft's flagship Windows business was weakening, and the company was struggling with its failures in the mobile phone and internet search markets.
- ✓ Nadella, who grew up in Hyderabad and joined Microsoft in the US in 1992, refocused the company around cloud computing and artificial intelligence
- ✓ He was credited with instilling the ownership of the company to its employees
- ✓ The company's share price has risen nearly 600% since 2014.
- ✓ And since the fourth quarter of 2018, Microsoft has frequently been the most valued publicly listed company in the world, with Apple the only other contender for that spot.

- ✓ Nadella, 53, succeeds John Thompson, a former CEO of Symantec who had taken over as chairman when Gates stepped down from that position in 2014.
- ✓ Thompson will continue to serve Microsoft as lead independent director.
- ✓ Nadella was born in Hyderabad and attended the Hyderabad Public School
- ✓ His mother was a Sanskrit lecturer and his father an IAS officer.
- ✓ He did his Bachelor's in electrical engineering from the Manipal Institute of Technology in Karnataka.
- ✓ He then went to the US to do a Master's in computer science at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

