



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –jUNE 22,

### TAMIL NADU

- **The 16<sup>th</sup> session of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly – begins on June 21 with the customary address of governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai**
- ✓ Purohit was addressing the first session of the legislative assembly after the DMK government took charge.
- ✓ The address focused on the M K Stalin-led Government's plans on ensuring social justice, State autonomy, establishment of "true federalism" at the Union level through constitutional means, continuing with the 69% reservation and exemption from NEET.
- ✓ The government's highest priority was to provide clean administration, set right Tamil Nadu economy, promote infrastructure in the state and streamline public services.
- ✓ Before starting his speech, Governor Purohit gave word of advice in Tamil to the MLAs of the 16th Assembly, saying "Kaalai vanakkam. Elimaiyaana vaazhkai vaazhungal. Idhu oozhalai agatri vidum. Idhu enadhu seithi"

#### Highlights of the Governor's address

- ✓ Throughout his speech, the Governor addressed the Government of India as the 'Union' and never as the 'Centre', reflecting the stand of the government on 'federalism'
- ✓ The government would roll out the third masterplan for Chennai Metropolitan Area, to be completed before 2026.
- ✓ An ambitious Singara Chennai 2.0 would be launched to create modern technology-based infrastructure in the state capital.
- ✓ Satellite towns will be developed in suburban areas with modern amenities to decongest large cities in the state.
- ✓ During CM Stalin's mayoral term of the Chennai Corporation, he rolled out several schemes under 'Singara Chennai' initiative.

- ✓ A state-level advisory committee for all major Hindu temples will be constituted to enhance facilities for devotees, improve the maintenance of temples and advise on related issues

## FILLIP TO INFRASTRUCTURE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ₹50cr for preparations ahead of third Covid wave</li> <li>➤ Third master plan for Chennai by 2026</li> <li>➤ Chennai flood management panel to devise flood control methods</li> <li>➤ Annual budget for agriculture; more uzhavar sandhais and</li> </ul>	<p><b>rural markets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Right to Service Act to streamline public services</li> <li>➤ Law to regulate groundwater use</li> <li>➤ Expedite Cauvery-Gundar interlinking</li> <li>➤ Satellite towns in semi-urban areas</li> <li>➤ By-passes for all major towns</li> </ul>	<p><b>ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Esther Duflo</b> NOBEL LAUREATE</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Raghuram Rajan</b> RBI EX-GOVERNOR</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Arvind Subramanian</b> FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Jean Dreze</b> DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>S Narayan</b> FORMER UNION FINANCE SECRETARY</p> </div> </div>
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- ✓ Right to Services Act would be enacted to streamline the delivery of various public services by government agencies
- ✓ Lokayukta would be revitalised to deal with complaints against public authorities including elected representatives and government officials
- ✓ A mission mode project would be initiated to ensure continuity of education delivery.
- ✓ An expert committee of industrialists, banking and financial experts and officials would be set up to formulate schemes for revival of MSMEs
- ✓ The state would promote industrially-backward northern districts, Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will introduce a separate annual Budget for agriculture with the objective of increasing agricultural productivity and protecting farmers' welfare
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government will bring in a new legislation to regulate groundwater use to protect the interests of farmers and common people dependent on ground water.
- ✓ The government would take steps to achieve the target of 125 metric tonnes of food production in 2021-22
- ✓ To increase farmers' income, allied activities like animal husbandry, value-added farming, organic farming and cultivation of horticultural crops will be promoted
- ✓ Uzhavar Sandhais (farmers' markets) established by former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi would be revitalised, and more such markets would be created.
- ✓ The Governor urged the Centre to reject the Mekedatu project proposed by Karnataka, as it was in violation of the judgment of the Supreme Court.

- ✓ Chennai Metro Flood Management Committee will be set up to devise flood control methods and design storm water drains to reduce the detrimental impact of floods.
  - ✓ The State government would conduct a detailed strategic study of the finances and governance structure of Tangedco and Tantransco
  - ✓ The government would ensure uninterrupted power supply to all sectors and has proposed to speed up long-pending power infrastructure projects and give a thrust to renewable energy sector alongwith energy conservation techniques.
  - ✓ A master plan to fully realize the state's tourism would be unveiled this year
  - ✓ The government has promised to hold local body polls once the Covid wave subsides.
  - ✓ As regards NEET, the government would pass a legislation scrapping the medical entrance test once Justice A K Rajan committee's recommendations are in place.
  - ✓ It would also take efforts to get consent from the President of India for the legislation.
  - ✓ Another major promise is priority to native Tamils, who have studied in Tamil medium and government schools, in government jobs.
  - ✓ The State government would carry out feasibility studies for Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) for Madurai, Tiruchy, Salem and Tirunelveli
  - ✓ The Governor said necessary steps will be taken to expedite the Maduravoyal to Chennai Port elevated road project, which was initiated by the DMK regime in 2006-11
  - ✓ The government would continue to urge the Union government to declare Tamil as one of the official languages of India and use it a co-official language in all central government offices, including nationalised banks, situated in the State
  - ✓ The assembly will be on session until June 24th
- **On June 21, the Tamil Nadu government – announced the setting up a five-member economic advisory council to advise the CM and listed out the terms of reference.**



- ✓ The council comprises Nobel laureate Prof Esther Duflo, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, former chief economic advisor to the Union government Arvind Subramanian, development economist Prof Jean Dreze of Delhi School of Economics and former Union finance secretary S Narayan

- ✓ The creation of a five-member economic advisory council to the CM was announced by Governor Banwarilal Purohit during his address to the 16th Assembly on June 21
  - ✓ It is expected to help the government prepare a rapid and inclusive growth plan, thereby reversing the slowdown in the state's economy in recent years.
  - ✓ Based on the council's recommendations, the government would take steps to revitalise economy and ensure that the benefits of growth reached all segments of society
  - ✓ To start with, the government would release a white paper on the state's finances in July.
  - ✓ The focus of the state is to diversify the industrial base, both geographically and sector-wise.
  - ✓ The council comprises two macro economists and two development economists
  - ✓ None of the five members will receive any "remuneration" for their service.
- **The Tamil Nadu school education department – has issued new guidelines to ensure students' safety during online classes and protection from sexual violence**
- ✓ The new norms have suggested dress codes for both faculty and students, suitable for online classes.
  - ✓ It also asked the schools to place complaint boxes to receive feedback from students.
  - ✓ These were part of the recommendations proposed by the committee headed by the school education commissioner on June 17
  - ✓ Earlier, the state government had set up a committee to propose suitable guidelines for online classes during the pandemic situation
  - ✓ All schools in Tamil Nadu shall mandatorily constitute a student safeguarding advisory committee (SAC) to continually review, monitor and recommend measures at the institutional level on all aspects of student safety.
  - ✓ The SAC committee should comprise the principal, two teachers, two PTA members, a management representative, a non-teaching staff member and an optional external member.
  - ✓ The principal would be a permanent member and 50% of the members in the committee should be replaced annually and no member should continue beyond two years.
  - ✓ Schools should record all online classes and random audits of the same should be carried out periodically by a member of the SAC
  - ✓ The school-level committee also needs to maintain a register to document all complaints and concerns of sexual misconduct received by the school management or administration through all modes of communication, including oral communication.

## SAFE ZONE

Ways to ensure student safety during online classes

➤ All schools need to setup a committee including principal, teachers, parents, representative from management, non-teaching staff and an external member

➤ Orientation to teachers, non-teaching and management staff on sexual offences defined under Pocso Act

➤ Random audit of online



classes by the school-level committee

➤ Safety boxes to receive complaints and feedback to be placed around the school

➤ Central complaint centre with a hotline and a dedicated email id to receive complaints of sexual abuse against students

➤ Both teachers and students should observe dress code

- ✓ The school education department will set up a state-level central complaint centre (CCC) with a hotline facility and a dedicated email id to receive all school-based complaints of sexual abuse against anyone.
- ✓ Upon receipt of complaints of sexual abuse, the school-level committee SAC will immediately inform the CCC.
- ✓ A trained multi-disciplinary team drawn from different fields will guide callers and complainants with clarifications and queries regarding the protocol to be followed.
- ✓ All interactions will be documented and kept confidential.
- ✓ The guidelines also suggested a mandatory annual orientation for all members of teaching, non-teaching, management staff on sexual offences defined under the POCSO Act, 2012
- ✓ The model guide for this orientation will be developed and made available by the school education department.

## NATIONAL

- **On June 21, the government – released draft e-commerce rules for stakeholder consultations, proposing tighter norms for electronic marketplaces such as Amazon and Flipkart**
- ✓ They were aimed at providing more transparency in their operations and imposing curbs on sharing of data.
- ✓ The Ministry of consumer affairs has announced the new measures, which includes checking sale by companies in which e-commerce players own a stake
- ✓ The “flash sales” and “back to back sales” are prohibited, as they benefit only preferred sellers, limit customer choice, affect smaller businesses, increase prices and prevent level playing field
- ✓ The online marketplaces will be held responsible for the actions of a seller registered on the platform
- ✓ The new rules follow local trader bodies demanding action against alleged malpractice by e-commerce giants.

- ✓ The government is to implement the revised Consumer Protection (E-Commerce Rules), 2020
- ✓ Accordingly, all e-commerce companies operating in India will need to be registered with the government
- ✓ They will have to appoint a chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies
- ✓ They will also need to have a resident grievance officer to address consumer complaints.
- ✓ These measures are basically to monitor foreign e-commerce companies such as Chinese players Club Factory and Alibaba which were found selling goods directly to Indian consumers by evading taxes and duties

### PROPOSED RULES

- Registration of entities with DPIIT mandatory
- Ban on misleading users by manipulating search results
- Chief compliance officer, nodal contact person & grievance officer mandatory
- Info to be provided within 72 hours of receipt of order from govt agency
- Ban on fraudulent flash sales and mis-selling

- ✓ The revised proposals seek to mandate the sharing of information by e-commerce entities with governmental authorities within 72 hours
  - ✓ They also require e-commerce marketplaces to ensure that none of its related parties and associated enterprises are enlisted as sellers for sale to consumers directly.
  - ✓ Further, no in-house logistics provider will offer differentiated treatment to sellers of the same category.
  - ✓ The draft notification is now released 11 months after rules for e-commerce were first notified.
- **The annual Amarnath Yatra - has been cancelled for the second consecutive year because of the pandemic**
- ✓ However, online darshan of the traditional rituals is permitted for the devotees associated with the 56-day pilgrimage.
  - ✓ This was announced by the office of J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha on June 21
  - ✓ The Union Territory administration had initially made preparations for the movement of a limited number of pilgrims through one of the two routes to the Himalayan cave shrine

- ✓ The shrine is dedicated to Lord Shiva and located at an altitude of 12,756 ft, around 140km from Srinagar.
- ✓ Earlier, the Amarnath Shrine Board had opened online registrations on April 1, but dropped the process on April 22 after the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19.
- **On June 21, Telecommunication major Bharti Airtel and IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) - announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G broadband network solutions in India**
- ✓ Tata Group has developed a 'state of the art' O-RAN based Radio & NSA/SA Core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack for the 5G technology
- ✓ This will be available for commercial development starting January 2022 as a pilot project
- ✓ Airtel and TCS are the Board members of the O-RAN Alliance and are committed to explore and implement O-RAN based networks in India.
- ✓ O-RAN Alliance is a global community of mobile network operators, vendors, and research and academic institutions operating in the Radio Access Network (RAN) industry.

<b>To Cut Dependence On Traditional Suppliers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Local 5G solutions and innovations being pushed by the govt for cyber security, technological leadership</li> <li>&gt; Plan to counter Chinese and European dominance in 5G technologies</li> <li>&gt; PM Narendra Modi had stressed on local innovations and solutions</li> <li>&gt; Airtel-TCS partnership to help cut dependence on traditional suppliers such as Nokia, Ericsson, Huawei</li> </ul>	

- ✓ Earlier this year, Airtel became the first telecom company in India to demonstrate 5G over its LIVE network in city of Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Company has started 5G trials in major cities using spectrum allocated by the Department of Telecom.
- ✓ The 5G trials will be conducted at various locations, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Gujarat, Hyderabad, among others
- ✓ Open RAN or open radio access network architecture is industry terminology for interoperability and standardisation of radio access network elements including products and software from various vendors.

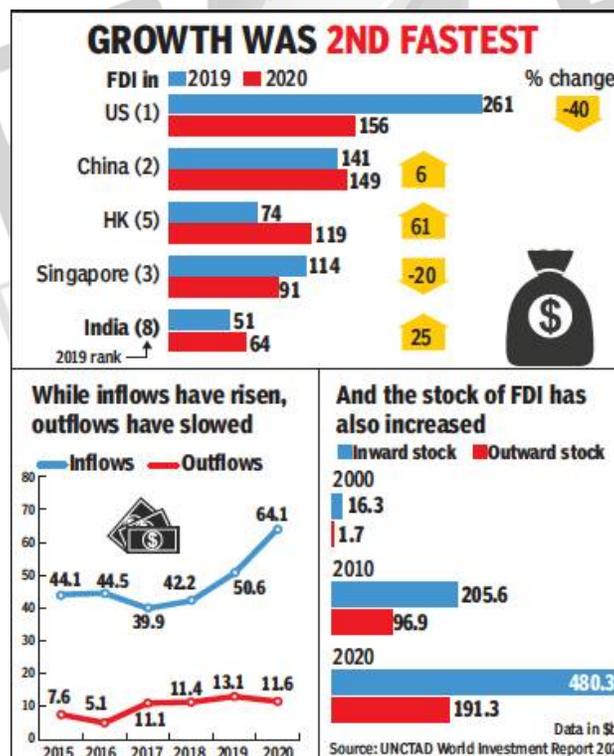
## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India's National Health Authority (NHA) – is planning to hold a 'Co-Win Global Conclave' tentatively scheduled for June 30.**

- ✓ The event is to be held virtually, with India willing to share its experience and technology, as per PM Modi's offer at the recent G7 summit
- ✓ The conclave is a joint initiative by the ministries of health, external affairs and the NHA
- ✓ The health and technology experts representing countries such as Vietnam, Peru, Mexico, Iraq, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Ukraine, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Uganda, among others will participate in the event
- ✓ The idea is to showcase the Co-Win portal for countries interested in adopting it, as well as sharing the technology.
- ✓ According to government, over 20 countries have already shown interest in this technology to help run their own vaccination drives.

## ECONOMY

- **India – is ranked as the fifth largest foreign direct investment (FDI) recipient in 2020, mainly due to a surge of 83% in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the technology space**
- ✓ This was revealed in the latest World Investment Report released by Unctad
- ✓ India, China and Hong Kong were among the countries which saw a rise in 2020.



- ✓ However, the report noted that there was a 19% fall in funds flowing into greenfield projects coming up in the country
- ✓ India's FDI rose 25% to \$64 billion in a year when global investment flows shrank 35% to \$1 trillion
- ✓ India was ranked as the eighth largest FDI destination in 2019

# SPORTS

- **Shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor - qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a new national record at the Indian Grand Prix 4, held in the National Institute of Sports in Patiala on June 21**



- ✓ On the same day, the national women's 4x100m relay team and sprinter Dutee Chand also broke the previous records set in the respective races.
  - ✓ Toor crossed the Olympic qualification mark with a throw of 21.49m and broke his own national record of 20.92m set in 2019
  - ✓ The Olympic qualifying mark in shot put is 21.10m.
  - ✓ The women's relay team, however, failed to place itself inside the Olympic qualifying bracket.
  - ✓ The quartet of Assam's Hima Das, Odisha's Dutee Chand, S Dhanalakshmi and Archana Suseendran (both from Tamil Nadu) clocked 43.37 seconds to win the race
  - ✓ The Indian team bettered the previous record of 43.42 seconds set in 2016 in Almaty by the quartet of Merlin K Joseph, H M Jyothi, Srabani Nanda and Dutee.
  - ✓ But the quartet failed to clock below 43.05 seconds needed to be among the top 16 teams to make it to the Tokyo games.
  - ✓ Sixteen team will run in the women's 4x100m relay race in Tokyo Games.
  - ✓ The Indian team's 43.37 seconds performance will take it to the 20<sup>th</sup> spot in terms of Olympics timings.
  - ✓ Olympic-bound Kamalpreet Kaur bettered her earlier national record mark in women's discus throw by reaching 66.59m.
  - ✓ But her performance will not be counted as the new national record as she was the lone competitor in the event.
  - ✓ Sprinter Dutee Chand also bettered her own national record of 11.21seconds in the women's 100m event after clocking 11.17seconds.
  - ✓ However, the Olympic Qualification time in this event is 11.15seconds.
- **New Zealand Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard - will become the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics in the women's event at the Tokyo Games**



- ✓ Hubbard will compete in the superheavyweight 87-kg category, with her selection made possible by updated qualifying requirements.
  - ✓ The 43-year-old, who will be the oldest lifter at the Games, had competed in men's weightlifting competitions before transitioning in 2013.
  - ✓ Hubbard has been eligible to compete at the Olympics since 2015
  - ✓ In 2015, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) issued guidelines allowing any transgender athlete to compete as a woman provided their testosterone levels are below 10 nanomoles per litre for at least 12 months before their first competition.
  - ✓ Earlier, Hubbard won a silver medal at 2017 World Championships and gold in 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa after transitioning to female
- **On June 21, Tunisia's Ons Jabeur - made history by becoming the first Arab woman to win a WTA title**



- ✓ Jabeur had defeated Russian Daria Kasatkina in the final of the grasscourt tennis event in Birmingham.
- ✓ Jabeur, a trailblazer for North African women's tennis, won in straight sets to finally claim a title after losing two previous finals.
- ✓ Jabeur had lost to Kasatkina in the final in Moscow in 2018 but prevailed over the Russian this time.

# MEMBERS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO TAMILNADU CM - REPORT



**ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN** | FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER TO CENTRE

Arvind Subramanian is an Indian economist and known as an expert of the Indian and Chinese economies, and the global economic power shifts. Arvind succeeded Raghuram Rajan as the chief economic adviser to the Union government from 2014 to 2018. He was a former economist with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**ESTHER DUFLO** | NOBEL LAUREATE

A French-American economist and a professor for Poverty Alleviation and Development Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Esther Duflo, her Indian-American husband Abhijit Banerjee and Michael Kremer won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019 for their approach to alleviate global poverty. Duflo already has a Tamil Nadu connect. As the director of The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Duflo has been working with Tamil Nadu government after J-PAL entered into an MoU in 2014 to undertake projects to reduce poverty through policies based on scientific evidence



**PROF JEAN DREZE** | WAS ON NAT'L ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Belgian-born Indian welfare and development economist Jean Dreze, influenced by economist Amartya Sen, has been living in India since 1979 and became an Indian citizen in 2002. The combination of field work and qualitative analysis on life and poverty makes his works distinctive. Associated with the Delhi



School of Economics and University of Ranchi as honorary and visiting professor, Dreze has co-authored a number of publications with Sen. A few years ago, a photo of him having food on the road along with the poor on the roads of Delhi went viral on social media. Not many around then knew that he was on the National Advisory Committee during the UPA regime and was drafted by then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh for the ambitious MNREGA scheme

**RAGHURAM RAJAN** | EX-GOVERNOR OF RBI

Raghuram Rajan is an Indian economist and the Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago. A former chief economist and director of research at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he went on to become the 23rd governor of Reserve Bank of India in 2013. Prior to that, he functioned as the chief economic adviser for the Union ministry of finance in 2012



**S NARAYAN** | FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY AND FORMER ECONOMIC ADVISER

A 1965 batch IAS officer (retired), Narayan was a former finance secretary with the Union government and the economic adviser to former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee. He had worked with the Tamil Nadu government for two decades earlier. He has written a book - 'The Dravidian Years: Politics and Welfare in Tamil Nadu'.



