

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JUNE 27, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On June 26, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced the evaluation criteria to compute marks for state board Class XII students**
- ✓ According to the evaluation criteria, the maximum weightage of 50% has been given to the class X board exam marks of the students.
- ✓ A weightage of 20% has been given to their class XI scores, while 30% weightage has been given to their scores in the class XII practical exams and internal assessments.
- ✓ In their class XII weightage, 20% will be for their practical exams and 10% for their internals.
- ✓ If the subject doesn't have practical exams, then the internal assessment marks will be converted into 30 marks.
- ✓ The average of the best of three marks scored by students in any of the Class X board subjects would be taken for arriving at the weightage
- ✓ Marks will be declared for nearly 8.5 lakh Class XII students before July 31 as ordered by the Supreme Court.

RESULTS TO BE OUT BEFORE JULY 31



→ Class X (best of 3 subject mark avg)	50%	➤ Exam for 30,000 pvt candidates along with the exam to be held after pandemic
→ Class XI (theory marks in each subject)	20%	➤ Those who missed practical & written exams in Class XI and XII will be considered private candidates
→ Class XII practicals (20 marks) and internal assessment (10)	30%	➤ If students have failed in some subjects in Class XI, they will be awarded minimum pass mark of 35

- ✓ The evaluation method announced by TN is different from that of the CBSE which gave almost equal weightage to Class X, XI exams and XII preboard tests (30:30:40).
 - ✓ The formula was fixed based on the report submitted by a 10-member committee comprising officials including the Principal Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, the Vice Chancellor of Madras University and the headmasters of schools
 - ✓ The state board would conduct a separate exam for private candidates after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.
 - ✓ Students who are unhappy with their results based on this evaluation criteria will be given a chance to take up the board exams again at a later date for their final marks
 - ✓ The government had earlier announced cancellation of exams to the Plus Two board for 2020-2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic.
- **On June 26, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced a cash reward of ₹3 crore for sportspersons from Tamil Nadu who win gold medal at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.**
- ✓ He also announced a cash award of ₹2 crore for those winning silver and ₹1 crore for bronze medallists at the marquee event next month.
 - ✓ The government had been running a scheme to give sports equipment worth ₹10 lakh and pay tournament travel cost to sportspersons who won at international and national competitions.
 - ✓ For sportspersons taking part at international events, ₹25 lakh was being given by the Government
 - ✓ The 2020 Summer Olympics is scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021 in Japan after it was postponed last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ Nethra Kumanan, Varun Thakkar and K C Ganapathy (sailing), G Sathiyam and A Sharath Kamal (table tennis), C A Bhavani Devi (fencing) and paralympian T Mariappan have qualified for the quadrennial games from Tamil Nadu.

STATES

- **Assam government – gets 2 new national parks, taking the total number of protected areas to 7 in the state**
- ✓ The two new national parks are Dihing Patkai and Raimona.
 - ✓ Assam already has five national parks—Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Nameri and Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.
 - ✓ Among them, Kaziranga & Manas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, while Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri and Orang are tiger reserves.
 - ✓ With this, Assam will have the third highest numbers of national parks in the country after Madhya Pradesh (12) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (9)

- ✓ Raimona national park, spreading across 422 sqkm, is located in Kokrajhar district of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in lower Assam
- ✓ Raimona is home to elephants, tigers, golden langurs, clouded leopard, wild buffalo, spotted deer, over 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds including the white bellied heron and nearly 380 species of plants.
- ✓ Located in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts in upper Assam, the Dihing Patkai national park is spread over 234 sq km.
- ✓ Known earlier as the Dihing Patkai rain forest, it used to have an area of 111 sq km and was considered the “last remaining stretches” of the Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forests.
- ✓ Till date, 47 mammal species including tiger, 47 reptile species and 310 species of butterflies have been recorded in Dihing Patkai

NATIONAL

- **The road transport ministry - has extended the deadline for the mandatory installation of airbags for front seat passengers in the existing car models by four months.**
 - ✓ Accordingly, the car manufacturers will have to comply with the norms for all the existing models from December 31, 2021 as against the earlier deadline of August 31, 2021
 - ✓ The relaxation has been made considering the pandemic situation since the manufacturers need to make some changes in their production line.
 - ✓ Till now, only driver-side airbag was compulsory in all cars in the country.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had proposed to make dual front airbags compulsory in December, 2019 and had issued a draft notification to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR).
 - ✓ As per the notification, all new models sold in India from 1 April 2021 will come equipped with driver and co-driver (front passenger) airbags as standard.
 - ✓ Earlier, from July 1, 2019, the government had made having an airbag mandatory for the driver's seat in all cars
 - ✓ In another move, the ministry has also allowed increase in the height of heavy goods carrying vehicles to 4.75 metres only for transporting “indivisible load”
 - ✓ The announcement comes as a big relief for glass and steel transporters
- **Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad - launched a e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) called ‘itat e-dwar’ on June 25, 2021**
 - ✓ The e-portal will enable online filing of appeals, miscellaneous applications and documents by various stakeholders through electronic means
 - ✓ It would not only result in savings in the use of paper and costs but also lead to quicker disposal of cases.

- ✓ The launch of the portal will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the working process of the ITAT.
- ✓ The launching event was attended by the functionaries of ITAT from all the 28 stations, members of various bar associations, the officers of the income tax department, chartered accountants, taxpayers and other legal luminaries in the field of tax, from across the country.

- **India's largest power utility, NTPC Ltd - has become a signatory of the prestigious UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.**
- ✓ The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative that seeks the commitment and efforts of companies to improvise their water and sanitation agendas as part of long-term Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ The CEO Water Mandate is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of comprehensive water strategies and policies.
- ✓ It also provides a platform for companies to collaborate with like-minded businesses, UN agencies, public authorities, civil society organisations, and other key stakeholders.
- ✓ NTPC is India's largest power utility, functioning under Ministry of Power
- ✓ It has already taken a series of measures across its plant locations on achieving effective water management.
- ✓ It adopts the concept of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) for water conservation and management

- **The Thiruvananthapuram-based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator**
- ✓ The 3 ventilators have been named as Prana, VaU and Svasta while oxygen concentrator has been named as Shwaas
- ✓ Prana is designed to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an Ambu bag
- ✓ Svasta is designed to work without electric power, while the VaU is a low-cost ventilator equivalent to commercially available high-end ventilators.
- ✓ Shwaas is capable of supplying 10 litre enriched oxygen per minute, adequate for two patients at a time
- ✓ It enhances the oxygen gas content by selectively separating the nitrogen gas from ambient air through Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) method, which is commonly used for production of oxygen from air
- ✓ Likely to be priced around ₹1 lakh, the ventilators developed by the ISRO were cost effective and easy to handle
- ✓ The mini conventional ventilators that are available in the country are currently priced around ₹5 lakh.
- ✓ Technology transfer will be done for the commercial production of these three ventilators and the oxygen concentrator soon

- **The World Bank - has recently approved a \$500 million program to strengthen performance of the MSME's in India**
- ✓ The new program is called 'Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Performance' (RAMP)
- ✓ It seeks to raise improvement in the performance of 5.55 lakh MSMEs in the country
- ✓ The program is likely to mobilise financing of \$15.5 billion as part of the government's \$3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness – A post-Covid Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRRP).
- ✓ This is the World Bank's second programme launched in the country during the pandemic
- ✓ The World Bank made its first assistance with the \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to help Covid-hit MSMEs, which got approved in July 2020
- ✓ Under last year's MSME Emergency Response Program, 5 million MSMEs have been provided grant from the government programme
- ✓ The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18.5 years including a 5.5-year grace period.
- ✓ In addition to national level activities, the program will initiate targeted activities in five "first mover" states – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Denmark - has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India recently on June 22**
- ✓ With this, Denmark has become the first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments entered into force on January 8, 2021.
- ✓ ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- ✓ The ISA was established with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy in a bid to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- ✓ The initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium.
- ✓ ISA FA was opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman - participated in the Global Investors Roundtable organised by the US-India**

Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) through video conferencing on June 24, 2021



- ✓ The event witnessed participation from some of the largest foreign investors, including Mastercard, MetLife, Prudential, Air Products, Dell, SoftBank and Warburg Pincus amongst others.
- ✓ During the interaction, the investors discussed potential investment opportunities and on the role of ongoing policy reforms that will enable greater Ease-of-Doing-Business in India.
- ✓ In her concluding remarks, the FM spoke about going ahead with an overall vision to build a self-reliant modern India driven by 5 “I’s” - Intent, Inclusion, Investment, Infrastructure and Innovation
- ✓ The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization, which was set up in 2017
- ✓ The primary objective of USISPF is to strengthen the India-US bilateral and strategic partnership
- ✓ It seeks to discuss policy decisions in the fields of economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment-creation, and innovation.

DEFENCE

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has successfully test fired an extended range version of “Pinaka” rockets and 122mm Caliber rockets on June 24 and 25**



- ✓ They were tested from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ The enhanced range version of the Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45km.
- ✓ Twenty-five enhanced Pinaka rockets and four enhanced range version of 122mm Caliber rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges
- ✓ The 122mm Caliber rockets are developed for the Indian Army and can destroy targets up to 40km
- ✓ The rocket system has been developed jointly by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) with manufacturing support from M/s Economic Explosives Limited in Nagpur

OBITUARY

- **Professor S Kameswaran, renowned ENT surgeon and educationist (98 years)**



- ✓ Padma Shri awardee and Dr B C Roy award winner, Dr. S Kameswaran passed away in Chennai on June 26
- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin, Health Minister Ma Subramanian and senior DMK leaders including Duraimurugan paid their respects to the mortal remains
- ✓ Professor Kameswaran was born in 1923 and had his early education in Loyola College and Madras Medical College.
- ✓ He later got trained in the United Kingdom for his FRCS in Edinburgh and Glasgow
- ✓ Following that, Dr Kameswaran served as the Director of Institute of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) at the Madras Medical College
- ✓ Dr Kameswaran was also the Director of Basic Medical Sciences at the University of Madras, Taramani campus
- ✓ He was also the surgeon for the former President of India R Venkataraman and served as a consultant to the World Health Organisation for a brief period.
- ✓ He was later a member of a three-man committee which was responsible for laying the foundation for starting the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.

- ✓ He has won numerous national and international accolades and awards.
- ✓ Prof Kameswaran's son Dr Mohan Kameswaran is himself a renowned ENT surgeon and is the managing director and chief surgeon at Madras ENT Research foundation.
- ✓ Dr Mohan Kameswaran, who is also a Padma Shri awardee, is now heading Tamil Nadu's task force committee to tackle mucormycosis (black fungus).

SPORTS

- **India's Amit Panghal - was ranked as World No.1 boxer in his men's flyweight (52kg) category by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Boxing Task Force (BTF).**



- ✓ The ace boxer will now enter the Tokyo Olympics as the World No. 1 in his category of 52 kg
 - ✓ Panghal's No. 1 ranking comes just ahead of the start of the boxing competitions (July 24-Aug 8) at the Olympics.
 - ✓ Of the nine Indian boxers (both men and women) who will be participating in Tokyo Olympics, Panghal is the only one to have received the top ranking by the BTF.
 - ✓ Panghal is already the reigning Asian Games champion and a silver-medallist in World Championships.
 - ✓ It should be noted that in the last 15 months, this is the second time that Panghal has been ranked the World number 1.
 - ✓ Ahead of the Asian Olympics qualifier in Amman, Jordan in March 2020, Panghal was ranked No. 1 by the BTF.
 - ✓ Panghal becomes only the second Indian boxer to reach the top spot since Vijender Singh was ranked No. 1 in the middleweight category in 2009 after securing the World Championships bronze.
- **Star Indian archer, Abhishek Verma - created history by becoming the first man to win two World Cup gold medals in individual compound archery**
 - ✓ On June 27, Verma won the gold in the men's individual compound event at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.



- ✓ This is India's first medal in the World Cup Stage III and Verma's second individual World Cup gold medal.
- ✓ Verma had previously won gold at the individual event in Wroclaw in 2015 and also a silver in 2018.
- ✓ Abhishek Verma also has won two medals at World Cup Finals, a silver in 2015 and bronze in 2018

RANKINGS

- **India – was ranked at 117th spot on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as part of 2030 agenda**
- ✓ This was revealed by the State of India's Environment Report 2021
- ✓ Last year, India was ranked at 115th place and slipped 2 places this year due to the non-performance related to SDG2, SDG 5 and SDG 9
- ✓ India is ranked below four South Asian countries — Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
- ✓ The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100.
- ✓ Among the states, Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030
- ✓ Jharkhand lags in five SDGs while Bihar lags on seven factors
- ✓ Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh are the states/UTs with the best overall score which are on the path to achieving the SDGs by the target year 2030
- ✓ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015
- ✓ It provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, for the present and into the future.
- ✓ There are 17 SDGs which needs an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Day of Seafarer – June 25**



- ✓ The observance of the day every year seeks to recognise the invaluable contribution of seafarers to the global commerce and economic system
- ✓ The International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrates this day to spread awareness about the work and lives of seafarers to highlight and discuss issues like sailor rights at foreign ports, their safety, and health.
- ✓ The seafarers work relentlessly to ensure free flow of trade goods through the seas, as almost 90% of the world's goods trade are transported by ships
- ✓ The International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping, designated June 25 as International Day of the Seafarer in the year 2010.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future'
- ✓ This year the campaign for day of Seafarer calls for a "fair future for seafarers."
- ✓ This day was first celebrated in 2011 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency specialised on shipping.
- ✓ It was designated by a resolution adopted by "Conference of Parties to International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)" held in 1978 in Philippines.

