

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 11, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Navy - has announced that the area within the 3km radius from the perimeter of INS Rajali naval air station in Arakkonam is a ‘no fly zone’**
- ✓ Individuals and civil agencies are prohibited from flying drones in this zone without permission of the authorities
- ✓ Approval for flying drones is to be obtained from the Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA) through Digi Sky website
- ✓ A copy of the approval letter is to be submitted to headquarters Eastern Naval Command or command security officer and INS Rajali at least a week before any scheduled flying operation by individuals or civil or government agencies.
- ✓ INS Rajali will destroy or confiscate any non-conventional aerial object including drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle found flying in its zone without proper approval.
- ✓ The operator will be charged under provisions of IPC.
- ✓ The decision comes in the wake of a recent aerial attack at an Indian Air Force station in Jammu.
- ✓ DGCA has also said that drones should not be used without permission within 5km of Chennai airport
- ✓ According to DGCA, people have to register all drones with DiGi Sky platform and activate the ‘No permission- No Take off’ above 200ft altitude.

- **The plan to set up India’s first offshore desalination plant off the Chennai coast – is to commence soon with the recent launch of the Rs 4,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission.**
- ✓ Scientists from National Institute of Ocean Technology will design and set up the plant
- ✓ They will conduct series of offshore studies and tests on a scaled down version of the plant to validate its design.

- ✓ Earlier, the plan was to set up the desal plant around 40km off the Ennore coast with a capacity of 10 million litres a day.
- ✓ The plant will work on indigenous low temperature thermal desalination (LTTD) technology and will be powered by ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) technology.
- ✓ Both technologies use the temperature gradient of ocean water -- warmer surface water and colder deep-sea water --for generating potable water and electricity.

<h2 style="color: red; margin: 0;">ABOUT THE PROJECT</h2>		<p>The country's first offshore self-powered desalination plant has been planned off Chennai coast</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To be designed and set up by NIOT, the plant will be one of the components of the ₹4000cr Deep Ocean Mission recently approved by the Centre ➤ It will run on environmental-friendly and indigenous Low Temperature Thermal Desalination technology ➤ It will be powered by Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Technology (OTEC) ➤ NIOT will conduct studies on offshore components like pipelines and moorings before conducting tests on a scaled down version of the plant to prepare a new design for the offshore plant ➤ Earlier, the plan was to setup a 10MLD plant 40km off Ennore coast 	<p>How does LTTD work? LTTD uses the temperature gradient in the ocean water to evaporate warmer surface water at low pressure and condense the resultant vapour with the cold water pumped from the deep sea to make potable water</p> <p>➤ LTTD plant will require an evaporation chamber, a condenser, pumps and pipelines to draw warm and cold water and vacuum pumps to maintain the plant at low pressures</p> <p>➤ The present desal plants in</p>	<p>Chennai run on reverse osmosis technology which disposes concentrated brine that harms marine life</p> <p>How does OTEC work? The principle is similar to LTTD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Warm surface water is converted into steam to drive a turbine and generate power ➤ Exhaust steam from the turbine is condensed back to water using cold water drawn from the deep sea. The resulting water is pure and the OTEC plant can double-up as desalination plants

- ✓ A temperature gradient of 15°C was needed to operate the desal plant for which the researchers need to go around 50km into the sea to find suitable cold water.
- ✓ This is a tough task which is not done by any country yet and is estimated to cost around Rs 2,500 crore.
- ✓ The phase-1 of the Deep Ocean Mission, which has six components, is expected to go on for three years and phase-2 for two years.
- ✓ In the desal plant, warm sea surface water is vaporised at low pressure and then condensed with cold water pumped up from a depth of 1000 metres to make drinking water.
- ✓ The OTEC technology works on a similar principle where warm water is converted into steam to drive turbines and generate electricity.
- ✓ The exhaust steam is condensed into water, which is pure and potable.
- **A terracotta container with an intricately designed band running along its outer surface – has been unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation**
- ✓ It is yet to be established whether this is part of a ring well or grain storing unit, as it has many layers.
- ✓ Minister for industries, Tamil official language, Tamil development and archaeology Thangam Thennarasu revealed the image of the interesting artifact on social media



- ✓ The container with designs was the latest find at the site, and the Minister added that Keeladi continues to be a treasure trove beyond imagination.
- ✓ The newly identified container is 77cm in diameter, and has a two centimeter thick rim.
- ✓ The decorations on the container have depressions such as thumb impressions and another has a band which has been equally divided into small squares, with deep lines in between.
- ✓ It is yet to be confirmed if the structure was a part of a ring well, many of which have been found in Keeladi for storing water or grains.
- ✓ The ring wells unearthed in Keeladi, have an interlocking system where sand cannot enter the wells, but air and water could percolate through them.
- ✓ It is believed that these structures helped inhabitants of Keeladi to have more permanent dwellings and as they had water and did not have the need to migrate during droughts.

STATES

- **Ladakh - has become the first Union Territory to vaccinate all residents and the migrant labourers, hotel workers and Nepalese citizens who live there, with the first dose of Covid-19 jab.**
 - ✓ As many as 89,404 people from eligible age groups, including 18-44 years, have been administered the first dose.
 - ✓ The second dose has been given to 60,936 people within three months of starting the third phase of vaccination
 - ✓ In spite of Ladakh's low population, this is a difficult task in view of the region's challenging terrain, extreme weather and isolated centres of population — many of which are difficult to access.
 - ✓ A total of 6,821 Nepalese citizens living in the UT were among those vaccinated.
- **On July 10, the Assam cabinet – announced the creation of a “Department of indigenous faith and culture” to protect the culture and practices of people belonging to tribal and other indigenous communities.**

- ✓ The department's immediate priority would be areas of the state inhabited by illegal Muslim immigrants
- ✓ Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said people of "all indigenous faiths" would be benefited by the scheme that will be launched by the department.
- ✓ The communities identified for schemes include the Bodos, tea tribes, Morans, Mottocks, Rabhas and Mishings.
- ✓ In another major decision on administrative and financial reforms, Sarma said the cabinet had decided that departmental committees could henceforth approve schemes with allocations up to Rs 2 crore.
- ✓ This will eliminate red tape and help officials take faster decisions on new projects
- ✓ Departmental committees will be headed by the commissioner of the department concerned.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Eric Garcetti, a Democratic Party insider from California and Mayor of Los Angeles - was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as the new US ambassador to India in New Delhi on July 8**



- ✓ He will take up the assignment as the 26th US ambassador to India after Senate confirmation that is expected to be a formality
- ✓ Garcetti succeeds Kenneth Juster, who returned to Washington after serving for four years from 2017 to 2021.
- ✓ Garcetti, 50, is considered close to both President Biden and vice-president Kamala Harris.
- ✓ As Mayor of America's second largest city, which is also home to Hollywood, he urged Biden to run for president in 2016, and served as a co-chair of his 2020 presidential campaign.
- ✓ He was also one of four members of the vice-presidential search committee that picked Kamala Harris as Biden's running mate in 2020.
- ✓ As Mayor, Garcetti led LA's successful bid to return the summer Olympic Games to American soil for the first time in three decades.
- ✓ He served 12 years as an Intelligence Officer in the US Navy Reserve Component, before retiring in 2017 as a Lieutenant.

- ✓ Garcetti is a big supporter of immigrants, speaking during the 2016 Democratic convention of his “average Mexican-American, Jewish-Italian” heritage

OBITUARY

- **Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS), Dr P K Warriar - passed away in Kerala on July 10, a month after celebrating his 100 birthday on June 8.**



- ✓ Warriar breathed his last at the Ayurvedic hospital and research centre of AVS at Kottakkal situated near his Kailasa Mandiram residence
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Narendra Modi condoled his demise.
- ✓ Warriar was honoured with Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.
- ✓ Dr P K Warriar played a monumental role in popularizing Ayurveda across the world and in building a bridge between traditional Indian systems of healing and modern science
- ✓ Warriar's centenary birthday celebrations 'Satapournima' was held online in June to comply with Covid-19 guidelines.
- ✓ Warriar himself had tested Covid positive last month but was discharged on June 17 after recovery.
- ✓ He led the Arya Vaidya Sala for over six decades, turning the 116 year-old charitable trust into a synonym for excellence in Ayurveda
- ✓ Born on June 5, 1921 at Kottakkal, Warriar went on to study ayurveda at the Aryavaidya Patalasa (currently Vaidyaratnam P S Varier Ayurveda College).
- ✓ During his student days he got attracted to the national movement and participated in the Quit India movement.
- ✓ He grew close to the Communist movement and even took a break from studies for two years but later quit active politics to become part of the illustrious Ayurvedic tradition of the family.
- ✓ He became a trustee of Arya Vaidya Sala, founded by his uncle P S Warriar in 1902, at a young age of 24 and started his career as factory manager of the medicine manufacturing plant of AVS in 1947.
- ✓ He took over the reins of AVS as managing trustee in 1954 following the demise of his elder brother P M Warriar in an air crash.

- ✓ AVS, which had an annual turnover of Rs 9 lakh when he took over has grown to have a current turnover of Rs 400 crore.
 - ✓ An avid learner, Warriar was keenly interested in research and development
 - ✓ Under his leadership, AVS had taken up collaborative research programmes with CSIR for identifying bio active molecules and also for improving manufacturing processes.
 - ✓ Warriar personally oversaw the cancer related studies being conducted at AVS and unique package of formulations were evolved for treatment.
 - ✓ He also set up the Centre of Medicinal Plants Research at Kottakkal for the conservation of medicinal plants and to undertake research in the areas of phytochemistry, taxonomy and pharmacognosy.
 - ✓ Warriar also initiated research activities in the fields of drug standardization, drug development and process improvement.
 - ✓ At his instance, AVS has also collaborated with major Research Agencies like CSIR, DST, AYUSH and IIT in joint programmes on rasayana, herbo-metal formulations, bioactive molecules, etc.
 - ✓ Warriar has coauthored the five volume treatise “Indian Medicinal Plants – A Compendium of 500 Species”, which is testimony to his dedication to scientific research and documentation in Ayurveda.
 - ✓ Dr Warriar contributed immensely to charity, with major chunk of the income of AVS going for the charitable hospital which provides free treatment for around 1,500 outpatient patients every day.
- **On July 9, Tamil scholar and orator ‘Kalaimamani’ So Sathiyaseelan (88 years) - passed away in Trichy.**
- ✓ Fondly referred to as ‘Sollin Selvar’ after the award he received in 2015, Sathiyaseelan was known by various epithets such as Ilakkiya Peroli, Navukkarasar, Natramizh Vel, Kamba Kavalari and Tamil Neri Semmal.
 - ✓ Born to freedom fighter parents on April 14, 1933, in Perambalur, Sathiyaseelan was conferred with the ‘Kalaimamani’ award in 2011 for his service to Tamil language.



- ✓ Beginning his service to Tamil literature and language as a school teacher and thereafter as college professor, Sathiyaseelan went on to become principal of

Urumu Dhanalakshmi College, syndicate member of Bharathidasan University and planning board member of Tamil University in Thanjavur.

- ✓ He has delivered speeches at 10,000 public meetings and more than 1,000 television and radio programmes.
- ✓ Sathiyaseelan has travelled to the US, Canada, Sri Lanka, Malaysia-,Singapore, Kuwait, Paris and Switzerland to deliver speeches
- ✓ He had also authored books such as Nehru Vazhi Nervazhi, Azhaikkiradhu America and Thirukural Sindhanai Muzhakkam.
- ✓ Sathiyaseelan was also committed to social work and held several posts including the trustee of Vayalur Murugan Temple.
- ✓ He had launched a unit called Muthamizh Kalai Panpattu Maiam to honour and encourage upcoming writers.

SPORTS

- **World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty – won her maiden Wimbledon women’s singles title on May 10**



- ✓ As Barty lifted the Venus Rosewater Dish, she became the first Australian woman to win the singles title since Evonne Goolagong Cawley’s triumph in 1971 and again in 1980
- ✓ In the finals, Barty defeated Czech Karolina Pliskova in three sets to win her second singles Grand Slam crown
- ✓ The top-seed Barty won the junior title at the All England Club ten years ago
- ✓ Barty received the champion’s plate from Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge
- ✓ Pliskova, ranked No. 13, will move to No. 7 when the new WTA rankings come out on July 12

