

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 15, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On July 14, Justice A K Rajan – had submitted a 165-page report to chief minister M K Stalin at the secretariat
- ✓ The high-level committee headed by retired Judge AK Rajan was constituted in June to study the impact of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in medical admissions in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The report was prepared after considering 86,000 representations from various stakeholders, with majority not preferring the NEET exams

NEET was made mandatory for medical intake from 2017-18. Share of rural students securing a seat has gone down since

Urban-rural divide in %

■ Rural | ■ Urban

2015-16	62.8	37.2
2016-17	65.17	34.83
2017-18	55.45	44.55
2018-19	48.02	51.98



- ✓ The impact of NEET on aspirants and several sections of society has been analysed and the report is completely based on data and not on personal opinions
- ✓ The panel is expected to have highlighted the lack of level-playing field under NEET for rural students with poor access to facilities such as internet and ignoring students' performance in Class12 exam.
- ✓ The committee's report, which is not released to the public, is expected to have concluded that the national eligibility and entrance test (NEET) is weighted in favour of rich, urban students.

- ✓ Based on the report, the State government is expected to pass a resolution demanding an exemption from NEET in the Assembly, and then to forward it to the President, alongwith pursuing other legal routes
- ✓ According to the data provided by the panel, the percentage of rural students joining medical colleges dropped from 62% in 2015-16 (before NEET implementation) to 48% in 2018-19.
- ✓ During the corresponding period, the percentage of students with a family income below Rs.2.5 lakh joining medical courses dropped from 54% to 32%.
- ✓ Further, the percentage of students from state boards entering medical colleges dropped from 99% in 2014-15 to 66% in 2019-20
- ✓ Also, the number of students from Tamil medium schools dropped from 481 to 58.
- ✓ Abolishing NEET is one of the electoral poll promises of the ruling party, DMK
- ✓ Meanwhile, the government said that it will continue training students for NEET-2021 until the state gets an exemption from the test

Categories of students who got med seats								
Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2014-15	31	52	481	99.8	26	12	4	2
2015-16	32	54	456	99.4	33	3	5	2
2016-17	33	53	438	98.4	31	3	5	3
2017-18	16	25	41	63.9	0	3	26	5
2018-19	18	32	88	72.6	4	1	13	6
2019-20	22	NA	58	66	5	1	9	4
2020-21	16	—	—	—	10 (239)*	1 (99)*	12	5

A | First generation students in government medical college (%)

B | Influence of family income below 2.5 lakh (%)

C | No. students from Tamil medium

D | State board students %

E | Number of govt school students who got admission into govt medical colleges. * 7.5% quota

F | Number of govt school students who got admission into self financing medical colleges. * 7.5% quota

G | Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to govt medical colleges %

H | Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to self financing medical colleges %



- ✓ NEET was introduced in the state in 2016 and from the next academic year, admissions to undergraduate and postgraduate medical programmes were solely based on the test.
 - ✓ The state selection committee admits students based on merit in NEET and 69% rule of reservation.
 - ✓ The state health department passed a legislation seeking exemptions from NEET, but they were not given the presidential assent.
 - ✓ Last year, the State government introduced a special reservation of 7.5% of the total seats available in the State pool for government school students.
 - ✓ This year the Union Education Ministry has proposed to hold NEET on September 12.
- **The virology lab at Madurai Medical College - has performed a total of 17.65 lakh RTPCR tests, the highest among all government medical college labs in the state.**
- ✓ The government medical college labs in Chennai, including KMC, MMC, Stanley Medical College and Omandurar Medical college, together performed around 17 lakh tests.

- ✓ The Madurai medical college lab with a staff of about 100 , including 65 doctors and paramedics, has been operating round-the-clock since March 2020.
 - ✓ With nine RT-PCR testing machines and five RNA extractors, the lab has been performing about 12,000 to 15,000 tests daily.
 - ✓ During the first wave of Covid-19 last year, the lab had done about 8,000 tests a day, which was the highest among all the labs in the state
 - ✓ In the second wave, the sample load gradually increased from 11,000 to 15,801 a day in June 2021.
- **Puducherry - launched a door-to-door vaccination drive aimed at covering all eligible residents, so that the Union territory would become 100% vaccinated territory.**
- ✓ The drive was formally inaugurated by CM N Rangasamy on July 14.
 - ✓ The UT has so far administered 6.14 lakh doses (including the second dose).
 - ✓ As per the 2011 census, the UT has a population of 12.48 lakh with latest projections pegging the population at about 14 lakh to 16 lakh.
- **An 800-year-old stone inscription belonging to the reign of Rajaraja Chola I - has been found in Nambuthalai near Thondi in Ramanathapuram district.**
- ✓ The inscription was found on an unorganised rock, in the premises of the Nambu Easwarar temple in Nambuthalai
 - ✓ It speaks of the Ra Ra highway (Ra Ra Peruvazhi) laid during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I
 - ✓ Ra Ra Peruvazhi, is the name of the east coast highway laid during the period of Rajaraja Cholan.



- ✓ The inscriptions begin with the word “Swastishri” and have a total of 61 lines of letters.
- ✓ From the font of letters the period of this inscription is determined as the 13th century AD.

NATIONAL

- **On July 14, the Union Home Ministry – has asked all states and Union Territories to instruct police stations not to register fresh cases under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act.**
- ✓ The Supreme Court in its judgment on March 24, 2015 in the case of Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, had scrapped Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 calling it “vague and arbitrary”.
- ✓ According to the SC, the section was repealed for being violative of the right to free speech guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution
- ✓ Under the scrapped Section 66A of the IT Act, a person posting offensive messages could be imprisoned for up to three years alongwith fine.
- ✓ The Centre has requested that if any case has been booked in states and UTs under section 66A of the IT Act, 2000, such cases should be immediately withdrawn.

- **On July 14, the Union Cabinet - approved the extension of Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for exports of garments and made ups, without changing the rates.**
- ✓ The scheme will be applicable until March 2024
- ✓ The sectors covered under this scheme would not get benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by the Department of Revenue with end-to-end digitisation for issuance of transferrable Duty Credit Scrip, which will be maintained in an electronic ledger in the customs system.
- ✓ Under this scheme, exporters are issued a Duty Credit Scrip for the value of embedded taxes and levies contained in the exported product
- ✓ Earlier, under the RoSCTL scheme, maximum rate of rebate for apparel was 6.05% while for made-ups, the rate was up to 8.2%.
- ✓ The made-ups segment comprises home textiles products such as bed linen, curtains, pillows and carpets

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On July 14, the Supreme Court – sets aside provisions of Tribunal Reforms Ordinance 2021 brought by the Centre with respect to the four-year tenure for members and chairpersons of tribunals**
- ✓ By a 2:1 majority, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat restored its earlier verdict by which their tenure was fixed at five years.
- ✓ As per the verdict, the term of Chairperson of a tribunal shall be five years or till she or he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier

- ✓ Further, the term of a Member of a tribunal shall be five years or till she or he attains the age of 67, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The apex court has re-introduced a minimum entry age of 50 years for tribunal membership
- ✓ The conditions were prescribed under the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalization and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021 promulgated in April this year.
- ✓ By this ordinance, certain provisions of the Finance Act of 2017 were modified.
- ✓ It was in this case that Attorney General KK Venugopal argued in February this year that Parliament can override any judgment by a court

APPOINTMENTS

- **Union minister for commerce, consumer affairs and food and textiles Piyush Goyal - will replace Thaawar Chand Gehlot as the leader of House in Rajya Sabha**



- ✓ Goyal was the deputy leader when Gehlot was the leader of the House.
- ✓ Veteran BJP leader and former Union minister Thaawarchand Gehlot took oath as the 19th Governor of Karnataka succeeding Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala on July 11
- ✓ Piyush Goyal, who holds key portfolios in the central government, has been a member of the Rajya Sabha since 2010.
- ✓ Prior to becoming a minister in 2014, Goyal was BJP treasurer, a post held by his father VP Goyal.
- ✓ Goyal was also engaged in poll management activities.
- ✓ The leader of the House has the mandate to organise government meetings and business in the House, ensure its smooth functioning and also has the role to engage and coordinate with the Opposition parties.
- ✓ Goyal, who was recently also given charge of the textile ministry, has also been inducted in five of the eight Cabinet committees that were reconstituted after the recent expansion of the Union council of ministers

