

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 20, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On July 19, School education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi - released the results of Class XII Tamil Nadu board exams**
- ✓ All 8,16,473 students (4,35,973 girls & 3,80,500 boys) who had registered for the Class 12 board exams were declared pass under the weightage system
- ✓ A total of 39,679 (4.86%) students got in the range of 551 marks to 600 marks.

50+20+30 WEIGHTAGE SYSTEM

8,16,473 students registered for Class XII	551 marks to 600 marks	8,909 got between 551 and 600 , as against 4,437 students last year
4,35,973 were girls and 3,80,500 boys	30,600 scored between 551 marks and 600 marks in science stream , compared to 1,867 students in 2020	136 got above 551 marks in vocational group
39,679 students scored in range of		

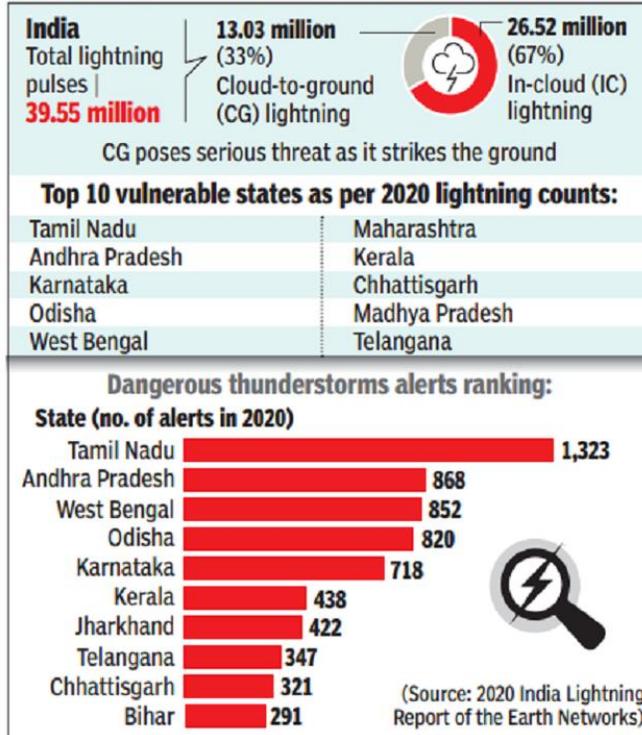
- ✓ More than 77% of the students scored above 400 marks out of 600.
- ✓ The state government gave 50% weightage to Class X board exam marks, 20% to Class XI board marks and 30% to Class XII practical and internal assessment.
- ✓ As many as 33,557 students, who had arrears in Class XI, were also promoted considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- ✓ The optional exam for aggrieved students with the weightage system and exam for 39,000 private candidates will be held in September or October.
- **On July 20, Tamil Nadu government – will launch 47 industrial projects bringing in investments to the tune of Rs. 28,664 crore into the state**
- ✓ These projects are expected to provide employment to 82,400 people in the state
- ✓ Out of the 47 projects, the state government will sign agreements for 35 new projects, with an investments worth over Rs.17,000 crore
- ✓ Further, the foundation stone for 9 other projects would be laid by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

- ✓ General Electric (GE) will sign an MoU with the State government to establish a centre of excellence in aerospace in association with state-owned Tidco
- ✓ The MoU will be signed in the presence of CM M.K. Stalin and State Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu
- ✓ Another MoU will be signed with Taiwan's Lotus Footwear, which manufactures sports and athletic shoes at Cheyyar SEZ
- ✓ Lotus will establish a new footwear unit near Tindivanam in Villupuram district and will also expand its facility at Bargur
- ✓ Further, new MoUs to be signed includes establishing data centres and manufacturing units for auto components and cryogenic tankers.
- ✓ In addition, foundation stone will be laid for a new liquid oxygen plant to be set up by Inox at Hosur with a capacity of 200 MT a day at an investment of Rs. 150 crore.
- ✓ Some of the firms that would be part of the MoU signing event are real estate firm CapitaLand, French firm Cryolor, Avary, Cheyyar SEZ, TCS, JSW Energy and Vikram Solar
- ✓ TCS would set up an IT/ITES unit on an investment of Rs. 900 crore.
- ✓ JSW Energy would sign an agreement for setting up renewable energy power plants in Thoothukudi, Tiruppur and Tirunelveli districts on an investment of Rs.3,000 crore
- ✓ CapitaLand would establish a data centre at Ambattur on an investment of Rs.1,500 crore
- ✓ Vikram Solar would set up its new project at Oragadam, while Danish auto component manufacturer Dinex's proposed unit will come up in Mahindra World City
- ✓ This will be the first set of investment proposals to be unveiled by the state government since it came to power in April this year.

NATIONAL

- **India - had recorded a nearly 23% increase in lightning episodes in 2020 compared to 2019, as per the Earth Networks report released on July 19**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and West Bengal were ranked as the topmost vulnerable states that have reported more events of lightning last year
- ✓ Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning strikes (usually in the pre-monsoon and monsoon months) are identified as the single largest killers among natural disasters in India, according to the National Disaster Management Authority.
- ✓ Bihar, UP, Jharkhand and Maharashtra have reported the most number of killings due to lightning along with thunderstorm, as per the Earth Networks report
- ✓ Earth Networks is a private agency of a nationwide lightning detection network in India.

EPISODES ROSE BY 23% IN 2020



- ✓ As per its report, India has reported around 39.6 million lightning pulses in 2020
- ✓ Out of this, over 13 million were lethal 'cloud-to-ground' strikes, which refer to the lightning that hits the ground, putting lives and property in danger.
- ✓ In 2020, India saw the highest concentration of lightning in May, June, and September because of the monsoon season
- ✓ Lightning strikes have killed at least 2,000 people every year in India since 2004, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On July 18, the trial run of new rail line between Jayanagar in Bihar's Madhubani district and Kurtha in Dhanusa district of Nepal was completed successfully**
- ✓ Railways will open the newly-built railway track for traffic after getting clearance from the commissioner of railway safety in August 2021
- ✓ A speed trial was completed successfully at a speed of 110 km per hour on the 35 kilometre long newly-gauge converted section
- ✓ The Jayanagar – Kurtha Railway link has been set up by Indian Railway Construction Limited (IRCON) under India – Nepal friendship rail project
- ✓ This is the first section of the rail line links between the two countries
- ✓ The second section of 17 km length will link Kurtha and Bhangaha, while the 17 km long third phase will extend from Bhangaha to Bardibas

- ✓ The railway line, completed at a cost of Rs 619 crore, has five stations in the section — Jayanagar, Inarwa, Khajuri, Baidehi and Kurtha near famous pilgrimage Janakpur in Nepal
- ✓ During the British rule, they had built a 52-km-long a railway line from Jaynagar to Mahottari in Nepal, mainly to transport logs of woods from forests
- ✓ The 68.72 kilometre long Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas railway project has been funded by the Indian Government entirely
- ✓ Earlier, the Konkan Rail Corporation Limited (KRCL) had supplied two sets of 1600 HP DEMU passenger rakes to operate rail services on the route in September 2020
- ✓ In Nepal, this is said to be the first Broad Gauge passenger rail service.
- ✓ Prior to this, a narrow gauge service was running by Nepal between Jayanagar and Janakpur till the year 2014.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Union minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi - has been appointed the deputy leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.**



- ✓ Union minister Piyush Goyal, who was the deputy leader earlier, has been elevated as the leader of the House.
- ✓ He replaces Thawarchand Gehlot, who has been appointed Karnataka governor.
- ✓ Naqvi, 63, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2016 and is known for his vast knowledge of parliamentary affairs
- ✓ Naqvi had served as the minister of state for parliamentary affairs during the first term of the Modi government.
- ✓ In 2017, he was handed over the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- ✓ Naqvi had been a student leader and was jailed in 1975 during the Emergency.

AWARDS

- **Two Indian organizations, Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust - are announced among the 10 winners of the prestigious Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity**

- ✓ They will each receive a prize of US\$10,000 and provided the opportunity to join a series of special virtual events associated with the UN General Assembly, the Nature for Life Hub and the UN Food Systems Summit this year.



- ✓ They will join a network of 255 communities from over 80 countries that have received the Equator Prize since its inception in 2002.
- ✓ The virtual award ceremony is scheduled for October 4, 2021
- ✓ The winners were selected from a pool of over 600 nominations from 126 countries by an independent Technical Advisory Committee of internationally renowned experts
- ✓ Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by Indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Southern India
- ✓ It has improved livelihoods across 147 villages by processing and marketing a diverse range of forest produce and crops such as honey, soap nuts and berries, phoenix leaves, coffee, pepper, silk cotton, cereals, spices, fruits, and many others
- ✓ Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years
- ✓ They were involved in the restoration and protection of freshwater swamps and evergreen forests to safeguard endangered species, keep significant carbon sinks intact, and maintain critical aquifers for Indigenous communities
- ✓ After restoring 375 hectares of mangroves, Snehakunja Trust is currently working on the first blue carbon project in India.
- ✓ UNDP Equator Prize is offered for the exceptional achievement in showcasing local, innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling biodiversity loss and climate change and achieving the local development goals.

