



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 27, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **On July 26, The Tamil Nadu government - announced that it will implement 10.5% special reservation for vanniyaars in admission to all courses, including professional courses, from the academic year 2021-22.**
- ✓ After consultation with legal experts and the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TPSC), chief minister M K Stalin issued an order to implement the 10.5% special reservation from February 26, 2021
- ✓ The previous AIADMK government had passed the legislation to temporarily provide for 10.5% special reservation for vanniyaars within the 20% quota for most backward classes (MBCs).
- ✓ The Supreme Court refused to stay the legislation in the first week of July
- ✓ However, the admission brochures and applications to engineering, arts and science courses released on July 26 did not mention the reservation.
- ✓ Later in the day, the state government issued the order, which will ensure at least 14,000 BE, BTech seats and 10,000 seats in 143 government arts and science colleges reserved for vanniyaars.
- ✓ Of the 20% seats allocated to MBCs in the existing MBBS seat matrix, nearly 500 seats will be reserved for vanniyaars.

### STATES

- **Odisha's Puri – becomes India's first city to provide 24x7 piped drinking water supply**
- ✓ On July 26, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched "Sujaal — Drink from Tap Mission" through a virtual platform
- ✓ During the launch, the CM said Puri has joined international cities like London, New York and Singapore in supplying round-the-clock quality piped drinking water from taps
- ✓ Around 2.5 lakh people of Puri town and two crore tourists visit the heritage city every year

## 1ST IN INDIA

- Puri becomes first Indian city to get round-the-clock piped pure drinking water
- Water fountains have been set up at 400 locations which will also reduce plastic waste
- The project has been commissioned in 9 months
- Women's self-help groups have been roped in for quality control of drinking water
- Around 2 crore tourists visit the city every year



- ✓ Drinking water fountains have been set up at 400 locations in the pilgrim town to ensure that visitors do not carry plastic bottles.
- ✓ According to the government, Sujal piped water scheme will eliminate the use of three crore plastic bottles, thereby preventing the accumulation of 400 metric tonnes of plastic waste in Puri every year.
- ✓ Sujal is a transformative project launched under the government's 5T charter - Transparency, teamwork, technology, time frame and transformation .
- ✓ To ensure that the state gets safe and hygienic drinking water, the Odisha government has increased its budget from Rs.200 crore to Rs.4,000 crore in the last five years.
- **Maharashtra government - had requested to extend cut-off date to enrol farmers till July 23 for Kharif season 2021 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
  - ✓ The last date for enrolment in the PM's Crop Insurance scheme was July 15
  - ✓ The Union government has agreed to the state's demand, considering the challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic
  - ✓ According to the Maharashtra government, 46 lakh farmers have applied for the scheme till date but many of them are yet to complete formalities.
  - ✓ PMFBY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 18, 2016.
  - ✓ This scheme subsumed two schemes called National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS)
  - ✓ It was launched to reduce premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claims.
  - ✓ This scheme provided cover to all Food & Oilseeds crops and annual commercial or horticultural crops.
  - ✓ PMFBY is implemented by empanelled general insurance companies and administered by Ministry of Agriculture.
- **The Delhi government – has partnered with tech giant Google to provide real-time information about buses to commuters**



- ✓ With this partnership with Google Maps, Delhi joins the league of global cities that provide seamless, real-time information about buses, such as the arrival and departure times, and their routes.
- ✓ Google Transit will automatically update the times of around 3000 buses operated by Delhi Transport Ministry
- ✓ Under the initiative, static and dynamic location data of Delhi buses will be available for passengers in real-time
- ✓ In 2018, the Delhi government had published Open Transit Data with the technical support of Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi to provide real-time data of buses

## NATIONAL

- **On July 26, Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa - announced his resignation during an event to commemorate two years of his government in the state.**



- ✓ Governor Thawarchand Gehlot accepted Yediyurappa's resignation and asked him to continue as caretaker chief minister till the next CM is sworn in.
- ✓ Later, the BJP high command announced that it would send a team of observers led by Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Bengaluru.
- ✓ He will oversee a meeting of the legislative party to elect the next chief minister in a couple of days.
- ✓ The resignation of 78-year old Yediyurappa was widely speculated, given the BJP's retirement age limit policy of 75 years for political posts

- ✓ Yediyurappa became the third BJP chief minister in the country to be removed in the last six months, the other two being Trivendra Singh Rawat and Tirath Singh Rawat, both in Uttarakhand
  - ✓ The four-time CM is the veteran leader in the Lingayat community, which is among the biggest voter base for BJP in Karnataka
  - ✓ Yediyurappa, BJP's first Chief Minister in the south, took oath as the 31st CM of Karnataka on July 26, 2019, three days after the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in the state.
  - ✓ He was forced to quit as CM in 2011 after serving since 2008 when the Karnataka Lokayukta named him in a report on illegal mining in the state.
  - ✓ He has been the CM for a week in 2007 and for three days in 2018
- **On July 26, the Lok Sabha - passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.**
- ✓ These are the first two Bills to be passed by Lok Sabha in the current Monsoon Session
  - ✓ The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was moved for consideration and passage by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman
  - ✓ The changes in the legislation are aimed at helping the MSME sector to overcome the problems of delayed payments
  - ✓ The amendments to the factoring law are based on the recommendations of the U K Sinha Committee.
  - ✓ The amendments are expected to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) significantly by providing added avenues for getting credit facility, especially through Trade Receivables Discounting System
  - ✓ The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 24, 2020 to liberalise the restrictive provisions in the Act
  - ✓ The Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 was enacted to provide for regulating the assignment of receivables to factors, registration of factors carrying on factoring business and the rights and obligations of parties to the contract for assignment of receivables.
  - ✓ Factoring is a transaction where a business entity sells its receivables from a customer to a third party which is a "factor" for immediate realisation of funds either in part or in full.
  - ✓ The bill seeks to widen the scope of entities which can engage in factoring business.
  - ✓ The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021 got introduced and passed in just 8 minutes, making a record
  - ✓ The Bill seeks to declare certain institutes of food technology, entrepreneurship and management like National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management at Kundli and the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology at Thanjavur as institutions of national importance

- ✓ It was moved by Food Processing and Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha had already passed the Bill in March 2021.
- ✓ The bills were approved by the Lok Sabha by voice vote without any debate.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The European Commission - has released “Fit for 55” legislation package to reach its climate goals**
- ✓ The new legislation aims to achieve the goal of reducing EU’s greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by 2050
- ✓ The legislation package consists of 12 measures, 4 new directives and regulations and 8 proposals for amendments and revisions to existing directives and regulations
- ✓ To become a law, the proposals must be adopted by the EU parliament and the Council of the EU
- ✓ The proposals cover taxation on shipping and aviation fuel for the first time and include a plan to tax foreign companies for pollution caused by them.
- ✓ It also provides for de-facto phasing out of gasoline and diesel cars by 2035 and imposes new levies on gases from heating buildings.
- ✓ The legislation introduces a “Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism”, which imposes duties on foreign companies that in turn will increase price of certain goods like steel, aluminium, concrete and fertilizer.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **A group of astronomers – have detected a short and powerful burst of high-energy (gamma-ray) radiation lasting for about a second**
- ✓ The burst had been racing towards earth for nearly half the present age of the universe
- ✓ It will help scientists understand many unknown facts about distant galaxies, origin of the universe and the possibility of its occurrence in our own milky way galaxy.
- ✓ The burst was detected by Nasa’s Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope
- ✓ The shortest gamma-ray burst (GRB) is caused by the death of a massive star
- ✓ GRBs are among the brightest and most energetic events in the universe, detectable across billions of light years.
- ✓ GRBs, which occur due to the explosion of stars, produce as much energy as the sun produced during its entire existence.
- ✓ Indian scientist Shashi Bhushan Pandey from the DST’s Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is one of the Indian scientists in the team of astronomers spotting the short-event GRB
- ✓ Astronomers classify GRBs as long or short based on whether the event lasts for more or less than two seconds.

- ✓ They observe long bursts in association with the death of massive stars, while the “short bursts” have been linked to a different scenario
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan programme, the country's first manned mission to space.**
- ✓ The test was done for the core L110 liquid stage of the human-rated GSLV MkIII vehicle



- ✓ The engine was fired for 4 minutes at the test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit onboard an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth
- ✓ Four Indian astronaut candidates have already undergone generic space flight training in Russia as part of the Gaganyaan Programme.
- ✓ ISRO's heavy-lift launcher GSLV Mk III has been identified for the mission
- ✓ The first unmanned mission is planned in December 2021 and the second unmanned one in 2022-23.
- ✓ The initial target was to launch human spaceflight before the 75th anniversary of India's independence on 15 August 2022
- ✓ The formal announcement of the Gaganyaan programme was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2018.
- ✓ Under the mission, three flights - two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight- will be sent into orbit.
- ✓ The spaceflight will move around the Earth for 5 to 7 days at low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from Earth.
- ✓ Human Space Flight Centre of ISRO and Russian government-owned Glavkosmos signed a deal in June 2019 to provide Russian support in selection of candidates, their medical examination and space training.

## **OBITUARY**

- **Prominent Tamil scholar Pulavar R Ilankumaranar (94 years) - passed away late on July 25 at his residence in Madurai due to age-related health issues.**



- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the death of the veteran Tamil scholar
- ✓ Born in Vaazhavatharpuram in Tirunelveli district in 1927, I. I. Iyankumaranar was passionate about Tamil and its literature at very early age.
- ✓ After becoming a Tamil teacher at the age of 16, he passed out in first class in Tamil pandit examination held by the University of Madras in 1951.
- ✓ He continued his literary work till the age of 92.
- ✓ The multi-faceted personality made an identity for himself as a poet, etymologist, bibliophile and prolific writer.
- ✓ I. I. Iyankumaranar participated in the grand function of installation of the 133 feet tall statue of saint-poet Thiruvalluvar in Kanyakumari by the then chief minister M Karunanidhi.
- ✓ He authored more than 500 books on arts, culture, literature, and his favourite subject Thirukkural and various facets of Tamil literature.
- ✓ His popular work was 'Thirukkural Vazhvu Iyal Urai'.
- ✓ First Prime Minister of the country, Jawaharlal Nehru, released I. I. Iyankumaranar's collection of essays on Thirukkural, 'Thirukkural Katturai Thoguppu' in 1963.
- ✓ In 2003, the then President APJ Abdul Kalam released I. I. Iyankumaranar's yet another book titled 'Sanga Ilakkiya Varisaiyil Purananooru'.
- ✓ He donated 40,000 books out of his collection of 45,000 books in his home-cum-library in Trichy to S R M University.
- ✓ I. I. Iyankumaranar founded Thiruvalluvar Thava Salai in Allur in Trichy in 1951 and set up a library in his house.
- ✓ Rediscovering and restoring Kakai Padiniyam, a literary work on Tamil grammar was one of his significant achievements.
- ✓ I. I. Iyankumaranar was conducting marriages as per ancient Tamil culture by reciting Thirukkural, avoiding using Sanskrit mantras in marriage ceremonies
- ✓ He also revived ancient Tamil marriage customs as described in Tamil literature and popularised it by solemnising as many as 4,865 weddings.
- ✓ Madurai Kamaraj University, where he worked as a guest lecturer, honoured him with 'Tamil Peravi Semmal' award in 2009.

