

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 31, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu – announced weekly day-off to police personnel in the state in order to maintain their health and enable them to spend time with their family.**
 - ✓ The circular issued by the state DGP also directs officials to provide police officers leave on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries
 - ✓ Further, the circular also mentioned that overtime duty allowance should be paid to those personnel who are on duty on the rest day, skipping their weekly off
 - ✓ The holidays shall be implemented with immediate effect, as per the circular
 - ✓ The Commissioners of Police in cities and the Superintendent of Police (SPs) in the districts have been asked to implement these instructions without fail.
 - ✓ In 2018, a report from the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that Tamil Nadu has the highest number of suicide cases among police officers in India
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government teamed up with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) to start a stress-buster programme for police officers in the same year.
 - ✓ This training is being held in a periodic manner in every district of the state.

- **American-based solar technology company First Solar Inc - announced that it will invest \$684 million in a new, fully vertically integrated photovoltaic (PV) thin film solar module manufacturing facility in the state.**
 - ✓ It will set-up a 3.3 GW manufacturing facility, generating 1,000 highly skilled jobs in Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ In December 2020, First Solar signed an MoU with the State government to set up a solar module manufacturing facility at an investment of Rs. 4,185 crore.
 - ✓ The advanced facility is expected to commence operations in the second half of 2023

- ✓ With a market capitalization of \$8.9 billion, First Solar is amongst the top three solar manufacturers globally, and its new facility in India will be its third venture in the Asian market.
- ✓ To boost domestic manufacturing, the Union Cabinet has already approved the introduction of production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme in 10 key sectors
- ✓ Under the scheme, Rs 4,500 crore has been earmarked for Indian solar module manufacturers for a five-year period.
- ✓ Also, to support domestic manufacturing, the Centre had imposed a 25% safeguard duty on solar imports from China and Malaysia in July 2018 for two years, which was extended till July 2021 at a rate of 15%.
- ✓ From the beginning of FY23, solar module imports will attract a basic customs duty of 40%.

NATIONAL

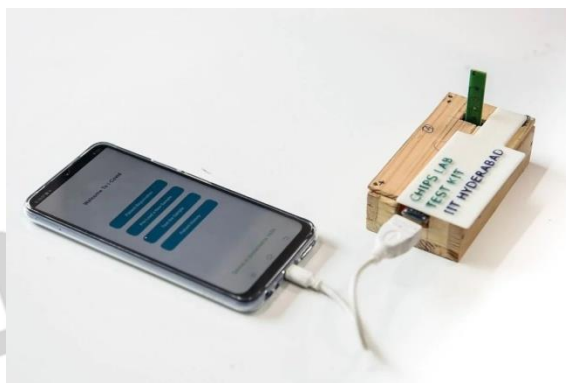
- **On July 30, the government - introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to replace the Ordinance on the constitution of the Commission for Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas**
- ✓ The bill seeks to set up a statutory authority with appropriate powers to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas
- ✓ According to the new Bill, "the commission may impose and collect environmental compensation from farmers causing air pollution by stubble burning, at such rate and in such manner, as may be prescribed".
- ✓ The central government's Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and its Adjoining Areas was established in October 2020
- ✓ It was shut in March 2021 due to lapsing of the Ordinance under which it was set up.
- ✓ The commission shall consist of a full-time chairperson having experience of not less than 15 years in the field of environment protection and pollution control or having administrative experience of not less than 25 years.
- ✓ The proposed commission will replace the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).
- ✓ It will coordinate the actions of the states of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in curbing air pollution as well as stubble burning.
- ✓ Once passed, 'The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021' will replace an ordinance issued in the recent past.
- ✓ As Parliament was not in session and there was an immediate need for legislation in this regard, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020, was promulgated on October 28, 2020.
- ✓ Consequently, the Ordinance lapsed on March 12, 2021.

- ✓ Thereafter, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on April 13, 2021.
- **The 'Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh' - has been officially renamed as the 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'**
- ✓ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021, to promulgate the change
- ✓ Hereafter, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court will be called as High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh
- ✓ The Department of justice in Law Ministry has notified an order in this regard recently.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 was enacted to provide for the reorganization of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ This act was enacted on October 31, 2019, after being passed by the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019 and receiving President's assent on 9 August 2019.
- ✓ The introduction of this bill was preceded by presidential order under Article 370 revoking special status of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is common for union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✓ It was established on March 26, 1928 under the orders issued by Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ Justice Pankaj Mithal is the Chief Justice of Court since January 4, 2021.
- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan**
- ✓ Also, the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER) under Department Atomic Energy (DAE) has commenced lithium exploration in Karnataka and Rajasthan
- ✓ This information was shared by mines, coal and parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi in Lok Sabha recently
- ✓ Recently, the union government announced a Rs.18,100 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to make lithium-ion cells to promote e-mobility in India
- ✓ India does not have enough lithium reserves for manufacturing lithium-ion batteries, with lithium also having other uses such as in mobile phone batteries, solar panels, aerospace and thermonuclear fusion.
- ✓ Almost all-electric vehicles in the country run on imported batteries, mostly from China.
- ✓ State-run Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)— a joint venture firm of National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd—is exploring to acquire cobalt and lithium mines overseas

- ✓ The JV KABIL has signed non-binding Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with three state-owned organizations of Argentina—JEMSE, YPF and CAMYEN for securing the minerals
- ✓ Chinese state-owned firms have already secured lithium mine concessions in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, which forms the so-called lithium triangle.
- ✓ Till now, GSI carried out 14 projects on Lithium and associated elements in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Rajasthan

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad - have developed India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home called 'COVIHOME'**



- ✓ The Artificial Intelligence-powered kit has been validated by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.
- ✓ It can be used to check for Covid-19 at home in about 20 minutes
- ✓ The approximate cost of the kit could range between Rs. 350 to Rs. 450.
- ✓ It combines the abilities of rapid antigen test's speed and RT-PCR's accuracy
- ✓ The kit is ready for technology transfer and the institute is looking for a manufacturer to mass-produce it
- ✓ The kit's efficiency was found to be at 94%, sensitivity at 91.3%, and specificity at 98.2%, based on the validation trials

SPORTS

- **The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) - appointed former India off-spinner M Venkataramana as the senior men's team's head coach for the upcoming domestic season.**
- ✓ The 55-year-old Venkataramana, who played one Test and a solitary ODI in the 80s, replaces former coach, D Vasu
- ✓ D Vasu led Tamil Nadu to three white-ball finals and a Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 title during his two-year tenure



- ✓ In the 2019-20 season, Vasu's Tamil Nadu side had finished runners-up in both the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- ✓ Venkataramana was coach at the spin wing of the BCCI-NCA and coached the Dindigul Dragons team in the TNPL from 2016 to 2019
- ✓ In addition to stints at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, Venkataramana has also worked at the ICC-accredited bowling-action testing facility in Chennai.
- ✓ Venkataramana played 75 first-class matches and 30 List A games, taking 247 and 36 wickets respectively.
- ✓ In his debut Ranji season, in 1987-88, he emerged as the joint-highest wicket-taker, with 35 strikes in eight matches