



## **EVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july 13,**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **A stone inscription mentioning Tamil Nadu's Jewish connections - has been discovered near Valantharai near Ramanathapuram.**
- ✓ It is considered a rare finding, as it depicts the establishment of a synagogue which may be one of the oldest ones in Tamil Nadu and south India.



- ✓ The beach rock stones on which the inscriptions are found were found on the sidewalls of a well.
- ✓ It had inscriptions on all four sides with one side having 21 lines, the other 14 lines and the third 15 lines.
- ✓ The inscriptions on one side have been completely destroyed and there are 50 lines of inscriptions in total.
- ✓ The inscriptions mention about a trade guild called, 'Ainutruvan' constructing a 'Suthapalli', in Periyapattinam in Ramanathapuram district.
- ✓ As the Tamil word, 'U' is pronounced as 'S' in western languages, here the word, 'Yudapalli' referring to the temple of Jews, is written as 'Suthapalli'.
- ✓ This inscription dates back to the 13th century AD, and it mentions places of worship including Suthapalli, Tharisapalli and Pizharpalli, which were there in Periyapattinam.

- ✓ During the period, it was the tradition to call places of worship other than those of Shaivite and Vaishnavite temples as 'palli'.
- ✓ Tharisapalli, mentioned in the Kottayam copper plates of Kerala, is considered to be a Syrian Christian church.
- ✓ Similarly, Tharisapalli is also mentioned in the Valantharavai inscription, which can be called the Syrian Christian church in Periyapattinam.

## NATIONAL

- **The Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) 2022 - has become second-biggest entrance exam in the country after securing 14.9 lakh registrations this year**
  - ✓ The CUET exam is conducted for admissions to undergraduate courses at universities
  - ✓ It surpasses 9 lakh registrations made for Joint Entrance Examination – Main (JEE-Main), which selects students for technical undergraduate courses.
  - ✓ National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is India's biggest entrance exam that selects students for undergraduate medical courses.
  - ✓ CUET 2022, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), will be held between July 15 and August 20.
  - ✓ The CUET-UG candidates have applied for 54,555 unique combinations of subjects for admissions in 90 (44 central, 12 state, 11 deemed and 19 private) universities
  - ✓ The CUET UG 2022 exams will be held in two phases in 500 cities across India, and 10 cities outside the country.
  - ✓ In phase one, nearly 8,10,000 students will appear, while in phase two, around 6,80,000 students will be appearing.
- **The government - introduced certification of authenticity for jute products with the unveiling of "Jute Mark India" logo by the Union Textile Secretary U P Singh on July 9, 2022**



- ✓ The Jute Mark India (JMI) scheme will provide the collective identity and assurance on origin and quality for traditional jute and jute products
- ✓ The certification is expected to boost domestic market and exports of jute products from India.
- ✓ Each Jute Mark label will contain a unique QR code and by scanning it, customers can learn about the producer
- ✓ National Jute Board is the nodal agency of the Union textiles ministry, responsible for the promotion of jute and jute products in India and abroad
- ✓ JMI was implemented under an umbrella scheme for development and promotion of the jute sector between FY'22 and FY'26 with a total financial outlay of Rs 485.58 crore by the Centre
- ✓ The provisional exports of jute goods during 2021-22 have been at Rs 3785.68 crore, registering a phenomenal growth of 38.13% as compared to 2020-21

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 11, the Japanese government - announced it would be honouring former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the Collar of the Supreme Orders of the Chrysanthemum posthumously**



- ✓ The longest-served PM of Japan will be the fourth former prime minister to receive the nation's highest decoration under the postwar Constitution, after Shigeru Yoshida, Eisaku Sato and Yasuhiro Nakasone.
- ✓ Abe was shot dead on July 8 by Tetsuya Yamagami in the city of Nara during his campaign speech.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Japan's ruling party recorded a sweeping victory in House of Councillors election held on July 10
- ✓ Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party got 63 seats or more than half of the 125 seats up for grabs
- ✓ The Supreme Orders of the Chrysanthemum is the most prestigious award in Japan.

- ✓ The Grand Cordon of the Supreme Orders of the Chrysanthemum was established in 1876, and the Collar of the Supreme Orders of the Chrysanthemum in 1888

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On July 12, NASA - released new images of Universe taken from the world's largest and most powerful space telescope**
- ✓ The first full-colour, high-resolution pictures from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope were released by NASA on its official Twitter handle and on the official website



- ✓ The first image revealed showed the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 also known as Webb's First Deep Field.
  - ✓ The image is a composite made from different images taken at different wavelengths
- ✓ The series of images showed the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the universe ever taken, revealing thousands of galaxies, including the faintest objects ever observed
- ✓ It also showed the first detailed signatures of exoplanet WASP-96B located 1000 light-years away and nearly twice the size of Jupiter
  - ✓ The spectrum data of WASP-96B revealed the presence of water vapour on the distant exoplanet for the first time.
  - ✓ A light-year is the distance light travels in a year - 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).
- ✓ Nasa also released an image of a dying star expelling gas and dust in unprecedented detail.
  - ✓ The Southern Ring nebula is a planetary nebula comprising of shells of dust and gas shed by dying Sun-like stars.
- ✓ The image released also included a cosmic dance of five galaxies in what is called Stephan's Quintet, first discovered in 1877, a galaxy cluster showing huge shockwaves and tidal tails.

- ✓ The fifth and final image showed new details about previously hidden baby stars in a region called NGC 3324, now uncovered by Webb in the Carina Nebula, 7,600 light years away.
- ✓ The James Webb Space Telescope is a successor to the Hubble Telescope that has been jointly developed by the American space agency, Nasa, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.



- ✓ It was built under contract for Nasa by aerospace giant Northrop Grumman Corp after nearly two decades in the making
  - ✓ The 6,350-kg flying observatory was launched on December 25, 2021 from Kourou in French Guiana to its destination at the Second Lagrangian Point (L2), nearly 15,00,000 kilometres away from Earth
  - ✓ The James Webb Telescope was built to view its subjects mainly in the infrared spectrum
  - ✓ It is about 100 times more sensitive than its 30-year-old predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope, which operates mainly at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths.
  - ✓ The James Webb Telescope has been equipped with four state-of-the-art instruments that make it capable of witnessing the first light from that mega-event — the Big Bang.
  - ✓ The telescope has enough fuel to continue operations for at least 20 years.
- **Scientists at the US Lawrence-Berkeley Lab - have developed a fuel from a bacterium of the genus Streptomyces, that provides more energy than even the rocket fuels in use currently**
- ✓ The scientists have named the new fuel 'POP-FAME', which stands for polycyclopropanated fatty acid methyl ester.
  - ✓ The fuel has energy density values exceeding 50 megajoules a litre, compared with 32 MJ for petrol and 35 MJ for RP-1, a kerosene-based rocket fuel.
  - ✓ Back in the 1960s, the Soviet Union had developed a petroleum-based rocket fuel called Syntin
  - ✓ Syntin was used successfully to launch several Soyuz rockets in the 1970s by the Soviet Union

- ✓ Despite its powerful performance, Syntin manufacture was halted due to its high costs and the unpleasant process involved, including a series of synthetic reactions with toxic by-products and an unstable, explosive intermediate

## COMPARISON OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS AMONG 10 MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES - REPORT

### A DUBIOUS DISTINCTION

Countries 	Total population as of July 1 (million)	Sex ratio at birth (males per 100 females)	Life expectancy at birth (yrs)	Mean child bearing age (yrs)	Infant mortality (IMR) (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)
China	1,426	112	78.2	28.8	5.7	7
<b>India</b>	1,408	108	67.2	27.9	25.5	31
USA	337	105	77.2	29.6	5.4	6
Indonesia	274	106	67.6	28.6	18.6	22
Pakistan	231	106	66.1	28.6	52.3	63
Brazil	214	105	72.8	27.7	12.8	14
Nigeria	213	104	52.7	29.5	73	111
Bangladesh	169	105	72.4	25.7	22.9	28
Russia	145	106	69.4	28.7	3.9	5
Mexico	127	104	70.2	27	11.3	14
<b>World</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>37</b>

