



EVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JULY**

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - is launching a platform 'TN PitchFest ' to connect the startups with venture capital firms and angel investors**
- ✓ Guidance Tamil Nadu, the investment promotion agency of the State government and Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) (also called StartupTN) are jointly organising the TN PitchFest in Chennai in August
- ✓ TN PitchFest is an event for startups in order to pitch their businesses to investors so as to scale up higher levels
- ✓ It aims to provide a platform for the state's startups to pitch to marquee VC firms and angel investors.
- ✓ Elevation Capital, Kalaari Capital, Inventus Capital Partners, TVS Capital Funds, Celesta Capital, The Chennai Angels and Arali Ventures are a few firms who have agreed to attend the PitchFest and listen to the business ideas.

STATES

- **Telangana - has become the only state in the country to refuse to be part of the flagship central scheme, Post Matric Scholarship for SCs**
- ✓ The state did not agree to participate in the revamped PMS despite repeated reminders, as it found the revised guidelines of 2021 unacceptable.
- ✓ Under the new norms, the Union social justice ministry reimburses the scholarship money directly to a student's bank account.
- ✓ During the informal discussions, TRS-ruled Telangana mentioned that the money be sent to the "institutions" which would then disburse it to the students
- ✓ But the Centre refused to tweak the guidelines that it had issued only an year ago, and is considered as key to ending irregularities in the scheme.
- ✓ Telangana is still running the popular scheme which has high demand among Dalits, but is bearing the burden from its own exchequer.
- ✓ The Centre has recently completed the process of disbursal of Rs.3,500 crore to beneficiary students for 2021-22.

NATIONAL

- **On July 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi**



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were present on the occasion
 - ✓ The Ministry of Education is organising Shiksha Samagam on implementation of NEP in association with University Grants Commission (UGC) and Banaras Hindu University from July 7 to July 9, 2022
 - ✓ It will provide a platform for eminent academicians, policymakers and academic leaders to deliberate and share their experiences and discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
 - ✓ The event is being organised as part of capacity building of more than 300 Academic, Administrative & Institutional Leaders from Universities (Central, State, Deemed, and Private), and Institutes of National Importance (IIT, IIM, NIT, IISER) from all over the country
 - ✓ During the three-day Shiksha Samagam, panel discussions on nine themes identified for Higher Education under NEP 2020 will be conducted
 - ✓ The key highlight of the Samagam will be the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education
 - ✓ The Declaration will showcase India's extended vision and a renewed commitment to help achieve the goals of the higher education system
- **On July 7, billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air - got the air operator certificate (AOC or licence) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and will begin flying by the month end.**
 - ✓ With Indian aviation veterans like Vinay Dube and Aditya Ghosh on board, Akasa will soon have two Boeing 737 MAX and then start commercial operations.



- ✓ Among big/upcoming airlines, Akasa will be the fifth Indian budget carrier after IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoFirst, AirAsia India and Air India Express.
- ✓ And overall, it will be the eighth (big) airline apart from full-service Air India and Vistara and regional carrier Alliance Air, which is the only government-owned fixed-wing airline now.
- ✓ Akasa will be the first Indian airline to introduce the custom trousers and jackets made by using recycled polyester fabric
- ✓ Jet 2.0 had got its AOC on May 20, but is yet to place an aircraft order.

INTERNATIONAL

- **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson - resigned as leader of the Conservative Party on July 7**
- ✓ However, he will stay on as interim prime minister until a new leader is chosen by his party.
- ✓ The decision follows after more than 50 members of his scandal-hit government, including five cabinet ministers, quit in the past three days



- ✓ Almost 30 UK government officials, including key figures like UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, have already submitted

their resignations over the recent scandal involving former deputy chief whip Christopher Pincher

- ✓ The British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has also cut short her trip to a G20 meeting in Indonesia to return to London
 - ✓ Truss is widely seen as one of the potential contenders for the leader of the Conservative Party.
 - ✓ Boris Johnson became Prime Minister on July 24, 2019
 - ✓ His biggest achievement was the Brexit, when the UK formally quit the EU bloc and all ties were severed from 1 January 2021
 - ✓ The rollout of the Covid vaccine has also been hailed as a resounding success since its launch in December 2020
- **The UN's annual SDGs report – has mentioned that all the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) may not be met by 2030.**
- ✓ Released on July 7, the report highlighted the reasons for not meeting the SDG target, which includes the pandemic, along with climate crisis and increased number of conflicts around the world like the Russia-Ukraine war
 - ✓ The report highlighted that the global “excess deaths” directly and indirectly attributable to Covid-19 had reached 15 million by the end of 2021 and the pandemic has pushed 93 million people into extreme poverty in 2020
 - ✓ As of May 2022, over 100 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to war and multiple other conflicts, said the report
 - ✓ On the climate crisis, the report warned that the world is “on the verge of a climate catastrophe”
 - ✓ It highlighted that energy-related CO₂ emissions for 2021 rose by 6%, reaching their highest level ever and completely wiping out pandemic-related declines.
 - ✓ The 17 SDGs were adopted by nearly 200 countries including India in September 2015
 - ✓ The SDGs contain 169 targets ranging from eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, to providing basic services such as drinking water by the year 2030
 - ✓ The UN's annual SDGs report aims to assess the progress and tell the world what more the countries can do to achieve their 2030 targets.

APPOINTMENTS

- **PM Modi - has approved the appointment of former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant as India's sherpa for the G20, a group representing the world's largest economies.**
- ✓ Kant is a retired 1980 batch Kerala cadre IAS officer and the brain behind Kerala's campaign to promote tourism
 - ✓ He spearheaded several initiatives to establish the government think tank Niti Aayog as a test bed for PM Modi government's ideas and initiatives.



- ✓ Last month, Kant stepped down as the CEO of Niti Aayog after a nearly six-and-half year tenure.
- ✓ His appointment comes ahead of a crucial meeting in Indonesia next week to prepare the ground for the leaders summit later in the year.
- ✓ He will be instrumental in setting the agenda for India's presidency next year.
- ✓ India will take over G20 presidency during December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023
- ✓ The G-20 Leaders' Summit is also scheduled to be held in India in 2023, for the first time
- ✓ Kant will take over from Union commerce, industries and consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal, who was appointed as G-20 Sherpa in September 2021
- ✓ Other previous Sherpas for G-20 include Shaktikanta Das, Suresh Prabhu and Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- ✓ The G-20 process has been categorized into Sherpa track and Finance track.
- ✓ Under the Sherpa track, around 100 official meetings will be held in the areas related to health, employment, trade, digital economy, energy, investment & industry, agriculture, environment & climate, anti-corruption, culture, tourism, education, socio-economic development, and women empowerment.
- ✓ On the other hand, under Finance track, 40 meetings will be held in areas of international financial architecture, financing for infrastructure, financial inclusion & sustainable finance, tax matters and climate finance.

SPORTS

- **Tunisia's Ons Jabeur - became the first North African and Arab woman to enter the final of a major grand slam**



- ✓ On July 7, World No.2 Jabeur entered her maiden Grand Slam final after beating Germany's Tatjana Maria in three sets at the Centre Court in the semifinals of the Wimbledon 2022.
- ✓ 34-year-old Maria is the oldest first-time women's singles Grand Slam semi-finalist in the Open Era, which began in 1968.
- ✓ The German had been bidding to become the first unseeded women's singles finalist at Wimbledon since tennis fully opened up to professionals.
- ✓ Earlier, Jabeur defeated Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic to become the first Arab or North African woman to reach a Grand Slam singles semifinal.
- ✓ In the final to be played on July 9, the 27-year-old Jabeur will take on World No. 17 Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan, who beat Simona Halep in another semifinal to reach the finals
- ✓ There has been an African singles Grand Slam winner, but not yet on the women's side.
- ✓ Johan Kriek won the men's singles at the 1981 Australian Open while representing South Africa.
- ✓ He defended that title a year later, during which he had switched nationality to compete for the United States.
- ✓ Before Jabeur, the only Tunisian to reach the Top 100 of the WTA rankings was Selima Sfar, who reached as World No. 75 in July 2001
- ✓ Jabeur became the first player from her country to reach a WTA final at Moscow 2018
- ✓ Later, she entered into a Grand Slam quarterfinal at the 2020 Australian Open, and reached the Top 50 a month later
- ✓ Jabeur won a WTA title at Birmingham 2021, paving the way for a Top 10 debut in October last year.

