

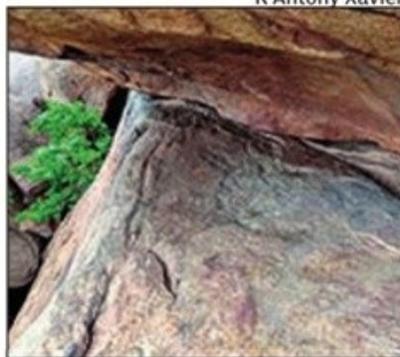


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - June TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - has announced rewards to the private persons as well as government servants to tip the commercial taxes and registration department about tax evasion committed.**
  - ✓ In this regard, the government has issued an order dated June 24
  - ✓ According to the GO, the informants other than government servants would be eligible for a reward of upto 10% of amount recovered for giving information leading to the recovery of irrevocable taxes subject to a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh.
  - ✓ The informants will be given an interim reward of Rs.10,000 or 5% of the tax due, which is lesser.
  - ✓ In exceptional cases, upto Rs. 4 lakh would be sanctioned, said the GO.
  - ✓ While the conditions apply to the government servants too, they can get rewards up to Rs.10 lakh during their entire career.
  
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation – is planning to generate additional revenue of Rs. 3,000 crore from its own sources as part of a project with World Bank.**

SHORING UP REVENUE		collect outstanding amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>GCC, World Bank tie up to prepare report</b> to boost own-source revenue</li> <li>➤ Contractor <b>Athena Infonomics India Pvt Ltd</b> roped in to prepare report</li> <li>➤ <b>GCC would receive ₹22 crore from World Bank</b> following report preparation</li> <li><b>Some initiatives suggested in report</b></li> <li>➤ Boost revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>from <b>advertisement in public &amp; private areas</b></li> <li>➤ Improve <b>public parking facilities</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Focus on self-employed people</b> like doctors, businessmen evading tax</li> <li>➤ <b>Use GIS mapping</b> to identify under-assessed property</li> <li>➤ <b>Hold special event from May to July</b> to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Industries, professional associations</b> must be brought into tax net</li> <li><b>Added focus on collecting arrears</b></li> <li>➤ <b>GCC hopes to add ₹3,000 crore more revenue</b> in three years</li> <li>➤ For every percent of revenue increased, <b>corporation would get an incentive from World Bank</b></li> </ul>

- ✓ The corporation has hired Athena Infonomics India Private Limited to do a study on improving the revenue sources for the civic body.
  - ✓ The initiatives suggested in a report by the firm was discussed in detail at a council resolution on June 28
  - ✓ To boost advertising revenue, the report suggested that corporation must let out bus shelters, medians, parks, and other public assets of the civic body for advertising.
  - ✓ The report suggested that by the end of July, the corporation must rent out at least 1000 bus shelters and 8000 electric poles for advertising.
  - ✓ Further, it has suggested improving public parking facilities as one of the major sources of revenue.
  - ✓ The corporation is also looking at giving licence to erect advertisement pillars.
  - ✓ Further, the GCC is also looking into bringing self-employed people, including the Doctors and CAs, into the professional tax net.
  - ✓ At the moment, the corporation has an annual property tax demand of Rs. 800 crore and with this additional revenue, it would be generating about Rs. 1800 crore a year.
- **Researchers - found stone benches which could be more than 2,000 years old at Thiruparankundram hillock in Madurai recently.**



- ✓ The researchers estimated that they could belong to the Sangam era between 300 BC and AD 300 when Jainism thrived in Madurai and the surrounding regions.
- ✓ There is ample evidence of thriving Jainism in Thiruparankundram and other hillocks surrounding Madurai namely Mankulam, Alagarkoil and Keelakuilkudi.
- ✓ More than 40 beds have been discovered in Thiruparankundram hillock and they are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- ✓ Some of the beds have stone inscriptions dating back to the second or third century BC.

## STATES

- **Hyderabad-based business incubator organisation, Technology Hub (T-Hub) - announced the inauguration of the world's largest innovation campus for start-ups in Hyderabad.**

- ✓ Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the new T-Hub 2.0, an incubation facility to boost business and innovation in the state, on June 28



- ✓ The center was launched in a partnership between the Telangana government and the International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIIT-H), the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the National Academy of Legal Studies Research (NALSAR).
  - ✓ T-Hub 2.0 is the world's largest innovation campus, the second largest being startup incubator Station F based in France
  - ✓ T-Hub 2.0 has been built in a T-shape with 10 floors at an estimated cost of Rs 276 crore in an area covering 5.82 lakh square feet
  - ✓ The building has been designed by a Korean company and aims to support over 20,000 start-ups across the country
  - ✓ The campus building will also house offices of several governmental and international agencies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, the Department of Science and Technology's Centre of Excellence as well as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) among others.
  - ✓ The first T-Hub was launched in 2015 on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, under the name of 'Catalyst' on an area of 70,000 square feet
  - ✓ T-Hub has supported nearly 1100 startups since 2015 and raised 10,000 crores through funding
- **The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) - launched the One Health Pilot project in Bengaluru, Karnataka on June 28, 2022**
- ✓ The pilot will help develop a roadmap for a national project to prevent future outbreaks of zoonotic disease by using "better response mechanism and management while incorporating global best practices"
  - ✓ The project was launched in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as implementation partner in the states of Karnataka and Uttarakhand

- ✓ In April 2022, DAHD launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.



- ✓ The One-Health framework is a multi-sectoral approach that aims to bring stakeholders from human, animal and environment health on a common platform.
- ✓ The project aims to support the development of a targeted surveillance plan and integrate data with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM).
- **Rajasthan – becomes the third state in the country, after Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, where Uranium deposits have been found in the country**
  - ✓ Huge deposits of Uranium and associated minerals have been found on a wide spread area of 1086.46 hectares at Rohil (Khandela Tehsil) in Sikar district of Rajasthan.
  - ✓ Around 12 million tonnes of uranium and other elements are expected to be lying deep down under this area
  - ✓ Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) will invest about Rs 3,000 crore and around 3,000 people will get direct or indirect employment in the mining process
  - ✓ Uranium is considered one of the rarest minerals in the world.
  - ✓ It is usually used for generating electricity and also used for nuclear energy, defence equipment, medicines, and photography.
  - ✓ Till now, uranium mining was being done in Jadugoda of Singhbhum in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✓ The largest producers of uranium in the world are Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia, while it has also been found in Niger, Russia, Namibia, Uzbekistan, the US and Ukraine.
- **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan - has recently announced that the Kerala Migration Survey 2022-23 will be conducted soon to prepare a data bank on Malayali expatriates in different parts of the world**
  - ✓ As part of the proposed data bank, a “Malayali Pravasi Portal” will be launched for an elaborate global registration campaign
  - ✓ Insurance and other welfare schemes for expatriates will be linked to the portal.

- ✓ The government will explore the possibility of setting up a legal assistance system for Malayali expatriates with the participation of lawyers in the host countries, said the CM
- ✓ According to the CM, the government will consult with experts on devising a comprehensive health insurance scheme for Malayali expatriates which would cover their treatment and that of families, including accidents and children's education.
- ✓ According to Kerala Migration Survey 2018, there are an estimated 2.12 million emigrants from Kerala worldwide
  
- **Assam - has become the 36th State to implement the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme.**
- ✓ With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all 36 states, and Union Territories
- ✓ Under the ONORC (One Nation, One Ration Card), beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) can get their quota of subsidised foodgrains from any fair price shops using their existing ration cards with biometric authentication.
- ✓ Since its inception, about 71 crore portable transactions (43.6 crore NFSA and 27.8 crore PM-GKAY transactions) have taken place under ONORC, delivering food grains equivalent to about Rs 40,000 crore in food subsidy through portability.
- ✓ The implementation of ONORC was initiated in August 2019.
- ✓ The government has also rolled out the 'MERA RATION' mobile application to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan
- ✓ The mobile app is providing a host of useful real-time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages
  
- **The Delhi government - banned entry of medium and heavy vehicles in the city from 1 October, 2022 to 28 February, 2023 to curb vehicular pollution during the winter season**
- ✓ Vehicles carrying raw vegetables, fruit, grains, milk and such essential commodities will, however, be allowed during the five month ban
- ✓ Other vehicles that will be allowed into the city include CNG-run commercial vehicles; e-trucks; and tankers carrying petroleum products.
- ✓ Earlier, the Delhi government had written to its neighbouring states, including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, urging them to allow only BS VI-compliant buses to enter the capital city from 1 October in order to help control air pollution
- ✓ The national capital witnesses high levels of air pollution in the winter months from October due to the combination of several factors, including stubble burning and vehicular traffic
- ✓ Usually, entry of such vehicles, from trucks to mini tempos, is banned for only 15-20 days either in November or December in the national capital.

# NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - gifted a variety of products to the heads of governments at the G7 Summit showcasing India's rich cultural and artistic traditions.**
- ✓ Distinct artistic products identified with different regions of Uttar Pradesh featured heavily in the PM's gift choices
- ✓ US President Biden received Gulabi Meenakari, a GI-tagged artform of Varanasi, cufflink set and brooch and the German chancellor received metal marodi-carving matka, considered a masterpiece from Moradabad
  - ✓ The cufflinks were prepared for US President Joe Biden with a matching brooch for his wife.
- ✓ PM Modi gifted black pottery pieces, which are from Nizamabad in Uttar Pradesh, to the Japanese Prime Minister and a handcrafted platinum-painted tea set to his British counterpart.
- ✓ Further, the PM gifted ittar (perfume derived from natural sources) bottles in zardozi box, crafted in Lucknow, to the French President and marble inlay with its roots in Agra, table top to the Italian Prime Minister.
  - ✓ The ittar-carrying zari zardozi box has been hand embroidered on khadi silk and satin tissue in colours of the French flag.
- ✓ Noting that the tradition of handweaving is passed down from mother to daughter in Senegal, PM Modi chose moonj baskets and cotton durries (heavy run) for the country's President.
- ✓ With the Ramayana tradition an enduring part of Indonesian culture, PM Modi gifted lacquerware "Ram Durbar" to its President.
  - ✓ The GI tagged lacquerware art-form has its roots in the temple town of Varanasi, which is incidentally the constituency Modi represents in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Chief minister Yogi Adityanath in a set of tweets expressed gratitude towards the PM for helping UP's art form receive international acclaim.
- ✓ These products witnessed a 60% growth in the on the e-commerce platforms between October 2021 and April 2022.
- ✓ The PM gifted hand-knotted silk carpet, a signature product from Kashmir, to his Canadian counterpart.
- ✓ Dokra arts with Ramayana and Nandi themes were his gifts of choice for the South African and Argentinian Presidents, respectively.
  
- **Communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw - launched 'Dak Karmayogi', the e-learning portal of the Department of Posts, on June 28, 2022**
- ✓ 'Dak Karmayogi' portal aims to enhance the competencies of postmen and departmental employees by enabling them to access the uniform standardised content online, or in blended campus mode.

- ✓ The portal will enable the trainees to effectively deliver a number of government-to-citizen services, for enhanced customer satisfaction.



- ✓ The training videos and quizzes on the portal are available in 12 Indian languages to help postal trainees to access training content in local languages
  - ✓ On successful completion of the final summative assessment, a system-generated course completion certificate will be sent to the trainee's registered email ID automatically
  - ✓ This portal has been developed under the vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', which was conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring efficiency to the actions of all government employees
  - ✓ During the occasion, the Minister gave away Meghdoot awards for the year 2021 to the selected employees of Department of Posts
  - ✓ This is the highest award of Department of Posts at National level for overall performance and excellence.
  - ✓ Meghdoot Award was introduced in the year 1984 and is conferred in eight categories
  - ✓ Awardees are conferred with medallion, certificate and cash award of Rs. 21,000.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the 100% electrification of the Konkan Railway route via video conference at Bengaluru, Karnataka under the 'Mission 100% Electrification - Moving towards net Zero Carbon Emission'**
- ✓ The PM flagged off Electric loco trains from Ratnagiri, Madgaon and Udupi recently on June 20
  - ✓ The total cost of electrification of 740 km route of Konkan railway was estimated to be Rs 1287 crore.



- ✓ The process of electrification has been completed in 5 phases and all loco pilots have been trained in a phased manner for running electric traction loco.
  - ✓ This will lead to higher operational efficiency, savings in fuel expenditure, pollution-free mode of transportation, reduced dependence on HSD oil and lower unit cost of transportation, thus benefiting the country as well as the Corporation
  - ✓ During his recent visit to Karnataka, the PM also dedicated to the nation India's first air-conditioned railway station - Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli, which has been developed on the lines of a modern airport at a cost of Rs. 315 crore.
  - ✓ Konkan Railway passes through the dense forest cover of Sahyadri hills along the Western Coastal Strip.
  - ✓ There are 91 tunnels on the route and the total length of the route in the tunnelled section is 84.496 Km (about 11% of the total route length).
  - ✓ Konkan Railway was formed in 1990 as a Company to construct a Rail Link between Mumbai (Roha) to Mangaluru (Thokur).
  - ✓ On 1st May 1998, Konkan Railway was dedicated to the Nation by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the first train on the completed track were flagged off on January 26, 1998.
- **The government - has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as 'critical information infrastructure'**
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) notified recently that the IT resources of 3 entities as critical infrastructure under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2000
  - ✓ As per the Act, 'critical information infrastructure' means a computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which, shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety
  - ✓ The government, under the Act, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset

- ✓ Any unauthorised person accessing critical information infrastructure may be jailed for up to 10 years for compromising national security
  - ✓ That means, all ethical hackers, bug bounty hunters, or other hackers need to stay away from ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and NPCI servers or they would be prosecuted for cyber terrorism, which is a non-bailable offence.
  - ✓ Created in January 2014, the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure
- **Union minister of housing & urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri - launched an initiative for skill training of construction workers “National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers” (NIPUN) on June 20, 2022**



- ✓ The project NIPUN is an initiative of the ministry of housing & urban affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
- ✓ It aims to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also
- ✓ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, will be the Implementation Partner for the project NIPUN.
- ✓ The project implementation is divided into three parts - training through recognition of prior learning (RPL) at construction sites, training through fresh skilling and international placement through industries, builders and contractors.
- ✓ Onsite skill training will be provided to around 80,000 construction workers through industry associations under the RPL certification
- ✓ Further, about 14,000 candidates will receive fresh skilling through plumbing and infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC) in trades having promising placement potentials

- ✓ Under NIPUN, it is also envisaged that NSDC will place around 12,000 people in foreign countries such as Saudi Arabia, UAE and other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.
  - ✓ NSDC will be responsible for the overall execution of training, monitoring and candidate tracking.
  - ✓ It will provide trainees with 'Kaushal Bima', a three-year accidental insurance with coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs
  - ✓ Further, candidates will be imparted with digital skills such as cashless transactions and the BHIM app, orientation about entrepreneurship, and facilities under Employee Provident Fund and Building and Other Construction Workers Act.
  - ✓ The courses are aligned with National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and will be imparted at accredited and affiliated training centres
  - ✓ The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have joined Project NIPUN as industry partners
  - ✓ DAY-NULM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, being implemented since 2014-15, with the aim to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households in the country by enabling them to access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities
- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) - has extended the PLI scheme for promoting telecom and networking products manufacturing by one year**
- ✓ Further, the department has also announced an additional incentive rate of 1% over and above the existing rates under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the sector
  - ✓ The existing PLI beneficiaries will be given an option to choose the financial year 2021-22 or financial year 2022-23 as the first year of incentive.
  - ✓ Also, the telecom department has approved the addition of 11 new telecom and networking products to the existing list
  - ✓ Notably, both MSME and Non-MSME companies including domestic and global companies are allowed to apply for the scheme.
  - ✓ Under the scheme, the minimum investment threshold is Rs.10 crore for MSMEs and Rs. 100 crore for non-MSMEs applicants.
  - ✓ Further, the DoT has also included design-led manufacturing to the scheme for five years commencing from 1st April 2022, allocating the balance of Rs 4,000 crore from the PLI fund to encourage 5G design-led manufacturing in the country
  - ✓ In February last year, the DoT notified the PLI scheme for telecom with a financial outlay of Rs. 12,195 crore
  - ✓ A total of 31 companies, comprising 16 MSMEs and 15 Non-MSMEs including 8 Domestic and 7 Global companies were approved on October 14, 2021.

- ✓ In another development aimed at bolstering the 5G ecosystem in the country, the Indian Army has collaborated with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) to establish a 5G Testbed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow.
  - ✓ The Test Bed will facilitate the Indian Army to utilise the 5G technology for its operational use, especially along its borders.
  - ✓ Indian Army has been using 'Corps of Signals' process for establishing a robust & secure strategic communication infrastructure
- **The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) - has issued minimum performance standards for electric vehicle batteries considering the safety of customers**
- ✓ The National Standard Body of India, BIS has published the standard IS 17855: 2022 for these battery packs and systems which is harmonized with ISO 12405-4: 2018.
  - ✓ This standard incorporates the test procedure for basic characteristic of performance, reliability and electrical functionality for the battery packs and system for either high power or high energy application
  - ✓ The IS 17855:2022 standard has been formulated after considering real-life scenarios for an EV such as a parked vehicle (battery is not used for an extended period of time), battery system shipped (stored), battery running at low and high temperatures, among others.
  - ✓ BIS is in the process of publishing 2 more standard related to batteries for various passenger and goods carrying vehicles (L, M and N category).
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the DRDO, which had been tasked with investigating electric two-wheeler fire incidents by the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry and also the latest fire in Nexon EV, had found serious defects in the batteries.
  - ✓ These defects occurred because the electric two-wheeler manufacturers like Okinawa Autotech, Pure EV, Jitendra Electric Vehicles, Ola Electric and Boom Motors may have used "lower-grade materials to cut costs, says the report

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Romania, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia and Bulgaria - want to delay a European Union plan to effectively ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2035 by five years**
- ✓ Meanwhile, Germany's finance minister has rejected EU plans for a de facto ban on the sale of new combustion engine cars by 2035
  - ✓ Earlier this month, the members of the European Parliament have voted to ban the sale of new cars powered by petrol or diesel by 2035
  - ✓ The consensus was reached after Germany's proposal to allow countries to use carbon-neutral fuels such as synthetic fuels or plug-in hybrids.

- ✓ The plan also mentioned that 'niche' manufacturers or those producing less than 10,000 vehicles per year will be exempted for five years, benefitting the luxury brands like Ferrari and Lamborghini.
  - ✓ The move aims to step up the fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles and cut down carbon-dioxide emissions by 100%
  - ✓ The European Union is the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions.
  - ✓ The EU aims to achieve a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport by 2030 and 90% reduction in 2050, compared with 1990 levels
  - ✓ This is part of its efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and achieve climate neutrality by 2050 under the European Green Deal roadmap.
  - ✓ India, on the other hand, has committed to achieving a net-zero emissions target by 2070
- **On June 27, Guinness World Records – officially confirmed a 13-foot-long, 293 kg stingray found in Cambodia's Mekong River earlier this month as the largest freshwater fish in the world**



- ✓ The female giant freshwater fish was caught by fishermen in the Stung Treng district of northern Cambodia on June 13
  - ✓ The previous record for a freshwater fish was a 293-kilogram Mekong giant catfish, discovered in Thailand in 2005
  - ✓ Freshwater fish are defined as those that spend their entire lives in freshwater, as opposed to giant marine species that migrate between fresh and saltwater
  - ✓ The Mekong River runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam
  - ✓ About 70% of giant freshwater fish globally are threatened with extinction, including all of the Mekong species
- **Russia – has announced that it will deliver Iskander-M missile systems that are capable of carrying nuclear warheads to Belarus in the coming months**

- ✓ The announcement was made after Russian President Vladimir Putin met his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko in Saint Petersburg, Russia on June 25



- ✓ The Iskander-M is a mobile guided missile system codenamed "SS-26 Stone" by NATO, which replaced the Soviet "Scud" missiles
- ✓ The Operational Tactical Missile System (OTMS) Iskander is the most dangerous weapon of the Russian Armed Force.
- ✓ The system can also fire ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) – the SSC-7 and the SSC-8
- ✓ The Iskander system has two versions 'M' and 'E' - Iskander-M system has been exclusively used by the Russian military, whereas Iskander-E is the one meant for export.
- ✓ The Iskander-M missile has a range of 500 km and it can carry a payload - both conventional and nuclear warheads - of up to 700 kg.
- ✓ The export variant, Iskander-E, has a range of 280 km with a reduced 480 kg payload.
- ✓ Russia first used the Iskander in combat in Georgia in 2008.
- ✓ The Iskander system has already been deployed in Kaliningrad, Russia, from where it can be fired to target NATO forces in Poland, the Baltic States, and Sweden.

## INDIA AND OTHERS

- **Iran - has submitted an application to become a member in the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS**
- ✓ Iran, which holds the world's second largest gas reserves, seeks membership in the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- ✓ Meanwhile, Russia said Argentina had also applied to join the BRICS group
- ✓ Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.
- ✓ The issue of expansion of the BRICS bloc was figured in the June 23 virtual summit hosted by China, which is this year's chair.

- ✓ The declaration issued at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit said the leaders will continue to discuss the possibility of admitting new countries to the five-nation grouping on the basis of “full consultation and consensus.”
- ✓ Ahead of the summit, Saudi Arabia too expressed interest to join the grouping, which account for more than 40% of the world’s population

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The three-day meeting of leaders of Group of Seven (G7) nations– concluded at Schloss Elmau Castle, Bavaria in Germany on June 28**



- ✓ The leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) nations vowed to "continue to impose severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia at the conclusion of their summit that commenced on June 26
- ✓ There was an unconditional commitment that the grouping will provide financial, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support and stand with Ukraine till the war concludes
- ✓ Further intensification of sanctions against Russia was being discussed, including tariffs on Russian products, capping oil prices and restricting access to technology.
- ✓ Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and pledged to spend \$4. 5 billion this year to help ensure food security around the globe
- ✓ A standalone G7 Statement on Support for Ukraine was issued after the summit, which discussed climate change, soaring energy prices and food shortages.
- ✓ Significantly, the G7 final communique has tough language on China, hitting out directly at Beijing for the first time
- ✓ It calls on China to respect universal human rights and fundamental freedoms in both Tibet and Xinjiang and said there is no legal basis for China’s expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea
- ✓ India has supported two statements issued by the G7 - one is titled “Resilient Democracies Statement” and the other is “Joining Forces to Accelerate Clean and Just Transition towards Climate Neutrality”.

- ✓ Japan will host a Group of Seven summit under its presidency in Hiroshima for the first time ever between May 19 and 21, 2023
  - ✓ It will be the seventh G7 summit to be held in Japan, following the group's previous gathering in Mie Prefecture in 2016
  - ✓ Hiroshima was devastated by the first atomic bombing by the U.S., which took place on Aug. 6, 1945, and was responsible for an estimated 140,000 deaths by the end of that year.
  - ✓ U.S. President Joe Biden backed Japan's selection of Hiroshima as the summit venue during his visit to Tokyo in May.
- **The United Nations-led Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal – is currently being held from June 27 to July 1, 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal**



- ✓ The five day conference is being held under the theme “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships, and solutions.”
- ✓ The oceans face a severe threat from global warming, pollution, acidification and other problems
- ✓ The leaders, scientists, activists from more than 120 countries will assemble at the Atlantic port city in Southwest Europe to frame international rules that might ensure ocean sustainability.
- ✓ The conference is set to adopt a declaration that, though not binding on its signatories, could help implement and facilitate the protection and conservation of oceans and their resources
- ✓ The treaty is being negotiated within the framework of the United Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is the main international agreement governing human maritime activities
- ✓ The conference is also expected to reaffirm and build upon some 62 commitments made by governments at the previous summit in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018
- ✓ The leaders will also reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- ✓ Further, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030 seeks to promote clean, healthy, productive, predictive, safe and accessible ocean.
- ✓ In 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General Guterres appointed Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji as his Special Envoy for the Ocean
- ✓ Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh will attend the conference and deliver a keynote address from India
- ✓ The conference is supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- ✓ Oceans cover 70% of the planet, form the largest biosphere, and is home to up to 80% of all life in the world
- ✓ They generate 50% of the oxygen we need, absorb 25% of all carbon dioxide emissions and capture 90% of the additional heat generated from those emissions.
- ✓ The United Nations has designated 8 June as World Oceans Day – a day for humanity to celebrate the ocean.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Mukesh Ambani's eldest son, 30-year old Akash Ambani - will take over as chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm's board, the digital division of Reliance industries**



- ✓ Mukesh Ambani has resigned as the company director effective from 27 June.
- ✓ The board at its meeting also approved the appointment of Pankaj Mohan Pawar as Managing Director of Reliance Jio for a period of five years commencing from June 27, 2022
- ✓ Akash Ambani, the son of RIL chief Mukesh Ambani, had joined Jio in 2014
- ✓ Akash, an economics graduate from Brown University in the US, has been involved in the development of new technologies and capabilities with the company as its non-executive director
- ✓ He led the launch of Jio's 4G services in India with his sister, Isha, and worked towards the launch of JioPhone in 2017.

- ✓ He was part of teams that negotiated Meta Platforms Inc.'s investment into Jio's parent and has led major acquisitions by Jio in the digital space in the last few years
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani will continue to serve as chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and as the chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd, the parent firm of all Jio digital services brands
- ✓ Broadly, Reliance operates under three main business segments, petrochemicals and oil refining, retail, and digital services, which includes telecom
- ✓ Jio, which has taken the leadership position in the Indian telecom sector, had reported a net profit of Rs 4,173 crore in Q4FY22, as compared to Rs 3,615 crore in the third quarter.
- ✓ The standalone revenue from operations came in at Rs 20,901 crore, jumping by 20.4 percent as compared to Rs 17,358 crore in the year-ago period.
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani's daughter Isha Ambani and the twin of Akash, has been associated with the retail business segment
- ✓ The Stanford-educated Isha has been a director of Reliance Retail since 2014 and has been the brains behind signing many brand partnerships and also helped launch its lifestyle portal, Ajio.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **China - is set to launch the first solar-powered plant in space by 2028, two years ahead of the earlier estimated time.**
- ✓ Recently, the researchers have successfully tested the technology that will be able to transmit solar power to Earth
- ✓ The plant, which is a steel structure, is set up on the southern campus of Xidian University, which is conducting the research
- ✓ The 10 kW Space Solar Power Station, which is a satellite launched at an altitude of 400 kms, is likely to serve as a hotspot technology that will be used in the ongoing project for power generation
- ✓ The project is a component of OMEGA (Orb-Shape Membrane Energy Gathering Array), a plan for solar energy generation from space that was unveiled in 2014.
- ✓ The ultimate goal of OMEGA is to store Sun energy and convert it to electrical energy, before transmitting it back to Earth as microwave or lasers to fixed locations through a wireless power transmission.
- ✓ A similar type of project was announced by NASA in 2019 by name SPS-ALPHA (Solar Power Satellite via Arbitrarily Large Phased Array).
  
- **Iran - has tested its Zuljanah satellite launcher for a second time for research purposes at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in the province of Semnan.**

- ✓ The rocket's name, Zuljanah, comes from the name of the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad



- ✓ It weighs 52 tons, is 25.5 meters in length, and can carry loads of up to 220 kilograms at an orbit of 500 kilometers above the surface
- ✓ The Zuljanah is a three-stage satellite launcher using a combination of solid and liquid fuels.
- ✓ It is the first indigenously designed and indigenously manufactured launch vehicle in Iran, after Safir and Simorgh.
- ✓ The launch vehicle was developed by Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics (Iran).
- ✓ The latest launch of Zuljanah comes months after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully launched a second military satellite, called the Noor 2, into orbit at an altitude of 500km in March.
- ✓ Iran launched its first military satellite, the Noor, meaning light, in an orbit 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface in 2020

## DEFENCE

- **The Indian Air Force - is participating in a month-long tactical leadership programme with Egyptian Air Force in Cairo west Airbase, Egypt**



- ✓ Three Su-30MKI fighters, two C-17 transport aircraft and 57 IAF personnel are participating in the unique exercise being held from June 24 to July 22

- ✓ The exercise, simulating various conflict scenarios, is aimed at enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries
  - ✓ It will also provide an opportunity to showcase the Su-30 MKI manufactured in India by HAL and India's expertise for deeper indigenisation of spares and components.
  - ✓ Further, the exercise provides a unique opportunity to showcase the reach and capability of the IAF against the backdrop of the current geopolitical scenario.
  - ✓ The Tactical leadership programme is also known as the Pilot School of NATO
  - ✓ It consists of 10 permanent members - Denmark, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Netherlands, United States and United Kingdom – along with NATO countries and invited countries from outside NATO
  - ✓ This multinational centre provides advanced training for pilots and crews to improve the operability and effectiveness of Allied Air Forces.
- **The stealth frigate, INS Talwar – has completed three years of deployment in the Gulf as part of Operation Sankalp**



- ✓ This marks the commemoration of third year of the Indian Navy's continuous presence in the Gulf region for protection of India's maritime interests.
- ✓ Indian Navy has launched the Maritime Security Operations, code named 'Operation Sankalp' in the Gulf region on June 19, 2019
- ✓ It followed the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, after attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019
- ✓ The purpose of the operation is to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- ✓ This operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and DG, Shipping
- ✓ The Indian Navy is simultaneously carrying out anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden, which were started in October 2008
- ✓ INS Talwar was built by Baltiyskiy shipyard in Russia and was launched in May 2000.

- ✓ Later, it was formally commissioned into Indian Navy on June 18, 2003
- ✓ Talwar-class guided missile frigates are the modified Krivak III-class frigates
- **The annual multinational peacekeeping exercise 'Ex Khaan Quest 2022' – ended at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia.**



- ✓ The Indian contingent consisting of personnel from the LADAKH SCOUTS participated in the field training as well as the Command Post exercise
- ✓ The military exercise provided a platform for mutual learning and sharing best practices amongst the armies from 16 nations
- ✓ The 14-day exercise that commenced on June 6 is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.
- ✓ Last year marked the 66th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Mongolia

## ECONOMY

- **The 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of GST Council – commenced at Chandigarh under the chairmanship of Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Finance Minister on June 28**
- ✓ On the first day of two-day meeting, the council accepted the interim report of Group of Ministers (GoM) formed for rate rationalisation

## ALL HOTEL ROOMS TO ATTRACT 12% DUTY

> Hotel rooms below Rs 1,000 a night, non-ICU hospital beds above a threshold may come under GST

> All hotel rooms will attract 12% duty

> Procedural changes were discussed to make the regime more robust and strengthen checks

> Council to discuss extension

of compensation period for states and 28% levy on casinos and online gaming today

> Proposal to do away with inverted duty structure on some items (levy on final product lower than intermediaries) will also be taken up. This may include edible oil, LED lamps, among others



- ✓ Accordingly, 14 goods and 22 services could undergo rate revision, including 12% levy for Hotel accommodation below Rs.1,000 per unit per day
- ✓ The council also accepted most of the recommendations of a group of ministers which suggested the withdrawal of GST exemption on some services among others.
- ✓ This includes packaged curd, lassi, buttermilk, puffed rice, flattened rice, parched rice, pappad, paneer, honey, food grains, cereals, jaggery, and certain vegetables
- ✓ It also recommended correction in inverted duty structure for a host of items, including edible oil, coal, LED lamps, printing/drawing ink, finished leather and solar water heater.
- ✓ Rate rationalisation is important to boost the weighted average GST rate that has fallen to 11.6% against 14.4 % at the time of the launch.
- ✓ GST Council accepted the proposal for imposing e-way bill generation on gold, gold jewellery, and precious stones
- ✓ The report of the state finance ministers on GST systems reforms, which recommended biometric authentication of high-risk taxpayers and real-time validation of bank accounts too was cleared by the Council
- ✓ As per the data on revenue growth collated for the Council meeting, only five out of 31 states/UTs -- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim -- registered a revenue growth higher than the protected revenue rate for states under GST in 2021-22.
- ✓ The contentious issues of extending the compensation period for states beyond five years and 28% levy on casinos and online gaming is to be discussed on the second day meeting
- ✓ The council decided to form a GoM to study setting up GST Tribunals and define a structure
- ✓ GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the revenue loss till June 2022, arising on account of the rollout.

# APPOINTMENTS

- **The Union government - has persuaded attorney general K K Venugopal to continue in the top law officer's post for some more time till his replacement is found.**



- ✓ Appointed as AG on June 30, 2017, Venugopal has been reluctantly agreeing for one year extensions since July 2020.
  - ✓ He has already been persuaded twice to continue as AG for one year at a time and has been leading the law officers' team for the past five years.
  - ✓ However, the government with a lot of effort succeeded in persuading the 91-year-old renowned jurist to continue as AG till his successor was found
  - ✓ A votary of free speech, Venugopal had openly opposed any move to curtail free speech on social media through a legislation.
- **The government – has appointed IRS officer Nitin Gupta as the new chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).**
  - ✓ His appointment as the new Chairman of the CBDT has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
  - ✓ Nitin Gupta is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre and is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board
  - ✓ He is scheduled to retire in September next year.
  - ✓ In May, 1986 batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh was given additional charge of Chairman, after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head on April 30
  - ✓ The CBDT is headed by a Chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.
  - ✓ It is the administrative body for the Income Tax department

# AWARDS

- **Veteran politician SM Krishna, Indian IT pioneer NR Narayana Murthy and Badminton legend Prakash Padukone - have been picked for the first edition of the Kempegowda International Award instituted by the Karnataka government.**



- ✓ Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will present the awards at Vidhana Soudha on June 27, which marks the 513th Kempegowda Jayanti honouring the 16th century chieftain under Vijayanagara Empire, who founded the city of Bengaluru
  - ✓ The government had constituted a high-level committee headed by Karnataka Vision Group for Startups chairperson Prashanth Prakash to pick the award winners.
  - ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and honours notable contributions of civilians in the fields of education, medicine, sports, media, journalism, theatre, film, music, dance, environment, folklore, yogasana, judiciary, photography, culture, painting, social service, and astrology
  - ✓ The presentation of award was temporarily stopped in 2007 and again resumed in 2011
- **Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla – addressed the “National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2021” ceremony on June 28**



- ✓ The event was being organized under the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ initiative by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi
- ✓ Bridge Construction and Tunnel Construction were included as new categories for the fourth award cycle.

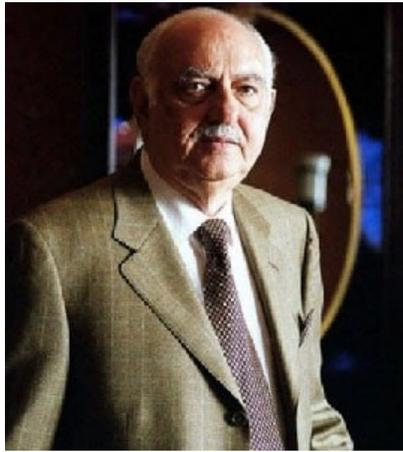
- ✓ This year, the theme of the awards was “Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction”.
  - ✓ As many as 122 nominations were received, out of which 89 were found to be valid
  - ✓ Finally, a Jury headed by CEO Niti Aayog Amitabh Kant selected 13 nominations for the awards
  - ✓ From Tamil Nadu, Krishnagiri-Walajahpet Tollway Pvt Ltd bagged the silver medal under the category ‘Excellence in Project Management-PPP’
  - ✓ MoRTH instituted NHEA in 2018 to incentivize the key stakeholders and to create a spirit of healthy competition amongst all the stakeholders involved in the development of highway infrastructure in the country.
- **Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport - bagged the best regional airport in India and South Asia at the prestigious Skytrax World Airport Awards 2022 held recently in Paris**
- ✓ The airport has been chosen as the winner after being adjudged by customers, who vote for the airport with the best customer service, in a survey conducted globally



- ✓ The survey evaluates consumer experience across airport service and key performance factors ranging from check-in to arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, immigration, to departures at the gates

## **OBITUARY**

- **Shapoorji Pallonji group chairman and billionaire industrialist Pallonji Mistry - passed away in Mumbai at the age of 93 on June 28**



- ✓ Mumbai-based Shapoorji Pallonji group is the largest individual shareholder in the Tata Group with an 18.4% holding in the conglomerate
- ✓ The group, established in 1865, works across segments such as engineering and construction, infrastructure, real estate, water, energy and financial services
- ✓ Born in a Parsi family at Gujarat in 1929, Mistry headed the privately held, over \$5-billion SP Group, which employs more than 50,000 people in over 50 countries
- ✓ Its landmark projects include the Reserve Bank of India, Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, Grindlays Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, the Taj and Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai and the blue-and-gold Al Alam palace for the Sultan of Oman in Muscat
- ✓ The group companies also built the Famous Studios at Mahalaxmi, Citi Bank headquarters in India, SAIL Steel Plant, the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in Delhi among others.
- ✓ It had executed several landmark projects in the Middle East and Africa, such as the Presidential Office of Ghana, the National Assembly of Gambia, and the Ebene IT Park in Mauritius.
- ✓ Mistry also acquired strategic stakes in other companies, such as Sterling & Wilson, United Motors, Forbes Gokak and Afcons Infrastructure, and brought them within the fold of the SP Group
- ✓ Over the years, he served on the boards of several organisations, including Union Bank of India, W H Brady Group of Companies, The Associated Cement Companies Ltd--of which he was also Chairman for several years--and Tata Sons.
- ✓ In addition, the SP Group of companies actively supports CSR projects across India in the areas of education, skills development, nutrition, water, healthcare, social inclusion and environment preservation
- ✓ Mistry was nicknamed the “Phantom of Bombay House” for his powerful boardroom presence.
- ✓ Mistry accumulated a net worth of almost \$29 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, making him one of the richest men in India and in Europe.
- ✓ According to the latest Forbes data, he was ranked at 143th rank worldwide.
- ✓ Mistry surrendered his Indian nationality and became an Irish citizen in 2003 through his long marriage to Dublin-born Patsy Perin Dubash

- ✓ In 2012, Mistry stepped down as the chairman of the group, handing over the responsibility to his elder son Shapoor Mistry
- ✓ In 2016, Mistry was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in the country
- ✓ He is survived by four children, including Cyrus Mistry, who succeeded Ratan Tata as Chairman of the Tata Group before being ousted by the board in 2016.

## RANKINGS

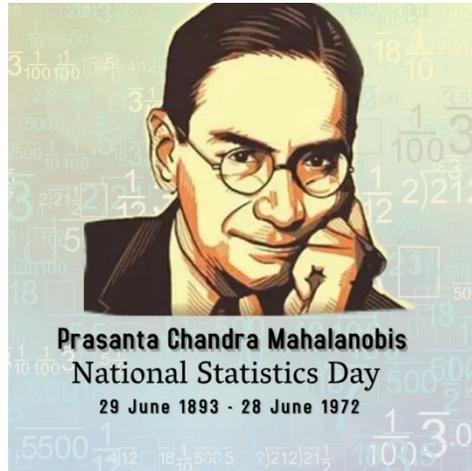
- **Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi - have made it to the list of top 140 cities for international students, according to the coveted QS rankings**
- ✓ The QS Best Student Cities Ranking, released on June 29, has placed Mumbai as the highest-ranked city in India
- ✓ Mumbai, which has a global ranking of 103, is followed by Bengaluru (114).
- ✓ India doubled its representation with two new entries this year — Chennai (125) and Delhi (129).
- ✓ According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19, the number of international students enrolled in Indian universities was just 47,427.
- ✓ London took the top spot, extending its lead for the fourth year.



- ✓ It was followed by Seoul, Munich, Zurich and Melbourne to complete the Top-5 cities
- ✓ QS tracked 140 world cities, of which 58 improved their ranking, six remained stable, 46 declined and 30 were new entries.
- ✓ Fourteen Asian cities ranked in the top 100 and five in the top 20.
- ✓ Seoul topped the chart among the Asian cities, followed by Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Osaka
- ✓ The best student city in the Arab Region is Dubai, which ranks 51st globally, while Buenos Aires takes Latin America's top spot, ranking 23rd in the world.
- ✓ The London-based QS ranks cities with a population of at least 2,50,000 and with at least two universities placed in the QS World University Rankings.
- ✓ The latest edition is informed by the views of 98,426 survey respondents.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ➤ National Statistics Day - June 29



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the importance of the value of statistics in everyday life as well as in the planning and development process
- ✓ It marks the birth anniversary of the late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis to highlight his contribution in the fields of statistics and economic planning
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Data for Sustainable Development'
- ✓ The day is celebrated since 2007 and this year marks the 129th birth anniversary of the 'Father of Modern Statistics'
- ✓ The celebrations of National Statistics day are organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).
- ✓ The names of the winners of Prof PC Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics are also announced on this day.
- ✓ Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was a noted Indian scientist and applied statistician
- ✓ He introduced the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure, in the year 1936 and random sampling.
- ✓ Mahalanobis distance is one of the common formulas used in chemometrics to measure the distance between a point and a distribution on the basis of multiple dimension measurements.
- ✓ He was also one of the members of the first Planning Commission of India from 1955 to 1967 and played a key role in shaping the first 5-year plan.
- ✓ The Planning Commission's Second Five-Year Plan relied on Mahalanobis's mathematical description of the Indian economy, which later became known as the Mahalanobis model.
- ✓ In 1950, he established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) with a Statistical Laboratory set up.
- ✓ He introduced the concept of pilot surveys, established the National Sample Survey in the year 1950 and advocated the importance of sampling methods

- ✓ His achievements also included serving as the chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Sampling from 1947 to 1951 and appointment as the honorary statistical adviser to the government of India in 1949
- ✓ For his pioneering work, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, one of India's highest honours in the year 1968.

