



WEDNESDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - has announced that it will permanently shut 500 Tasmac retail vending shops across the state beginning June 22.**
- ✓ The decision comes in the wake of poor liquor sales, and is backed by the government's efforts to prevent sale of spurious liquor in the districts.
- ✓ The move is in line with an announcement made in the assembly by former prohibition and excise minister V Senthil Balaji that 500 retail shops would be closed this year.
- ✓ The closure of some liquor shops in a phased manner was also part of the DMK's poll manifesto.
- ✓ In 2021-2022, the government had closed 96 retail vending shops.
- ✓ With the latest announcement, the number of shops closed by the DMK government has risen to 596.
- ✓ The total number of liquor shops in the state will come down to 4,829.
- ✓ Of the 500 shops, a little over 25% have been selected from Chennai region.
- ✓ While there are 905 shops in Chennai region, which includes Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram, 138 shops (about 15%) will be closed from June 22.
- ✓ In Tiruvallur east district, which has a maximum number of shops (217), 32 have been identified for closure.
- ✓ The selection criteria for the 500 shops included low sales, cluster of outlets in a neighbourhood, shops located near religious places and educational institutions and shops entangled in litigations.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

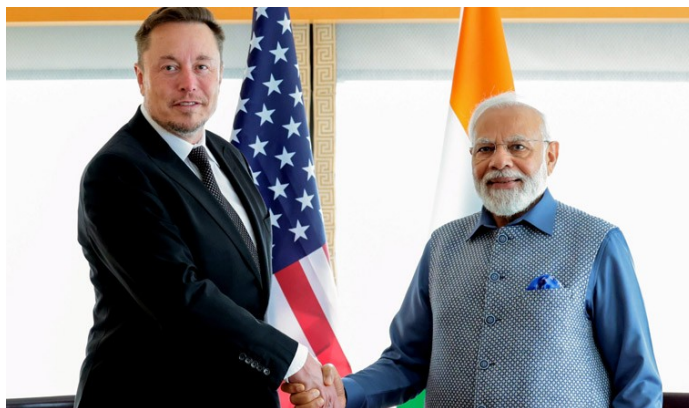
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - led a unique yoga session at the U.N. Headquarters in a historic celebration to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga under the aegis of UN**
- ✓ The event set a Guinness World Record, announced on scene, for most nationalities — 135 — at a single yoga lesson.

- ✓ The Yoga session was held at the North Lawn in the UN Headquarters, where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, a gift from India to the UN, was installed in December last year during the country's Presidency of the UN Security Council.



- ✓ The historic yoga session was attended by top UN officials, ambassadors, envoys, delegates from Member States as well as prominent members of the global and diaspora community.
- ✓ The President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Korosi, Hollywood actor Richard Gere, Mayor of New York City Eric Adams and Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Amina J Mohammed were among prominent personalities who attended the event.
- ✓ During his address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Yoga comes from India and is free from copyrights and patents
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New York in the early afternoon of June 20 on his first state visit to the United States
- ✓ Meanwhile in India, President Droupadi Murmu performed Yoga on International Day of Yoga at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh joined hundreds of Navy personnel on board INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier in Kochi, to participate in the yoga celebrations on the occasion
- ✓ As many as 3,000 persons with disabilities practised yoga together in Hyderabad in an attempt to secure the world record at an event organised to celebrate International Yoga Day
- ✓ The Yoga Day event in Surat city of Gujarat has set a "new Guinness World Record" for the largest gathering of people for a yoga session at one place.
 - ✓ More than one lakh people took part in the event and broke the previous record
- ✓ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED) is collaborating with Ministry of Ayush to supply 34,000 yoga mats procured exclusively from tribal artisans across the country
- ✓ The theme of Yoga Day this year is 'Yoga – Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e. Yoga for the welfare of all in the form of 'One World-One Family'.

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi had first proposed the concept of a Yoga Day during his address at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in 2014.
 - ✓ The U.N. General Assembly declared June 21 as International Yoga Day following a resolution moved by India and co-sponsored by a large number of nations.
 - ✓ The day aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga.
 - ✓ The first International Yoga Day was observed on June 21, 2015.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - met billionaire Tesla, SpaceX and Twitter boss Elon Musk on June 20**



- ✓ During the conversation, Musk also revealed that he is planning to bring Starlink, a satellite-based broadband Internet service developed by his company SpaceX, to India.
- ✓ On Tesla's entry into the market, Musk said he is planning to visit the country next year
- ✓ Notably, this is the first time PM Modi met Musk after he became the owner of Twitter.
 - ✓ PM Modi had last met Musk in 2015, during a visit to the Tesla factory in California.
- ✓ PM Modi is visiting the US from June 21 to 24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.
- ✓ During the visit, the Prime Minister will meet over two dozen thought leaders, including Nobel laureates, economists, artists, scientists, scholars, entrepreneurs, academicians and health sector experts.
- ✓ Besides Musk, PM Modi also met author and prominent American academician Robert Thurman and Lebanese-American writer Nassim Nicholas Taleb, who gave Prime Minister his best-selling book "Skin in the Game."

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Ola Electric - has announced the commencement of construction of India's biggest Gigafactory.**

- ✓ The company has installed the first pillar of its cell factory in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Spread across 115 acres, the Ola Gigafactory will begin operations by early next year with an initial capacity of 5 GWh, which will be further expanded in phases to 100 GWh at full capacity.
- ✓ Upon commencement of operations, this would be India's biggest cell factory, and at full capacity, will be one of the world's largest cell manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ The company has invested in cell & battery research and development and has set up an advanced cell R&D facility in Bangalore.
- ✓ The company has also recently signed an MoU with the Government of Tamil Nadu to expand its manufacturing capabilities across two wheelers, four wheelers and cells.

RANKINGS

- **India - ranked 127 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 released by the World Economic Forum on June 21**
- ✓ The report showed improvement of 1.4 percentage points and eight positions from 135 in 2022.
- ✓ India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap, as the country marches towards India's 2020 (66.8%) parity level.
- ✓ The index ranked India's neighbours Bangladesh at 59, Bhutan at 103, China at 107, Sri Lanka at 115, Nepal at 116 and Pakistan at 142.
- ✓ Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year and the only one to have closed more than 90 per cent of its gender gap
- ✓ According to the report, India has attained parity in enrolment across all levels of education but it has reached only 36.7% parity on economic participation and opportunity.
- ✓ On the one hand, there are improvements in parity in wages and income but on the other, the shares of women in senior positions and technical roles have dropped slightly since the last edition.
- ✓ On political empowerment, India has registered 25.3% parity, with women representing 15.1% of parliamentarians — the highest for the country since the inaugural report in 2006.
- ✓ The global gender gap score in 2023 for all 146 countries stands at 68.4% reflecting an improvement of 0.3 percentage points over 2022.
- ✓ For all countries covered, the health and survival gender gap has closed by 96%, the educational attainment gap by 95.2%, economic participation and opportunity gap by 60.1%, and political empowerment gap by a mere 22.1%.
- ✓ Global Gender Gap Report is released annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF) since 2006.