

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JULY 2, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **The first automated annual revision of electricity tariff in the state - came into effect on July 1**
- ✓ Accordingly, the tariff was hiked by 2.18% across all categories of consumers.
- ✓ The government will absorb the hike for domestic consumers and for hut, handloom, powerloom connections.
- ✓ Based on the hike, the tariff for domestic consumers will increase from Rs.4. 5 a unit to Rs.4. 60 a unit up to 400 units, while the rate, from 401 units to 500 units, is now Rs.6. 15 a unit, up from Rs.6 a unit.
- ✓ The hike will apply to all other categories including I-D in which common service connections will now be charged Rs.8. 17 a unit against the previous Rs.8 per unit.
- ✓ The fixed charges also increase by Rs.2 to Rs.102 per kilowatt per month.
- ✓ Last year, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) announced a multi-year formula for an automatic increase that will be decided based on consumer price inflation comparing the consumer price index of the present year with that of the corresponding month last year.
- ✓ For other categories of LT consumers, the hike is from a minimum of 10 paise a unit to a maximum of 25 paise a unit.
- ✓ For HT consumers, the hike ranges from 15 paise a unit to 25 paise a unit.

STATES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 in the Lalpur village, located in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh on July 1**
- ✓ During his address, the Prime Minister highlighted that half of the world's sickle cell anemia cases occur in India

- ✓ Recognising that the disease primarily affects tribal communities, the prime minister emphasised the importance of initiating a campaign to eradicate the disease.



- ✓ During the event, the PM also distributed sickle cell genetic status cards to the beneficiaries.
- ✓ As per a National Health Mission report, Madhya Pradesh has the highest burden of sickle cell anaemia.
- ✓ Sickle cell anemia is a blood disorder that is inherited from generation to generation.
 - ✓ It directly affects the red blood cells responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body.
 - ✓ The disease hampers the flow of oxygen in the body, leading to fatigue and overall body pain.
- ✓ The mission was announced in the Union Budget 2023 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
 - ✓ It aims to eliminate sickle cell anemia by creating awareness and conducting universal screening among approximately 7 crore people aged 0-40 years in affected tribal areas.
 - ✓ The mission will be implemented in 278 districts across 17 states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.
 - ✓ The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.
- ✓ During the event, PM Modi also distributed approximately 3.57 crore digital cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and over one crore PVC Ayushman Bharat cards.
- ✓ Saluting the sacrifice of Rani Durgavati during the event, the Prime Minister announced to celebrate the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati at the national level on October 5th this year.

NATIONAL

- **The monsoon session of Parliament - will begin on July 20 and continue till August 11**
- ✓ This was announced by parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi on July 1.
- ✓ The session will be spread over 23 days and will have 17 sittings
- ✓ It is expected to commence in the old Parliament building and later move to the new building.
- ✓ During the session, the government is likely to bring a bill to replace the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On July 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**
- ✓ The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is organizing the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress on July 1 and 2



- ✓ This year's Indian Cooperative Congress coincides with the International Day of Cooperatives, which is celebrated on the first Saturday of July annually
- ✓ The Congress was chaired by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ Its objective is to discuss various trends in cooperative movement, showcase best practices being adopted, deliberate challenges being faced and devise future policy direction for growth of India's cooperative movement.
- ✓ There will be seven technical sessions on the main theme of "Amrit Kaal : Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India".
- ✓ The Congress will witness participation of more than 3600 stakeholders including cooperatives from primary level to national level, delegates of International Cooperative Organisations, representatives of International Cooperative Alliance, representatives of Ministries, Universities, eminent institutions, among others.

- ✓ During the event, PM Modi also launched E-Portals of e-Commerce website for Cooperative Marketing ('NCUI Haat') and Cooperative Extension and Advisory Services Portal.
- ✓ During the event, the PM also unveiled a book on 'Cooperative Growth and Trends in India', a souvenir on cooperative movement, training modules on "Members' role in cooperative" and "Governance in cooperatives", besides a film on the initiatives of the Cooperation Ministry.
- ✓ During his address, Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah said a bill to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act will be brought in Parliament in the monsoon session.
 - ✓ The bill was introduced in Parliament in December last year, but it was sent to a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) for amendments.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be the chief guest at the valedictory function on July 2.
- ✓ Chemical and Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Animal Husbandry, Fishery and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala will also be present.
- ✓ Representatives from eight countries -- including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines and Papua New Guinea -- will attend the event
- ✓ Besides, representatives from 34 countries, who are members of International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific, will join the event virtually.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The European Space Agency (ESA) - has successfully launched the Euclid space telescope on July 1**



- ✓ It was launched onboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- ✓ Euclid is a 1.2-meter-diameter telescope that will travel to the second Lagrange point (L2), about 1 million miles away from Earth.
- ✓ The telescope will spend two months calibrating its instruments before commencing the survey of one-third of the sky.

- ✓ The Euclid mission's main goal is to investigate the "dark side" of the 13.8-billion-year-old universe, focusing on dark matter and dark energy.
 - ✓ The dark matter plays a crucial role in maintaining the cohesiveness of galaxies, thereby preventing them from dispersing and never has been directly observed, while dark energy is a mysterious force responsible for the universe's accelerating expansion.
 - ✓ Dark matter constitutes around 85% of the matter in the universe, while dark energy accounts for approximately 70% of its energy.
 - ✓ Dark matter and energy affect the motion and distribution of visible sources, but do not emit or absorb any light, and scientists do not know yet what these entities actually are.
- ✓ Euclid aims to create a highly accurate 3D map of the universe by observing billions of galaxies up to 10 billion light-years away
- ✓ Euclid, which is 4.7 meters (15 feet) tall and 3.5 meters wide, will use two scientific instruments to map the sky.
- ✓ In 2027, the Nancy Grace Roman Telescope will join Euclid in orbit, collaborating to study cosmic acceleration and construct 3D universe maps.
- ✓ Named after the Greek mathematician who resided in Egypt's Alexandria, the Euclid mission is scheduled to last for six years, which may further be extended.
- ✓ Notably, NASA and ESA previously launched the James Webb Space Telescope to the same location, 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth.

DEFENCE

- **India's home-grown Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas - completed seven years of service in the Indian Air Force (IAF) on July 1**
- ✓ Christened Tejas in 2003 by former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the fighter aircraft is a multi-role platform which has become one of the world's premier light fighters.

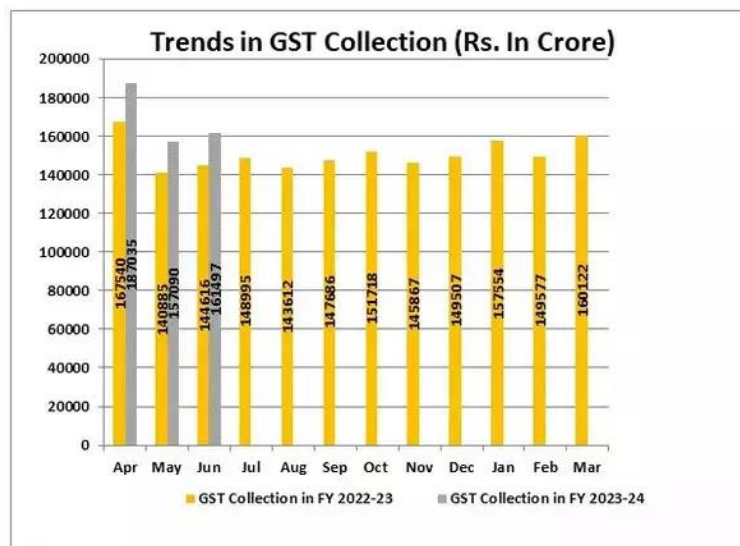


- ✓ Tejas is a single-engine multi-role fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments.

- ✓ Designed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), the multi-role Tejas fighter can perform the roles of air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike
- ✓ This multi-role capability is further enhanced by the Tejas' multi-mode airborne radar, helmet-mounted display system, a self-protection suite and a laser designation pod
- ✓ The first 20 Tejas Mark 1 fighters formed the IAF's Number 45 Squadron -- the "Flying Daggers."
- ✓ In May 2020, No 18 Squadron became the second IAF unit to operate the Tejas -- still in its Mark 1 variant
- ✓ Exercise Desert Flag in the United Arab Emirates in March 2023 was the Tejas' maiden exercise on a foreign soil
- ✓ In February 2021, the ministry signed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF.
 - ✓ The new variant of the indigenously-built jet, whose deliveries should start from February 2024, will be capable of firing a plethora of weapons, including beyond visual range missiles

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection - crossed Rs.1.60 lakh crore mark in June**



- ✓ According to the finance ministry, it is for the fourth time since inception of GST that the gross collection has crossed the Rs.1.6 lakh crore mark.
- ✓ The collection has breached the Rs.1.50 lakh crore for the seventh time since inception.
- ✓ Out of gross GST revenue of Rs.1,61,497 crore, Rs.31,013 crore is Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), State goods and services tax (SGST) is

Rs.38,292 crore, the integrated goods and services tax (IGST) is Rs.80,292 crore, while the cess is Rs.11,900 crore.

- ✓ The revenues for the month of June 2023 are 12% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year
- ✓ During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions were 18% higher than June last year.



- ✓ Every year on July 1, Goods and Services Tax Day is observed to commemorate the implementation of the GST regime in the country
- ✓ GST, a comprehensive indirect tax, revolutionised India's taxation system by replacing multiple complex levies imposed by both the central and state governments.
- ✓ To oversee the implementation, the government formed the GST Council, comprising Finance Ministers from both central and state governments.
- ✓ The GST system in India has tax slabs of 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The Centre – has approved the re-appointment of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor-General of India**



- ✓ The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) on June 30
 - ✓ Solicitor General is the second most senior law officer after Attorney General, who is the highest law officer in the country
 - ✓ The office of the SG is most crucial in handling the bulk of Centre's litigation spread across the country
 - ✓ Besides Mehta, six Additional Solicitor Generals of India – namely, Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M Nataraj, Balbir Singh, S.V Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwariya Bhati – were re-appointed.
 - ✓ The term for all the law officers is that of three years, or until further notice, whichever should be earlier.
 - ✓ Mehta was appointed as Solicitor General for the first time in October 2018 and his period was later extended from time to time.
 - ✓ Senior advocate R Venkataramani was appointed Attorney General (AG) on October 1 last year and has a tenure of three years till 2025
- **On July 1, Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar - took charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of Indian Army's Western Command.**



- ✓ Prior to this, he served as Director General Military Operations (DGMO) at the Army headquarters.
- ✓ Lt Gen Katiyar succeeded Lieutenant General Nav K Khanduri, who retired on June 30 after serving the Army for around four decades.
- ✓ An alumnus of NDA Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Lt Gen Katiyar was commissioned into the 23rd Battalion of the Rajput Regiment in June 1986.
- ✓ He is a graduate of Defence Service Staff College (DSSC), National Defence College (NDC) and a distinguished graduate of National War College, USA.
- ✓ He is also the Colonel of the Rajput Regiment.

- ✓ Lt Gen Katiyar has also served across a wide spectrum of operational areas in Siachen Glacier.

SPORTS

- **Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra - won his second successive Diamond League by finishing first with a best attempt of 87.66m at Lausanne.**



- ✓ Germany's Julian Weber was second with a best throw of 87.03m, while Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic was third with an 86.13m effort.
 - ✓ The star Indian player is coming back from a muscle injury he had sustained during training.
 - ✓ The injury forced Chopra to withdraw from three events in the month of June namely FBK Games, Paavo Nurmi Games and the Ostrava Golden Spike.
 - ✓ Neeraj began the year by winning the Doha Diamond League with a throw of 88.67m.
 - ✓ Neeraj has a personal best of 89.94 when he finished second best after world champion Anderson Peters at the Stockholm Diamond League.
 - ✓ Neeraj won a silver at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene last year after which he finished first at Lausanne Diamond League with a best effort of 89.08m to qualify for the Diamond League final.
 - ✓ In the Diamond League final in Zurich in September, Neeraj became the first Indian athlete to win the Diamond Trophy with a best effort of 88.44m.
- **The West Indies - will not be part of the upcoming ODI World Cup for the first time in the history of the tournament after being eliminated from the qualifiers**
 - ✓ Clive Lloyd's West Indies cricket team had won the first two editions of the World Cup in 1975 and 1979 and played the 1983 final, in which they were beaten by India.
 - ✓ West Indies suffered an embarrassing seven-wicket defeat to Scotland in a Super Six contest to crash out of the World Cup qualifiers.



- ✓ This was also Scotland's first victory over the West Indies.
 - ✓ West Indies had to play the World Cup Qualifiers because they finished ninth in the ODI Super League, and only the top eight teams gain direct entry to the 10-team tournament.
 - ✓ Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe already have six points in their three games and they are poised to become the top two teams in the qualifiers
- **Yuki Bhambri - lifted his maiden ATP Tour title on July 1 after winning the doubles crown with Lloyd Harris at the Mallorca Open in Spain.**



- ✓ Bhambri, who switched to doubles full-time last year, and Harris defeated Robin Haase and Philipp Oswald in the final of the grasscourt event.
 - ✓ The 30-year-old Indian, ranked 75, will move up 17 spots to a career-high 58.
- **The Indian men's kabaddi team - defeated Iran in the final to defend its Asian Championships title at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, Republic of Korea on June 30.**
- ✓ Indian captain Pawan Sehrawat led from the front with a super 10 in the game.
 - ✓ Earlier in the day, India had beaten Hong Kong to end the league stage of the tournament undefeated.
 - ✓ It was India's eighth title in the continental championships.



✓ India had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan in the final in the last edition held in Iran in 2017.

