



RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 12, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On July 11, the Directorate general of Civil Aviation (DGCA) - gave its nod to EKVI Air Training Organization Private Limited that will be based at Salem Airport.
- ✓ This will be the first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.

NATIONAL

- The 50th GST Council meeting – was held under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on July 11



- ✓ The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Finance Ministers of States and UTs and senior officials.
- ✓ At the beginning of the meeting, the Finance Minister released a short film titled 'GST Council - 50 steps towards a journey'.

- ✓ Later, the FM also released a Special Cover and customised 'myStamp', which was presented to her by the Chief Post Master General, Delhi Circle India Post Office
 - ✓ Among the key decisions taken, the GST Council decided to levy 28% tax on the full face value of “bets placed” at the entry point on online games, chips purchased at casinos and bets placed with bookmakers at horse races
 - ✓ The proposal, which will require amendments to the law to include online games and horse racing within the purview of GST, has also ended the difference between “game of chance” and “game of skill”.
 - ✓ Currently, services of casinos, horse racing, and online gaming attract 18% GST.
 - ✓ The GoM on casinos, horse racing and online gaming, convened by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, has members from eight states - West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - ✓ Services of private organisations involved in launching satellites were also exempted from GST.
 - ✓ GST on food served in cinema halls reduced to 5% from 18%, which is at par with restaurants.
 - ✓ All multi-utility vehicles (MUVs), whether it's sports utility vehicles (SUVs) or crossover utility vehicles (XUVs), will have to pay a tax of 22% compensation cess over and above the 28% GST rate
 - ✓ Cancer-related drugs, medicines for rare diseases and food products for special medical purposes will now be exempted from GST.
 - ✓ The Council also recommended that provisions of Finance Act, 2023 pertaining to GST Appellate Tribunal may be notified by the Centre with effect from August 1, 2023.
 - ✓ Amnesty schemes for non-filers of FORM GSTR-4, FORM GSTR-9, and FORM GSTR-10 returns, revocation of registration cancellation, and deemed withdrawal of assessment orders issued under Section 62 of CGST Act, 2017, to be extended till 31.08.2023.
 - ✓ RBL Bank and ICBC Bank have been included in the list of specified banks eligible for IGST exemption on importing gold, silver, or platinum.
 - ✓ Insertion of new rule to mandate requirement of generating e-way bills for intra-State movement of gold and precious stones under Chapter 71 within their States.
 - ✓ Prior to the 50th meet, the council has so far held 49 meetings & has taken approximately 1500 decisions in the spirit of cooperative federalism.
- **Several opposition-ruled states - expressed concern over the Centre's decision to allow Enforcement Directorate (ED) to share information with GST Network (GSTN)**

- ✓ On July 8, the Centre issued a notification to include the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.
- ✓ With this, the GSTN is among those entities that have been mandated to share information with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the PMLA Act.
- ✓ Besides the ED and the FIU, agencies that need to share information include the Competition Commission of India, Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, and Director General of Foreign Trade.
- ✓ These changes have been made under Section 66 of the PMLA, which provides for disclosure of information.
- ✓ The PMLA Act provides for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money-laundering.
- ✓ GST offences such as taking fake input tax credits, fake invoices, etc. will also be covered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- ✓ As per the notification, the FIU and the ED will also share information with the GSTN if they find that any GST assessee is involved in suspicious forex transactions
- ✓ Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is an information technology system which manages the GST portal.
- ✓ The portal is aimed at providing shared IT infrastructure and services to Central and State governments, taxpayers and other stakeholders for implementation of GST.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - quashed two extensions given to Enforcement Directorate chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra for one year each**



- ✓ The Court termed the government's twin decisions as "illegal", but allowed him to hold office till July 31 in public interest to ensure smooth transition in the agency.
- ✓ Mishra's extended term was to end in November and the apex court's order has cut it by almost four months.

- ✓ A bench of Justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol pronounced the verdict on July 11
- ✓ The government has given two extensions to Mishra – first on November 17, 2021 and then on November 17, 2022 - for a period of one year each
- ✓ According to the apex court, they were not “valid in law” as they violated the apex court’s September 2021 order directing the government not to extend his tenure further.
- ✓ Mishra’s extension was first adjudicated by the apex court in 2021 when it upheld the Centre’s decision but directed that the ED chief should not be given further extension.
- ✓ However, the Centre amended the CVC Act and granted two more extensions to Mishra.
- ✓ The court, however, upheld the amendment to the Central Vigilance Commission Act and Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.
- ✓ Accordingly, the government is empowered to grant up to three extensions of one year each to CBI and ED directors beyond the fixed minimum tenure of two years.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 10, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan - agreed to support Sweden’s bid to join the NATO military alliance**
- ✓ In this regard, a consensus was reached at the 2023 NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.



- ✓ Earlier, Turkey has accused Sweden of hosting Kurdish militants and hence objected to Sweden’s accession to the NATO grouping
- ✓ Sweden and Finland announced their intent to join NATO in May last year after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine
- ✓ Finland has already become the 31st member of the alliance in April, and Sweden is on course now to become the 32nd member.
- ✓ Sweden, along with Finland, has undergone a significant shift in its traditional policy of military non-alignment

- ✓ Sweden joined NATO's Partnership for Peace programme in 1994 and has actively contributed to NATO missions

GLOBAL MPI REPORT

- **Around 415 million people exited poverty within a span of just 15 years between 2005 to 2021 in India, according to the latest Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).**
- ✓ India is also one of the 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- ✓ Some of the other countries that have achieved this include China, Cambodia, Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia and Vietnam.
- ✓ This United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) analysis is based on trends from 2000 to 2022 covering 81 countries with comparable data over time.
- ✓ The global MPI monitors both poverty reduction and how people experience poverty in different aspects of their daily lives — from access to education and health, to living standards such as housing, drinking water, sanitation, and electricity.
- ✓ Notably, in India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021.
- ✓ As per the report, people who are multi-dimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator declined from 44% in 2005-06 to 12% in 2019/21 and child mortality declined from 4% to 1.5%.
 - ✓ Those who are poor and deprived of cooking fuel declined from 53% to 14% and those deprived of sanitation was declined from 50% to 11.3%.
 - ✓ In the drinking water, those deprived fell from 16% to 3%; lack of access to electricity came down from 29% to 2% and housing from 44% to 14%.
- ✓ In 2005/2006, about 645 million people were in multi-dimensional poverty in India which declined to around 230 million in 2019/2021.

