

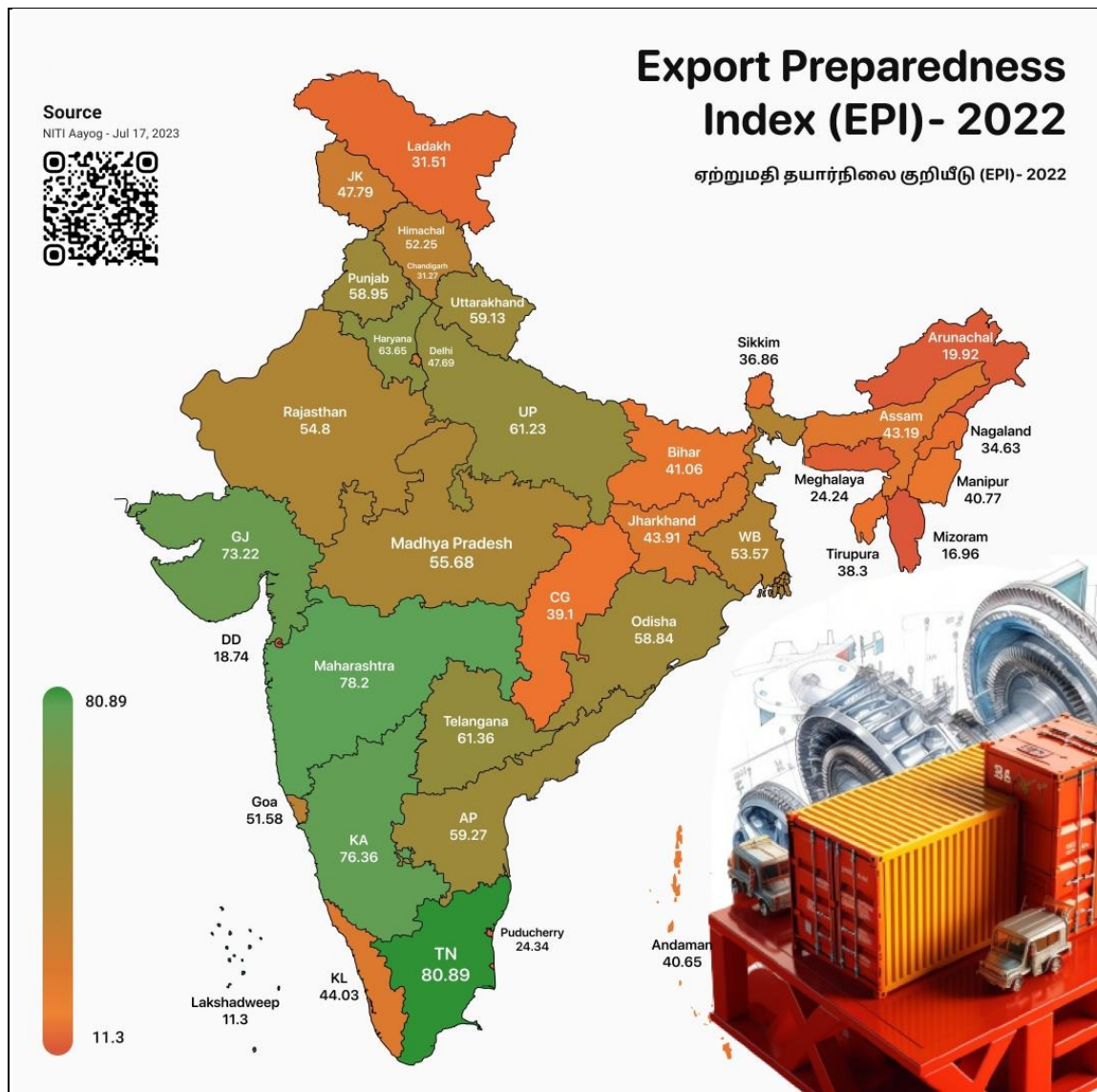
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 18, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu higher education Minister K Ponmudy - was taken into custody by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 17



- ✓ The minister was questioned in connection with the awarding of sand mining contracts when he was minister in the DMK cabinet between 2006 and 2011.
 - ✓ Ponmudy became the second Tamil Nadu minister to be searched by the ED in a month.
 - ✓ The charge against the senior minister is that he caused Rs.28 crore loss to the exchequer by awarding contracts to people close to him.
 - ✓ The case, originally filed by Villupuram crime branch, is pending in a special court in Villupuram
 - ✓ The Madras high court recently refused to close the case against the Minister, his son Gautham Sigamani and other family members, and aides
 - ✓ On June 14, Minister V Senthil Balaji was arrested after a night-long search and inquiry at his official residence in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu - has been ranked the number one state on Niti Ayog's Export Preparedness Index for 2022, released in New Delhi on July 17.



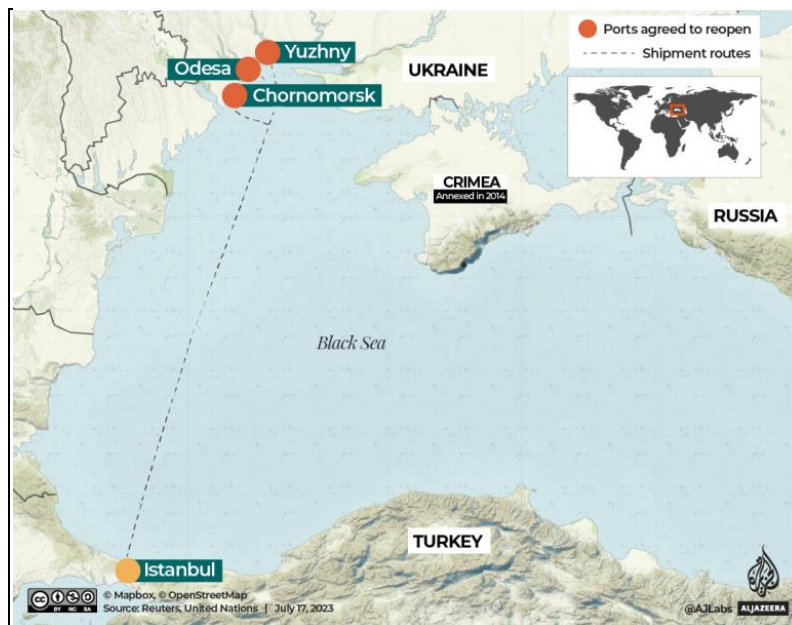
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was placed fourth in 2021 and the third in 2020.
- ✓ The EPI 2022 report evaluated the performance of states on four parameters – policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu scored a combined 80.89 on four factors to emerge at top, ahead of Maharashtra (78.2), Karnataka (76.36), Gujarat (73.22) and Haryana (63.65).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu scored 97.21 on policy, 88.84 for business ecosystem, 73.68 for export ecosystem, and 63.34 for export performance.
- ✓ According to the report, most 'coastal states' – Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat --were the top performers in export preparedness.
- **The State - had planned a series of programmes as part of Tamil Nadu day celebrations on July 18**
 - ✓ In this regard, several rallies participated by school and college students have been planned across the state from July 18 to 23.
 - ✓ The resolution to rename Madras Presidency into Tamil Nadu was moved by former chief minister C N Annadurai, on July 18, 1967



- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin after coming to power in 2021 announced that Tamil Nadu will be celebrated on July 18.
- ✓ Earlier, the state was observing Tamil Nadu state formation day on November 1
- ✓ The date, November 1, 1956, marks the day on which the present landscape known as Tamil Nadu was carved out from erstwhile Madras Province after States Reorganisation Act, 1956 came into force, redrawing boundaries along linguistic lines.
- ✓ Orissa (now Odisha) was the first state to be formed on linguistic basis, followed by Andhra Pradesh in the year 1953.

INTERNATIONAL

- On July 17, Russia - halted participation in the UN-brokered deal that lets Ukraine export grain through the Black Sea



- ✓ For several months, the agreement — also known as the Black Sea Grain Initiative — has been repeatedly extended, but now Russia wants the agreement to expire in July
- ✓ The Black Sea is the only opportunity for Ukraine to export its grain to the world by sea.
- ✓ The grain deal was launched to prevent a global food emergency after brokered by the UN and Turkey last year on July 27.
- ✓ Ukraine is one of the world's largest grain suppliers, feeding 400 million people worldwide, according to World Food Program
- ✓ More than 30 million tons of grain and other food products have been exported up to May 2023 thanks to the agreement
- ✓ The ships moving en route to and from Ukrainian ports are checked at a Turkish-controlled base by a special team of Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian and UN inspectors.
- ✓ Under the agreement, around 64% of wheat went to developing countries, while corn was exported almost equally to developed and developing countries
- ✓ Russia has extended the Black Sea deal three times, despite repeated threats to quit.
- ✓ If Russia does not agree to extending the deal, it's unclear whether Ukraine will continue to ship the same quantities of grain to the world
- ✓ If Ukrainian grain is blocked from the market, prices could soar around the world, hitting the poorest countries hardest.

PERSONALITIES

- **US President Joe Biden - has announced to appoint Shamina Singh, a prominent Indian-American business leader, to the president's export council**



- ✓ The council serves as the principal national advisory committee on international trade.
- ✓ It advises the president of government policies and programmes that affect US trade performance, promotes export expansion and provides a forum for discussing and resolving trade-related problems among the business, industrial, agricultural, labour and government sectors.

- ✓ Deeply committed to public service, Singh has held senior positions in the White House and the US House of Representatives.
- ✓ Singh is the founder and president of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth

SPORTS

- **India - will be sending its biggest-ever contingent for the upcoming Asian Games, scheduled to be held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou from September 20 to October 8.**



- ✓ Around 800 athletes have been named as part of the country's contingent by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for the Asiad.
- ✓ For the Jakarta Asiad in 2018, the IOA had named a 524-member contingent in 36 sports disciplines.
- ✓ Following the final selection of athletes, the coaches and support staff personnel will be named — they will form 33% of the total contingent size.
- **The pair of Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot - won the 10m air rifle mixed team gold on day two of the ISSF World Championship Juniors in Changwon, Korea.**
- ✓ The Indian pair defeated the French combination of Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere in the gold-medal match.



- ✓ This was India's third gold of the competition

- ✓ This took the country to second position in the medals tally, with a silver and two bronze medals.
 - ✓ During the day, India also bagged a bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event
 - ✓ Abhinav Choudhury and Sainyam, who had won gold in the air pistol women's individual competition a day earlier, defeated Korea's Kim Juri and Kim Kanghyun, in the bronze-medal match.
- **Keerthana Pandian - won the women's world under-21 snooker title in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on July 16.**



- ✓ In an all-Indian title clash, the Karnataka-based cueist defeated Chennai's Anupama Ramachandra.
- ✓ Bengaluru's Natasha Chethan claimed the bronze medal.

REPORT

- **Nearly 13.5 crore people - moved out of multi-dimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 in India**

BIHAR 2ND, MP NEXT

- 'Multi-dimensionally poor' in India dropped from 24.8% in 2015-16 to 14.9% in 2019-2021: Niti Aayog report
- **Poor down from 32.5% to 19.3% in villages.** In urban areas, the reduction is less sharp, from 8.7% to 5.3%
- **All 12 indicators show improvements.** Bihar, MP, Odisha & Raj record sharpest drop in no. of poor after UP

- ✓ This is based on a report released by government think tank Niti Aayog on July 17.
- ✓ The report provides multi-dimensional poverty estimates for the 36 states and Union territories and 707 districts.
- ✓ The fastest reduction of the poverty was seen in UP, followed by Bihar, MP, Odisha and Rajasthan
- ✓ The country registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multi-dimensionally poor from 24.8% in 2015-16 to 14.9% in 2019-2021, according to the report.
- ✓ Among the regions, rural India witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.5% to 19.3%, while the urban areas saw a reduction from 8.7% to 5.3% during the same period.
- ✓ Among states, Uttar Pradesh registered the steepest decline in the number of poor with 3.43 crore people moving out of multi-dimensional poverty.
- ✓ Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty has reduced from 47% to 44%
- ✓ This sets India on the path of achieving the SDG target 1.2 (of reducing multi-dimensional poverty by at least half) much ahead of the stipulated deadline of 2030.
- ✓ The national multi-dimensional poverty index measures deprivations across health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators.

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