

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 22, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **The state universities and the colleges under them – will have a common syllabus from this academic year**
- ✓ This was announced by Higher education minister K Ponmudy after a meeting with vice-chancellors of the universities on July 21
- ✓ Accordingly, first-year undergraduate and postgraduate students in 700-odd arts and science colleges — government, aided and self-financing — in the state will study a common syllabus from 2023-24.
- ✓ The 10 state universities will have 100% common English and Tamil syllabus while other subjects will have minimum 75% common syllabus.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) has sent the model syllabus for 301 courses — 166 UG courses, 135 PG courses.
- ✓ The universities and colleges should follow 75% of the content from the model syllabus, while for the remaining 25% they can change content based on local needs.
- ✓ For new courses, the syllabus will be prepared this year and implemented from 2024-25.
- ✓ On the lines of the NIRF, the state government also decided to release a separate ranking for universities and colleges in the state.
- ✓ In this regard, the government will form a committee headed by the higher education secretary to decide on the new ranking.
- ✓ Further, the state government has approved the increase in salary for guest lecturers from Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000.

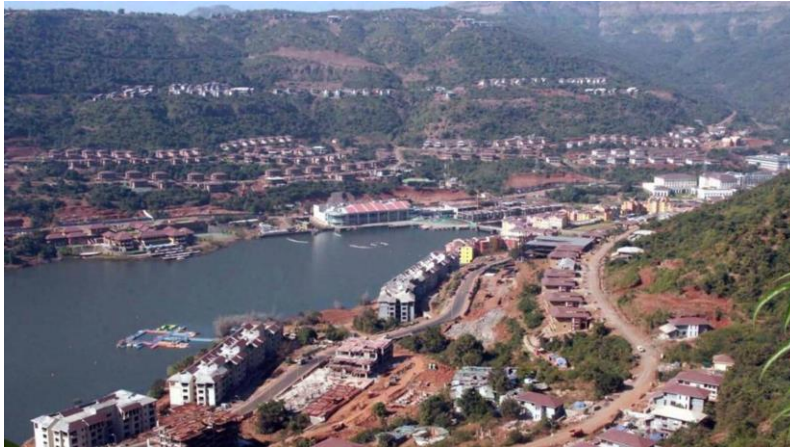
- **On July 21, the government - launched Vasippu Iyakkam (reading movement) at a government middle school near Thuraiyur**
- ✓ Municipal administration minister K N Nehru and school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi launched the movement at the panchayat union middle school at Ponnusangampatti.



- ✓ The campaign seeks to nurture reading habit among school students
- ✓ The pilot project will be implemented in Villupuram, Chennai, Erode, Coimbatore, Tiruchy, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Madurai, Thoothukudi and Mayiladuthurai
- ✓ The books have been divided into levels such as nulai (enter), nada (walk), oodu (run) and para (fly) under the title 'Oru Kadhai, Oru Puthagam and 16 Pakkam'.
- ✓ The objective of the scheme is to help students pick up reading habit by setting up libraries in the classroom.

NATIONAL

- **The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) - has approved the sale of the country's first private hill station Lavasa to Darwin Platform Infrastructure.**



- ✓ The NCLT order approved the Rs. 1,814 crore insolvency resolution plan submitted by Darwin for the revival of the private Lavasa hill city project in the Pune district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The payout over eight years includes Rs.929 crore to lenders and Rs.438 crore on delivering fully constructed houses to 837 homebuyers
- ✓ The total claim amount admitted by the company, including from lenders and operational creditors, is Rs 6,642 crore.

- ✓ The resolution plan approved by NCLT for Lavasa envisages the delivery of fully constructed properties to the homebuyers, within a period of five years of receiving environmental clearance on an actual cost basis.
 - ✓ The Mumbai-headquartered Darwin group had earlier shown interest in the bidding process for Jet Airways and Reliance Capital.
 - ✓ The top financial creditors of Lavasa are Union Bank of India, L&T Finance, Arcil, Bank of India and Axis Bank.
 - ✓ Located in Mulshi Valley in the Western Ghats, near Pune, Lavasa was developed by the Hindustan Construction Company which had envisaged a European-style city.
 - ✓ Lavasa Corporation had received permission to build the required infrastructure for a city.
 - ✓ After the company failed to meet its payment obligations, Raj Infrastructure Development India, one of Lavasa's creditors, filed a bankruptcy petition under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) against the company which was admitted in August 2018.
- **A Varanasi court - directed the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a scientific investigation of the Gyanvapi mosque, which is located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.**
- ✓ The scientific survey of the complex, except the disputed 'Shivling' structure, will be conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
 - ✓ The study will ascertain whether the mosque was built over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple
 - ✓ The survey will not cover the "wuzukhana (ablution pond)" area of the complex, which has been sealed following a Supreme Court order in May 2022.
 - ✓ According to the Hindu litigants, the mosque was built on the site of the original Kashi Vishwanath temple, while the Muslim litigants maintain that the mosque was built on Waqf premises
- **The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has allowed schools to offer education in Indian languages from pre-primary to Class XII.**
- ✓ Currently in majority of the CBSE-affiliated schools, the medium of instruction is English and in some, education is imparted in Hindi.
 - ✓ The National Education Policy 2020 advocates use of home language, mother tongue, local language or regional language as the medium of instruction across various levels of education.
 - ✓ NEP is completing three years this month and the new school curriculum is likely to be announced to mark the occasion.
 - ✓ According to CBSE, the education ministry has directed National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) to prepare new textbooks in 22 scheduled Indian languages and these will be made available from the 2024-25 academic session.

- ✓ In a circular to schools on July 21, the Board said multilingual education has been widely recognised as a valuable approach to promote linguistic diversity, cultural understanding and academic success of students.
- ✓ At present, there are 2.54 crore students studying across 28,886 CBSE-affiliated schools, while there are 12.6 lakh teachers in these schools.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India - signed five agreements with debt-ridden neighbour Sri Lanka and released a bilateral vision document for economic cooperation**
- ✓ The agreements were signed during Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe's two-day visit to India.



- ✓ Various political issues featured in the discussions when Wickremesinghe met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 21.
- ✓ The vision document for the Economic Partnership encompasses various sectors, including tourism, power, trade, higher education, skill development and connectivity, with the aim of accelerating mutual cooperation in these areas.
- ✓ One of the key agreements reached was the implementation of the UPI payment system in Sri Lanka, which will promote fintech connectivity between the two nations.
- ✓ The agreements include a MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy and Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka
- ✓ It also includes the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) in the field of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and energy permit for Sampur Solar Power Project that will produce 100 MW power for Sri Lanka
- ✓ Further, India and Sri Lanka have agreed to resume talks on an Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement to replace an existing trade deal and feasibility of land bridge connectivity between the countries

- ✓ The two leaders also agreed to resume passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka as well as resume the ferry services between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar and other key areas.
- ✓ India and Sri Lanka further agreed to popularize India's Buddhist circuit, and Ramayana trail as well as ancient places of Buddhist, Hindu and other religious worship in Sri Lanka
- ✓ India agreed to strengthen investment and cooperation in civil aviation with Sri Lanka, including augmentation of airport infrastructure at Palaly
- ✓ India will also build a multi-product petroleum pipeline from the Southern part of India to Sri Lanka and commence a joint exploration and production of hydrocarbons in Sri Lanka's offshore basins.
- ✓ To mark 200 years of the arrival of Tamils in Sri Lanka, PM Modi said projects worth Rs.75 crore will be implemented for the Indian-origin community.
- ✓ India will also contribute to development programmes in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions that have a sizeable Tamil population.

