

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 2, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On August 1, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award for 2023 will be presented to Dravidar Kazhagam president K Veeramani.



- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin will present this award to Veeramani on August 15 during the independence day celebrations at Fort St George
- ✓ The award includes prize money of Rs.10 lakh and a certificate of appreciation.
- ✓ 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award was instituted by the state government in 2021 to honour eminent personalities who contributed to the development of Tamil Nadu and Tamils.
- ✓ The first award was received by senior Communist leader N Sankaraiah, while, R Nallakannu, another veteran Communist leader, received the award in 2022.
- ✓ Veeramani was selected by a committee under the chairmanship of CM Stalin.
- ✓ The Dravidian icon, who recently crossed 90 years, entered public life at the age of 10.

- ✓ He was imprisoned 40 times for taking part in the protests and demonstrations organised by Periyar EV Ramasamy in support of the marginalized people discriminated in the society.
- ✓ Veeramani took over as the editor of Viduthalai, mouthpiece of Dravidar Kazhagam, in 1962 and has been its editor for more than 60 years now.
- ✓ He also serves as the editor of journals like Unmai, Periyar Pinju, and The Modern Rationalist.

NATIONAL

- **On August 1, Lok Sabha - passed three bills — Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill and Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order Amendment Bill.**
- ✓ The Registration of Births and Deaths Bill would enable the use of a birth certificate as a single document for various purposes
 - ✓ The birth certificate will serve as a valid document for admission to an educational institution, registration of marriage, appointment to a government job, issuance of driving licence and preparation of voters' list.
 - ✓ The bill will also help create a national and state level database of registered births and deaths, which would ensure efficient and transparent delivery of public services and social benefits.
- ✓ The Constitution Order Bill provides for inclusion of “Mahra” and “Mahara” communities of Chhattisgarh in the list of SCs.
 - ✓ They are synonyms of “Mahar” which is already considered a Dalit community.
- ✓ The Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to provide a fixed 50-year production lease for offshore minerals and regulate mining in maritime zones of India
 - ✓ It allows the government to reserve offshore areas that are not held under any operating right.

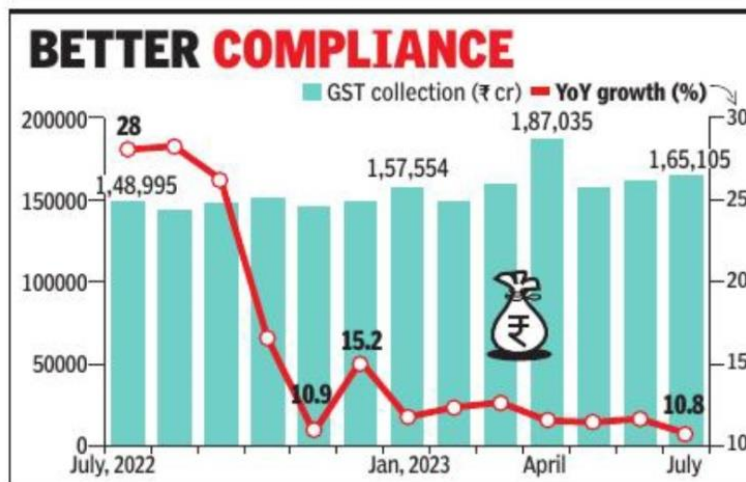
INTERNATIONAL

- **The air forces of China and the United Arab Emirates - will train together for the first time in August**
- ✓ The “Falcon Shield 2023” joint training exercises will take place in China’s northwestern Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region
- ✓ It aims to deepen exchange and cooperation between the two militaries and to promote mutual understanding and trust
- ✓ At the first China-Arab States summit in December, the 21 members of the Arab League and Beijing agreed to more cooperation between their militaries, including on international peacekeeping, maritime security, and combined exercises and training

- ✓ The UAE, a traditional US ally, has taken part in many military drills with American forces, including the annual Iron Union exercise, the latest edition of which took place in May.
- ✓ In 2017, the UAE bought Blue Arrow 7 anti-tank missiles from China for use on its Wing Loong 2 fleet
- ✓ At the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX), a biennial event held in Emirati capital Abu Dhabi, the UAE signed up to buy several L-15 advanced training jets from China.

ECONOMY

- **The GST collection for the month of July - was recorded at Rs 1,65,105 crore, registering an 11% year-on-year growth, according to figures released by the Ministry of Finance on August 1.**

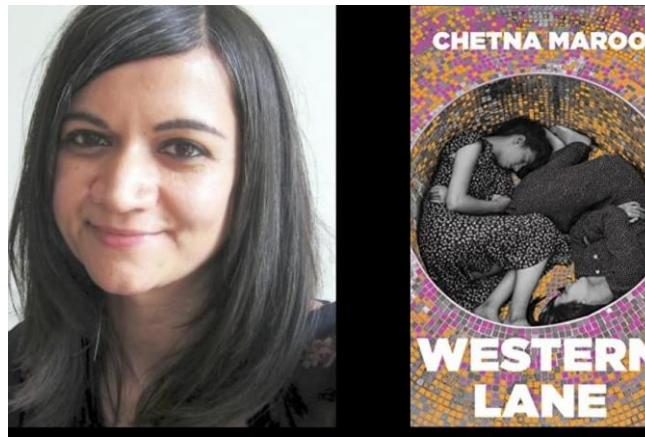


- ✓ Out of the total collection, CGST stood at Rs 29,773 crore, SGST at Rs 37,623 crore and IGST at Rs 85,930 crore and cess at Rs 11,779 crore
- ✓ This is also the fifth time when monthly GST collection crossed the mark of Rs 1.60 lakh crore since its inception.
- ✓ The July GST collections is the third-highest of all time and is 2.2% higher than what was collected in June, which held the previous record for posting the third-highest monthly mop-up.
- ✓ Maharashtra collected the maximum GST revenue in July 2023 at Rs 26,064 crore, followed by Karnataka at Rs 11,505 crore and Tamil Nadu at Rs 10,022 crore.
- ✓ The UPI transactions hit another record in July 2023 at 996 crore transactions, a 6% increase over 934 crore in June.
- ✓ The value of transactions too scaled a new peak, rising 4% to Rs 15.34 lakh crore from the June level.
- ✓ UPI transactions have risen by 58% in volume and 44% in value terms, on a year-on-year basis.

- ✓ Meanwhile, Income tax returns (ITRs) filed by salaried individuals and non-audit cases by the July 31 deadline rose by 94 lakh or 16.1% to nearly 6.8 crore, a record.
- ✓ This included 53.7 lakh returns by first-time assesses
- ✓ Till now, 5.6 crore returns — which is close to 85% — have been verified electronically, while over 3.4 crore returns have been processed.

AWARDS

- **London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' - is among 13 books which have been selected for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist.**



- ✓ Kenya-born Maroo's novel revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl and her bonds with her family.
- ✓ 'Western Lane' is one of four debut novels that make up this year's so-called "Booker Dozen" of 13 longlisted books
- ✓ Other novels in the longlist include 'If I Survive You' by Jonathan Escoffery, 'Pearl' by Siân Hughes and 'All the Little Bird-Hearts' by Viktoria Lloyd Barlow. Sebastian Barry's 'Old God's Time', Paul Harding's 'The Other Eden', Ayobami Adebayo's 'A Spell of Good Things', Paul Lynch's 'Prophet Song', Martin Macinnes' 'In Ascension', Tan Twan Eng's 'The House of Doors', Paul Murray's 'The Bee Sting', Sarah Bernstein's 'Study for Obedience', and Elaine Feeney's 'How to Build a Boat'
- ✓ The 13 books had authors spanning Malaysia, Nigeria, Ireland, Canada, the US and the UK
- ✓ The longlist will be narrowed down to a shortlist of six books, to be announced on September 21.

RANKINGS

- **India - ranks 74th in the world in terms of mean broadband speeds, according to a report by UK telecom research firm Cable.co**

- ✓ The country is steadily rising from 101st place in 2020, 80th in 2021 and 77th in 2022.
- ✓ The mean download speeds of broadband network in the nation stands at just 47.9 mbps in 2023
- ✓ As per the report, the US is at 12th spot with mean speeds of 136.5 Mbps, UK at 34th spot (93.6 mbps), China at 156th spot (12.6 mbps), and Singapore at 23rd spot (101.7 mbps).
- ✓ The mean download speed is a combination of both fixed-line and mobile broadband tests.
- ✓ Globally, speeds increased by 30% from 2022 to 2023 while the growth rate in India was at around 47% for the same period.
- ✓ The report analysed around 1.3 billion broadband speed tests conducted across 220 countries
- ✓ The less-populated island nation 'Jersey' remained at the top spot at mean speeds of 264.5 Mbps followed by Liechtenstein, Macau and Iceland.

