



EVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july 15,**

TAMIL NADU

- **The state environment department - is all set to launch its 'Green Tamil Nadu Mission' on August 15.**
- ✓ For the mission, around 232 nurseries owned by the forest department have been nurturing about 12 lakhs of saplings since April this year.
- ✓ By the end of the year, the state plans to plant 2.5 crore saplings under the mission, which include public initiatives too.
- ✓ The department nurseries have been geotagged, and each sapling planted will be monitored through mobile applications.
- ✓ The forest department nurseries have the capacity to grow 1.7 crore saplings.
- ✓ The Green Tamil Nadu portal developed for this mission will have all details about seedlings available, their location, and plantation sites.
- ✓ This data will be synchronised across the state for quick reference.
- ✓ Under the mission, district green committees have also been formed.
- ✓ The aim of the mission is to increase green cover in urban spaces to achieve the 33% forest cover target.
- ✓ Under the mission, a massive tree plantation programme of indigenous and diverse species, in coordination with multiple departments, public and private institutions, will be taken up over the next 10 years
- ✓ This mission is funded under the Tamil Nadu Green Climate company for which Rs.500 crore has been allocated.
- ✓ This company has been given Rs.5 crore initial investment to launch the mission and Rs.1.38 crore was released to set up district climate change missions on July 13
- ✓ Under this mission, about ten villages in the state will be identified to be made climate resilient
- ✓ These villages will not only have green energy but also have infrastructure that will ensure that they are safe from any climate change events in future.

- **The Tamil Nadu government's school education department – has launched a new initiative called as “year-long school film festival”**
- ✓ The initiative kicked off this July with the 1921 silent film ‘The Kid’ starring Charlie Chaplin
- ✓ Under the initiative, movies will be screened once a month in over 13,000 schools in the state
- ✓ The initiative seeks to encourage children to watch, discuss and critique movies with the select best reviewers getting a chance to be enrolled in workshops with filmmakers as well as an opportunity to attend international film festivals
- ✓ The initiative is open to children in classes 6 to 9
- ✓ As part of the drive for holistic education, the department also plans to launch its ‘art and culture’ initiative next week in Kancheepuram.
- ✓ Under this initiative, local artists, photographers, musicians, and dancers will be encouraged to perform as well as showcase their art in schools and interact with children

- **The state government - has informed the Madras high court that it has approved a policy to remove invasive species such as ‘seemai karuvalem’ (Prosopis juliflora) from water bodies and forest areas.**



- ✓ The policy titled, “Ecological restoration of forest areas infested with invasive plant species in TN” was proposed by a committee
- ✓ The policy has been approved by the government through a government order dated July 13
- ✓ According to the government, the committee was mandated to develop a draft policy with terms of reference to identify, demarcate and assess the extent of area infested with invasive/alien species in forest areas.
- ✓ The committee was also asked to formulate Standard operating procedure for removal, disposal and eco-restoration of infested area and to suggest permanent steps to eliminate invasive/alien species.

- ✓ Based on the committee's report, after detailed discussion and analysing the various issues, in consultation with departments concerned, the draft policy was hosted in public domain for inviting public response.
- ✓ The final draft was submitted by the committee after incorporating valid inputs from various quarters and relevant HC orders.

STATES

- **On July 14, the Union health ministry - sent a high-level multidisciplinary team to Kerala where the country's first monkeypox was reported in Kollam district.**
- ✓ The team will assist the state authorities in creating adequate public health measures to deal with the situation.

SYMPTOMS LAST FROM 2-4 WEEKS

➤ Symptoms include fever, headache, rashes, and blisters on the face, inside the mouth and other parts of the body

➤ It is a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from 2-4 weeks. Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the **case fatality ratio has been around 3-6%**

HOW DO YOU CATCH IT

➤ Caused by the monkeypox virus, a member of the family of **smallpox viruses**, the infection spreads when one is in **close contact** with an infected person

➤ The virus can enter the body through broken skin, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding

Vaccines used during the smallpox eradication programme also provided protection against monkeypox

- ✓ Kerala health minister Veena George earlier said a 35-year-old man who returned from abroad and was hospitalised after showing signs of monkeypox tested positive for the disease.
- ✓ The central team to Kerala comprises experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr RML Hospital, New Delhi and senior officials from the health ministry along with experts from Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala.
- ✓ According to WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On July 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - joined US President Joe Biden, Israeli PM Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the first ever virtual summit of the four-nation grouping 'I2U2'.**
- ✓ During the summit, the leaders jointly announced initiatives focused on food security and clean energy, including a \$2-billion programme to develop integrated

food parks across India and a 300 MW hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat.

- ✓ The US Trade and Development Agency had funded a feasibility study for the hybrid renewable energy project at Dwarka in Gujarat
- ✓ The 300 MW project will involve 200 MW of wind and 100 MW of solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system
- ✓ The project will help achieve India's goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030



- ✓ Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that the proposed food parks or food corridors are expected to come up in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with state-of-the-art climate-smart technologies
- ✓ India will "provide appropriate land for the project and will facilitate farmers' integration into the food parks" while American and Israeli private companies will assist in the projects that will "help maximise crop yields and, in turn, help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East."
- ✓ The meeting was held during US President Joe Biden's visit to Israel as part of his first tour of West Asia since becoming president.
- ✓ The leaders also welcomed India's interest in joining the US, the UAE, and Israel in the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate initiative (AIM for Climate)
- ✓ Under the I2U2 framework, the leaders agreed on increasing the joint investments and new initiatives in 6 important areas of water, energy, transport, space, health & food security.
- ✓ The aim of the grouping is to discuss "common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond".
- ✓ I2U2 was also referred to as the 'West Asian Quad' by Ahmed Albanna, Ambassador of the UAE to India

- ✓ The I2U2 (India and Israel making up the 2Is and US and UAE making up the 2Us) was conceptualised during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries on 18th October last year.
- ✓ At that time, the grouping was called the 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'.
- ✓ The grouping will also focus on Israel's increasing integration into the gulf region, apart from the Abraham Accords with UAE, Morocco and Bahrain
- ✓ The Abraham Accords of 2020 had led to Israel formally normalising diplomatic ties with the three countries in the region - UAE, Morocco and Bahrain

SPORTS

- **Indian shooters – won four medals at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, Korea on July 14, after the rifle and pistol teams bagged one gold and three silver medals.**



- ✓ The men's rifle team comprising Arjun Babuta, Tushar Shahu Mane and Paarth Makhija won gold after beating hosts South Korean team of Hajun Park, Sangdo Kim, Seungho Bang in the gold medal match.
- ✓ The gold was followed by three silver, one each by the women's rifle team, men's and women's pistol teams.
- ✓ These team events are part of only the ISSF events and don't feature in the Olympics.
- ✓ The women's team of Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Mehuli Ghosh lost to South Korean trio of Jihyeon Keum, Eunseo Lee and Dayeong Gwon to win the silver.
- ✓ In men's pistol event, the Indian team of Shiva Narwal, Naveen and Sagar Dangi lost to Paolo Monna, Alessio Torracchi and Luca Tesconi, and settled for silver.
- ✓ The women's pistol team displayed immense fighting spirit, but fell short against the strong Korean team.