



EVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july**

TAMIL NADU

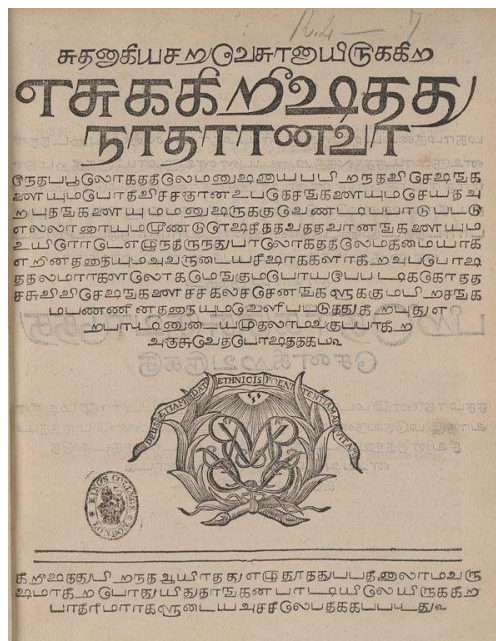
- **On July 1, Tamil Nadu - entered into an agreement with Singapore-based IGSS Ventures for establishing a 'semiconductor hitech park' in over 300 acres.**
- ✓ The MoU was signed between Pooja Kulkarni, MD & CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, and Rajkumar, chairman, IGSS Ventures
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, industries minister Thangam Thennarasu, chief secretary V Irai Anbu and additional chief secretary-industries S Krishnan were present during the occasion.



- ✓ As per the MoU, in the next five years, IGSS Ventures will invest Rs 25,600 crore in establishing a high-tech semiconductor park by providing direct employment to 1,500 people
- ✓ IGSS is a technology investment holding firm offering semiconductor commercialisation capabilities, including emerging technologies
- ✓ The firm will also provide indirect employment to 25,000 people as circuit designers, vendors selling manufactured products, vendors selling secondary products and outsourcing and testing semiconductors.

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has allocated nine strategic sites, including two near Chennai, to house a semiconductor fabrication unit (fab) producing three technology nodes of wafers
 - ✓ The unit is expected to come up at Vallam Vadagal in neighbouring Sriperumbudur district within the next two years.
 - ✓ The proposed fab will also have an industry ecosystem infrastructure that hosts semiconductor circuit designers, material suppliers, equipment suppliers and outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSATs) players
 - ✓ IGSSV has proposed to set up its semiconductor fab under the name "Project Suria"
 - ✓ It had submitted an application under the Centre's Rs 76,000-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) "Scheme for setting up semiconductor fabs in India" of the National Semiconductor Mission.
 - ✓ The development comes a week after the Tamil Nadu government held talks with the top management of Foxconn on the latter's plans to invest in semiconductor and electric vehicle segments
 - ✓ Foxconn manufactures high-end Apple iPhones at its facility in Sriperumbudur
 - ✓ On July 4, Tamil Nadu will host an 'investment conclave' in Chennai, where MoUs will be signed with new investors to attract more than Rs 20,000 crore in fresh investments.
 - ✓ The new investments have the potential to provide employment to more than 60,000 people.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu released an exclusive policy for electronics and hardware manufacturing in 2020
 - ✓ According to the policy, the State aims to contribute 25% of India's total electronic exports to the world and increase the industry's output to \$100 billion by 2025.
- **On June 30, the Tamil Nadu government - constituted a State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) and set up a 15-member committee of experts as per the Dam Safety Act that was enacted in December last year.**
- ✓ This follows the constitution of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and National Committee on Dam Safety in February by the Union Jal Shakti ministry.
 - ✓ The state committee will be entrusted with taking measures to prevent dam failure related disasters under the law as per guidelines, standards and other directions on dam safety issued by the national authority.
 - ✓ The water resources department maintains 90 reservoirs with a total capacity of 143. 62mcft.
 - ✓ The dam safety organisation will have to maintain surveillance, carry out inspections and monitor the operation and maintenance to ensure continued safety of all dams and address safety concerns as per the guidelines.
 - ✓ The Water Resources Department has a wing, Directorate of Dam Safety, which will be revamped as SDSO, with engineers to lead Dam Documentation cell, Dam Design and Hydrology cell, and Dam Hydro-Mechanical cell.

- ✓ The dam safety committee will be led by engineer-in-chief of Water Resources Department
 - ✓ It will have top representatives from Tangedco, Central Water Commission (Hydel civil design wing), Central Electricity Authority (Hydro project monitoring division), IIT-Madras, Centre for Water Resources of Anna University and National Institute of Technology, Trichy.
 - ✓ The chief engineers of Kerala (Sholayar and Upper Bhavani dams) and Puducherry (Vidur dam) will also represent in the committee.
 - ✓ As per the law, the NDSA will perform the role of the State Dam Safety Organisation with respect to four dams, including Mullaperiyar, Parambikulam, Thunakadavu and Peruvuripallam, owned and operated by the Tamil Nadu government but located in Kerala.
 - ✓ In April, the Supreme Court ordered the reconstitution of the Supervisory Committee to discharge all the functions of the NDSA until it becomes functional.
- **The idol wing CID - has traced an antique Bible translated into Tamil by Danish missionary Bartholomaeus Zeigenblag in 1715 to Kings Collections in London.**



- ✓ The world's first ever Tamil Bible went missing from Saraswathi Mahal library at Tharangambadi in Mayiladuthurai district on October 7, 2005 when a group of foreigners visited it.
- ✓ The cover of the bible carries the signature of Rajah Serfoji of Thanjavur
- ✓ The deputy administrator of Serfoji Palace lodged a complaint on the missing Bible with Thanjavur west police on October 10, 2005.
- ✓ The idol wing which began investigations browsed antique collection websites and museums for days before getting the personal collections of King George III in London.

- ✓ They included thousands of printed books, manuscripts and pamphlets most of which were rare.
- ✓ The stolen Bible was found among thousands of hidden books in the collection.
- ✓ The wing is in the process of bringing back the Bible from London under the Unesco treaty and restoring it to Saraswathi mahal.
- ✓ Born in Saxony in 1682, Bartholomaeus, the first Protestant missionary to India had come to Tharangambadi in 1706 and set up a printing press in the Thanjavur district.
- ✓ He published studies of Tamil language, Indian religion and culture.
- ✓ His translation of New Testament was published in 1715.
- ✓ The Danish missionary passed away in 1719 at the age of 39.
- ✓ According to an old wing statement, a missionary called Schwartz was said to have handed over the first copy of the translation to Tulaji Rajah Serfoji, the then ruler of the Thanjavur Bhonsle dynasty
- ✓ After its takeover by the Tamil Nadu government, the Bible became an exhibit at Saraswathi Mahal library for public viewing.





STATES

- **The Karnataka government - is set to open 438 Namma Clinics in all major cities and towns in the state on the lines of the Mohalla Clinics of Delhi.**
- ✓ On July 1, the state cabinet approved the proposal announced by chief minister Basavaraj Bommai in his maiden budget presented on March 4.
- ✓ To begin with, the government has decided to open Namma Clinics, also called Urban Health and Wellness Centres, in all 242 wards of Bengaluru city.
- ✓ These clinics are set up mainly to control contagious diseases and ease the load on existing hospitals
- ✓ The government is spending Rs. 155 crore on setting up these clinics.
- ✓ Another budgetary proposal approved by the cabinet was to provide a hardship allowance of Rs. 2,000 per month to all “pourakarmikas”, or sanitation workers, serving in various urban local bodies.

NATIONAL

- **On July 1, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) - launched its biggest digital initiative for exams titled ‘Pariksha Sangam’**
- ✓ ‘Pariksha Sangam’ will integrate all the different exam-related processes done by schools, regional offices and CBSE headquarters, right from registering students to the declaration of board results.
- ✓ Pariksha Sangam has been planned as a ‘sangam’ (confluence) for all exam-related activities on a single portal.
- ✓ All requests for a photocopy of the answersheet, revaluation, etc. , will also be done through this site.

- ✓ The portal will immediately be put into action as registration for classes IX and X is set to begin this week itself.
 - ✓ Apart from this, board exam results can also be viewed through links on this website.
 - ✓ While almost all of CBSE's processes are currently online, they were getting done through different portals.
 - ✓ Now, all the activities will be integrated into the Pariksha Sangam portal, thus ensuring a 'single-window' format for all.
 - ✓ While CBSE had recently made the invigilation fee reimbursement process online, it will also be integrated into Pariksha Sangam.
- **The government - has increased the import duty on gold from 7.5% to 12.5% as part of a strategy to discourage shipments into the country and check the widening trade deficit.**
- ✓ The effective import duty rate, after budgeting for the 2.5% agriculture infrastructure development cess (AIDC) adds up to 15%.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Effective rate adds up to 15% after taking into consideration 2.5% agriculture infrastructure development cess 		to import surge and moderation in export growth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Centre wants to raise resources to meet higher expenditure commitment and check fiscal deficit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gold shipments surged nearly nine times in May to over \$6 billion 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trade deficit reached a record \$23.3 billion in May due 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Market players are worried over adverse impact and expect smuggling of yellow metal to increase further 	

- ✓ The higher duty pushed up domestic prices to over Rs 52,000/10gm on July 1, the highest level since April 25.
 - ✓ India's trade deficit widened to a record \$23.3 billion during May due to a surge in imports, while export growth moderated.
 - ✓ During the month, gold shipments had surged nearly nine times to over \$6 billion.
 - ✓ For a long time, gold imports were allowed duty free.
 - ✓ The UPA regime, however, imposed customs duty to discourage purchases, which is being continued by the present government.
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved the categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an 'International Organization'**
- ✓ Further, the Cabinet has also approved signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947
 - ✓ The approvals will provide CDRI an independent and international legal persona so that it can efficiently and effectively carry out its functions internationally

- ✓ Since its launch, 31 Countries, 6 International Organizations and 2 private sector organizations have joined as members of CDRI.
 - ✓ 6 International Organisations include Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank Group), European Union, European Investment Bank, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
 - ✓ Two Private Sector Organisations include Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies and Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment
 - ✓ On 28th August, 2019, the Cabinet had approved the setting up of CDRI with its Secretariat in New Delhi along with a budgetary support of Rs. 480 crore
 - ✓ The government's funding serves as a corpus for CDRI to fund technical assistance and research projects on an ongoing basis, setting up the Secretariat office and covering recurring expenditures over a period of 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24.
 - ✓ The CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on the 23rd September, 2019, at New York
- **The registration for recruitment in the Army and Navy under the new Agnipath scheme - kicked off on July 1**
- ✓ The IAF already attracted 3.28 lakh applicants through its online drive launched on June 24.
 - ✓ Under the Agnipath scheme, 46,000 Agniveers (40,000 for Army and 3,000 each for IAF and Navy) will be recruited this year
 - ✓ Out of this, only 25% will be eventually selected after four years for induction into the regular military cadre to serve for another 15 years.
 - ✓ The Agniveers in the Army will be inducted in two batches through 83 recruitment rallies from August to November in different parts of the country.
 - ✓ The training of around 25,000 will begin in December 2022 and 15,000 in February 2023.
 - ✓ The Navy, in turn, will begin training of the 3,000 Agniveers, which will include some women, at its establishment INS Chilka in Odisha on November 21.
 - ✓ The IAF training for 3,000 Agniveers is expected to begin from December 30 this year after the exams and medical tests in two phases.
- **The government - has revamped the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by creating the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).**
- ✓ Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former BBB chairman has been named as chairperson for a term of two years from the date of notification of government resolution or until further orders
 - ✓ The Banks Board Bureau was set up in 2016 by the government with the aim to select executive directors and managing directors and chief executives of PSBs and financial institutions

- ✓ The board has been recommending appointments for directors, chairpersons, and MDs for PSU general insurers firms since 2018
- ✓ The FSIB will now select the chiefs of public sector banks and insurance companies.
- ✓ The Cabinet also approved the guidelines for selection of General Managers and Directors (GMDs) of non-life insurance companies.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) – was recently launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland**
- ✓ It was launched by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners under the Cities4Forests initiative.



- ✓ The initiative is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of United Kingdom and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).
- ✓ Nature-based solutions are fast emerging as cost-effective and sustainable ways to address climate change induced issues such as heat, urban flooding, air and water pollution
- ✓ Along with mitigating the impact of climate change, NbS helps in addressing societal challenges of the vulnerable urban communities, who are most affected by climate change induced catastrophes.
- ✓ The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to provide urban nature-based solutions

DEFENCE

- **On July 1, India - conducted the maiden flight of an unmanned 'autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator' at Chitradurga in Karnataka**



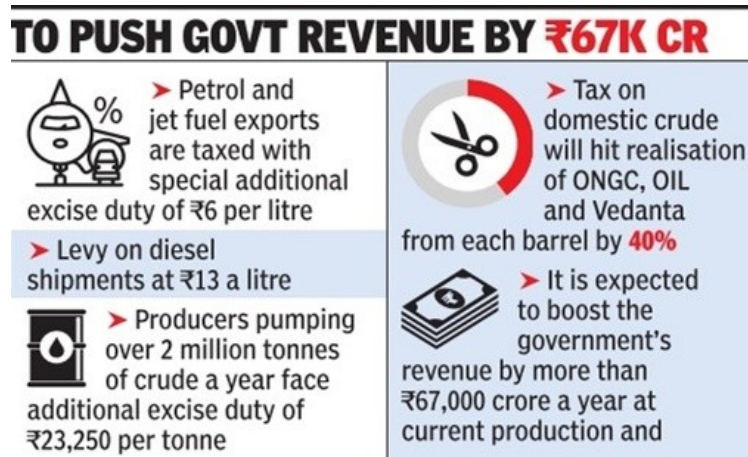
- ✓ The stealth wing flying testbed (SWiFT) was flown from the aeronautical test range for around 15 minutes
 - ✓ SWiFT is a smaller or scaled down version of what will eventually be a remotely-piloted strike aircraft (RPSA)
- ✓ The successful testing by DRDO is seen as an initial and crucial step towards eventually building a full-fledged stealth combat drone capable of firing missiles and dropping bombs
- ✓ The airframe, undercarriage, entire flight control and avionics systems of the SWiFT have been developed indigenously, though it's presently powered by a small Russian turbofan engine.
- ✓ The flight of the SWiFT, which weighs over a tonne, 'validated' the flying control laws, navigation and other technical requirements needed to build the much bigger RPSA.
- ✓ The Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO.

ECONOMY

- The gross Goods and Service Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of June 2022 - is Rs 1,44,616 crore, as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 1



- ✓ The revenues for the month of June 2022 are 56% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year at Rs 92,800 crore
 - ✓ Out of total GST collected during June, CGST stood at Rs 25,306 crore, SGST at Rs 32,406 crore, and the IGST at Rs 75887 crore and cess is Rs 11,018 crore
 - ✓ The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second highest collection till now.
 - ✓ India reported GST collections of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April this year which is the highest till date.
 - ✓ Since its inception, GST collection has surpassed 1.40 lakh crore for the 5th time and for the 4th time at a stretch since March 2022
 - ✓ During the month of June, the highest-ever collection of compensation cess, at Rs 11,018 crore, since the implementation of GST was also collected.
 - ✓ Barring Daman & Diu and Centre jurisdiction, which recorded a contraction, all other states/ UTs recorded double-digit growth in GST generated, with Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Haryana and Uttarakhand leading
- **On July 1, the government - taxed petrol, diesel and jet fuel exports and levied additional duty on domestic crude**
- ✓ The decision aims to discourage overseas sales by private refiners Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy without meeting India's local commitments
 - ✓ Henceforth, petrol and jet fuel exports will be taxed with a special additional excise duty (SAED) of Rs 6 per litre, or roughly 7 cents, while the levy on diesel shipments stood at Rs 13 a litre, or 16 cents.
 - ✓ The tax will not apply to Reliance's SEZ (special economic zone) unit, which makes up about half the capacity of its Jamnagar refining complex in Gujarat.
 - ✓ A special additional excise duty of Rs 23,250 per tonne, or roughly \$40 per barrel, will be levied on producers generating more than 2 million tonnes of crude a year.
 - ✓ The proposed tax on domestic crude will reduce margin of ONGC, OIL and Vedanta from each barrel by 40%
 - ✓ However, the move is expected to boost government revenue by more than Rs 67,000 crore a year at current production and price levels.



- ✓ The main reason of the increase in fuel export tax is due to the shortage seen last month in states that have substantial presence of private retailers.

- ✓ The government retailers, which control over 90% of the market, continued to sell below cost, while the private players raised exports and cut domestic sales by not supplying outlets or charging Rs 3-5 per litre more.
- ✓ State-run refiners had to import petrol and diesel to fill the void left by private players, even after running their refineries at above 100%.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Special director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), A Sermarajan alias A S Rajan - took over as director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad on July 30.**



- ✓ Hailing from Tamil Nadu, Rajan is a 1987 batch IPS officer belonging to Bihar cadre but moved to IB over two decades ago.
- ✓ Born in the southern district of Theni in Tamil Nadu, Rajan completed his graduation in History at Haji Karutha Rowthar Hawdia College in Uthamapalayam in Theni district and did his MA in History at S Vellaichamy Nadar College in Madurai.
- ✓ He aced the UPSC examination in his very first attempt in 1987 and began his career as a trainee IPS officer in Ranchi in the undivided Bihar.
- ✓ His first regular posting was at Sasaram as its assistant superintendent of police.
- ✓ On promotion as superintendent of police, he was made SP of Rohtas district itself.
- ✓ A field officer who is a specialist in law and order, crime and elections, Rajan went on to serve in some of Bihar's toughest police districts such as Rohtas, Baghalpur, Muzaffarpur, Jehanabad and East Champaran.

SPORTS

- **Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra - broke his own national record for the second time in a month and reclaimed Diamond League for the first time in 4 years**
- ✓ On June 30, Chopra finished 2nd at the Stockholm Diamond League after making a record breaking throw of 89.94m.



- ✓ The 24-year-old Chopra opened with a stunning throw of 89.94m, just 6cm short of the 90m mark, the gold standard in the world of javelin throw
- ✓ His other throws measured 84.37m, 87.46m, 84.77m, 86.67 and 86.84m
- ✓ During the event, Chopra bettered his earlier national record of 89.30m, which he had set while finishing second in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on June 14.
- ✓ World champion and season leader Anderson Peters of Grenada won the competition with a best throw of 90.31m which he came up with in this third attempt.
 - ✓ Peters has thrown 90m-plus twice this season -- 93.07m while winning the Doha leg of the Diamond League last month before 90.75m effort at Hengelo in the Netherlands.
- ✓ Julian Weber of Germany finished third with a fifth round throw of 89.08m while Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch (88.59m) of Czech Republic was fourth.
- ✓ Germany's Johannes Vetter, who has the maximum number of 90-plus throws among the active throwers, continued to be on the sidelines, as he is not fully fit
- ✓ During the event, Neeraj Chopra became the second Indian to finish in top-three in a Diamond League competition after discus thrower Vikas Gowda.
 - ✓ The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gowda, who retired in 2017, had finished in top-three in a Diamond League event four times in his career.
 - ✓ He had finished second in 2012 (New York) and 2014 (Doha) and third in Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.
- ✓ Chopra was making his first Diamond League appearance in four years after his fourth-place finish in Zurich in August 2018.
 - ✓ He has taken part in seven Diamond League meets -- three in 2017 and four in 2018.
- ✓ The prestigious one-day meet at the Swedish capital, Stockholm, is Chopra's biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, from July 15-24.
- ✓ The next Diamond League Meeting where javelin throw is in the programme is in Monaco on August 10.

RANKINGS

- **Four Indian cities - have made it to the list of top-20 sustainable cities in the Asia Pacific region, as per the Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021**
- ✓ Bengaluru has been ranked 14th, the only Indian city to achieve the 'Gold Standard' category, followed by Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai at 17th, 18th and 20th ranks in the Asia Pacific region
- ✓ The latest report was released by Knight Frank, which is a global property consultant, with the title 'Active Capital Asia-Pacific – Rising Capital in Uncertain Times'
- ✓ Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne are the five green-rated cities in commercial real estate in the Asia-Pacific region
- ✓ The report ranked 36 cities based on urbanisation pressure, climate risk, carbon emissions and government initiatives
- ✓ Gold category indicates that the city is slightly advanced and somewhat open to accepting and adapting to environmental, social and governance (ESG) metrics from all stakeholders to a certain degree.
- ✓ Silver indicates that the city is advanced and open to accepting and adapting to ESG metrics from all stakeholders to a limited degree.
- ✓ The report also highlighted that India's Green Bonds issuance increased by a whopping 523% year-on-year (y-o-y) from \$1.1 billion in 2020 to \$6.8 billion in 2021.
- ✓ Green bonds are a specific kind of fixed income instrument designated to raise funds for projects related to the environment and climate.
- ✓ India is the sixth-largest country in the Asia Pacific region in terms of the total amount of green bonds issued in 2021
- ✓ China issued the largest amount, \$68 billion, exceeding the combined value of the other APAC nations

