

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JULY 1, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – emerged as the country’s top electronics exporter in the financial year ended March 2023**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu’s electronics exports stood at \$5.37 billion in FY23, up from \$1.86 billion in the previous year, as per the exports data released by the Centre
- ✓ This helped the state to jump from fourth spot in FY22 to the top spot in FY 23.
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu has surpassed industrial majors like Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to emerge on top for the first time after the shutting down of Nokia in 2014

#### **ELECTRONICS EXPORTS** (in \$ billion)

	TN	UP	Maharashtra	Karnataka
2022-23	5.3	4.9	2.6	4.5
2021-22	1.8	3.8	2.1	3.9
2020-21	1.6	2.8	1.6	2.3

Source: National Import-Export Records

- ✓ In FY23, Uttar Pradesh came second in electronics exports, exporting \$4.90 billion and Karnataka at third place with \$4.52 billion.
- ✓ India's total electronics exports for the fiscal stood at \$23.5 billion, which is also a record high.
- ✓ The growth in iPhone exports from Apple's contract manufacturer Foxconn, commencement of operations at another Apple supplier Pegatron, and robust exports of telecom equipment and other products contributed the state to triple its exports in FY23.
- ✓ Skilled manpower, port connectivity and good infrastructure are the major advantage factors of Tamil Nadu

- **The department of environment, forests and climate change - notified 24 new reserve forests in the state in the last two years (2021-2023) under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.**
- ✓ These 24 reserve forests are located in the Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Kallakurichi, Theni, Sivaganga, Namakkal and the Nilgiris districts.
- ✓ This has added an area of 3585. 38. 56 hectares of reserve forest in the state
- ✓ The district-wise breakup of these reserve forests includes Dindigul (1374. 35. 06), Madurai (58. 12), Theni (35. 95), Sivaganga (166. 62), Dharmapuri (106. 01), Kallakurichi (1138. 95), Namakkal (703. 36) and the Nilgiris (2. 02 . 5).

## **STATES**

- **Jammu & Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha – flagged off the first batch of Amarnath yatris from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu after performing the customary prayers and religious rituals.**



- ✓ The first batch, consisting of 3,488 pilgrims, left for the two base camps in Nunwan (Pahalgam) and Baltal (Ganderbal) in Kashmir Valley on June 30.
- ✓ The annual 62-day pilgrimage will begin on July 1
- ✓ The pilgrims left in 164 vehicles, escorted by CRPF troopers with area domination being done by the Army and J&K police on the highway.
- ✓ Of the first batch, 1,491 pilgrims headed for the Baltal base camp while 1,997 set out for the Nunwan base camp.

## **NATIONAL**

- **The Ministry Of Panchayati Raj - has issued a directive asking all the panchayats in the country to adopt digital payments for all development activities and revenue collection starting from August 15.**
- ✓ As per the ministry's rules, panchayats must select the proper service providers by July 15 and conclude their vendor selections by July 30

- ✓ According to the Ministry, almost 98% panchayats have already started using UPI-based payments, while payments in cheques and cash have almost been stopped
- ✓ Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are making digital payments through PFMS-eGram Swaraj interface, and over 90% of PRIs have been audited online
- **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority - has fixed the ceiling price of two anti-coagulant and 51 other drug formulations, including medicines used to manage diabetes.**
  - ✓ The ceiling price is the amount fixed by the government for 'Scheduled Formulations' in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.
  - ✓ It is the maximum price for retailers (excluding GST, if any) for a given product.
  - ✓ In case of any violation, the manufacturer/marketing company shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest thereon under the provisions of the DPCO 2013, read with the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
  - ✓ In 2022, the health ministry had notified the inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022, to make the life-saving medical devices more affordable.
- **The Centre - has approved the grant of interest-free and long-term capital expenditure loans of Rs 56,415 crore to 16 states in the current FY 2023-24.**
  - ✓ The approval has been given under the scheme entitled 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24'
  - ✓ This scheme aims to boost capital spending by states by offering a 50-year interest-free loan of up to Rs 1.3 lakh crore during the fiscal year.
  - ✓ The maximum amount, of Rs 9,640 crore, has been allocated to Bihar, followed by Rs 7,850 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs 7,523 crore to West Bengal, Rs 6,026 crore to Rajasthan and Rs 4,528 crore to Odisha.
  - ✓ Various sectors, including health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges, and railways, will benefit from the approved capital investment projects.
  - ✓ Besides, funds have been allocated to support the state share of initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, aiming to accelerate progress in these sectors.
  - ✓ In the previous financial year, an amount of Rs 81,195 crore was released to the states under the scheme.
  - ✓ The Ministry's scheme for financial assistance to states for capital investment/expenditure, introduced in 2020-21 amid the Covid-19 pandemic, has significantly contributed to various capital spending by the states.
- **The government - has left interest rates on most small savings rates unchanged for the July-September quarter**

- ✓ The interest rate for 5-year recurring deposit has been hiked to 6.5% from 6.2%, the maximum hike of 30 basis points.
  - ✓ The interest rates for one-year and two-year time post-office deposits have been increased by 10 basis points each, respectively. (100 basis points is equal to one percentage point).
  - ✓ The government has, however, left interest rates on popular schemes such as Senior Citizens Savings Schemes, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme unchanged for the quarter.
  - ✓ The interest rate for the public provident scheme remained unchanged for the 13th consecutive quarter.
  - ✓ The government had hiked interest rates for most small savings schemes in the previous April-June quarter.
  - ✓ The government revises interest rates every quarter to link it to the market rates.
- **The Lansdowne Cantonment Board in Pauri Garhwal district - has passed a proposal to change the name of the hill town to Jaswantgarh, after 1962 Sino-Indian war hero Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat.**



- ✓ The Lansdowne Cantonment is regarded as one of the most idyllic hill stations of the country to have been set up by the British
- ✓ Rawat, attached to the Garhwal Rifles, was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously for his valour during the battle in Arunachal Pradesh (formerly part of North-East Frontier Agency region).
- ✓ The hill town also hosts the regimental centre of Garhwal Rifles regiment of the Indian Army.
- ✓ The proposal to change the name was in accordance with the decision of the ministry of defence to change the British-era names of cantonment boards and related places.
- ✓ The proposal is being sent to the Army's central command in Lucknow.

- **Union Ministry of Culture – has recently signed an MoU with Canara Bank under the “Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists” on June 28.**



- ✓ The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme namely “Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists”
  - ✓ Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above the age of 60 years
  - ✓ This assistance is given to those veteran artists who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing, but facing difficulty due to old age.
  - ✓ Currently, under the scheme, disbursement of financial assistance in respect of artists selected before 2017 is made through LIC while for the artists approved post 2017, it is made directly by the Ministry.
  - ✓ Canara Bank, one of the leading PSU Banks, has expressed their sincere commitment for ensuring the smooth and continuous disbursement of the assistance to the veteran artists
- **Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Parshottam Rupala - recently launched an android-based mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi on June 28.**



- ✓ Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugan was also present during the event.
  - ✓ This app is designed to help fish farmers and improve disease management in the aquaculture sector.
  - ✓ It allows farmers to easily report fish diseases by connecting them directly with district fisheries officers and scientists.
  - ✓ The 'Report Fish Disease' app simplifies and improves disease reporting for fish farmers, ensuring that experts can intervene promptly.
- **Union Minister of Mines, Pralhad Joshi - has unveiled the first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India recently on June 29**



- ✓ The report identifies 30 critical minerals essential for sectors including defense, agriculture, energy, transport, pharmaceuticals, and telecom
  - ✓ The report has been prepared by a seven-member expert team constituted by the Ministry of Mines.
  - ✓ The 30 minerals listed by the government include Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.
- **Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala - launched NANDI (NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System) portal recently on June 26**
- ✓ The portal will process applications and grant non-objection certification (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines in a timely manner
  - ✓ The NANDI portal has been developed to streamline and digitise the regulatory approval process through seamless integration with the SUGAM portal of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

- ✓ It is also aimed to speed up the process to assess and examine the safety, efficacy, and essentiality of veterinary product proposals received in the Department.



- ✓ The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) developed this portal to stimulate research and development focused on improving Animal health.
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - has launched the Field Assessment for the 8th edition of urban cleanliness survey Swachh Survekshan - Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan.**



- ✓ From July 1, around 3,000 assessors will evaluate over 4,500 cities across 46 indicators within a month.
- ✓ The survey aims to promote sustainable sanitation and waste management through competition and engagement with citizens.
- ✓ This year's focus is on waste-to-wealth initiatives and scientific waste management.
- ✓ The survey includes new indicators such as waste processing, segregation at source, and cleanliness of public areas.
- ✓ It is expected to engage with about 10 crore citizens during this year's assessment, making it the world's largest annual urban cleanliness survey.
- ✓ Conducted over four quarters, the first three-quarters of the assessment have already been completed successfully.

- ✓ Swachh Survekshan 2023 was rolled out on 24 May, 2022, with telephonic feedback from citizens on various parameters of city cleanliness
- ✓ To bring in efficiency and transparency in sanitation survey, citizens' feedback is collected via various channels – Vote For My City App, Vote For My City Portal, MyGov App, Swachhata App and QR Codes.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - will organise an International Conference on Green Hydrogen, ICGH-2023 from July 5 to 7 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.**



- ✓ The event will be the first such conference of this scale on green hydrogen in the country
- ✓ The objective of the conference is to bring together the global scientific and industrial community to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain
- ✓ It seeks to explore how India can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and how to attain global goals for decarbonization through green hydrogen.
- ✓ The conference will also discuss green financing, human resource upskilling, and startup initiatives in this area.
- ✓ The green hydrogen ecosystem is important in order to attain the basic production target of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, of producing five Million Metric Tonne of green hydrogen per annum by the year 2030.
- ✓ The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched by the Government of India on January 4, 2023, as part of its decarbonization strategy and to generate hydrogen from green power sources
- ✓ The mission aims to make India a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of such technologies
- ✓ The initial financial outlay for the mission is estimated at Rs 19,744 crore, which includes research and development activities.
- ✓ Under this mission, the government aims to raise annual green hydrogen production to 5 million tonnes, renewable energy capacity addition of about 125



gigawatts, attract over Rs 8 lakh crore in investments, lakhs of jobs, and most importantly over Rs 1 lakh crore cumulative reduction of fossil fuel imports.

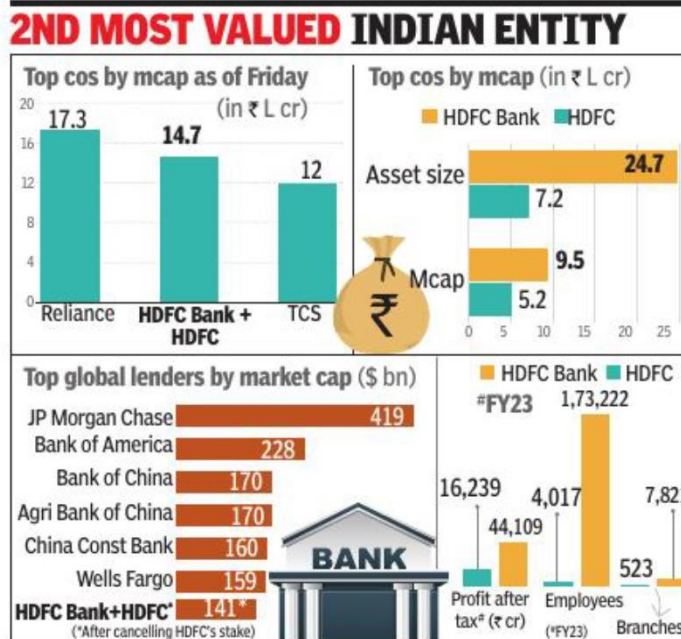
- ✓ The green hydrogen mission will gradually lead to the decarbonisation of industrial, transport, and energy sectors, a reduction in dependence on imported fossil fuels, among others.
- ✓ In his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission.

## DEFENCE

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) - is gearing up to host its first-ever multilateral air force exercise later this year.**
- ✓ The exercise, named 'Tarang Shakti', will witness the participation of 12 nations, with six nations joining with their aircraft and the remaining six as observers.
- ✓ Among others, air forces of France, Australia, the US and the UK are likely to participate in the exercise
- ✓ Set to take place in the Rajasthan sector in October or November, 'Tarang Shakti' aims to enhance coordination, interoperability, and integration among the participating air forces
- ✓ Tarang Shakti is set to be the largest multinational air exercise ever held in India.
- ✓ The exercise will feature a range of aircraft, including fighter jets, military transport aircraft, mid-air refuellers, and airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft.

## BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The merger between HDFC and HDFC Bank - has received final approval from the boards of both companies, with July 1 set as the effective date.**



- ✓ This merger makes HDFC Bank the second-most valuable Indian company, surpassing TCS and trailing only RIL.
- ✓ Moreover, it marks the end of an institution that pioneered largescale, profitable and socially relevant housing finance in the private sector.
- ✓ Factoring the merger, HDFC Bank's assets will be 58% higher than the previous year.
- ✓ As part of the amalgamation process, HDFC Investments (HIL) and HDFC Holdings (HHL) will first merge with their parent company HDFC, which will then merge with HDFC Bank, effective July 1.
- ✓ HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh will be retiring as a result of the merger.

## AWARDS

- **UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak - honoured Rajindar Singh Dhatt with a Points of Light award at a UK-India Week reception in London recently on June 28**



- ✓ Rajindar Singh Dhatt is one of the last surviving Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War.
  - ✓ The 101-year-old was honoured for his service and contributions to running the “Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen’s Association” to help bring together British Indian war veterans.
  - ✓ The Points of Light award "recognises outstanding volunteers – people who are making a change in their community."
  - ✓ Dhatt was born in pre-Partition India in 1921 and fought with the Allied forces during the British colonial period.
  - ✓ He had joined the British Indian Army during the Second World War and excelled up the ranks, being promoted to Havildar Major (Sergeant Major) in 1943.
  - ✓ Dhatt was later drafted to the Far East campaign to fight in Kohima in northeast India to support the Allied Forces and help break through the Japanese defences
  - ✓ He is based in Hounslow in southwest London since 1963.
- **British children’s writer and performance poet Michael Rosen - has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2023**



- ✓ The 77-year-old Rosen served as the sixth British Children's Laureate between 2007 and 2009
- ✓ He is known for making poetry accessible to children through his work and performances.
- ✓ Rosen is among the first poets who visited schools extensively across the UK and even overseas, talking about poetry and literature and the ways it can help us see the world around us with humour and empathy
- ✓ After starting off his career as a playwright with the play Backbone, Rosen worked at the BBC for a while till he decided to go freelance in 1972.
- ✓ Rosen's first book of children's poems, Mind Your Own Business, came out in 1974.
- ✓ His picture book We're Going on a Bear Hunt (1989), illustrated by Helen Oxenbury is a classic tale that has sold over nine million copies world-wide and won several awards, including the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize.
- ✓ At present, he is a professor of children's literature at Goldsmiths, University of London.
- ✓ The award is given to a writer from the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth whose work is committed to a fearless exposition of truth about contemporary life.
- ✓ Established in 2009, previous winners of the award include Hanif Kureishi (2010), Salman Rushdie (2014), Lemn Sissay (2019).
- ✓ Writer Malorie Blackman won it last year.

## SPORTS

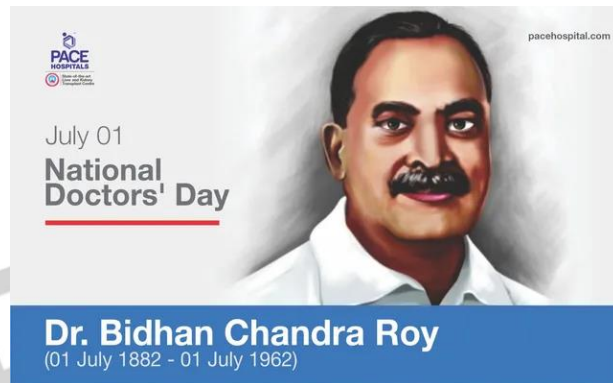
- **India's mixed doubles pair of Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu – clinched gold medal in the Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Championships in Hangzhou on June 29**
- ✓ The third-seeded Indian pair defeated second-seeded Malaysian duo Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold in straight sets to clinch the gold medal.
- ✓ Youngsters Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh lost to Rachel and Ivan in the semifinal and settled for the bronze medal.



- ✓ Dipika was making her comeback after a year's break and was last seen representing India at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last year.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Doctors Day – July 1



- ✓ National Doctor's Day is celebrated every year to honor and acknowledge the contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals to society's health and well-being.
- ✓ The Indian Government officially declared National Doctor's Day date as July 1 in 1991.
- ✓ The decision was made in order to celebrate the birth anniversary Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned educationist, freedom fighter, physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1948 to 1962.
- ✓ He was a friend and personal doctor of Mahatma Gandhi and had treated him in 1942 during Quit India Movement.
- ✓ Born on July 1, 1882, Dr Roy co-incidentally breathed his last on the same date in the year 1962 at the age of 80.
- ✓ Dr Roy dedicated his life towards improving the country's fragile public healthcare system.
- ✓ Dr Roy also took part in relief activities and in recognition of his services, he was awarded Doctorate of Science degree in 1944.
- ✓ Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy was also the recipient of the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna and received the award on February 4, 1961.

- ✓ In 1976, the B.C. Roy National Award was established in his memory and the award is the highest honour a doctor can receive in India
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands".

