

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 28, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On July 27, the state government - launched 'Tide Turners Plastic Challenge', aimed at reducing plastic use among school and college students.



- ✓ The government has collaborated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UN EP) for the initiative.
- ✓ The programme will be implemented in three levels – entry, leadership and championship - through eco clubs in private and government schools.
 - ✓ At the first 'entry' level, school teachers will be explained issues of pollution of waterbodies and marine ecosystem due to plastic invasion.
 - ✓ At the second level, called leadership level, schools should reach out to communities and engage them in activities to reduce plastic use.
 - ✓ At the third 'championship' level, schools should demonstrate a change at the ground level that took place due to the first two levels.
 - ✓ On completion of the third level, the UN EP will present a championship badge to the achievers.
- ✓ The initial target for the state is to rope in one lakh children for the programme.
- ✓ People in 12-35 age group can participate in the programme.

- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the environment department - have launched a 'voluntary industrial green rating mechanism' for industries across the state.**
 - ✓ The main objective of the initiative is to accelerate green growth and to help the state move towards economically viable and socially responsible businesses.
 - ✓ It is also aimed at getting incentives for low carbon products being exported by the industries
 - ✓ Energy security, conservation of water resources, clean air, greenhouse gas monitoring, sustainable waste management, and green initiatives by the industries are the various criteria employed for giving the green rating performance.

- **Tamil Nadu government – has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Royal Botanic Garden (RBG), Kew, England for setting a botanical garden in Chennai**
 - ✓ The Kew Garden will be set up at Kadambur village near Maraimalar Nagar in Chengalpattu district
 - ✓ The project will be set up at a cost of Rs.300 Crore and will be implemented during a five year period from 2022-2027.
 - ✓ The MoU was exchanged in the presence of state forest minister M Mathivendhan ahead of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial meeting in Chennai



- ✓ According to government, 137.65 hectares of land belonging to the revenue department were handed over to the forest department for setting up the garden.
- ✓ The project will also have components like Native species garden, Arboretums and bambusetums, Healing Garden, Herb Garden, Rose Garden, Rockery, Japanese Garden, Landscape of ancient Tamil Nadu etc.,

- ✓ As per the MoU, Kew will provide advice and expertise around landscape planning, plant collection development, botanic garden management and other related matters to Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ As part of the agreement, 8 different types of gardens including native species gardens will be set up.
- ✓ These gardens will conserve and propagate native plant species of Tamil Nadu, including rare, threatened and endangered species
- ✓ Besides, UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT's) mangrove project was launched by UK Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Therese Coffey
- ✓ The project will work in 3 climate-smart villages, focusing on three ecosystems — forests, mangroves and wetlands.
- ✓ It will specifically build capacities of forest communities, especially the tribals of the Nilgiris district, the fisherfolk of the Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem in the Cuddalore district, and small-holder subsistence farmers and agricultural labourers, living in inland areas of the wetland of Coimbatore district.
- ✓ Keystone Foundation located in the Nilgiris bagged this project after a competitive process.

NATIONAL

- **On July 27, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act through a voice vote**
- ✓ The Bill plans to tackle film piracy, modify age-based certification provided by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), and provide consistency in categorising films and material across platforms.
- ✓ The Bill lays down a three-year jail term and a fine of up to 5% of a movie's production cost for those making its pirated copies.
- ✓ It was introduced in Rajya Sabha on July 20 and now will be sent to Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The revised Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, which seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, incorporates recommendations of a parliamentary standing committee
- ✓ It introduces three age-based certifications under the 'UA' category, namely 'UA 7+', 'UA 13+' and 'UA 16+'.
- ✓ The Bill also empowers the central board of film certification (CBFC) to sanction a film with a separate certificate for its exhibition on television or other media.
- ✓ Further, the Act provides that film certificates issued by the central board for film certification will now be applicable for perpetuity instead of their current validity 10 years.
- ✓ The Bill further seeks to introduce new sections in the Cinematograph Act with provisions to prohibit the unauthorised recording of films (section 6AA) and their exhibition (section 6AB).

- **On July 27, the Lok Sabha - passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 through a voice vote**
 - ✓ The Bill seeks to promote ease of business by decriminalising minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 acts administered by 19 ministries.
 - ✓ Some of the acts that are being amended, include The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Public Debt Act, 1944; Pharmacy Act, 1948; Cinematograph Act, 1952; Copyright Act, 1957; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Legal Metrology Act, 2009 ; Government Securities Act, 2006; Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
 - ✓ It was moved by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha
 - ✓ The bill converts several fines to penalties, meaning that court prosecution is not necessary to administer punishments.
 - ✓ It removes imprisonment as a punishment for many offences, besides removing all offences under the Post Office Act, 1898.
 - ✓ The Bill also seeks to create an Environmental Protection Fund for education, awareness, and research on environmental protection.
 - ✓ The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022, was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 22, 2022.
 - ✓ It was later sent to a joint committee which presented its report to the Lok Sabha in March this year
- **On July 27, the Lok Sabha - passed The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022**
 - ✓ The bill aims to repeal 65 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws as part of efforts to improve the ease of living and doing business.
 - ✓ The NDA government has repealed 1,486 laws and once the present bill gets parliament's nod, the number of laws removed from statute books will go up to 1,562
 - ✓ The bill is one of the periodical measures by which enactments that have ceased to be in force or have become obsolete or the retention as a separate Act is unnecessary are repealed.
 - ✓ The bill proposes to repeal the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885, as well as the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.
 - ✓ In December last year, the government introduced the Repealing and Amending Bill to abolish 65 old colonial laws.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On July 27, the Supreme Court - allowed the extension of Enforcement Directorate Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure until September 15 to serve "public and national interest".**
 - ✓ The court also made it clear to Centre that there will be no more extension in Mishra's tenure as ED chief after September 15, 2023.



- ✓ On July 26, the Centre moved the apex court seeking Mishra's continuance till October 15, saying his absence during the ongoing FATF review will adversely impact India's national interests.
 - ✓ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a global body that leads action to tackle money laundering and terror financing.
- ✓ The court had declared Mishra's continuation as ED Director "invalid and illegal" in a judgment on July 11 and also curtailed Mishra's extended tenure till July 31 to allow for a "smooth transfer".
- ✓ The 1984-batch IRS officer was otherwise to remain in office till November 18, 2023, according to the notification issued by the government.
- ✓ Mishra was first appointed the ED director for two years on November 19, 2018.
- ✓ Later, by an order dated November 13, 2020, the central government modified the appointment letter retrospectively and his two-year term was changed to three years.
- ✓ The government also promulgated an ordinance last year under which the tenure of the ED and CBI chiefs could be extended by up to three years after the mandated term of two years.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting - was held in Chennai from July 26-28, 2023.**



- ✓ The three-day meeting witnessed the participation of around 300 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and several International Organisations
- ✓ The meeting focused on land degradation, biodiversity and deforestation, blue economy and promoting circular economy.
- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav presided the ministerial meeting, which was attended by ministers from 35 countries

OBITUARY

- **Renowned painter and Illustrator, V Ranganathan alias Maruthi – passed away at the age of 85 in Pune on July 27**



- ✓ For several decades, Tamil magazines, including Vikatan, Kumudham and Kungumam, carried his illustrations for their stories and novels.
- ✓ A master of the wash technique, Maruthi's drawings have appeared on the covers of novels by several acclaimed writers, including Balakumaran, Sujatha, and Jayakanthan.
- ✓ He also later worked with former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi as a costume designer for the Tamil film Uliyin Osai, which was released in 2008
- ✓ Maruthi has won Tamil Nadu government's highest civilian award - Kalaimamani award – as an acknowledgement for his paintings.

