



## **EVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july 14,**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu – to launch the i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub in September this year**
- ✓ iTNT hub will coordinate efforts to use technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and blockchain to solve complex challenges in various sectors like agriculture, health or education.
- ✓ The hub will function as an accelerator cum incubator for start-ups working in the deep technologies sector
- ✓ The facility will be established in an area of 25,000 sq ft at the Anna University campus in the city.
- ✓ iTNT hub is an initiative announced by the information technology (IT) department to push for the growth of the IT sector in the State.
- ✓ In the budget for the fiscal 2022-23, the state government had announced that iTNT hub will be setup at a cost of Rs. 54.6 crore in Chennai.

### **STATES**

- **Ahmedabad and Kerala - have been named by TIME magazine among the 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in its list of the World's Greatest Places of 2022**



- ✓ Time Magazine has created profile pages for Kerala and Ahmedabad where it has highlighted the reasons why these places are part of its prestigious list.
- ✓ Describing Kerala as one of India's most beautiful states, the publication stated that with spectacular beaches and lush backwaters, temples, and palaces, it's known as "God's own country" for good reason.
- ✓ Further, the magazine focused on the state's motor-home tourism and its first caravan park, Karavan Meadows, opened in Vagamon, a scenic hill station
- ✓ The TIME magazine described Ahmedabad as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City and a city which "boasts both ancient landmarks and contemporary innovations"
- ✓ Among the places to visit, the magazine quoted the Gandhi Ashram located on 36 acres on the banks of the Sabarmati River and Navratri, a vibrant nine-day celebration billed as the longest dance festival in the world
- ✓ Elaborating on the city's contemporary innovations, the publication mentioned Ahmedabad's Gujarat Science City which includes a 20-acre nature park and the country's largest aquarium
- ✓ The list also includes Ras Al Khaimah in UAE, Park City at Utah in Seoul, Great Barrier Reef in Australia, The Arctic at Valencia in Spain, Trans Bhutan Trail in Bhutan, International Space Station in Bogota, Buahan in Bali, Mandeira in Spain, Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia, Istanbul and Kigali, Rwanda.



- **The Centre - has announced to give free booster shots of the Covid vaccine to all in the 18-59 age group at government vaccination centres.**
- ✓ This will be facilitated under a 75-day special drive from July 15 as part of the government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative

**COVERAGE LOWEST IN UP, JHARKHAND**

%age covered		18-59	60+	18+
<b>All India</b>		<b>0.9</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>TOP STATES</b>	Andhra Pradesh	0.1	80.7	13.4
	Delhi	7.5	44.3	12.1
	Uttarakhand	0.4	59	9.2
	Gujarat	0.6	57.4	8.8
	Himachal Pradesh	0.2	48.9	8.7
<b>BOTTOM STATES</b>	Assam	0.2	27.6	3.6
	Punjab	0.1	20	3.4
	Tamil Nadu	0.2	14.5	2.8
	Uttar Pradesh	0.2	18.6	2.5
	Jharkhand	0.3	12.5	1.9

Source: Health ministry for vaccination, Census projections for population.  
Data as of 7am on July 13

- ✓ This was announced by Union minister Anurag Thakur mentioning that the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
  - ✓ The move is in line with the government's continuous efforts to increase uptake of precaution doses following rising cases of Covid-19 in many states.
  - ✓ So far, less than 1% of the target population of 77.1 crore in the 18-59 age group has been administered the precaution dose.
  - ✓ However, 25.84% of the 16.8 crore eligible population aged 60 and above as well as healthcare and frontline workers have received the booster dose.
  - ✓ Presently, the Centre is administering precaution doses free of cost to only those above 60 years and health and frontline workers.
  - ✓ Recently, the health ministry also reduced the gap between the second and precaution doses nine to six months.
- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) - issued a list of guidelines and standards to ensure accessible education for disabled students in Higher Education Institutions (HEI).**
- ✓ The "Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities" seeks to develop effective accessible mechanisms for persons with disabilities covering every stage, from admissions to the completion of courses
  - ✓ The guidelines are in tune with the prescription made in the National Education Policy, 2020
  - ✓ The guidelines are specific in nature, including a suggestion for universities to number choices for a multiple-choice question with capital letters such as A, B, C, D so that dyslexic students don't confuse 'b' and 'd'.
  - ✓ The guidelines includes creating a common learning platform that is flexible and accessible for all the students, ensuring buildings and infrastructure facilities are accessible and disabled-friendly
  - ✓ Further, it seeks to develop bridge courses for those students who may come from disadvantaged educational backgrounds.
  - ✓ The guidelines recommend that authorities should also explore options such as course waivers or substitutions or provide the option of reduced course load based on needs, be flexible with attendance, and schedule, allow the use of assistive aids and technology
  - ✓ The guidelines also aim to provide socio-emotional and academic support for all such students through suitable counselling and mentoring programs.
  - ✓ The 126-page report containing the guidelines detail "specific needs" and "measures" for students affected by cerebral palsy, acid attack survivors, leprosy cured persons, dwarfism, muscular dystrophy, blindness and low vision, autism spectrum disorder, multiple sclerosis, parkinson's disease, sickle cell disease, thalassemia and haemophilia, among others.
  - ✓ The recommendations were listed by an expert committee that was constituted by the UGC Chairman, M Jagadesh Kumar

- ✓ The Supreme Court had in January directed the UGC to frame these guidelines within eight weeks

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa - fled to the Maldives on an Antonov military plane with his wife and two bodyguards on July 13**



- ✓ The 73-year-old Rajapaksa appointed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as the acting President, hours after he fled the country with full approval of the country's Defence ministry
  - ✓ Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will be sworn in as the President for a temporary period till a new President is elected by Parliament on July 20
  - ✓ Rajapaksa landed at the Velana International Airport in the Maldives early on July 13
  - ✓ Wickremesinghe, whose whereabouts are unknown, declared emergency and a nationwide curfew till July 14 in a bid to prevent further unrest.
  - ✓ Rajapaksa, who is said to be flying from the Maldives to Singapore, is yet to send in his resignation though he has promised to do so.
  - ✓ Rajapaksa, who enjoys immunity from prosecution while he is president, fled the country before resigning to avoid the possibility of arrest by the new government.
  - ✓ Gotabaya Rajapaksa had gone into hiding after crowds of protesters stormed his residence on July 9, 2022
  - ✓ Rajapaksa's escape to the Maldives was negotiated by the Maldivian Majlis (Parliament) Speaker and former president Mohamed Nasheed
  - ✓ Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is facing a severe shortage of fuel and other essential supplies and is in the midst of its worst-ever economic crisis with rising inflation.
  - ✓ Prime Minister Wickremesinghe last week said Sri Lanka is now a bankrupt country.
- **On July 13, North Korea - recognised two Russian-backed breakaway "people's republics" in eastern Ukraine as independent states**

- ✓ The two breakaway regions are - the Donetsk (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republics (LPR)
- ✓ The move makes North Korea only the third country after Russia and Syria to recognise the two breakaway entities in Ukraine's Donbas region.
- ✓ Ukraine severed relations with North Korea after the move.
- **Hungary's government - has declared an "energy emergency" in response to supply disruptions and increasing energy prices in Europe.**
- ✓ According to Hungary, there is unlikely to be enough gas in Europe for the autumn and winter heating season
- ✓ Further, the European Commission has decided to encourage member countries to cut gas demand by incentivising industries to use less, as it prepares for possible further cuts to Russian supply.
- ✓ The EU plan, due to be published on July 20, will suggest countries use state aid to encourage industries and power plants to switch to other fuels, and roll out information campaigns to urge consumers to use less heating and cooling.
- ✓ By acting now, the EU aims to push as much gas as possible into storage and build up a supply buffer for winter, when heating demand peaks.
- ✓ EU gas storage is currently 62% full, far short of the bloc's goal of 80% of capacity by November.
- ✓ Earlier, the EU relied on Russia for 40% of its gas, which has now dropped below 30%.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **On July 13, Space tech startup Agnikul - opened its new rocket making facility Rocket Factory 1, which is set to be India's first-ever facility dedicated to 3D-printed rocket engines.**



- ✓ Located at IIT Madras Research Park, it was unveiled in a launch event by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran and ISRO chairman S Somanath in the

presence of Pawan Goenka, the chairman of IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center).

- ✓ Agnikul has a capacity to make two rocket engines per week and thereby one launch vehicle every month.
- ✓ It will house machinery, including a 400mm x 400mm x 400mm metal 3D-printer from EOS.

## SPORTS

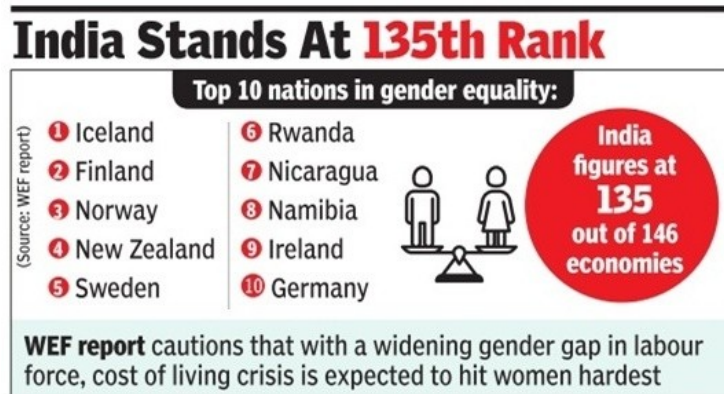
- **Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane - won India's second gold medal of the on-going ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun stage in Changwon, Korea**



- ✓ The Indian pair defeated Hungary's Eszter Meszaros and Istvan Peni in a hard-fought 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team gold medal encounter.
- ✓ Further, the Men's Trap team won a silver while Shiva Narwal and Palak defeated Kazakhstan to claim bronze in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the Changwon International Shooting range.
- ✓ India thus finished at joint second place on the medals tally with a total medal tally of two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.
- ✓ Earlier, Arjun Babuta had won India's first gold on day three in the 10m Air Rifle Men competition.
- ✓ Serbia leads the tally with three golds while China shares second place with India with the exact same medal haul.
- ✓ Incidentally both Mehuli and Shahu had won individual silver medals in Air Rifle at the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games.
- ✓ The Men's Trap team of Prithviraj Tondaiman, Vivaan Kapoor and Bhowneesh Mendiratta also won silver late in the day, losing to Slovakia in the gold medal match.

## RANKINGS

- **Iceland - has once again been named the most gender equal country, topping the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2022**



- ✓ The Nordic country has closed more than 90% of its gender gap – and tops the ranking for the 12th year in a row
- ✓ Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden complete the top five, followed by Rwanda (6<sup>th</sup>), Nicaragua (7<sup>th</sup>), Namibia (8<sup>th</sup>), Ireland (9<sup>th</sup>) and Germany (10<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ India was ranked low at 135th place out of a total of 146 economies in terms of gender parity
- ✓ This is considered as an improvement over its 140th position out of 156 in 2021, but still it is a sharp deterioration from the 105th rank out of 135 countries in 2012.
- ✓ Only 11 countries are ranked below India, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran and Chad being the worst-five.

Index/sub-index	2022 (146 countries)		2021 (156 countries)	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	135	0.629	140	0.625
Political empowerment	48	0.267	51	0.276
Economic participation & opportunity	143	0.350	151	0.326
Educational attainment	107	0.961	114	0.962
Health and survival	146	0.937	155	0.937

Source: World Economic Forum

- ✓ Within South Asia, India was ranked the sixth best on overall score after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan. Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan scored worse than India.
- ✓ In 2006, when the gender gap report was first released, India ranked 98th among 115 countries.
- ✓ Global Gender Gap Index has measured the world's progress towards gender parity across four key dimensions - Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment
- ✓ According to WEF, it will take another 132 years (compared to 136 in 2021) to close the gender gap.

