



EVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july 16,**

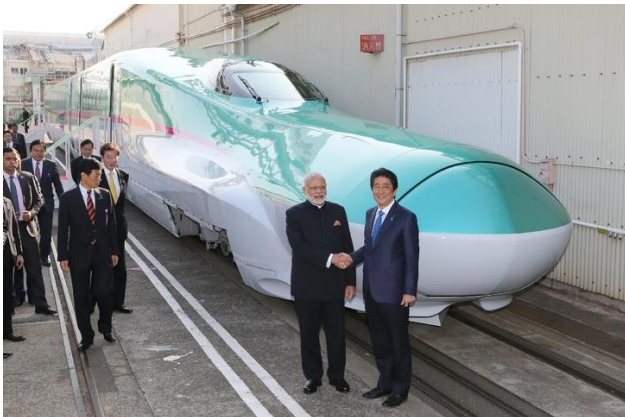
TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu police department - will be awarded the prestigious President's Colours on July 22**
 - ✓ President's colour is the highest honour that is bestowed upon the military, paramilitary and police forces of the State/Union Territory.
 - ✓ The state police will thus be the first police force in South India to be bestowed with the prestigious honour and the tenth in the country.
 - ✓ The award will be given away at a formal function to be held at the Rajarathinam Stadium in Egmore.
 - ✓ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will hand over the award to DGP C Sylendra Babu.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Tamil Nadu police was conferred with the President's Colour in 2009 when the force celebrated its 150th year of existence but was not ceremonially accorded.
 - ✓ Notably, the Indian Navy was the first Indian armed force to be honoured with the President's Colour.
 - ✓ President Rajendra Prasad awarded the honour to the Indian Navy in 1951.

- **The state highways department - has sanctioned Rs.93.70 crore towards flood mitigation work in Chennai metropolitan area.**
 - ✓ After last year's monsoon, the state government constituted an advisory committee on mitigation and management of flood risk in Chennai under the chairmanship of retired IAS officer V Thiruppugazh in October 2021.
 - ✓ This committee recommended several measures to avoid inundation in floodprone areas and provide connectivity to the missing links in the storm water drainage system maintained by the highways department.
 - ✓ The committee estimated the requirement of Rs.93.7 crore to take up the flood mitigation works in the state capital

STATES

- **The Maharashtra government - has given all the clearances for expediting the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project**
- ✓ This was announced by the Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on July 14
- ✓ In February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushed for early completion of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail project
- ✓ The previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had not taken any step to fast-track the project and decided to put it in back-burner.
- ✓ The estimated cost of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project is Rs.1,10,000 crore, out of which Rs. 88,000 crore is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- ✓ Till now, 90.56% land (98.8% in Gujarat and 100% in Dadra Nagar Haveli and 72.25% in Maharashtra) has been acquired for the entire project.
- ✓ Over 70% land required in Maharashtra for the project has been acquired in Thane and Palghar districts.
- ✓ For bullet train project alignment passing through the forest area, stage I clearance has been granted by the Maharashtra government and stage II approval is also expected by September
- ✓ In the 14th Joint Committee meeting held between India and Japan on June 30, 2022 and headed by Minister of Railways from Indian side, both sides agreed for the modalities for procurement of E5 series Shinkansen Rolling Stock
- ✓ E5 series Shinkansen bullet trains, which can travel up to a speed of 360 kmph, are part of a new generation Japanese high-speed train (also called Hayabusa)
- ✓ They are introduced into commercial operation in March 2011 in Japan which are designed to be more comfortable and faster than ever before



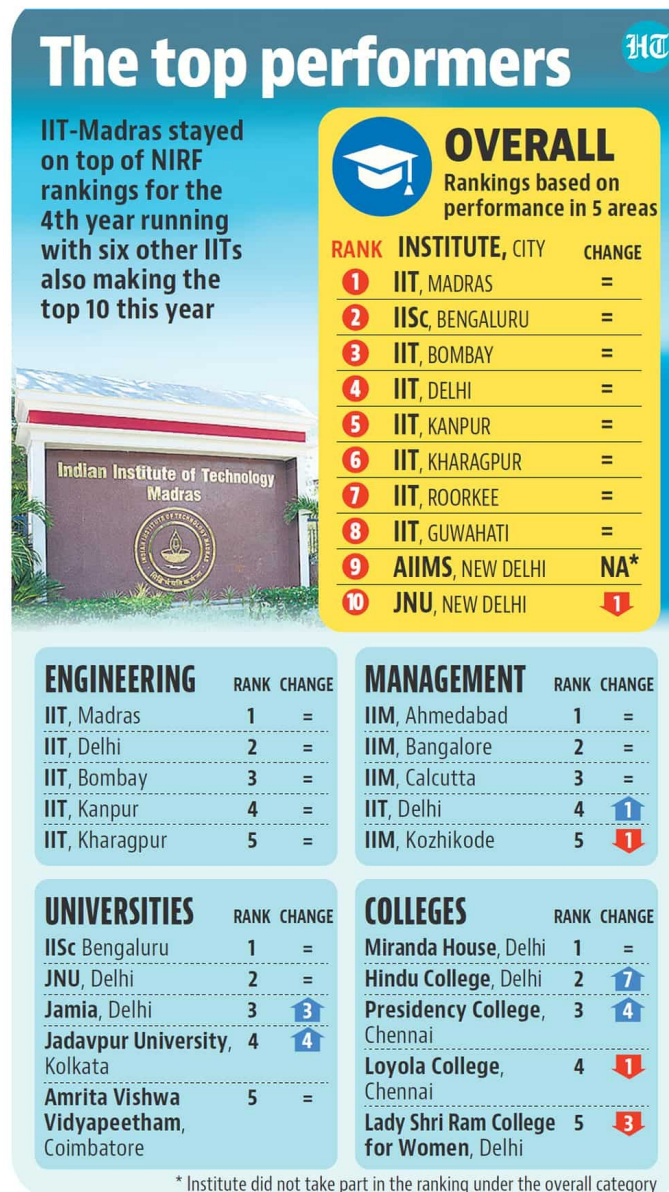
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe had laid the foundation of the bullet train project in Ahmedabad in September 2017.
- ✓ The bullet train is expected to cover the distance of over 500 km in around two hours as against seven hours by normal train

- ✓ It will link 12 stations namely Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, and Sabarmati
 - ✓ The 508 km project is a joint venture between Indian Railways and Japanese firm Shinkansen Technology.
 - ✓ According to the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), which is implementing the project, there will be three different classes in these trains namely - First class, Standard class and Business class.
- **Telangana government – has proposed to set up a detention centre at Vikarabad district, 75km off Hyderabad**
- ✓ The centre will house foreigners, particularly involved in drug trafficking, till their deportation along with those staying in the state past their visa date
 - ✓ The centre with a capacity to house 40 inmates, is expected to be ready by September-end
 - ✓ As per procedure, a foreigner would be kept at a detention centre till the deportation procedure is completed by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO).
 - ✓ Accordingly, Telangana will soon follow Delhi, Karnataka and Assam in setting up detention-cum-transit centres.
- **Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena - launched SAH-BHAGITA, a new scheme to increase the involvement of the Residential Welfare Association (RWAs) in optimal tax collection and waste management systems**
- ✓ Under this scheme launched recently on July 11, the RWAs will be provided with incentives for their efforts to improve efficiency and compliance in tax collection
 - ✓ In addition to this, an added incentive of 5% of the tax paid shall be available if the colony concerned implements 100% waste segregation at source, composting of the wet waste in the colony, re-cycles dry waste and hands over the remaining to the MCD or its authorized agencies
 - ✓ The RWAs, on achieving 90% tax collection from the total number of properties in their societies, can recommend development work to the tune of 10% of the tax collection subject to a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh in their areas.

NATIONAL

- **The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) - has topped the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings in the overall category for the fourth consecutive year.**
- ✓ It also retained its position as the country's best engineering institution, which it has held ever since the rankings began in 2016, followed by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay at second and third place respectively

- ✓ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked first in the NIRF rankings this year under the research category newly introduced last year, followed by IIT Madras at second place and IIT Delhi at third place.



- ✓ In the overall category, IISc is just behind IIT Madras, ranking second and followed by IIT Bombay at the third place
- ✓ National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has been ranked number one in the Law category of this year's NIRF Rankings followed by National Law University, New Delhi and Symbiosis Law School
- ✓ IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore and IIM Calcutta have retained their top 3 positions in the Management category.
- ✓ IIT Roorkee has been ranked as the top institute in the architecture category, followed by NIT Calicut and IIT Kharagpur at second and third ranks, respectively

- ✓ In the medical colleges' category, AIIMS, Delhi bagged the top spot for the fifth straight year, followed by PGIMER Chandigarh and Christian Medical College, Vellore that retained their second and third spot respectively
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) obtained the top rank in the University category followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia at second and third rank respectively
- ✓ Among the pharmacy institutions, Jamia Hamdard has bagged the top rank followed by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad and Panjab University, Chandigarh at second and third places respectively
- ✓ In the best colleges category, Miranda House, Delhi University retains best college position this year as well followed by Hindu College, Delhi University at second position and Presidency College, Chennai at third place
- ✓ The top-ranked private institutions are Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (16), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (17), Vellore Institute of Technology (18), Birla Institute of Technology & Science-Pilani (32), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (34), S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology (36), Amity University (42).
- ✓ The top 100 names include 40 centrally-funded technical institutes and universities, 26 state universities, 24 deemed universities and six private universities.
- ✓ Several government and private institutions in Tamil Nadu did well in the rankings.
- ✓ They include Anna University, which improved over its 2021 ranks in overall (22), engineering (17) and research (21) categories.
- ✓ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore (16), Vellore Institute of Technology (18), National Institute of Technology in Trichy (21), and Bharathiar University (24) made it to the top 25 engineering colleges this year.
- ✓ Saveetha Institute of Medical & Technical Sciences was ranked one in the dental category.

HOW COLLEGES IN TN PERFORMED			
Name	NIRF 2021	NIRF 2022	2 FROM CITY
➤ IIT Madras	1	1	➤ Presidency, Chennai Rank 3
➤ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	12	16	
➤ Vellore Institute of Technology	21	18	➤ Loyola, Chennai Rank 4
➤ NIT Trichy	23	21	➤ PSGR Krishnammal College for Women Rank 6
➤ Anna University	25	22	
➤ Bharathiar University	22	25	

- ✓ Three arts and science colleges from Tamil Nadu — Presidency College (3), Loyola College (4) and PSGR Krishnammal College for Women (6) — also featured in the top 10 rankings.
- ✓ The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the 7th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2022 on July 15
- ✓ NIRF India Ranking 2022 has been announced for 11 categories, which includes overall, university, management, college, pharmacy, medical, engineering, architecture, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), law and research institutions.
- ✓ The parameters factored in while preparing NIRF are teaching, learning and resources (30%), research and professional practice (30%), graduation outcomes (20%), outreach and inclusivity (10%), and perception (10%).

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 15, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe - was sworn in as interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa**



- ✓ Earlier, Rajapaksa escaped abroad and resigned after mass protests over the country's economic collapse.
- ✓ The new leader would serve the remainder of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024.
- ✓ After swearing in, Sri Lanka's interim President Ranil Wickremesinghe decided to prohibit the use of the word 'His Excellency' to address the President and abolished the presidential flag
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Supreme Court issued an interim order preventing former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa from leaving the country without the court's permission until July 28.
- ✓ Gotabaya Rajapaksa landed in Singapore on July 14, having fled to the Maldives early on July 13

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Ola Electric - unveiled the country's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell 'NMC 2170' recently on July 12**



- ✓ The Bengaluru-based two-wheeler maker is planning to begin the mass production of the cell from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023.
 - ✓ The cell comprises of Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) on cathode side along with graphite & silicon on anode side.
 - ✓ The use of specific chemistry and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell, as per the company
 - ✓ The company was recently allocated 20GWh capacity under the Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) PLI scheme by the Government of India for developing advanced cells in the country
 - ✓ Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August 2021 and has set up the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturing facility in India
 - ✓ In March 2022, Ola Electric had invested in the Israeli battery technology company StoreDot, which is an expert in batteries with extreme fast charging (XFC) technology
 - ✓ Currently, the company is also in the process of developing its first electric four-wheeler
- **The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling - has launched an ambitious breeding programme to introduce 20 red pandas in about five years**
 - ✓ The wild pandas will be released into the forests of the Singalila National Park, the highest protected area in West Bengal
 - ✓ This is the first re-wilding programme of red pandas, known by the scientific name 'Ailurus fulgens', in the country

- ✓ In India, the endangered mammal is found in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks, the two protected areas in West Bengal



- ✓ As per the recent estimates, there are 38 red pandas in Singalila and 32 in Neora.
- ✓ The Red Panda Augmentation Programme on conservation breeding of red pandas was started in Singalila National Park in 1994
- ✓ The Padmaja Naidu park, at a height of about 2,000 metres above the sea level, is one of the high-altitude zoos in the country and has 27 red pandas under captive breeding
- ✓ Red pandas are categorised as an endangered species as per IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and comes under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ✓ They are also one of the most iconic species in terms of their importance to global conservation.
- ✓ India is home to two types of sub-species — Himalayan red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and the Chinese red panda (*Ailurus styani*) and the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh splits the two types of species.

DEFENCE

- **The defence ministry - has now set up an apex committee to conduct a performance and efficiency audit of various aspects**
- ✓ This newly created institutional mechanism will have the defence secretary as its chairman
- ✓ The members of the committee include the Army, Navy and IAF vice chiefs, secretary defence finance, chief of the integrated staff committee, controller general of defence accounts, director general acquisitions and other senior officials.
- ✓ The areas identified for audit include capital defence procurements, provisioning, logistics and inventory levels.

ECONOMY

- **SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India - signed a MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for establishing the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund).**

- ✓ The TDC Fund will route India's commitment of around Rs.175 crore (£17.5 million) to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund)
- ✓ The Global Innovation Development Fund is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) proposed to be established in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) under the India – UK Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).
- ✓ The GIP Fund will invest in mainly small & medium enterprises from India that tackle development challenges and have successfully developed & tested viable social impact innovations that can be transferred and scaled up in third countries
- ✓ SVL will act as the administrator-cum-advisor (Investment Manager) of TDC Fund and facilitate the GIP program for MEA

RANKINGS

- **Chennai - has emerged as the third top location globally among the most competitive locations to set up Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related business operations, as per a recent global analysis by fDi**
- ✓ Hyderabad was ranked first in a recent assessment of the world's 100 most competitive locations to set up AI-related offices followed by Bangalore and Chennai.
- ✓ At a competitiveness score of 100 and with 9 FDI projects in AI-related activities between 2016 and 2021, Hyderabad stood first in the rankings
- ✓ The second ranked Bengaluru had a score of 99.25 and 27 projects, and Chennai secured the third spot with 95.19 score and 5 FDI projects.
- ✓ The fDi's analysis calculated the FDI (foreign direct investment) competitiveness of the destinations as a function between cost and quality of setting up a 900 sq m office with a team of 70 people focused on AI.

