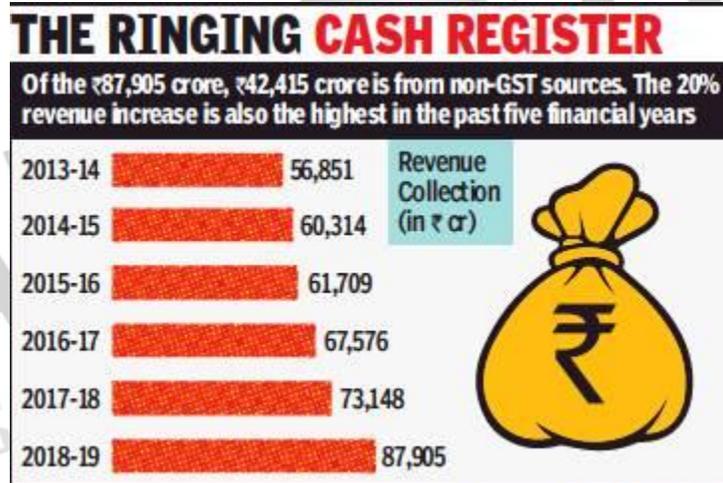


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 10, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ Revenue from commercial taxes in Tamil Nadu - has increased by 20% in 2018-19 compared to the previous year.



- ✓ Incidentally, 2018-19 was the first full year of GST implementation.
- ✓ The department's total revenue, ₹73,148 crore in 2017-18, increased to ₹87,905 crore in a year.
- ✓ The revenue increase is also the highest in the past five financial years.
- ✓ The hike is due to better performance in GST collection and increase in revenue from sales of fuel and liquor.
- ✓ Though GST collection has increased considerably, the main source of revenue continues to be from excise and VAT on liquor and VAT on fuel.
- ✓ Of the ₹87,905 crore earned, ₹42,415 crore is from non-GST sources
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has a total of 9.66 lakh tax payers registered under GST as on March 31, 2019.
- ✓ This is against the 7.45 lakh registered in the previous year

◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - announced the Amma Ilaingar Vilaiyattu Thittam (Amma Youth Sports Programme) in panchayats and town panchayats**

- ✓ The scheme intends to improve physical and mental health, instil team spirit and boost sporting talent among youth.
- ✓ It would be implemented in 12,524 panchayats and 528 town panchayats at a cost of ₹64.35 crore in the current year.
- ✓ Under the programme, Amma Sports Clubs would be formed separately for men and women by the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.
- ✓ Every village would have sports facilities for three of the four games — Kabaddi, Football, Volleyball and Cricket
- ✓ The courts would be developed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in panchayats, where the money would come from the general fund
- ✓ Prizes will be distributed through the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

◆ **Alagappa University at Karaikudi in Sivaganga district - has shifted its evaluation process to on-screen (digital) form, from the April semester examinations.**

- ✓ The digital evaluation process was carried out for postgraduate courses in its 41 affiliated colleges.
- ✓ The process would soon be introduced for all programmes, considering the efficiency and success of this system
- ✓ The usual time taken to declare the results was under 30 to 45 days depending on the course, but now due to the digital process, the evaluation can be started soon and the results can be declared on the 12th day itself.
- ✓ As a first step, digitalisation of answer scripts is done through scanning, then they are transported to the valuation centre through the server and finally, digital valuation is done in the intranet lab.
- ✓ The evaluating professor would be able to have the answer key, the digital answer script and the marking sheet on the screen all at a time.
- ✓ The digital evaluation system, funded under the ministry of human resource development's RUSA 2.0 (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan) scheme was inaugurated by vice-chancellor N Rajendran on May 17 at the university.

◆ **Kalvi Tholaikaatchi, the Tamil Nadu school education department's proposed TV channel - will also be available as a mobile application across Android and iOS platforms.**

- ✓ While the announcement for the channel was made by the Chief Minister in January, it would be launched in mid-july
- ✓ Schools have been asked to intimate district officials the availability of cable connections.

- ✓ District Media Coordinators have been appointed in each district to coordinate this.
- ✓ In addition to the curriculum, there will be programmes which will give students health tips, teach them Thirukkural and allow them to explore history, art and culture.
- ✓ While teachers are being chosen to feature in the programmes, subject experts and academicians, who were involved in the curriculum-revamp, are also assisting the department for content creation.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Centre – to fund 102 cities with ₹ 10 crore each for capacity building activities under its National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**

- ✓ Among the 28 million-plus cities that will receive the fund are Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Patna
- ✓ 80 of these 102 'non-attainment cities' have already prepared their city-centric action plans and the Centre will fund them for pollution reduction measures
- ✓ Cities are declared 'nonattainment' if they consistently fail to meet the ambient air quality standards for PM10 or nitrogen dioxide over a period of five years, in this case 2011-15
- ✓ The 28 million-plus cities, identified for funding of higher amounts, are those which had reported high pollution level — more than 90 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m³) of PM10 (particulate matter).
- ✓ Among the remaining 74 non-attainment cities, the ones having population of five lakh to 10 lakh will get ₹20 lakh each while cities with population of less than five lakh will get ₹10 lakh each as an initial amount.
- ✓ The environment ministry was allocated ₹3,175 crore for 2019-20 compared to ₹2,683 crore in the last fiscal, an increase of 16% in this FY
- ✓ It has also got an additional amount of ₹460 crore with introduction of a separate head, Control of Pollution, under the budget

◆ **The cost of a Rs 2000 currency note - fell by 65 paise or 18.4% to Rs 3.53 in 2018-19 compared to Rs 4.18 in 2017-18**

- ✓ Introduced after demonetisation in November 2016, Rs 2000 notes are printed only by the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt Ltd (BRBNMPL) -- a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- ✓ The selling price of a Rs 500 note was Rs 2.13 in 2018-19 against Rs 2.39 in the same period a year ago
- ✓ The selling price of Rs 200 note per piece declined to Rs 2.15 in 2018-19 compared to Rs 2.24 in 2017-18.
- ✓ These figures pertain to the notes printed by the BRBNMPL.
- ✓ The Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL) also prints currency notes.

- ✓ The selling price of a Rs 500 note printed by SPMCIL was Rs 3.375 in 2018-19, unchanged from the year-ago period.
- ✓ The selling price of Rs 200 note remained the same at Rs 3.12 in 2018-19 and 2017-18. The expenditure incurred on printing of currency notes rose to Rs 7,965 crore in 2017-18 (July-June) from Rs 4,912 crore in 2016-17.

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Taliban and Afghan representatives, including some government officials - agreed to a basic road map for negotiating the country's political future**

- ✓ In a joint declaration after two days of unprecedented and often emotional discussions in the Qatari capital, Doha, the two sides emphasized a need to work for reducing "civilian casualties to zero" and assuring women their fundamental rights in "political, social, economic, educational, cultural affairs"
- ✓ The Taliban have said direct negotiations with the Afghans would start only after the US announces a timeline for the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ **The Parliament of India - has adopted a statutory resolution for levying 200% duty on all goods exported from or originating in Pakistan with effect from 16 February 2019.**

- ✓ In this regard both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha approved the amendment in 1st schedule of Customs Tariff Act (CTA), 1975

PERSONALITIES

◆ **UAE-based Indian business tycoon Lalo Samuel - has become the first expat in Sharjah to get the gold card permanent residency**



- ✓ The gold card gives permanent residency of the UAE to the holder, unlike the long-term visa of 5-10 years for businessmen and talented individuals
- ✓ The Kingston Group chairman was handed over the gold residence card by Brigadier Arif Al Shamsi, Director-General of residency and foreigners affairs in Sharjah
- ✓ The Kingston Holdings owns one of the largest manufacturing companies in the Middle East that comprises several manufacturing units that process plastic and metal
- ✓ Samuel was selected as one of the top 100 Most Influential Indian Business Leaders in the Arab World by the Forbes magazine continuously for 2013, 2014 and 2015

- ✓ He is one of the 6,800 investors with total investment exceeding \$27 billion to receive the gold card under a scheme announced in May by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai.
- ✓ Kerala-born Dr P A Ibrahim Haji, co-chairman of jewellery company Malabar Group and chairman of PACE Group, also received his golden card on July 8

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Hyundai Motor - launched India's first fully electric SUV 'Kona' in New Delhi

KEY FEATURES

HYUNDAI KONA
can cover 452 kms
on a single charge

SERVICE COST
Estimated at around
Rs 7,400 annually

**RUNNING COST
PER KILOMETRE**
90 paise. A
conventional
petrol SUV
may cost
nearly
five times



**39 UNITS
CONSUMED
PER FULL
CHARGE**

Charging at home | 6-7 hours
for full charge. An additional
portable charger can be carried
in car and takes around 18
hours for full charge

Fast chargers | Can give
80% charge in one hour.
Will be available at select
IOC petrol pumps and
Hyundai dealerships

- ✓ The company will provide two chargers- a portable one and AC Wall Box Charger to its customers due to lack of charging infrastructure in India.
- ✓ The portable charger can be plugged into any normal 3-pin 15 amp socket to charge the vehicle.
- ✓ The wall box charger (7.2 kW) can top-up charge the vehicle within one hour for running 50 km
- ✓ Kona Electric comes with 2 battery options, one is - 39.2 kWh unit and another is - 64 kWh unit.
- ✓ Hyundai launched 39.2 kWh battery pack in India.
- ✓ This electric car can be complete charged in seven to eight hours
- ✓ However, an 80% charge can be achieved in 57 minutes with DC quick charger, using the CCS type II charging port
- ✓ According to Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the 64 kWh battery pack covers 452 km on a single full charge and is capable of attaining a top speed of 167 kmph
- ✓ Hyundai is collaborating with IOCL to set up public chargers.
- ✓ Four such charging stations are coming up soon in four cities - Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru

- ✓ The price of the vehicle, currently at Rs. 25.3 lakh, may come down as the government considers a cut in the GST rate from 12% to 5%.
- ✓ The Kona electric, currently being assembled at the company's Chennai plant, will be initially launched in only in 11 cities due to charging constraints and demand expectations.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra's electric car eVerito costs a little over ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ The company is also planning to launch an electric version of its mini SUV KUV 100 by year-end.
- ✓ Tata Motors' electric version eTigor mini sedan is available only for government and enterprise requirements.

◆ **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) - has granted environment and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearances for setting up Missile Testing Launch Facility on the Bay of Bengal coast and Technical Facility at Gullalamoda village in Krishna district.**

- ✓ With this, all necessary clearances to begin the construction work have been obtained by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Arun Kumar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor to Union Ministry of Civil Aviation - appointed as the new Director General (DG) in Directorate General of Civil Aviation**



- ✓ He was heading DGCA as an additional charge till 9 July 2019
- ✓ His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ He succeeds B S Bhullar who was appointed as full-time DGCA chief in December 2016

AWARDS

◆ **Northeast Frontier Railway's (NFR) unique plan called 'Plan Bee' to keep wild elephants away from train tracks - has won the 'Best Innovation Award' in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal**



- ✓ Plan Bee is an amplifying system that imitates the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks, as elephants are scared of bees
- ✓ First such instrument was installed at a level crossing west of Guwahati in Assam on a track adjoining Rani Reserve Forest, an elephant habitat
- ✓ These systems generate amplified sound of honey bees audible from about 700-800 metres

◆ **Indian movie 'Gully Boy' was honoured with NETPAC (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award for Best Asian Film at 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.**



- ✓ The film directed by Zoya Akhtar, revolves around the underground rap movement in India and was released on 14 February 2019.
- ✓ It will also be screened at 2019 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in Australia.

SPORTS

◆ **Mexico's men's soccer team - won the 15th edition of CONCACAF Gold Cup 2019 by defeating United States men with 1-0 in the final**



- ✓ This is Mexico's record 8th Gold Cup title
- ✓ The loss for US men came hours after its women's team lifted its 2nd consecutive World Cup title in France.
- ✓ United States, Costa Rica and Jamaica were the host nations for the tournament

- ✓ CONCACAF Gold Cup is the international men's football championship of North, Central American, and Caribbean region
- ✓ It was founded in 1963 and is held every two years
- ✓ It was previously referred to as CONCACAF Championship before being renamed in 1991 to CONCACAF Gold Cup

◆ **Former world champion Mirabai Chanu - clinched gold on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship at Apia, Samoa**



- ✓ The Indian contingent won 13 medals that included eight gold, three silver and two bronze medals in senior, junior and youth categories
- ✓ Mirabai lifted a total of 191kg (84kg + 107 kg) in the senior women's 49 kg event to win the gold medal in the Olympic qualifying event
- ✓ Mirabai last took part at the Asian Championship in Ningbo, China in April where she lifted 199kg (86kg+113kg) to miss out on a medal by a whisker.
- ✓ Jhili Dalabehera (45kg) and S. Bindyarani Devi (55kg) among women and Ch. Rishikanta Singh (55kg) among men were the other Indians to win golds in the elite division.

◆ **Indian captain Sunil Chhetri - was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time**



THE AWARDEES

Men's Footballer of the Year: Sunil Chhetri
Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year: Abdul Sahal
Women's Footballer of the Year: Ashalata Devi
Best Referee: R Venkatesh (from Tamil Nadu)
Award for the Best Grassroots Development Programme: Jammu & Kashmir Football Association

- ✓ The 34-year old striker has earlier won the award in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.
- ✓ He currently plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League.
- ✓ Chhetri is currently the second highest international goal scorers among active players with 70 strikes to his name, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (149)
- ✓ He has gone past Lionel Messi (68), who is third in the list, during the 2019 Intercontinental Cup opener against Tajikistan.

