

July - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and US have conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to prevent illicit pharmaceuticals, devices or precursor chemicals from being shipped to the US through the International Mail System
- ❖ International Malala Day is observed on July 12 each year to honour the bravery of Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.

TAMIL NADU

Air pollution in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a steady decline in air pollution in urban and rural areas between 2017 and 2022.
- ❖ The State has recorded a 22% reduction in fine particulate matter over the five-year period.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu's rural areas, the PM 2.5 level dropped from 46.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (microgram per cubic metre) in 2017 to 32.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022.
- ❖ Whereas in urban places, the PM 2.5 levels were 42.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2017 and 33.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ last year.
- ❖ Among major cities, Chennai also saw a fall of PM 2.5 levels from 40.86 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2017 to 28.90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022.
- ❖ Fine particulate matter is defined as particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM 2.5).
- ❖ Under the NCAP, only three cities in Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Madurai, and Tuticorin - have been categorised as non-attainment cities.

Flagpole at Fort St. George

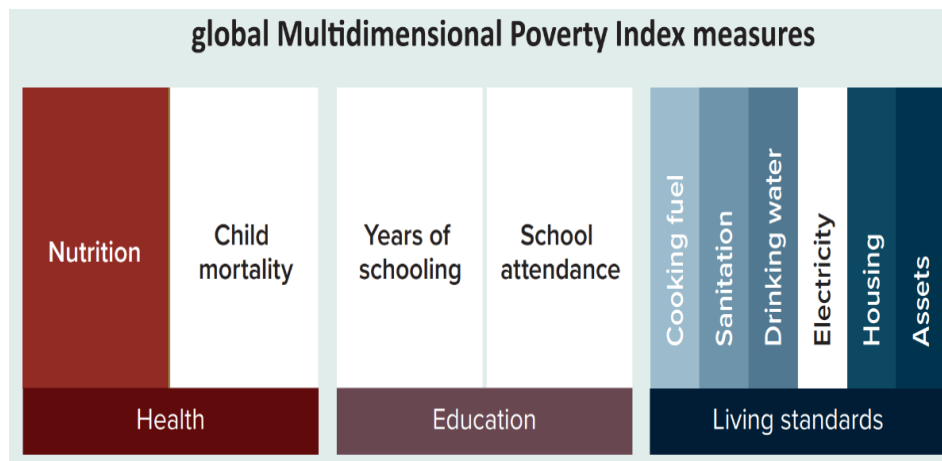
- ❖ The State government is refurbishing the rampart and the flagpole in Fort St. George at Chennai for the 77th Independence Day celebrations.
- ❖ The 148-foot flagpole was the tallest in the country at the time of Independence.
- ❖ The fort was named after St. George since it was the first factory within the fortified enclosure completed on April 23, 1640.
- ❖ It was the East India Company's principal settlement until 1774, when Calcutta was declared to be the seat of the government.

- ❖ The national flag was hoisted by Governors till 1974.
- ❖ The former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi persuaded the Centre to grant the right to hoist the flag to Chief Ministers on Independence Day celebration.



NATIONAL

India status on Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023

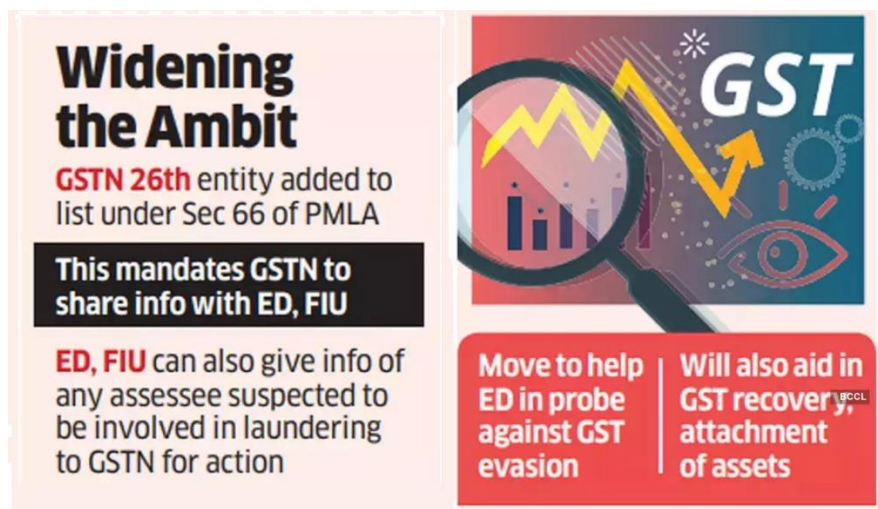


- ❖ The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- ❖ A total of 415 million people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.
- ❖ 25 countries, including India, successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.

- ❖ These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- ❖ In 2005/2006, about 645 million people were in multidimensional poverty in India.
- ❖ This number is declining to about 370 million in 2015/2016 and 230 million in 2019/2021.
- ❖ People who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator in India declined from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021.
- ❖ Child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- ❖ Those who are poor and deprived of cooking fuel fell from 52.9% to 13.9%.
- ❖ Deprived of sanitation fell from 50.4% in 2005/2006 to 11.3% in 2019/2021.
- ❖ In the drinking water indicator, the percentage of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived fell from 16.4 to 2.7 during the period, electricity (from 29% to 2.1%) and housing from 44.9% to 13.6%.
- ❖ While 17 countries that did so had an incidence under 25% in the first period, India and Congo had a starting incidence above 50%.
- ❖ India was among the 19 countries that halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value during one period.

ECONOMY

GSTN under PMLA



Widening the Ambit
GSTN 26th entity added to list under Sec 66 of PMLA

This mandates GSTN to share info with ED, FIU

ED, FIU can also give info of any assessee suspected to be involved in laundering to GSTN for action

Move to help ED in probe against GST evasion

Will also aid in GST recovery, attachment of assets

- ❖ The Indian government amended provisions of the money laundering Act to allow the Enforcement Directorate to share information with GST Network.

- ❖ As per the amendment to the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, GST Network has been included in the list of entities with which the Enforcement Directorate will share information.
- ❖ The changes have been made for provisions under Section 66 of the PMLA, which provides for disclosure of information.
- ❖ The move to include GSTN under the money laundering law comes amid rising cases of GST fraud and fake registrations.
- ❖ GST authorities have been probing fake registrations and fraudulent of input tax credit.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Guinness World Record Created for Lambani Art



- ❖ Women of the nomadic Lambani community of Hampi in Karnataka have set a new Guinness World Record for producing the highest number of embroidery patches.
- ❖ At the G20 Culture Working Group meeting, around 450 Lambani artisans showcased their exceptional skills and craftsmanship.
- ❖ They created an astounding collection of over 1,755 unique patches.

- ❖ Lambani embroidery is a vibrant and intricate form of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror work, and a rich array of stitch patterns.
- ❖ It is practised in several villages of Karnataka such as Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur, and Kamalapur.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Paper Bag Day 2023 - July 12

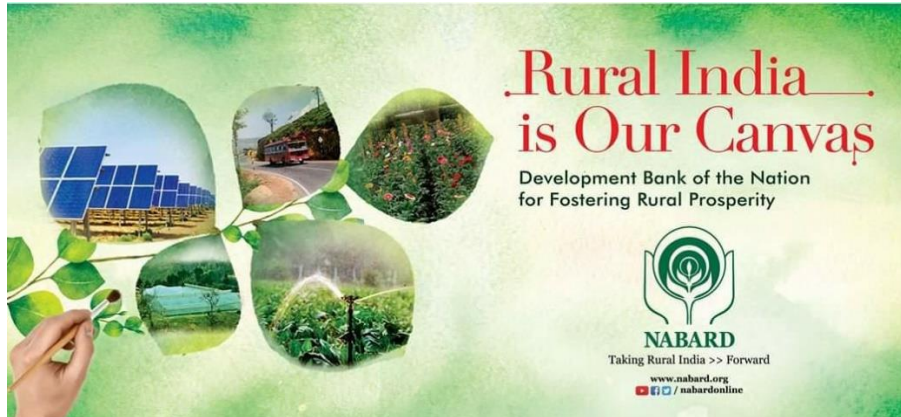


- ❖ This day recognizes and celebrates the use of this more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags.
- ❖ The day aims to promote the utilisation of paper bags and other environmentally conscious alternatives.
- ❖ In 1999, San Fransisco banned the usage of plastic bags in grocery stores and pharmacies.
- ❖ The city became the first place in the world to outlaw the use of plastic bags.
- ❖ The first paper bag machine was invented by Francis Wolle in 1852.

NABARD Day 2023 - July 12

- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day this year.
- ❖ NABARD is a statutory body established in 1982 under Parliamentary Act - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.

- ❖ The NABARD has touched almost every aspect of rural economy in terms of Financial, Developmental and Supervision functions
- ❖ The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was designed by NABARD.
- ❖ NABARD had launched the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) in 1992.



International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2023 - July 12



- ❖ The United Nations earlier this year designated July 12 as the first International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms.
- ❖ The move was designed to raise awareness about the threats posed by these squalls and to spur on the international effort to counter them.
- ❖ These tempests occur when strong winds meet bare or dry soil, lifting large amounts of sand and dust into the atmosphere.
- ❖ The main sources of these mineral dusts are dry regions in Northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia and China.



- ❖ Human activities, like deforestation, over grazing and the overuse of water, are causing deserts to spread and increasing the likelihood of sand and dust storms.
- ❖ In northern China alone they caused economic losses of nearly \$1 billion in just three years.

