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1. Tamil Nadu Assures Constructive Cooperation to the Union Government

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay assured at the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the State Government would extend constructive cooperation to the Union Government.

(i) He also raised demands such as abolishing the NEET examination system and releasing ₹3,284 crore in education funds due to Tamil Nadu.

(ii) The 11th NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was held at the Cultural Centre of the Presidential Estate in New Delhi, with the participation of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors from across the country. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay said:

- The Tamil Nadu Government is committed to working in constructive cooperation with the Union Government. To underline our commitment to building a developed India by 2047, Tamil Nadu is striving to become a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2036.

(iii) At the NITI Aayog meeting, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay emphasized the need for the prompt release of funds for infrastructure projects being implemented in Tamil Nadu. He further stated:

- Tamil Nadu's 1,076-km-long coastline is frequently affected by cyclones and floods. Therefore, Tamil Nadu seeks enhanced support from the Union Government under the "Climate Resilience Mega Project 2045" to establish permanent flood-prevention infrastructure in coastal cities, implement a zero-casualty disaster management mission, and create climate-resilient infrastructure.
- The Space Manufacturing Centre established at Kulasekarapattinam in collaboration with India's space sector should be declared a National Space Manufacturing Hub by the Union Government. This would create end-to-end manufacturing capability, from propellants to launch vehicles, enabling India to play a major role in the global space economy.
- Timely modernization of key national highways and railway corridors is essential for Tamil Nadu's rapid economic growth. Therefore, the following projects should be implemented: six-laning of the GST Road from Chengalpattu to Tiruchirappalli; six-laning of the Tiruchirappalli (Panchapur)–Jeeyapuram–Karur stretch; six-laning of the Karur–Coimbatore stretch; construction of an elevated corridor between Madhavaram and Cholavaram; and establishment of a high-speed rail corridor from Chennai to Kanyakumari.
- Regarding digital connectivity, around 97% of the BharatNet Phase-II project has been completed in Tamil Nadu. I request the Union Government's support in resolving the remaining last-mile connectivity challenges, ensuring uninterrupted network operations, and connecting all village panchayats to the internet.
- The assured central assistance of ₹2,283.40 crore for the Hogenakkal Phase-III Combined Drinking Water Scheme should be released. States that have performed well in fiscal responsibility, social

development, and population stabilization should receive due recognition and adequate support. They should not be disadvantaged in any way.

- I request the Union Government to permit employment-generation initiatives under the state government's rural housing schemes and under the Union Government's VB G RAM G scheme, said Chief Minister Joseph Vijay.

2. UN Warns of Rising Hunger Risk in Sri Lanka Due to Middle East Conflict

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that due to the conflict in the Middle East, an additional 1.3 million people in Sri Lanka could be pushed into hunger and become unable to meet their basic food requirements.

(i) It has been stated that these people may join the existing 4.7 million Sri Lankans who already require food assistance this year.

(ii) The issue became a major topic of debate after opposition parties raised it in the Sri Lankan Parliament.

(iii) The study identifies Sri Lanka, Somalia, and Afghanistan as the three countries most vulnerable to the effects of the Middle East crisis.

(iv) Sri Lanka, which is already recovering from a severe economic crisis, now faces this new global crisis as a major setback. To deal with the situation, the Sri Lankan Government has already implemented several emergency measures, including restrictions on fuel consumption.

3. Canada Introduces Bill to Restrict Social Media Access for Children Under 16

A new bill has been introduced in the Canadian Parliament to regulate and restrict the use of social media by children under the age of 16.

(i) According to the bill introduced by Canada's Culture Minister Mark Miller, not only social media platforms but also AI chatbots such as ChatGPT will be regulated. Exemptions may be granted only to companies that provide adequate safety measures for minors.

4. ICC Women's T20 World Cup Begins in England and Wales

The 10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup begins in England and Wales. England and Sri Lanka will face each other in the opening match.

(i) The tournament, which concludes on July 5, features strong teams including India, Australia, England, and defending champions New Zealand.

(ii) Australia, which has dominated the competition by winning six titles, enters the tournament aiming to secure its seventh championship.

5. Prime Minister Modi to Visit France and Slovakia

At the invitation of France and Slovakia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the two countries from the 13th to the 18th of this month.

(i) Departing from New Delhi on the 13th, Prime Minister Modi will first travel to Nice, a port city in France. On the 14th, he will meet French President Emmanuel Macron and hold discussions on various issues, including defence and civil nuclear cooperation.

(ii) A major announcement regarding the joint implementation of 12 new projects by the two countries is expected during the visit. Modi and Macron will jointly inaugurate a three-day event called “Bharat Innovates,” showcasing innovations from Indian technology companies.

(iii) Modi will then travel from Nice to Slovakia. He will visit the country from the 14th to the 16th and hold important discussions with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister Robert Fico, and other leaders.

(iv) Thereafter, Prime Minister Modi will return to France on the 16th. In Évian, he will meet European leaders attending the G7 Summit on the 16th and 17th and discuss bilateral matters.

(v) He will subsequently participate in Europe’s largest technology and innovation conference in Paris on June 18.

(vi) During his meetings with G7 leaders, Modi is expected to discuss the economic impact of the West Asian conflict and disruptions in energy supplies.

(vii) It is reported that the Indian and American Governments are exploring the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump during the G7 Summit. However, there has been no official confirmation.

6. 55 Hospitalized in Kerala Due to Shigella Infection

Kerala Health Minister K. Muralidharan stated that 55 people infected with the Shigella bacterial infection have been admitted to hospitals in the state.

(i) Shigella infection can occur through the consumption of contaminated food or drinking water. The infection can also spread through infected individuals and may cause symptoms such as diarrhea, fever, and abdominal pain.