Tamil Nadu government - sanctioned ₹499.68 crore to implement the kudimaramath scheme on June 13

- The traditional restoration of water bodies, with the support of locals, will be implemented in 29 districts.
- This is the third sanction in the last three years by the state government towards kudimaramath.
- The project intends to strengthen tank bunds and canals, repair and reconstruction of sluices, weirs, shutters, and rehabilitation and desilting of canals.
- The works are implemented through farmers’ organizations/councils/ ayacutdars and 10% of the estimated cost is borne by them either by way of providing labour or material or cash.
The Greater Chennai corporation - has received a grant of ₹40 crore from German bank KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) for setting up a disaster management control centre in the city.

- This aid comes after the bank sanctioned the ₹1,230 crore Kovalam basin project at the Indo-German-States Tripartite meeting held in New Delhi on June 13.
- The fund will be used for planning and designing the water-carrying infrastructure along the course of rivers Cooum, Adyar, Kovalam and Kosasthalaiyar.
- This will include studying the network of stormwater drains in Thiruvottiyur, Manali, Madhavaram, Ambattur, Teynampet, Valasaravakkam, Alandur, Perungudi and Sholinganallur zones.
- The fund will also be used to update the existing Geographic Information System (GIS) — by geotagging drains and creating a map of existing and planned stormwater drains in the city — for better management of the drain network.
- Greater Chennai Corporation will meet with the KfW bank in July over the ₹1,230 crore loan sanctioned by the bank to improve the 360-km drain network of Kovalam basin.
- After this, the loan agreement is expected to be signed in January 2020.
- Feasibility study, design and consultancy will be done by KfW.
- It will also oversee GCC’s work with bid documents, tender process and project management.

Avishkar Hyperloop, the team of Indian Institute of Technology Madras – to unveil an indigenously designed and developed hyperloop pod at the finals of a competition organised by SpaceX, whose founder Elon Musk, first proposed the concept.

- They will operate a selfpropelled and autonomous pod prototype in a 1.6km vacuum tube at the International Hyperloop Pod Competition in California in July.
- The city team, which unveiled the final pod prototype at IIT-M campus on June 14, is the only Asian team to compete at the finals along with 20 other teams across the world.
- With a funding of ₹1 crore, a 30-member team took three months to design and develop the nearly 3-m long and 120kg pod designed to achieve maximum speed to grab the top spot at the competition.
But unlike the original hyperloop concept propelled by a linear induction motor and that uses magnetic levitation to float above a track in a low pressure tube, the pod developed by the students works on a DC electric motor, to power and provide the required traction, and uses wheel drive.

The outer shell is made of glass fibre reinforced plastic and was manufactured in Pune. Assembling of the pod and coding of the system software were done at the IIT-M.

22 inmates, all life convicts, of the central prison – were roped in by the prisons department to run the newly-opened 24x7 fuel outlet next to Puzhal Central Prison.

The prisons department along with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd has established the outlet as part of the rehabilitation and reformation programme.

Already, four such outlets were established outside the central prisons in Palayamkottai, Coimbatore, Vellore and Pudukottai on February 22 this year.

The IOC has also created facilities for an ATM kiosk, Aavin parlour, and a stall to sell freedom bazaar products in each of the petrol bunk.

The authorities have also deputed personnel in the rank of assistant jailor or chief head warden to supervise the inmates in the out gang duty, besides installing CCTVs to keep a look on the inmates.

The prisoners, who try to escape, would jeopardize their chance for premature release and also denied other benefits such as interviews (meeting with family members), ordinary and emergency leaves that they are entitled for under the Prisons Rules.

Tamil Nadu - is planning to reduce the number of subjects for Class XII state board students from six to five.

While those aspiring to pursue engineering may not have to study biology, MBBS aspirants may skip mathematics at the higher secondary level.

The government is also planning to merge language papers for Class X.

All these proposals were still in a discussion stage and the cabinet would take a final call on them once finalized.
Once the new system comes into place, the total marks will be reduced further from 600 to 500 on the lines of Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE)

Chennai - has gone without rain for 191 days since the northeast monsoon last year, as on June 15, which is a record by itself

Dry spell was between last day of northeast monsoon in the previous year and the first day of the southwest monsoon of the current year.

Ironically, the highest number of rainless days was recorded before the 2015 flood — from December 29, 2014 to July 10, 2015 (193 days)

The Centre - plans to launch a smart card that can be used across all Metro rail networks for limited number of trips.

The card will be helpful for those who are visiting a city or the country for limited period.

The cards can be taken by showing passport for foreign visitors, and Aadhaar card or any other proof for Indians.

The cards will have to be charged at counter since states have different fare rules.

Currently, smart cards issued by metrorail can only be used on the specific network

The government has recently launched the “One Nation One Card” which can be used for any mode of transport and even for retail purchases

The Centre - has sanctioned the release of ₹1,496 crore to 30 central universities (CUs) for implementation of the 10% quota for the economically weaker section in the general category from the 2019-20 academic session

Of which ₹230 crores have been sanctioned for maintenance, an additional grant of ₹249 crores for salaries and ₹957 crores for construction and infrastructure
Implementing the quota for “poor among the forwards” without impacting the share of seats for the other categories like SC/ ST/OBC would essentially increase the total intake by 25% for each university/ institution.

A majority of the CUs will implement the 25% increased intake in two phases — 10% in the 2019-20 academic session and 15% in the 2020-21 session.

Jawaharlal Nehru University is the only university which will implement the EWS quota in a single phase this year.

**INTERNATIONAL**

- The Chinese government – had proposed to cover the salaries of teachers in Nepal who teach Mandarin.
- The move has prompted many private schools in the Himalayan nation to make it mandatory for students to learn the language.
- It has come at a time when the Chinese involvement in Nepal is surging, largely on the back of Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Schools in Nepal are allowed to teach foreign languages, but they can’t make those subjects mandatory for students.

**INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- The government – had finally decided to impose additional customs duty of $235 million on 29 products, including almonds, walnut and pulses, imported from the United States.

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The move came nearly a year after India had decided to retaliate against Washington’s move to raise import duties on some steel and aluminium products.

The increase in import duties will be effective from June 16.

Earlier this month, the White House had announced that it was terminating India’s special market access to the United States under the Generalised System of Preferences programme from June 5.
特朗普反复抱怨印度是一个“非常非常高的关税国家”，强调新德里对哈雷戴维森摩托车的征税。

美国和印度在贸易问题上针锋相对，新德里已经将美国拉到世贸组织的争端解决机构，以对美国对钢铝的关税提起诉讼。

印度和斯里兰卡开始了一场不寻常的外交活动，为他们的武装部队人员及家庭成员组织遗产旅游，时间为6月15日。

一个162人的斯里兰卡武装部队代表团及其家庭成员于6月15日抵达印度，而一个159人的印度三军代表团及其配偶于6月15日抵达科伦坡。

外交朝圣，斯里兰卡军队的一个新举措，被视为试图加深两国关系，并缓解游客对安全威胁的担忧。

这段时间，印度代表团由陆军（95人）、海军（32人）和空军（32人）组成，将访问包括山地首都康堤和南部在内的景点。

斯里兰卡代表团在“普桑”满月日之后，预计在6月16日到菩提伽耶朝圣。

**DEFENCE**

印度 - 已经最终确定从美国购买30架装有武器的幽灵（或猎户座-B）无人机的计划。
The triservice procurement proposal for the Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft — with 10 drones each for the Navy, IAF and Army was meant to hunt and destroy targets on land and sea.

India is already in an advanced stage to acquire 24 naval multirole MH-60 “Romeo” helicopters for $2.6 billion and the National Advanced Surface-to Air-Missile System-II for almost $1 billion under the FMS programme of the US, with the contract for the former set to be signed by September-October.

The acquisition of the “hunter-killer” Sea Guardians, with advanced ground control stations, launch and recovery elements, air-to-ground missiles, smart bombs and the like, will be a huge capability upgrade for the Indian armed forces.

**ECONOMY**

- New-age non-life company, Go Digit General Insurance - has introduced a policy for used mobile phones that will compensate the user if there is any screen damage.

  - This low-value cover has been made feasible by a small software that enables the company to remotely assess the condition of the phone — both for underwriting and claim settlement.
  - The software is similar to what is being used by e-commerce companies in evaluating used phones offered under their exchange scheme.
  - However, it only checks the phone for the working of the screen.
  - The software will detect the phone’s make, model and IMEI number in minutes.
  - Digit has been offering the policy for new phones on e-commerce sites, but has now decided to extend this to used phones as well.
  - The cost of the insurance cover would be around ₹1,700 for a mobile phone screen that costs ₹12,000 to replace.
SPORTS

- India’s Jyothi Vennam - claimed a ‘double’ winning bronze in the women’s team and individual compound events in the World Archery Championships in ’S-Hertogenbosch on June 15

- The Andhra girl picked up her maiden world championship individual medal by getting past the defending silver medallist in the event Yesim Bostan of Turkey
- This was India’s only second individual medal at the world championships after Rajat Chauhan’s silver medal in men’s compound event in 2015 at Copenhagen
- Earlier Jyothi led a great fightback in the women’s team event to script a 229-226 win against Turkey to fetch India’s first medal in the tournament.

- Tamil Nadu Grandmasters --- Karthikeyan Murali and SP Sethuraman --- finished with a silver and bronze respectively at the Asian Continental Championships which concluded at Xingtai, China on June 15
The splendid finish saw the two make the cut for the chess World Cup which will take place in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia from September 9 to October 2.

Apart from Karthikeyan and Sethuraman, SL Narayanan and Abhijeet Gupta were the other Indians to qualify for the World Cup from this competition.

14-year-old GM Nihal Sarin clinched the Asian blitz event with 8 points from 9 rounds.

The Toronto Raptors - delivered Canada its first NBA title with a 114-110 victory over the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors on June 13.

Canada’s only NBA team put the finishing touches to a remarkable 4-2 series upset that denied the Warriors a fourth championship in five years.

Toronto forward Kawhi Leonard, was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player after averaging 28.5 points during the series.