

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 28, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government – has recommended the names of senior officers K Shanmugam IAS and J K Tripathy IPS as the next chief secretary and director general of police (law and order) and head of the police force respectively.**



- ✓ As the head of the executive, the Governor Banwarilal Purohit will pass orders on the high-profile appointments
- ✓ Shanmugam will be the 46th chief secretary of the state, after incumbent Girija Vaidyanathan retires from service this month end.
- ✓ Shanmugam has been holding the post of finance secretary since May 2010
- ✓ He handled nine budgets and two interim budgets during his tenure and guided the state in policy formulation and launching a multitude of schemes.
- ✓ The next finance secretary would most likely be senior IAS officer S Krishnan, now heading the housing department
- ✓ Tripathy, who is from Odisha, was chosen from a list of six candidates vetted by the Union Public Service Commission
- ✓ He succeeds the incumbent T K Rajendran, whose term ends this month-end

◆ **On June 27, chief minister Edappadi K Palanisamy - laid the foundation for the third desalination plant that is to be set up next to the existing plant at Nemmeli on ECR.**



- ✓ The government expects the ₹1,259.38-crore 150-MLD plant to be operational by 2021
- ✓ Rs 700 crore will be obtained as a loan from German firm Kfw, while the rest will be a subsidy under Centre's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme
- ✓ He also said that the Chennai city will get its fourth desal plant by 2024
- ✓ The supply from the four facilities will then total 750 million litres a day (MLD) and ensure there is no water crisis in the city
- ✓ The fourth plant, slated to be the city's largest with a capacity of treating 400 MLD, is set to come up at Perur on East Coast Road (ECR), close to the existing plant at Nemmeli
- ✓ The work order for the successful bidder is expected to be issued by October 2020 and the project is to be completed within the next three and a half years
- ✓ The project cost for the 400 MLD plant has escalated from ₹4,070 crore to ₹6,078 crore now
- ✓ Japanese investment agency, JICA had come forward to fund ₹4,276 crore and the State government would put in the remaining ₹1,810 crore
- ✓ Currently, Metrowater runs desalination plants at Minjur, which was set up in 2010, and at Nemmeli on East Coast Road.
- ✓ The second became operational in 2013.
- ✓ The two facilities, with a capacity of treating 100 MLD each, currently supply water to a population of 19 lakh in some areas of North and South Chennai
- ✓ Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa announced this project when she commissioned the first plant in Nemmeli in 2012.

◆ **The state government - transferred collectors of Chennai, Salem, Ariyalur, Dindigul and Vellore districts**

- ✓ Salem collector Rohini R Bhajibhakare has been posted as registrar of Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University in Chennai
- ✓ She had served as Salem Collector since August 2017 and executed several projects in Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's native district
- ✓ R. Seethalakshmi, who was earlier the Registrar at Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University, was transferred and posted as Chennai Collector
- ✓ Chennai collector A Shanmugasundaram has been posted as collector of Vellore district, replacing S A Raman.
- ✓ Raman is new Salem collector.
- ✓ Ariyalur collector M Vijayalakshmi and Dindigul collector T G Vinay exchanged positions.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu State Election Commission Secretary T.S. Rajasekar was transferred and posted as Madurai Collector, a position earlier held by DRO S. Santhakumar as additional charge

◆ **The fifth phase of excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga, which began on June 13 - has brought out two walls constructed with Sangam-era (5th century BCE to 3rd century CE) bricks.**



- ✓ Similar bricks had been unearthed in Alangulam, Kaveri Poompattinam and Uraiyur
- ✓ This phase of excavation is expected to be one of the shortest, which will take about four to five months to complete
- ✓ The exercise is estimated to cost ₹47 lakh to the Government

STATES

◆ **The Madhya Pradesh government - has approved a proposal to toughen up laws on cow vigilantism**

- ✓ It has proposed a jail term of six months to five years or a fine of ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 or both, for those who indulge in violence in the name of cow vigilantism.
- ✓ If enacted, it could be the first law in the country specifically against cow vigilantism.

- ✓ The proposed amendment in cow protection law (MP Cow Progeny Slaughter Prevention Act, 2004) seeks to double the punishment for repeat offenders and those who instigate such violence or damage property
- ✓ The previous government in MP had enacted Madhya Pradesh Prohibition of Slaughter of Cow-Progeny (Amendment) Bill in January 2012, to ban cow slaughter.
- ✓ It received Presidential assent on December 22, 2011.
- ✓ As per this bill, anyone found guilty of cow slaughter can be jailed for seven years and fined a minimum of ₹5,000.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Centre - announced the roll out of 'one nation one ration' card on June 27 for subsidized food grains**



- ✓ The card is expected to remove the chance of anyone holding more than one ration card to avail benefits from different states
- ✓ It will also ensure no poor person is deprived of getting subsidized foodgrain under food security scheme when he shifts from one place to another
- ✓ In order to achieve this target, the food ministry will create a central depository of all ration cards which will help in eliminating duplication
- ✓ The Centre's plan is to set up a real-time online database of ration cards — Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS) — on the lines of the lines of GSTIN.
- ✓ The IMPDS is already operational in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura

◆ **The labour ministry and employees provident fund organization (EPFO) - are sticking to the 8.65% return for the financial year 2019**

- ✓ The finance ministry has objected to the proposal for increasing the payout for 2018-19 to 8.65% from 8.55% in the previous year and sought a review
- ✓ EPFO will be left with a surplus of over ₹150 crore despite the higher payout

◆ **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi - has notified a new roster of work which said that the top five judges will be hearing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) matters.**

- ✓ According to the fresh roster, the CJI will deal with the PIL matters and it would be in his discretion to assign PIL cases to other top four judges — S.A. Bobde, N.V. Ramana, Arun Mishra and R.F. Nariman.

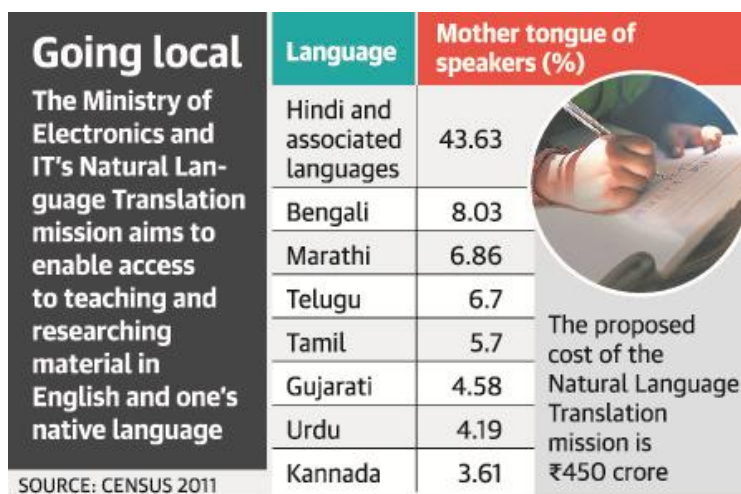


- ✓ Earlier, fresh PIL matters were heard only by the CJI and the second senior-most judge after the CJI.
- ✓ The bench headed by the Chief Justice will also hear petitions on letters received, matters related to social justice, elections, company law, monopoly and restricted trade practices, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Security Exchange Board of India, and the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ The CJI has also kept with himself matters concerning arbitration, habeas corpus, criminal cases, contempt of court and ordinary civil matters.
- ✓ A bench led by Justice Bobde will hear matters like those related to direct and indirect taxes, mercantile law and commercial transactions.
- ✓ Justice Ramana has been assigned, among others, matters related to compensation, arbitration appeals, criminal matters and ordinary civil matters.
- ✓ Other 10 benches have been assigned regular matters related to taxes, property, land and acquisition, service and compensation matters.

◆ **The Rajya Sabha - cleared the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on June 27, that seeks to allow trusts to set up units in special economic zones**

- ✓ The Bill will replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, promulgated in March.

- ◆ **The Ministry of Electronics and IT - will soon place before the Union Cabinet a ₹450 crore proposal for Natural Language Translation — one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).**



- ✓ The proposal is part of the 100-day action plan charted out by MeitY, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions
- ✓ The national mission on natural language translation aims to make science and technology accessible to all by facilitating access to teaching and researching material bilingually — in English and in one's native Indian language.
- ✓ To achieve this, the government plans to leverage a combination of machine translation and human translation.
- ✓ The Ministry had proposed an outlay of ₹450 crore for the mission over the next three-year period.
- ✓ The IT ministry is the lead agency for implementation of the mission along with Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Science and Technology.
- ✓ The PM- STIAC is an overarching body that identifies challenges in certain areas of science and technology.

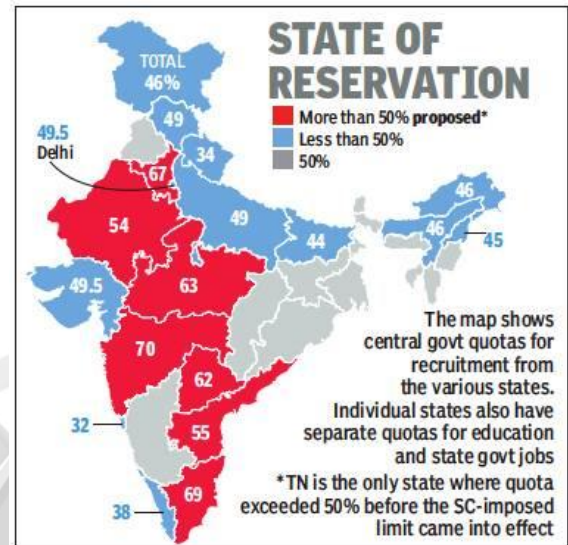
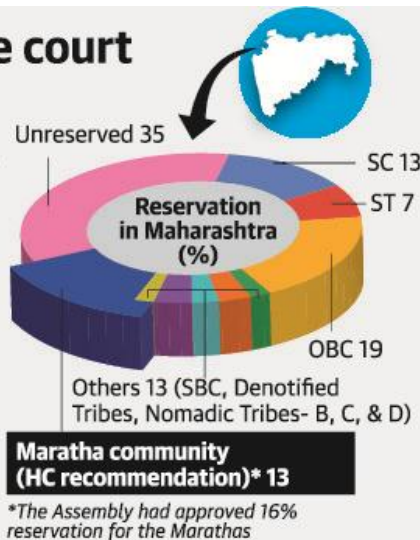
COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Bombay high court - upheld Maharashtra's Maratha reservation policy that takes the total quantum of quota in the state to 70%, including the 10% for economically weaker sections**
- ✓ However, it had quashed the 16% quota by calling it "not justifiable" and said that it should not exceed 12% for education and 13% for jobs as recommended by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission

- ✓ A bench of Justices Ranjit More and Bharati Dangre upheld the constitutional validity of the Maratha reservation, bringing into question the SC verdict against quotas exceeding 50% ceiling in the post-Mandal era
- ✓ The order could change the face of the quota regime in the country — unless reviewed by the SC — by removing the upper ceiling laid down by the Indra Sawhney judgment.

Stamp of the court

After the State legislature approved the 16% quota for the Marathas, reservation in Maharashtra increased from 52% to 68%. The High Court said the reservation for the community should be 12-13%. The chart shows community-wise reservation in the State



- ✓ This is a landmark ruling since no caste reservation policy exceeding 50% has passed the approval of the HCs or the SC till now, except the 69% reservation in TN
- ✓ The 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu has been protected from judicial review under the ninth schedule of the constitution

AWARDS

- ◆ **Cyrus Poonawalla, founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India - received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.**



- ✓ He was awarded his degree at the world-famous university's annual Encaenia academic ceremony
- ✓ A total of eight honorary degrees were conferred by the university, which included Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan as well

