

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 29, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit - has cleared the names of K. Shanmugam and J.K. Tripathy for the appointment as Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of Tamil Nadu respectively.**



- ✓ Shanmugam holds the post of Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) since May 2010 while Tripathy is the current chairman of the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board
- ✓ They will take charge on June 30 following the retirement of Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan from service and the term of T.K. Rajendran as DGP also coming to an end
- ✓ Mr. Shanmugam is expected to hold the post for a year, as he will be reaching the age of superannuation in July next.
- ✓ Mr. Tripathy will, however, remain as the Director-General of Police till June 2021, as the post carries a fixed tenure of two years
- ◆ **The Chennai city - will soon have its own heritage garden showcasing various native species of trees and plants, including those mentioned in Sangam literature**

GREEN SPACE IN WASHERMENPET	
Garden to be a big attraction	> It will have sub-gardens, pond, irrigation and drain system as well as disabled-friendly ramps
100 native tree and plant species, including vagai and kadamba	> A museum on ancient and modern farm equipment will also be a part of it
₹70 lakh estimated cost	> Visitors can buy saplings of native species and get help on manure and soil use
2019-end expected date of completion of project	

- ✓ The garden will be set up at Washermenpet on five-acres of land at an estimated ₹70 lakh
- ✓ It is likely to open by year-end and will be the third such facility to be set up under the Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency
- ✓ The park will have more than 100 native varieties of trees and plants, sub-gardens, a small pond, an inbuilt irrigation and drain system and disabled-friendly ramps.
- ✓ It will also have a museum showcasing all ancient and modern equipment used for agriculture and plantation, in addition to an audio-visual programme explaining the native sacred groves and trees.
- ✓ Not only this, visitors will also get to buy saplings of these native species and receive help from experts to avail of the right manure and soil to grow them.
- ✓ In 2010, authorities from the agency identified sites across the state to set up five genetic heritage gardens representing the five different ecosystems defined in Sangam literature.
- ✓ The places were in Dindigul, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Yercaud.
- ✓ The garden in Chennai will, however, have features of both – the ones mentioned in Sangam literature and of a botanical garden.

STATES

◆ **The Government of India, Government of Kerala, and the World Bank - have signed a loan agreement of \$250 million for the Resilient Kerala Programme**

Development Policy Operation
Resilience to natural disasters, climate change

Development Policy Loan
\$250 million

Centre, State,
World Bank ink pact

Interest less than 1.5%

\$160 million

REPAYMENT PERIOD
30 years

4% Interest

\$90 million

REPAYMENT PERIOD
20 years, plus 'grace period', or moratorium of 5 years

Programme features

- Improved river basin planning, water infra operations management, water supply, sanitation services
- Resilient and sustainable farming, enhanced agri risk insurance
- Improved resilience of core road network
- Unified and up-to-date land records in high-risk areas
- Risk-based urban planning
- Strengthened fiscal and public financial management capacity



- ✓ The programme is the first of two Development Policy Operations to mainstream disaster and climate resilience into critical infrastructure and services
- ✓ It is the first State partnership of the World Bank in India

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The Union health ministry - has directed all departments under it to stop serving biscuits at office meetings and replace them with walnuts, almonds, dates, roasted gram and lahiya chana — a composition of puffed rice and roasted gram**



- ✓ The move is aimed at adopting healthy eating practices
- ✓ Walnuts and almonds provide healthy fats, fibre, vitamins, minerals and are excellent sources of antioxidants.
- ✓ Dates have become more popular in recent years and are high in calories since they are dried fruit.
- ◆ **The Lok Sabha - has approved the extension of the President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir for another six more months starting from July 3, under article 356(4) of the Constitution of India**
 - ✓ This is likely to be the last extension of the central rule in the state as the Election Commission had issued a statement recently stating that elections in Jammu and Kashmir would be announced after the annual Amarnath Yatra beginning on July 1.
 - ✓ The Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir was imposed initially on June 20, 2018 following the withdrawal of BJP's support to Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government
 - ✓ Under Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, there is no provision for further continuation of Governor's rule after six months, which was invoked every time till then
 - ✓ The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has also said that Article 370 of the Constitution which extends special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is "temporary in nature" and "not permanent"
 - ✓ The Lok Sabha also cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019
 - ✓ The amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, extends 3% reservation to people living on the international border in the state.
 - ✓ The reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission to professional courses on a par with those living along the Actual Line of Control (ALoC) will benefit about 3 lakh 50 thousand people living in 70 villages of Kathua, 133 villages of Samba and 232 villages of Jammu.

◆ **The Centre - has released a five-year vision and action plan to transform higher education by doubling enrolment and employability, addressing inequalities of access, and revamping governance and funding mechanisms.**

- ✓ The Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) is likely to involve investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore over the next five years
- ✓ It was drafted by 80 experts in 10 teams headed by eminent academicians, scientists and industrialists over the last two months and was submitted to Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on June 28
- ✓ The plan has suggested more than 50 initiatives with timelines, implementation methods and funding requirements, with quality and access as its major goals

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **The temperature in France - surpassed 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time on record on June 28**



- ✓ France's new record temperature of 45.1 degrees Celsius was registered in Villevieille, a village in the southern department of Gard near Montpellier
- ✓ It was the same area where a previous high of 44.1 degrees Celsius was set in August 2003
- ✓ The new record makes France just the seventh European country to have recorded a plus 45 degrees Celsius temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Macedonia

◆ **Pakistan - has extended its eastern airspace ban for commercial flights to and from India for the fourth time till July 12**

- ✓ It had shut the airspace earlier on February 26 following the Balakot airstrike
- ✓ However, the two southern routes that Pakistan had opened for Indian flights in April will remain functional
- ✓ The nine eastern routes for flights to and from India will remain shut for another fortnight

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **NASA - announced that it is sending a drone-style quadcopter to Titan, Saturn's largest moon**

- ✓ The mission is titled 'Dragonfly'

- ✓ It will be capable of soaring across the skies of Titan and landing intermittently to take scientific measurements, studying the world's mysterious atmosphere and topography while searching for hints of life on the only world other than Earth in our solar system with standing liquid on its surface
- ✓ The mission will be developed and led from the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University in Laurel, Maryland
- ✓ The spacecraft is scheduled to launch in 2026.



- ✓ Once at Titan in 2034, it will have a life span of at least two-and-a-half years.
- ✓ Cameras on Dragonfly will stream images during flight, offering people on Earth a bird's-eye view of the Saturn moon.

What's Titan?

- * Titan is the largest Moon of Saturn.
- * Titan has a nitrogen-based atmosphere like Earth.
- * Unlike Earth, Titan has clouds and rain of methane.
- * Other organics are formed in the atmosphere and fall like light snow.
- * Its weather and surface processes have combined complex organics, energy, and water similar to those that may have sparked life on our planet.
- * Titan is larger than the planet Mercury and is the second largest moon in our solar system.
- * As it orbits Saturn, it is about 886 million miles (1.4 billion kilometers) away from the Sun, about 10 times farther than Earth.
- * Because it is so far from the Sun, its surface temperature is around -290 degrees Fahrenheit (-179 degrees Celsius).
- * Its surface pressure is also 50 percent higher than Earth's.

- ✓ Because of the nature of its atmosphere, Titan is a very Earth-like place.
- ✓ The surface pressure of Titan is one-and-a-half times the surface pressure of Earth and the same sorts of interactions between air, land and sea take place.
- ✓ Methane on Titan plays the role that water plays here.
- ✓ Its methane cycle is analogous to Earth's water cycle.
- ✓ It has methane clouds, methane rain and methane lakes and seas on the surface.

