



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JUNE 30, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **On June 29, Chief minister M K Stalin - ordered for the reconstitution the Tamil Nadu construction workers welfare board again after five years.**
- ✓ The board will include representatives of various government departments such as secretaries of housing and urban development, municipal administration and water supply
- ✓ It will also have representatives of developers' bodies such as the Builders Association of India and Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India.
- ✓ The representatives of manual workers coming from various trade unions including AITUC, CITU and LPF will also be part of the welfare board.
- ✓ The government members will remain in the board till replacement, while non-official members have a fixed tenure of two years.
- ✓ Ponkumar, who served as the chairman of the board in the past, was renominated to the 26-member board.
- ✓ The board, having about 13.4 lakh registered workers, has not been reconstituted since its tenure ended in February 2016.
- ✓ The board has the authority to sanction funds to workers in case of disability due to accident, natural death, funeral assistance and pension.
  
- **Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University – to soon get a whole genome sequencing lab to track mutation of SARSCoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19**
- ✓ This was announced by health minister Ma Subramanian on June 29
- ✓ The university already has accredited labs for diagnosis and research on diseases such as chikungunya, dengue and leptospirosis
- ✓ It is also a nationally accredited microbiology and immunology lab
- ✓ The Directorate of Public Health had proposed to set up a whole genome sequencing lab to monitor the mutations undergone by the virus

- ✓ According to scientists, new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 may lead to increased level of infection, making treatment and prevention more complex.
  - ✓ At present, Tamil Nadu sends samples to the Bengaluru-based Instem, as per the recommendations of Centre.
  - ✓ Instem is a part of INSACOG, which is a consortium of labs that track the presence of variants in Covid samples.
  - ✓ The state categorised samples from across the state in various categories like family clusters, community clusters, Covid in children, young adults with severe lung infection, breakthrough infections (infected 14 days after two vaccinations), samples from deceased and travellers.
- **On June 28, Chief Minister M K Stalin - reconstituted the state minorities commission and appointed senior Congress leader S Peter Alphonse as chairman.**



- ✓ Former chief minister M Karunanidhi constituted the state minorities commission in 1989
  - ✓ It was set up to protect the interests of the religious and linguistic minorities and their rights.
  - ✓ The objective of the commission is to ensure socio-economic development and education of the minorities.
  - ✓ The DMK government also enacted TN Minorities Commission Act, 2010, providing statutory powers.
  - ✓ The commission has the powers of a civil court.
  - ✓ Alphonse was elected from Tenkasi assembly constituency in 1989 and 1991 and from Kadayanallur assembly constituency in 2006.
  - ✓ He is a former Rajya Sabha member and an executive member of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.
  - ✓ He was a close associate of late veteran Congress leader, G K Moopanar.
- **Senior IPS officer Dr C Sylendra Babu - has been appointed as the Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of police force on June 29**
- ✓ He will replace J K Tripathy, who is set to retire from service on June 30.

- ✓ Born on June 5, 1962 at Kuzhithurai village in Kanyakumari district, Babu belonged to the 1987 batch of IPS officers.



- ✓ After completing a graduation course from Agricultural College and Research Institute in Madurai, he has done his post-graduation from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore.
  - ✓ He later obtained a Bachelor of Law and an MA degree in Population Studies from the Annamalai University.
  - ✓ He also holds a PhD from the University of Madras for this thesis on missing children
  - ✓ Sylendra Babu started his career as an assistant superintendent of police in Gobichettipalayam in 1989
  - ✓ In 2010, he was appointed as the Commissioner of Coimbatore and in 2019, he was promoted to the rank of the DGP, Railways in Chennai.
  - ✓ Babu has been in various posts in the past, including ADGP, Law and Order, and SP, Special Task Force, Erode.
  - ✓ He has won several prestigious awards, including the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2005, the President's Police Medal for distinguished service in 2013 and the Chief Minister's Medal for excellence in public service in 2019.
  - ✓ Babu, an acclaimed motivational speaker, has authored more than 10 books in English and Tamil, which include 'You too can become IPS officer', 'A guide to Health and Happiness', 'Udalina Urithi Sei' and 'Unakul oru Thalaivan'.
  - ✓ An avid fitness enthusiast, Babu had represented the state and the country in several swimming and marathon competitions
  - ✓ The outgoing DGP, Tripathy was the recipient of the police medal for Meritorious Service in 2002, Dr Malcolm S Adiseshiah Special Award in 2001, Innovation for India Award in 2006, Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2008 and Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2011.
- **On June 2, the construction of the 2,000 megawatt (2 X 1000) units 5 and 6 at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) - commenced with the 'first pour of concrete'.**

- ✓ The project is to be completed at an outlay of ₹49,621 crore
  - ✓ It was launched by chairman of the atomic energy commission and secretary of the department of atomic energy Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas through videoconference.
  - ✓ KKNPP comprises six units of light water reactors with a capacity of 1,000MW each.
  - ✓ It is set up in technical cooperation with the Russian Federation, Rosatom.
  - ✓ The project is being implemented in three phases with 2x1,000 MW in each phase.
  - ✓ Construction of units 3 and 4 is underway in the second phase and these units are nearly 50% complete.
  - ✓ Construction of units 5 and 6 will be completed in 66 and 75 months, respectively by Larsen and Toubro (L&T).
  - ✓ Work to be carried out by L&T at ₹2,305 crore include construction of the reactor, reactor auxiliary, turbine and diesel generator buildings and safety structures.
  - ✓ While KKNPP was dependent on Russia for every component used in the first two reactors (units 1 and 2), around 36% of the components to be used in units 5 and 6 will be manufactured in India.
  - ✓ On completion of these projects, the six units in KKNPP will generate 6,000MW of clean electricity by the latter half of 2027
  - ✓ By then, KKNPP will become the largest power producing complex in the entire country.
- **Fifteen burial urns - have been unearthed from two adjacent clusters at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district.**



- ✓ The state archaeology department is undertaking the second phase of excavations at Sivagalai.
- ✓ Sivagalai was suspected to be the burial site of a Sivagalai cluster, just like Konthagai in Keeladi cluster.
- ✓ The ASI had given its approval to excavate six places in the cluster.
- ✓ The second phase of excavation was being carried out at Sivagalai at a cost of ₹34 lakh.
- ✓ So far 40 burial urns, ranging between two to four feet in height, had been found.



## NATIONAL

- **India's drugs regulator, DCGI – granted emergency use approval for US biotech firm, Moderna's anti-covid vaccine**
- ✓ This paves way for its Indian partner Cipla to import the first mRNA Covid-19 vaccine into the country for commercial use
- ✓ It is also the first internationally developed vaccine to be granted a waiver from conducting bridging trials in India
- ✓ Moderna's vaccine becomes the fourth to get emergency authorisation in the country after Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Russia's Sputnik-V.
- ✓ Moderna's vaccine was found to have an impressive 94% efficacy in phase 3 trials in the US
- ✓ It can be stored at 2-8 degrees, a range that suits India's cold storage requirements under the Universal Immunization Programme
- ✓ Moderna will not be required to conduct bridging studies in India to establish the safety of the vaccine on the Indian population, due to changes in the country's regulatory regime.
- ✓ The company will have to submit safety assessment data of the first 100 beneficiaries before mass rollout
- ✓ In April, the government had relaxed the requirements for local trials for vaccines with EUAs from regulators in the US, UK, the EU and Japan, as well as those with an Emergency Use Listing from the World Health Organization
- ✓ Moderna has received EUAs for this vaccine in the US as well as Canada, Israel, the EU, the UK, Switzerland, Singapore, Qatar and Taiwan.
- ✓ Cipla is supporting Moderna Inc with the regulatory approval and importation of vaccines to be donated to India.
- ✓ In May, the Biden administration announced the donation of Covid-19 vaccines through the COVAX scheme for distribution in low-income and developing countries, including India.
- ✓ The US is expected to send a total of 20 million doses of Moderna and over 60 million AstraZeneca vaccines to these countries

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - has asked states, union territories to implement the 'one nation, one ration card' scheme (ONORC) by July 31, 2021**
- ✓ A bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and M R Shah issued orders and criticised the Centre over "unpardonable delay" in registration of unorganized sector workers, as per its August 21, 2018 direction.
- ✓ The "One Nation, One Ration card" scheme allows migrant workers to get ration at the place of their work in other states as well where their ration cards are not registered.

- ✓ The apex court directed the Centre to complete the registration process of migrant workers in the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal by July 31 with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ✓ Four states, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal are yet to implement the ONORC scheme
- ✓ As per 2017-18 National Statistical Organisation (NSO) survey, the number of workers in the unorganised sector stands at roughly 38 crore, or one-fourth of the country's population

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Britain – bans Binance, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange**



- ✓ Britain's financial regulator, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) had ordered Binance Markets Ltd, Binance's UK entity, to stop all regulated activities with immediate effect
- ✓ In January, the FCA asked all firms offering cryptocurrency-related services to register and show they comply with anti-money laundering rules.
- ✓ Earlier, Japan, US and Germany have flagged the illegal operations of Binance in their respective countries
- ✓ Binance is a cryptocurrency exchange from Cayman Islands.
- ✓ It was founded in 2017 by Changpeng Zhao and was initially based in China
- ✓ But due to increased regulation of cryptocurrency in China, it moved headquarters out of China

## DEFENCE

- **The Sea Breeze 2021 multinational maritime exercise - began in the Black Sea region on June 28**
- ✓ It is organized by the Ukrainian Navy and the U.S. Sixth Fleet
- ✓ The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the annual exercise aims to strengthen maritime security and stability, information-sharing, and building teamwork and mutual cooperation.
- ✓ The exercise is taking place from June 28 to July 10
- ✓ About half of the personnel participating in the Sea Breeze 2021 drills will be Ukrainian servicemen



- ✓ It involves multiple warfare areas including amphibious warfare, land manoeuvre warfare, diving operations, maritime interdiction operations, air defense, special operations integration, anti-submarine warfare, and search and rescue operations.
- ✓ This year's edition involves the largest number of participating nations in the exercise's history
- ✓ It involves 32 countries from six continents, 5,000 troops, 32 ships, 40 aircraft, and 18 special operation and dive teams
- ✓ The participating countries in the exercise are Albania, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States
- ✓ About 50 military personnel from 17 foreign countries will act as advisers and observers.
- ✓ Exercise Sea Breeze has been held since 1997, involving NATO states and their allies in the Black Sea region

