



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - June TAMIL NADU

- On June 25, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, MK Stalin - launched a career guidance programme for Class XII students to help them choose a college degree and subsequently a career path in the future.



- ✓ The programme titled, 'College Dream' comes under the Nan Mudhalvan scheme of the state government.
- ✓ The Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University (TANUVAS) and Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University have set up separate stalls for providing guidance to the students
- ✓ Information on various courses, including undergraduate and diploma, will be provided by industry experts and academics at the event
- ✓ Further, the school education department distributed a career guidance book to all participants during the event
- ✓ The book contains information about various undergraduate and diploma courses, the preparation needed before joining colleges, information about job opportunities, preparing for competitive exams and success stories of government school students and first generation graduates.

- ✓ The Nan Mudhalvan scheme will be conducted in all districts from June 29 to July 3
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the government aims to train around 10 lakh students across the state with the necessary skills to develop their talents
 - ✓ In this regard, HCL will sign a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation to skill government school students and employ them
- **The Hindu religious and charitable endowments (HR & CE) department - is all set to relaunch archakar training schools (archakar payirchi palli), after a gap of 14 years, in mid-July.**
- ✓ After assuming office in 2021, the DMK government led by M K Stalin had said it would revive the institutions to ensure social justice by offering archakar courses to all Hindus, irrespective of their castes.
 - ✓ It was one of the flagship programmes of DMK icon and former chief minister M Karunanidhi to break the hierarchy of a particular community in priesthood and to ensure social justice.
 - ✓ However, the schools remain defunct all these years due to legal wrangles.
 - ✓ The SC verdict, in December 2015, allowed appointment of trained archakars as per agmas of each temple
 - ✓ However, the previous AIADMK government did not show interest in reviving the scheme.
 - ✓ The department has enhanced the monthly stipend to the students from Rs.1,000 to Rs.3,000 along with food and accommodation facilities to attract large number of candidates.
- **On June 22, the Tamil Nadu government - dispatched the second consignment of relief worth Rs 67.70 crore to the economic crisis-hit Sri Lanka**
- ✓ State Ministers Gingee K S Masthan, R Chakrapani, P Geetha Jeevan and Anita Radhakrishnan flagged off a cargo ship carrying the relief material
 - ✓ About 14,712 MT rice worth Rs 48.30 crore, 250 tonne of Aavin milk powder valued at Rs 7.50 crore besides Rs 11.90 crore worth of life-saving drugs were shipped.
 - ✓ The relief material was being sent due to the initiative of Chief Minister M K Stalin
 - ✓ Earlier, the CM, after obtaining nod from the Central government, flagged off the first consignment of a ship laden with relief supplies on May 19 from the Chennai port.
 - ✓ About Rs 45 crore worth of relief, including 9,000 MT rice, 200 MT of Aavin milk powder and 24 MT of life-saving medicines were sent during the first dispatch

NATIONAL

- **On June 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry – ‘Vanijya Bhawan’**



- ✓ Vanijya Bhawan will serve as an integrated and modern office complex for the Department of Commerce, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
 - ✓ Besides, the PM also launched a new portal called NIRYAT– a one-stop place for all info needed for India’s foreign trade.
 - ✓ NIRYAT stands for ‘National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade’
 - ✓ During the inaugural ceremony, PM Modi said the new premise and the portal are a symbol of both physical and digital infrastructure, and it would reflect India’s aspiration of ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat’ or a self-reliant India
- **India's top oil firm, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - unveiled a stationary, rechargeable and indoor cooking stove ‘Surya Nutan’ that uses the sun's energy to cook food while always being kept in the kitchen**



- ✓ The stove, which entails a one-time procurement cost and has zero maintenance, is being touted as a substitute for fossil fuels.
- ✓ It has been developed by the Indian Oil research and development centre in Faridabad.

- ✓ On June 22, a demonstration of the innovative cook top was given at the residence of Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri at an event in Delhi, which was also attended by rural development minister Giriraj Singh.
 - ✓ The solar cooking equipment works on a hybrid mode and is capable of running both on solar and an auxiliary energy source simultaneously
 - ✓ Kept in the kitchen, it is powered by some attached cables that carry the solar energy captured through a PV panel (Photovoltaic Panel) placed outdoor or on the roof.
 - ✓ The solar energy collected during the day not only supplies a family of four's daytime cooking needs but also the evening meal.
 - ✓ The cook top comes in three different models with the base model costing around Rs.12,000 and the top model costing Rs. 23,000.
- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) - has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, Urraca-IX, in CPO-5 block, Llanos Basin, Colombia**
- ✓ The well was drilled to target depth of 10,956 feet, encountering 17 feet thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201-10218 feet
 - ✓ Block CPO-5 was awarded to ONGC Videsh Limited in the 2008 bid round of Colombia.
 - ✓ ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest in the block along with operatorship, remaining 30% is held by partner Geopark.
 - ✓ ONGC Videsh has earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand play in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing 20,000 barrel oil per day.
 - ✓ ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in oil and gas sector in Colombia
 - ✓ It has three other exploratory blocks in the country and also has joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).
 - ✓ ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), which is responsible for prospecting oil in foreign lands
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) set up at a cost of Rs 280 crore at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus recently on June 20**
- ✓ The CBR is developed as a one of its kind research facility and focuses on conducting vital research to provide evidence-based public health interventions to manage age-related brain disorders
 - ✓ It will carry out vital research in rural Karnataka to provide appropriate, evidence-based public health interventions to delay the onset of dementia and slow down its progress.



- ✓ Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, co-founder of IT major Infosys S Gopalakrishnan were among those present at the event.
 - ✓ The Centre for Brain Research was established as an autonomous, non-profit research organization in the IISc, with the generous funding from Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha Gopalakrishnan
 - ✓ CBR is funded by philanthropy and receives research grants for specific projects from several granting agencies
 - ✓ In 2014, Kris Gopalakrishnan announced a grant of Rs 225 crore from Pratiksha Trust, an NGO he co-founded with his wife Sudha Gopalakrishnan, toward the setting up of CBR, for which the foundation stone was laid by the PM Modi
 - ✓ During the Programme, the PM also laid the foundation stone for 832-bedded Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital in the campus of IISc Bengaluru
 - ✓ IISc entered into a partnership with philanthropists Susmita and Subroto Bagchi, and Radha and N S Parthasarathy, in February to establish the Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital.
 - ✓ The couples will collectively donate Rs 425 crore to help construct the not-for-profit, multi-speciality hospital
 - ✓ Subroto Bagchi and N S Parthasarathy were co-founders of Mindtree, a Bengaluru-headquartered information technology services and consulting company.
 - ✓ After its founding, this was the largest single private donation received by IISc
 - ✓ The hospital is slated to be operational by the end of 2024
- **The first Bharat Gaurav train carrying 500 tourists from India - arrived at the Janakpur Dham railway station in Nepal with 500 tourists on June 23**
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind tourist train covering the Ramayana circuit in India and Nepal.
 - ✓ The 14-coach train, which arrived at Janakpur Dham station, was flagged off from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station on June 21

- ✓ The tourists will visit Janaki temple for darshan, witness a cultural programme in the premises of Janaki Temple and participate in Ganga Aarti



- ✓ The Indian government had launched this initiative to join all the major places related to Lord Ram and Sita and develop the Ramayana Circuit
- ✓ The train operating on the Ramayana Circuit will also cover the religious destination of Janakpur (Nepal) for the first time
- ✓ Further, it runs through other popular destinations such as Ayodhya, Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Panchvati (Nasik), Hampi, Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam

INTERNATIONAL

- On June 25, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina - inaugurated the country's longest 'Padma Bridge' (Swapner Padma Setu) built across the mighty Padma river



- ✓ The 6.15-km-long road-rail four-lane bridge connects 19 districts of southwestern Bangladesh with Dhaka and rest of the country
- ✓ It also significantly reduces the distance between the capital city of Dhaka to the Mongla sea port, which is important for regional and international trade.

- ✓ This is the country's biggest infrastructure project since its independence from Pakistan and the multipurpose bridge is ranked 122nd longest in the world
- ✓ The distance between pillars is 150 meters with a pilling of 128 meters deep, which is the deepest pilling in the world.



- ✓ The construction of the bridge began in 2015, and the last span was built in December 2021.
- ✓ The bridge was built by the Railway Major Bridge Engineering Group (RMBEG) of China
- ✓ The multipurpose road-rail bridge, which is fully funded by the Bangladesh government, has been constructed at a cost of \$3.6 billion.
- ✓ Bangladesh has now bridged its two mighty rivers, Padma and Jamuna, which makes the country an integrated and well-connected economy.
- ✓ The distance of Dhaka from the Indian border at Benapole by road will now be reduced by 70km and travel time by 4. 30 hours.
- ✓ It will also reduce the Kolkata-Dhaka train journey time by half.
- ✓ The Padma Bridge, connecting India, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand, will be a major link of the Trans Asian Highway Network (TAHN).
- ✓ Following the pre-feasibility test by the Awami League government, then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone for the construction of the bridge on 4 July 2001
- ✓ In April 2011, a consortium led by World Bank signed an agreement with Bangladesh to finance this mega bridge
- ✓ However, in 2012, the World Bank cancelled the proposed USD 1.2 billion loan saying it had "credible evidence" of high-level corruption among Bangladeshi officials
- ✓ With this, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) also walked out of the project
- ✓ The World Bank even went ahead with the appointment of Gabriel Moreno Ocampo to investigate the alleged corruption over the Padma Bridge project.

- ✓ India at that time had expressed total support to Bangladesh as it had helped build the bridge by extending a \$200 million loan for the rail part of the bridge as well as supplying building material
- ✓ Finally, in 2017, a Canadian court found those allegations levelled by the World Bank as being on 'flimsy grounds and faulty evidence'
- **On June 25, US President Joe Biden - signed a bipartisan gun safety bill into law, the first major federal gun reform in three decades, to prevent the access of firearms to dangerous people.**



- ✓ The bill, called “The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act”, follows national outrage after the recent killings of 10 African Americans in Buffalo, New York, and 19 children and 2 teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas during May
- ✓ On June 23, the Supreme Court expanded gun owners’ right and declared for the first time that the U.S. Constitution protected an individual’s right to carry a handgun in public for self-defence
- ✓ The new law blocks gun sales to those convicted of abusing unmarried intimate partners and cracks down on gun sales to purchasers convicted of domestic violence.
- ✓ The law also provides new federal funding to states that administer “red flag” laws intended to remove guns from people deemed dangerous to themselves and others.
- ✓ The law, as such, does not ban sales of assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines but includes background checks for young buyers
- ✓ The new law comes with a \$13.2 billion funding and includes millions of dollars for mental health, school safety, crisis intervention programs and incentives for states to include juvenile records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- ✓ It is the most impactful firearms violence measure produced by Congress since enactment of a long-expired assault weapons ban in 1993.
- **The US, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the UK - launched an informal group aimed at boosting economic and diplomatic ties with Pacific island nations.**

- ✓ The Biden administration has vowed to commit more resources to the Indo-Pacific as China seeks to boost economic, military and police links with Pacific nations.
- ✓ The group, dubbed 'Partners in the Blue Pacific', will seek to support Pacific regionalism and strengthen economic ties between the Pacific islands and the rest of the world.

INDIA AND OTHERS

- **The World Bank - has approved a \$245 million loan to support India's efforts to modernise rail freight and logistics infrastructure.**
- ✓ The rail logistics project seeks to help reduce India's high carbon emissions and low modal freight share in the railways
- ✓ The project will also incentivise more private sector investment in the sector and will shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport — both freight and passenger — more efficient
- ✓ Road freight is the largest contributor to GHG emissions, accounting for about 95% of emissions in the freight sector.
- ✓ Rail transport emits about one-fifth of trucks' GHG emissions, and Indian Railways planning to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030
- ✓ The loan, financed through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, has a maturity of 22 years, including a grace period of seven years.
- ✓ The new Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor-3 (EFDC) is also supported by the World Bank.
- ✓ Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world having transported 1.2 billion tonnes of freight in the fiscal ending March 2020

COMMITTEES

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) - has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities to promote growth and innovation in this sector**
- ✓ Real estate investment trusts (ReITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) are some of the hybrid securities issued till now in India.



- ✓ Hybrid securities are relatively new in the Indian markets, but highly popular in the West

- ✓ The 20-member committee will be chaired by K V Kamath, Chairperson of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development
- ✓ The committee has been given the task of advising Sebi on issues related to development and regulation of primary and secondary markets of hybrid securities in the country.
- ✓ Besides, Sebi has reconstituted its research advisory committee, which is responsible for promotion, development, maintenance of databases relevant for capital market regulation research
- ✓ The 16-member panel will be headed by V Ravi Anshuman, Professor at IIM Bangalore.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On June 25, India and UK - announced the establishment of a joint India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy programme**
- ✓ The announcement was made jointly by foreign minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Liz Truss.



- ✓ The Academy programme, to be hosted in New Delhi, will equip young diplomats from all Commonwealth member-states with expertise and training on global challenges
- ✓ External affairs minister S Jaishankar is on a four-day visit to Rwanda to attend the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali
- ✓ He will be leading the Indian delegation to the CHOGM, which had earlier been postponed twice due to Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ The theme of the summit is - Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.
- ✓ Commonwealth of Nations is a political association of 54 member states, which are former territories of British Empire

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Botanical Survey of India and the forest department of Uttarakhand - have discovered a carnivore plant, *Utricularia furcellata*, in Uttarakhand's Mandal, Chamoli district, at an altitude of around 4,800 feet.**



- ✓ This is the first time that the plant has been spotted anywhere in the entire western Himalayas.
 - ✓ The recent discovery of the plant has been documented by 'Japanese Botany', a 104-year-old prestigious Japanese journal.
 - ✓ The plant was last seen in the country in Meghalaya in 1986, 37 years ago.
 - ✓ It thrives on tadpoles, mosquito larvae, and protozoa.
 - ✓ It has a distinct bladder-like structure through which it traps its prey and digests it using hormones and chemicals.
 - ✓ It is a small plant that blooms between June and September.
 - ✓ The plant is "very rare" and "highly susceptible" to biotic pressure and climate change.
 - ✓ Rains play a vital role in its sustenance and the plant is mostly found in freshwater and wet soil
 - ✓ Mandal is a famous site for flora and fauna lovers.
- **The GSAT-24 satellite - was successfully launched by French company Arianespace on its Ariane 5 space launch vehicle from Kourou in French Guiana on June 23**
 - ✓ Built by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs



- ✓ The Ariane 5 has successfully placed two satellites into geostationary orbit - MEASAT-3d for the Malaysian operator MEASAT and GSAT-24
- ✓ NSIL, a Government of India company, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play, the DTH business of Tata Group for the entire mission life of 15 years
- ✓ It was the first "demand driven" communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms announced in June 2020
- ✓ As part of "space reforms", NSIL was mandated to undertake operational satellite missions on a "demand driven" model, wherein it has the responsibility to build, launch, own & operate satellites and provide services to its committed customers
- ✓ NSIL, incorporated in March 2019, is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under Department of Space (DOS) and is the commercial arm of ISRO.
- ✓ At present, India's most powerful rocket, the GSLV Mk3, can lift a maximum of 4 tons into geostationary orbit and hence GSAT-24, weighing more than 4 tons, was launched on a French rocket

DEFENCE

- **The Ministry of Defence - has approved setting up of wayside amenities under the brand of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 locations on different sections of roads with Border Roads Organisation across 12 states and Union territories.**
 - ✓ These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists, besides generating employment for the local people and improve economic activities in remote border areas
 - ✓ The amenities will come up in public private partnership mode with agencies, on license basis, which will design, build and operate the facilities as per BRO guidelines
 - ✓ The facilities include parking for two and four wheelers, food plaza/restaurants, restrooms for men, women and the differently-abled, first-aid rooms, MI rooms, etc.
 - ✓ The terms of the agreement will be for 15 years which may be further extended for a period up to five years
 - ✓ A total of 19 BRO Cafes will come up in Arunachal Pradesh, two in Assam, seven in Himachal Pradesh, 12 in Jammu and Kashmir, 14 in Ladakh, five in Rajasthan and 11 in Uttarakhand
 - ✓ West Bengal, Sikkim, Punjab, Nagaland, Manipur are the other states where the wayside amenities will get established
 - ✓ Part of Indian Armed Forces. BRO develops and maintains road networks across border areas of India and its friendly neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.
- **The Indian Coast Guard - recently inducted the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III into the Coast Guard Region (East)**

- ✓ This is the first induction into the newly created '840 Squadron' that is to be based in Chennai



- ✓ Three more ALHs will be added to the inventory of '840 Squadron' shortly
- ✓ The first chopper was received at Coast Guard Air Station, Chennai with a traditional 'water cannon salute' on June 20
- ✓ The ALH-Mk III is equipped with features such as Beyond Visual Range detection, state-of-the-art radar integrated with long range imaging and the Electro Optical Pod and Automatic Identification System
- ✓ The ALH MK-III has been indigenously designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ Till date, HAL has delivered 13 out of 16 such aircraft to the ICG

ECONOMY

- **The government - has extended the validity of compensation cess levied along with the GST on luxury and 'sin' goods such as cars and tobacco by nearly four years up to March 2026**
- ✓ The decision is aimed at raising funds for the additional borrowings undertaken during Covid-19 pandemic to compensate states for their "revenue loss".
- ✓ However, the states will not be paid the GST compensation from July 1 this year
- ✓ The cess is due to end on June 30 as part of the five-year formula devised by the Centre and the states to ensure that the latter's revenue grew 14% annually.
- ✓ The notification comes just days ahead of crucial meeting of the GST Council on June 28 and 29 in Chandigarh amid demands from several states to extend the compensation period.
- ✓ A recent study by economists at RBI had identified 10 states that are facing extreme financial stress with Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, Bengal and Bihar seen to be most vulnerable.
- ✓ In order to meet the resource gap of states due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

- ✓ From 2023-24, the repayment of principal amount will start which will continue till March 2026
- ✓ The Centre has released the entire amount of GST compensation payable to states up to May 31, 2022.
- ✓ Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017

- **On June 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - extended the deadline for card tokenisation by three months to September 30, 2022**
- ✓ The central bank had earlier directed the merchants to implement its tokenisation norms by June 30, 2022.
- ✓ This is the third time RBI has extended the deadline of its implementation
- ✓ Last September, RBI prohibited merchants from storing customer card details on their servers with effect from January 1, 2022
- ✓ In April this year, the apex bank had proposed new rules related to debit and credit cards with the security of user details as a key focus
- ✓ Tokenisation refers to the technology of substituting sensitive card data with random numbers.
- ✓ A tokenized card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing.
- ✓ The card tokenisation converts card details into a unique code called 'token' that is specific to a card and one merchant at a time.
- ✓ The code does not reveal the details of the card and can be saved on the online portal's server.

AWARDS

- **The Government of India - hosted its first-ever National Logistics Excellence Awards in New Delhi on June 23, 2022**
- ✓ Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal along with the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash Sharma gave away the awards in 12 categories.
- ✓ The National Logistics Excellence Awards aim to acknowledge the many logistics service providers in the country that have been able to display innovation, diversity and efficiency.



- ✓ An Expert Screening Committee of 18 diverse experts and a National Jury of 9 senior dignitaries was formed to choose the winners among 169 entries received by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- ✓ The event was organized by the Logistics Division, DPIIT (Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- ✓ FedEx Express Transportation and Supply Chain Services (India) Pvt. Ltd were named as the Best Cargo Airline & Terminal Operator
- ✓ Adani Logistics Ltd won two awards - Best Rail Freight Service Provider and Best Logistics infrastructure and service provider
- ✓ DHL Supply Chain India Pvt. Ltd. won the award under the category of Best Road Freight Service Provider, while Maersk India Pvt. Ltd. Emerged as Best Shipping & NVOCC service Provider
- ✓ Safexpress Pvt. Ltd received the Best Express Logistics Service Provider award
- ✓ The Industry Excellence Award went to Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

SPORTS

- **Jyothi Surekha Vennam - made a dream return to the India side picking up a gold and silver in World Cup Stage III in Paris on June 25**
- ✓ The World No. 3 made her maiden appearance in the international circuit this season after failing to make the national side in the first two stages of the World Cup.
- ✓ The 25-year-old, competing in the mixed team event with Abhishek Verma, beat French pair of Jean Boulch and Sophie Dodemont to seal the first-ever gold for India in the event.
- ✓ Then, Jyothi beat Sophie Dodemont in the individual semis, but lost a close final to Britain's Ela Gibson.

