



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 11, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- On April 10, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi - granted his assent to the re-adopted 'Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022'
- ✓ According to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the assent was a "good consequence" of the resolution on the Governor adopted by the Assembly earlier in the day.
- ✓ Earlier, the assembly passed a resolution calling for a time limit to be imposed on state governors for the passage of key legislations.

#### BACK-AND-FORTH JOURNEY OF A BILL

**Oct 1, 2022** | Governor Ravi promulgates ordinance banning online gambling after recommendations of a committee led by retired Justice K Chandru

**Oct 19** | Bill passed in assembly to replace ordinance and sent to governor

**Nov 23** | Ravi seeks clarifications, govt responds in 24 hours

**March 6, 2023** | Bill returned to Speaker M Appavu after 131 days, stating legislature had no 'legislative competence' to enact such a legislation

**March 23** | Tamil Nadu assembly re-adopts bill, re-sends it to governor the same day

**April 7** | Governor gives assent to bill



- ✓ The bill prohibits advertisement in any form promoting online gambling or playing online games of chance with money or other stakes in the State.
- ✓ The specified online games of chance are Rummy and Poker.
- ✓ Those violating the provision on advertisement for promotion or inducing people to play online gambling/games of chance face punishment with imprisonment of up to one year or with a fine, which may extend to Rs 5 lakh or both.
- ✓ Further, any person indulging in online gambling/online games of chance with money or other stakes in the State shall be imprisoned for a term, which may extend to three months or with a fine up to Rs 5,000 or both.
- ✓ Any person who provides online gambling services or games of Poker and Rummy with money or other stakes shall face punishment with imprisonment for a

term, which may extend to three years or with a fine, which may extend to Rs 10 lakh or both.

- ✓ The ordinance (prohibiting online gambling, wager-based online games of chance of Rummy and Poker) was promulgated by Governor Ravi on October 1, 2022, and on October 3, a gazette notification was issued by the government.
  - ✓ On October 19, 2022, a Bill to replace the Ordinance was passed by Assembly and sent to the Governor.
  - ✓ The Governor had returned the Bill on March 6, saying it was ultra vires the Constitution and against the judgments of courts.
  - ✓ On March 23, the government once again re-adopted the bill unanimously in the assembly and sent it to the Governor for his assent.
  - ✓ The Chief Minister also recalled Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur's statement in Parliament on March 21, 2023 that States were empowered to enact laws banning online gambling, under Section 34 of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution.
  - ✓ In June 2022, a four-member committee formed by the government under retired High Court Judge K Chandru to examine the adverse effects of online rummy recommended a ban on online gaming by promulgating an ordinance.
  - ✓ The adoption of the Bill was necessitated after the Madras High Court in August 2021 had struck the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 which banned online betting.
  - ✓ Such provisions were held by the High Court as ultra vires the constitution.
  - ✓ The state government of Tamil Nadu has appealed its High Court judgment before the Supreme Court of India.
  - ✓ The appeal is pending at the preliminary stage before the Supreme Court.
  - ✓ This was the second time the Tamil Nadu Assembly had re-adopted a Bill returned by the Governor.
  - ✓ Last year, on February 8, a Bill seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET for admission to undergraduate medical courses was re-adopted.
- **On April 10, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a resolution urging the Union government and the President to fix a time limit for the governor to give assent to bills passed by the state assembly.**
- ✓ Moving the resolution, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said he was under a compulsion to move a resolution against the Governor for the second time
  - ✓ In January this year, the Assembly had moved a resolution disapproving of the Governor's selective deviation from the prepared text, of his customary address to the House.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu Speaker M. Appavu ordered voting on the resolution, since three-fourth of the members of the House need to support a resolution as per Rule 287 of the Assembly Rules.
  - ✓ As many as 144 of the 146 members present in the House voted in favour of moving the resolution.

- ✓ Only two MLAs of the BJP, M.R. Gandhi and C. Saraswathi, who were present in the House, opposed it and subsequently, staged a walkout.
  - ✓ Speaker Appavu, after a subsequent voice vote declared that the resolution was adopted unanimously.
  - ✓ The governor is yet to give his assent to 14 bills cleared by the state cabinet since he took office in September 2021.
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - laid the foundation stone for the construction work of the archaeological interpretation centre and climate park at the upcoming Kilambakkam bus terminus through video conferencing on April 10.**



- ✓ The parks spread over 16.90 acres will be constructed at a cost of Rs.19.98 crore by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).
- ✓ The parks will have recreational facilities, features denoting culture, urban ecology, etc.
- ✓ The climate park is expected to reduce carbon emissions, while the interpretation centre will have photographs of archaeological sites in the state and across the country.

## NATIONAL

- **On April 10, Union Home Minister Amit Shah - launched the 'vibrant villages programme' at Kibithoo, a remote border village in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which shares a border with China.**
- ✓ Kibithoo is about 15km south of LAC and 40km west of the India-China-Myanmar tri-junction and was often described as India's last village
  - ✓ The Union Home Minister is visiting Arunachal Pradesh days after China recently renamed 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ✓ The 'vibrant villages programme' (VVP) has a central component of Rs.4,800 crore, including Rs.2,500 crore exclusively for road connectivity, for financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26.

- ✓ Under the 'vibrant villages programme', a total of 2,967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts along the northern border in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh have been identified for comprehensive development



- ✓ In the first phase, 662 villages across 46 blocks have been identified for priority on coverage, which includes 455 villages in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ✓ The programme aims to develop border villages, which were earlier part of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), but have now been restructured and renamed as the Vibrant Villages Programme.
  - ✓ VVP is a scheme conceptualised by PM Modi for speeding up development in villages and to encourage the locals not to migrate
  - ✓ Under the VVP, the Indian government will take care of the facilities of every person living in the villages, and the benefits of various schemes will be delivered to the people.
  - ✓ The development work of villages will be done at the Central, State, District and Block-levels, with the aim of ensuring that not a single house in the border villages lacks basic amenities.
  - ✓ Shah is on a two-day visit to the northeastern state and inaugurated a number of projects in the region
  - ✓ Shah was accompanied by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu
  - ✓ During the day, the Union Home Minister inaugurated nine micro hydel projects of the Arunachal Pradesh government constructed under the 'Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme' and 14 infrastructure projects of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) worth Rs 120 crore
- **The Election Commission (EC) - downgraded the recognition status of nine national/state political parties and upgraded the status of 16 political parties on April 10**

- ✓ The EC's decision was based on a review of the parties' poll performances — the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 21 state assembly polls since 2014
  - ✓ Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party or AAP, an offshoot of the Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement in 2012, was elevated to national party status by the EC
    - ✓ The party is currently in power in two states - Delhi and Punjab.
    - ✓ According to the Election Commission, AAP has been deemed a national party based on its electoral performance in four states - Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat.
  - ✓ Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the CPI and Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) have been downgraded to the status of regional parties
  - ✓ In India's multi-party system, there are six national parties after the current restructuring - the Congress, BJP, CPI(M), Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party, the National People's Party (NPP) and the latest entrant, AAP.
  - ✓ As per the EC's statement, six other parties lost state party status — Peoples Democratic Alliance in Manipur, Pattali Makkal Katchi in Puducherry, Rashtriya Lok Dal in Uttar Pradesh, Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Andhra Pradesh, Revolutionary Socialist Party in West Bengal and Mizoram People's Conference in Mizoram.
  - ✓ A national party status allows an organisation to get a common poll symbol across the country, more star campaigners, free airtime on national broadcasters for election campaigns and, by convention, office space in Delhi.
  - ✓ For a political party to be labelled a national party, it has to be a recognised state party in four or more states (or) must have 2% seats in Lok Sabha, according to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
  - ✓ Once a party loses national party status, it cannot get a common symbol for its candidates in states where it's not recognised.
  - ✓ Before the current change by ECI, there were eight national parties registered with EC.
  - ✓ They were the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, TMC, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the CPI (Marxist), NCP and the National People's Party (NPP).
- **Fresh cow urine - may contain potentially harmful bacteria and is not suitable for direct human consumption**
- ✓ This was revealed in a research carried out by Bareilly-based ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), the country's premier animal research body.
  - ✓ The study found that urine samples from healthy cows and bulls contained at least 14 types of harmful bacteria with the presence of Escherichia coli, which can cause stomach infections, most commonly detected.
  - ✓ Statistical analysis of urine samples of cow, buffaloes and humans suggest that antibacterial activity in buffalo urine was far more superior than cows.

- ✓ Notably, cow urine is widely sold in the Indian market without the food safety and standards authority of India (FSSAI) trademark by many suppliers.

## ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has imposed a penalty of Rs.55 lakh on Indian Bank for noncompliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) directions.**
- ✓ The issue pertains to scrutiny by the country's central bank in July 2020 based on a high value fraud reported by the Chennai headquartered bank.
- ✓ This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

## AWARDS

- **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a well-known Indian-American mathematician, and statistician will be awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the Statistics field.**

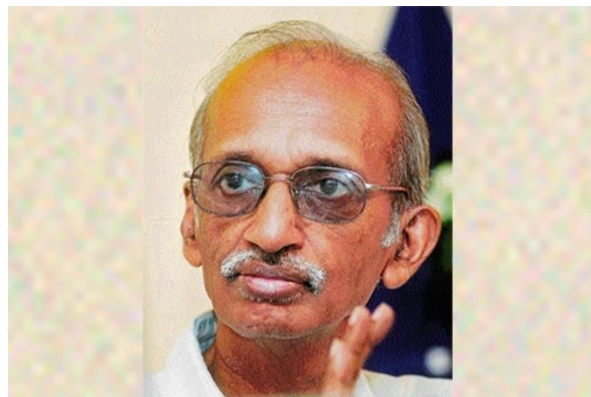


- ✓ Radhakrishna Rao will receive the prize, which comes with an \$80,000 award, this July at the biennial International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- ✓ CR Rao was born in Karnataka and is now aged 102 years.
- ✓ He received an MSc in mathematics from Andhra University, an MA in statistics from Calcutta University in 1943 and later a PhD degree at King's College at Cambridge University
- ✓ Rao first worked at the Indian Statistical Institute and the Anthropological Museum in Cambridge.
- ✓ Later he held several important positions, as the Director of the Indian Statistical Institute, Jawaharlal Nehru Professor and National Professor in India, University Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Eberly Professor and Chair of Statistics and Director of the Center for Multivariate Analysis at Pennsylvania State University.
- ✓ Rao is currently a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University and Research Professor at the University at Buffalo.

- ✓ Rao has made important contributions to statistics and its applications in a variety of fields, including medical research for more than 75 years.
- ✓ He is widely regarded as a modern statistical theory pioneer and one of the world's top five statisticians, with multiple accolades as a mathematician, researcher, scientist, and educator.
- ✓ Rao was awarded the title of Padma Bhushan by the Indian Government (1968) and Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
- ✓ In recognition of his accomplishments, the Government of India established the 'The Professor C.R. Rao' Award, a biennial national award in statistics.
- ✓ C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, as well as 'Prof. C.R. Rao Road' in Hyderabad, are both named after him.
- ✓ C.R. Rao has written 14 books and approximately 400 research publications, many of which have been published in many international languages.
- ✓ He is also the founder of the Indian Econometric Society (IES) and the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS), both of which host annual conferences to examine contemporary issues.
- ✓ The International Prize in Statistics is presented by five of the top international statistics organizations, which collaborate in every two years.
- ✓ The award honours a significant contribution made by an individual or group in the field of statistics, particularly a contribution of strong and unique ideas with innovative research and practical applications in other fields.
- ✓ The prize is modelled after the Nobel prizes, Abel Prize, Fields Medal and Turing Award.
- ✓ David R. Cox received the first International Prize in Statistics in 2017 for developing the Cox proportional hazards model, which allows researchers to evaluate patient survival rates in complex research.
- ✓ Nan Laird received the award in 2021 for the development of powerful methods that have made possible the analysis of complex longitudinal studies.

## **OBITUARY**

- **On April 10, former state chief electoral officer (CEO) Naresh Gupta - passed away at the age of 72 after prolonged illness.**



- ✓ An IAS officer of 1973 batch, Naresh Gupta is a native of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ He joined the administrative services in 1973, and has served in multiple positions, including being the first collector of Sivaganga district in 1985-86
- ✓ He was the CEO during the DMK regime between 1998 and 2000.
- ✓ Subsequently, late chief minister J Jayalithaa appointed him as home secretary for around a year in 2001-02 when DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi was arrested by the police.
- ✓ Later, Gupta was moved to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission as its member-secretary between 2002 and 2005
- ✓ Gupta also written a book titled 'Human Development in India' based on his experience as a member secretary.
- ✓ He was again posted as the CEO between 2005 and 2010 and held the post during the 2006 assembly election and 2009 general elections.
- ✓ Gupta retired in the year 2010, and was posted as a member of the Central Administrative Tribunal after his retirement.



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