

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 10, 2023

SCHEMES

- **The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - have jointly launched a National Mission titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)”**
- ✓ The mission aims to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.
- ✓ It seeks to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.
- ✓ The Mission will be funded by pooling financial resources of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Central Public Sector Enterprises under the two Ministries.
- ✓ Further, in case any additional funding is needed, it will be mobilized from Government of India’s budgetary resources.
- ✓ The mission has been planned for an initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- ✓ It will follow the technology life cycle approach of ‘Idea to Product’.
- ✓ During the launch, Union Power & NRE Minister R. K. Singh said that the Mission will serve as a catalyst for national priorities such as achieving Net Zero emissions and promoting initiatives like Make in India and Start-up India.
- ✓ He further said that it will also contribute towards achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

STATES

- **The Andhra Pradesh government - has proposed a new pension scheme for government employees in the name of guaranteed Pension Scheme, replacing the contributory pension scheme (CPS).**
- ✓ The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Secretariat on June 7, cleared the draft GPS Bill.



- ✓ Under the GPS, pensioners would receive 50% of their last drawn salary as pension as against 20.3% of their basic salary under the CPS
 - ✓ The new bill has been drafted in a way to gradually increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees without reducing the 50% post-retirement pension.
 - ✓ The decision was taken to ensure government employees get better benefits post their retirement.
 - ✓ The Guaranteed Pension Scheme is similar to the restoration of Old Pension Scheme, announced by several Congress ruled states such as Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ CM Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised to replace CPS with GPS before the 2019 state assembly elections.
 - ✓ According to the existing CPS policy, which is applicable for those who joined services after September 1, 2004, employees and government will pay 10% each towards the monthly contribution to the pension fund.
 - ✓ The employee can withdraw 60% of the corpus post their retirement and the remaining 40% will be invested in the annuity pension scheme
 - ✓ Besides, the cabinet meeting also approved setting up new 12th Pay Revision Commission for government employees and implementing 2.73% DA with arrears from January 1, 2022.
 - ✓ The House Rent Allowance (HRA) for those working in district headquarters has been hiked from 12% to 16%.
- **The Uttar Pradesh government - launched the Nand Baba Milk Mission at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore recently on June 6**
- ✓ The mission aims to make U.P. a leading state in the field of milk development and milk production
 - ✓ The Nand Baba Milk Mission has been implemented to provide milk producers the facility to sell their milk at a reasonable price in villages through dairy co-operative societies.
 - ✓ Under this mission, it is proposed to form Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (Dairy FPO) in order to facilitate the sale of milk in producers' villages itself.
 - ✓ In the financial year 2023-24, five Dairy FPOs are planned to be set up as a pilot project, in which women will also play a major role

- The Uttar Pradesh government - has launched a new portal (<https://familyid.up.gov.in>) for creation of Family ID under 'One Family One Identity' scheme



- ✓ The portal will establish a live comprehensive database of family units of the state and to connect at least one member of each family with employment
- ✓ All such families who do not have a ration card and are not covered under National Food Security Scheme will have to apply for the Family ID while for those with ration cards, their ration cards itself will be treated as their Family ID
- ✓ The new portal is developed to provide a 12 digit unique family ID to those families who are not ration card holders.
- ✓ The database collected will be helpful in better management of beneficiary schemes, timely targeting, transparent operation and providing 100% benefit of the scheme to the eligible persons, making the facilities more easily accessible to the general public.

NATIONAL

- Tamil Nadu - is planning to challenge in court the National Medical Council's Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, (GMER-23) which envisages centralised counselling for MBBS admissions for all institutions in all states across the country

OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY STATE	
A) AGE > The new regulation says a candidate must have completed 17 years as on or before Jan 31 of the year for a candidate to appear for NEET-UG. > The old regulation said he or she must have completed 17 years at the time of admission or before December 31 of the year of his/her admission to the first year of the undergraduate course. OBJECTION Anyone born between Feb 1 and December 31 of the year of examination who were eligible earlier will not be eligible henceforth	student must have "passed 10 +2 (or equivalent) with subjects of Physics, Chemistry Biology/ Biotechnology and English. OBJECTION While most students will have to clear English to pass Class 12, why should English be made a mandatory subject TIE BREAKER In case of tie-in marks of the students appearing for NEET-UG, the respective marks obtained in Physics followed by Chemistry and further followed by Biology in the NEET-UG shall be considered OBJECTION MBBS selection focused on Biology. The second preference was for chemistry
B) SUBJECTS IN CLASS 12 > To appear for NEET-UG, a	

- ✓ The National Medical Commission has recently notified the (GMER-23) on June 2, introducing changes in the undergraduate medical education system
- ✓ As per the new regulations, the NMC has proposed 100% centralised admissions in medical institutes across the country — government, private and deemed — based on the NEET-UG merit list
 - ✓ It added that the government would appoint a designated authority for common counselling and decide its method for all undergraduate seats.
 - ✓ The purpose behind introducing a centralised system for counselling is to bring uniformity to the admission process and to save students the anxiety of the long-drawn process through which more than 1 lakh MBBS seats are filled up every year
 - ✓ However, the proposal will be deliberated upon by the Centre and the states, and can be implemented only when they agree on the modalities to be adopted.
 - ✓ The process of admission is currently divided between the Centre —15% all-India quota seats and 100% deemed university seats — and states: 85% seats in government colleges and all seats in private medical schools.
 - ✓ In case of violation, an institute “shall be liable to be fined Rs.1 crore or the fee for the entire course duration, whichever is higher, per seat” for the first instance of violation.
 - ✓ It will be steeper for subsequent noncompliance, including barring all admission.
- ✓ Further, the minimum age criterion for candidates appearing for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET UG) has now been revised.
- ✓ According to the newly-notified GMER-23, candidates must have completed the age of 17 years on or before January 31 of the year of admission to UG medical courses in order to be eligible for NEET-UG.
- ✓ Previously, the cut-off date was December 31 of the admission year.
- ✓ As per the GMER-23, candidates aspiring for MBBS, BDS and AYUSH courses must have passed their 10+2 (or equivalent) with subjects, including physics, chemistry, biology or biotechnology, and English to be eligible for NEET-UG.
- **The 71st edition of Miss World pageant - is all set to be hosted in India, after nearly three decades**
 - ✓ This was announced by the reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska in New Delhi at the press conference held on June 8 along with Julia Morley, Chairperson and CEO of Miss World Organization.
 - ✓ Femina Miss India World 2022 Sini Shetty was also present at the event.
 - ✓ Contestants from about 130 countries will gather to participate in talent showcases, sports challenges, and charitable initiatives.
 - ✓ Several rounds will be held in the lead-up to the finale which is tentatively scheduled for November-December this year.



- ✓ India had last hosted the international pageant in 1996
- ✓ India has won the prestigious title six times — Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000), and Manushi Chhillar (2017).
- **Union Minister for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani - launched a new initiative titled 'Amrit Generation campaign' on June 8**
- ✓ The campaign is an initiative to empower and engage the youth by encouraging them to express their aspirations and dreams for the future.
- ✓ The Amrit Generation campaign invites children in the age group of 16-18 from across the country to showcase their creativity and share their aspirations by creating Reels on Instagram and Facebook.
- ✓ The selected winners of the campaign will be granted a unique opportunity to visit New Delhi and interact with senior policymakers and industry leaders
- ✓ Additionally, the chosen participants will also have the chance to visit the Meta office in Gurugram
- ✓ Participants are encouraged to explore their ambitions and what they aspire to become when they grow up, developing a sense of community and inspiring others in the process.
- ✓ The campaign has been launched in association with the Meta, the parent company of Facebook.

DEFENCE

- **India, France and UAE trilateral cooperation - completed its first-ever trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise on June 8.**

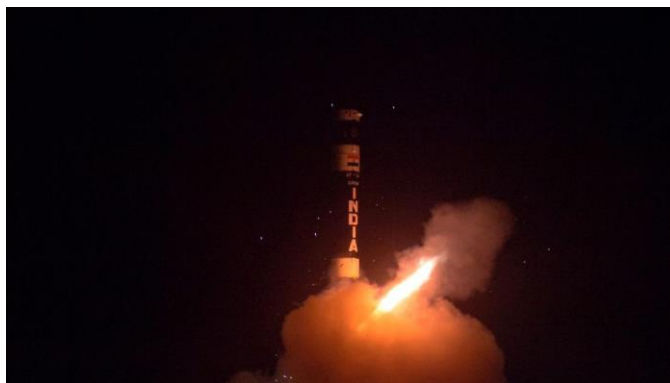


- ✓ The two-day exercise was conducted among the navies of three nations from June 7 to June 8.
- ✓ INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf, both along with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating in the exercise.
- ✓ A wide spectrum of naval operations such as Surface Warfare, involving tactical firing and drills for missile engagements on surface targets were on display during the naval exercise.
- **The indigenously developed Varunastra a ship-launched anti-submarine heavy weight torpedo (HWT) - was successfully test fired on June 6.**



- ✓ The torpedo was fired from a submarine and successfully hit a target at a range of 40 kilometers.
- ✓ The test was conducted in the Arabian Sea in the presence of senior officials from the Indian Navy and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ✓ Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO designed the Varunastra missile system and Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) is manufacturing it.

- ✓ The Varunastra HWT is an electrically-powered torpedo that can be launched from surface ships, submarines, and aircraft and which is capable of anti-submarine and anti-ship operations.
- ✓ It has a maximum strike range of 40 kilometres and can travel at speeds of more than 70 kilometres per hour at a maximum depth of 600 metres.
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully test-fired its New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 7**



- ✓ The first Pre Induction night launch successfully demonstrated all objectives of the missile and validated the accuracy and reliability of the system.
- ✓ Range instrumentation like Radar, Telemetry and Electro-Optical Tracking Systems were deployed at different locations to capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle.

ECONOMY

- **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das - launched recently a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti' on June 5**
- ✓ The dashboard would, as its name suggests, provide the necessary knowledge to evaluate and track the development of financial inclusion by recording relevant data
- ✓ The dashboard, presently intended for internal use in the RBI, will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach
- ✓ The Reserve Bank has been promoting financial inclusion through various policy initiatives.
- ✓ To measure the extent of financial inclusion, RBI had constructed the Financial Inclusion (FI) Index in 2021 based on three dimensions — 'Access', 'Usage' and 'Quality'.
- ✓ The FI-Index was conceptualised as a complete index that includes information on the banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.
- ✓ The index records data on different aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging from 0 to 100, where 0 denotes total financial exclusion and 100 denotes complete financial inclusion.

AWARDS

- **President Droupadi Murmu – was recently conferred with the Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star, Suriname's highest civilian honor**



- ✓ The award was presented to Murmu by Chandrikapersad Santokhi, the President of the Republic of Suriname on June 5.
 - ✓ Murmu becomes the first Indian to receive this award, which is conferred to individuals who have made meritorious contributions to the Surinamese people or nation
 - ✓ The Order was established in 1975, coinciding with Suriname's independence, and replaced the Dutch Order of the Netherlands Lion.
 - ✓ President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Paramaribo, Suriname, on June 4 for the first leg of her state visit to Serbia and Suriname.
 - ✓ The delegation-level talks between the two sides were led by President Murmu.
 - ✓ Health, agriculture and capacity building are among the four major Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that India and Suriname signed during the day
 - ✓ President Murmu also attended celebrations in Suriname's capital, marking 150th anniversary of arrival of Indians in the country
 - ✓ Notably, this is President Murmu's first state visit since assuming office in July 2022.
- **Indian-origin professor Joyeeta Gupta - is among the two scientists who have been named for the prestigious Spinoza Prize, also known as the Dutch Nobel Prize**



- ✓ Gupta is the faculty professor of Sustainability and professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam
 - ✓ Gupta is the twelfth researcher from the University of Amsterdam to receive the award
- ✓ Gupta will be officially presented with the highest distinction in Dutch science on October 4 alongside Toby Kiers, another scientist chosen for the award
- ✓ Gupta will receive 1.5 million euros to spend on scientific research and activities related to knowledge utilisation
- ✓ Gupta's research focused on how to solve issues arising from climate change through good governance
- ✓ Gupta is also co-chair of the Earth Commission founded by Future Earth and supported by the Global Challenges Foundation
- ✓ She studied at Delhi University, Gujarat University and Harvard Law School, and obtained her PhD from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- ✓ Gupta is also a professor at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.
- ✓ She was also lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) between 1988 and 2014, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice President Al Gore.
- ✓ Spinoza prize is the highest award in Dutch academia and is awarded each year to researchers working in the Netherlands who "according to international standards belong to the absolutely best researchers worldwide".

SPORTS

- **India - will be represented by a strong 255-member contingent at the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25**
- ✓ The contingent includes 198 athletes, who will participate in 16 disciplines, and unified partners and 57 coaches.
- ✓ The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sporting event for people with intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ A total of 700 athletes and unified partners across 190 countries will compete in 26 disciplines in Berlin.

TRUMPS'S INDICTMENT - REPORT

- **For the first time in American history, the US department of justice (DOJ) - has charged a former president – Donald Trump - with federal crimes.**
- ✓ The indictment, filed in US District Court in Miami, is the first time in American history a former president has faced federal charges.
- ✓ Trump was charged with a total of seven counts, including willfully retaining national defense secrets in violation of the Espionage Act, making false statements and an obstruction of justice conspiracy

- ✓ Trump has repeatedly characterized the investigation as a politically motivated witch hunt
- ✓ Trump is expected to surrender himself to authorities in Miami on June 13

THE CASE AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

THE CHARGES REPRESENT BIGGEST LEGAL JEOPARDY SO FAR FOR TRUMP. It comes less than 3 months after he was charged in NY for falsifying business records

THE CHARGES | Trump charged with 37 counts of unauthorised possession of classified files, obstructing of justice, making false statements to law enforcement; classified files had info on military, N-capabilities of countries, White House intel briefings, a country's support of attacks on US & US contingency planning



“ The corrupt Biden administration has informed my attorneys that I have been indicted... I'm an innocent man. I'm an innocent person

— DONALD TRUMP

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Feb 9, 2022 | National archives and records administration asks US justice department to investigate Trump's handling of government records



Aug 8 | Trump discloses FBI agents searched Mar-a-Lago and broke into a safe

Aug 12 | Court-approved warrant behind Aug 8 search is released. It shows that 11 sets of classified documents were taken from Trump's property



Aug 22 | Trump sues to block review of materials seized from his home, seeks third-party arbiter

Aug 26 | DOJ releases redacted affidavit behind the search warrant, discloses that it believes Trump illegally possessed documents

Nov 16 | Trump announces he will run for 2024 presidential election

Nov 20 | US Special Counsel **Jack Smith** appointed to preside over criminal matters relating to Trump



June 8, 2023 | Trump writes on social media that he has been indicted, and summoned to appear at the federal courthouse in Miami on June 13

WILL INDICTMENT PREVENT TRUMP FROM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT?

No. Neither the indictment itself nor a conviction would prevent Trump from running for or winning the presidency. A trial would take place many months from now, and Trump can freely campaign during this time. The US Constitution only requires that presidential candidates be natural-born US citizens who are at least 35 years old and have lived in the country for 14 years



WHAT HAPPENS IF TRUMP TAKES OFFICE WHILE THE CASE IS PENDING?

It is unlikely that the prosecution would proceed if Trump wins. The department of justice is part of the executive branch, and presidents are the top federal law enforcement officers in the country. Federal prosecutors generally serve at their pleasure