

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 17, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- On June 16, former Special Director General of Police of Tamil Nadu, Rajesh Das - was convicted and jailed for three years on charges of sexually harassing a serving woman IPS officer of superintendent of police rank.



- ✓ The Villupuram Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) sentenced Das under two separate sections for which the jail term will run concurrently and also levied a fine of Rs 10,000 on him.
- ✓ Rajesh Das was found to be guilty on two counts - under Section 354 (using criminal force to outrage the modesty of a woman) and Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prevention of Woman Harassment Act
- ✓ He was also convicted for offences under Section 341 (wrongful restraint) and was imposed a penalty of Rs.500.
- ✓ The sentence, however, was suspended for 30 days to enable the convicted officer to file an appeal in the high court.
- ✓ The incident took place in February 2021 when the two officers were part of a security detail for the then Chief Minister during an election campaign.
- ✓ Soon after the complaint was filed, Das was put on compulsory wait, and later was suspended by the state government.

- ✓ During the trial, which commenced in the CJM court in 2021, over 70 witnesses were examined.
- ✓ The Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department had filed a 400-page chargesheet against Das in July 2021.
- **On June 16, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi - approved the re-allocation of the portfolios held by arrested state Minister V Senthil Balaji.**
- ✓ However, the governor has not agreed to Tamil Nadu government's decision of the minister continuing as a cabinet minister with no portfolios as he was facing criminal proceedings
- ✓ As per Chief Minister MK Stalin's recommendations, the Electricity and Non-Conventional Energy Development portfolio previously held by Balaji has been allocated to Finance Minister Thangam Thennarsu.
- ✓ Additionally, the subjects of Prohibition and Excise, Molasses, previously under Balaji's jurisdiction, have been assigned to Housing and Urban Development Minister S Muthusamy.
- ✓ Both the Ministers will now assume these new portfolios in addition to their existing responsibilities.

## STATES

- **President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik – have greeted people on the occasion of Odisha's agricultural festival, Raja.**



- ✓ Raja Parba, also known as Mithuna Sankranti, is observed for 3 days celebrating womanhood, primarily by young girls and womenfolk
- ✓ The three-day Raja festival began on June 14 and ended on June 16 this year.
- ✓ Raja has deep significance for the agricultural community of Odisha, as it is believed to bring rainfall and hence irrigation for their crops.
- ✓ Women play swings and make merry together for the three days that are celebrated as Pahili Raja, Raja Sankranti, and Sesha Raja.

- **The Guwahati Railway Station in Assam under North East Frontier Railway - has been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI**



- ✓ The award has been given to the Railway Station in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- ✓ The station has been able to qualify the guidelines established by FSSAI and becomes the first railway station in North East Frontier Railway to get this status
- ✓ The 'Eat Right Station' certification is granted by FSSAI to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene safe practices.
- ✓ The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement, a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians

## NATIONAL

- **The government - has renamed the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society**
- ✓ In a special meeting presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the vice president of the Society, it was decided to change its name
  - ✓ The name change has been proposed as the institution, in its present form, exhibits the contributions of all prime ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi and their responses to various challenges
- ✓ The NMML Society has Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman, and Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, G Kishan Reddy, Anurag Thakur, among its 29 members.
- ✓ Built in 1929-30 as part of Edwin Lutyens' imperial capital, Teen Murti House was the official residence of the Commander-in-Chief in India.
- ✓ In August 1948, it became the official residence of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who lived there for 16 years until his death on May 27, 1964



- ✓ Soon after, the government decided that the Teen Murti House should be dedicated to him and house a museum and a library.



- ✓ On Nehru's 75th birth anniversary on November 14, 1964, President S Radhakrishnan dedicated the Teen Murti House to the nation and inaugurated the Nehru Memorial Museum.
  - ✓ The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, an autonomous body, was set up on April 1, 1966, to run the memorial, housing a museum and a rich library.
  - ✓ However, in 2016, PM Modi had mooted the idea of setting up a museum dedicated to all Prime Ministers of India on the premises.
  - ✓ Following this, Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya was built on the premises of the iconic Teen Murti Bhavan, and inaugurated by PM Modi on April 21, 2022
  - ✓ The refurbished museum is now updated with technologically advanced displays on the life and contribution of the first Prime Minister and the stories of other 13 Prime Ministers of independent India
- **Union minister of heavy industries Mahendra Nath Pandey - launched the "Dugdha Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App" in Mussorie, Uttarakhand on June 16 that seeks to improve the efficiency of Indian dairy sector**
- ✓ The app is developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a "Mini Ratna" Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Heavy Industries
  - ✓ The new app aims to improve the quality of milk, real-time updates on milk prices, ensure transparency among stakeholders, streamline operations at the grassroots village level, including milk cooperative societies and facilitate Direct Beneficiary Transfer of payments and government subsidies to milk producers
- **The government - has launched a new fellowship program called Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (Vaibhav)**
- ✓ The new program aims to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration between the Indian STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) scientists and academic and research institutions in India.

- ✓ Under the program, 75 scholars in 18 knowledge verticals will be awarded fellowships for collaborative research work in major areas of science and technology.
  - ✓ The Department of Science and Technology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, will award fellowships to outstanding scientists and technologists of Indian origin who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
  - ✓ The selected fellows will work in verticals such as quantum technology, health, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agriculture, energy, computer sciences, and material sciences.
  - ✓ Fellows will spend up to two months per year for a maximum of three years collaborating with their Indian counterparts and initiating research activities in cutting-edge areas of science and technology.
  - ✓ The program offers a grant of up to Rs 4 lakh per month, as well as funding for international and domestic travel, accommodation, and contingencies.
- **The Indian Navy - has launched a new outreach programme called "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh) on June 15**



- ✓ The programme seeks to create awareness among public about the naval service in the Himalayan region, including the Agnipath Scheme and motivate youngsters and civil society members to join the Indian Navy
  - ✓ Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Vice Chief of Navy Staff, launched the programme by flagging off a 5,000-km motorcycle expedition from the National War Memorial
  - ✓ The Navy had previously made similar efforts in the North East which were hugely successful.
  - ✓ It had also undertaken the Sam No Varunah car expedition to engage with citizens in all the coastal States.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah - announced three major schemes worth over Rs 8,000 crore for disaster management in the country**



- ✓ He addressed a meeting of the ministers of disaster management of states and Union Territories held in New Delhi recently on June 13
- ✓ The three schemes involve the modernisation of fire brigade services in all states, flood mitigation in seven major cities and prevention of landslides in 17 states.
- ✓ As per the announcement, the centre will be providing an assistance of Rs. 5,000 crore for the modernisation and expansion of fire brigade services in all the states
- ✓ Further, to mitigate the danger of floods in urban areas, in seven major cities – Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune – Rs 2,500 crore will be allocated.
- ✓ Besides, Rs. Rs 825 crore will be given by the central government to deal with landslides in 17 states
- ✓ The Home Minister further highlighted that one lakh youth volunteers are being trained to deal with calamities in 350 disaster-prone districts under the 'Aapda Mitra' scheme.
- ✓ The day-long meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla along with senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority and National Disaster Response Force.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - approved a \$400 million loan to Bangladesh to advance economic reforms recently on June 13**
- ✓ This loan is ADB's second subprogram of the Sustainable Economic Recovery Programme that was launched in October 2021 to support economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ It has been sanctioned for domestic resource mobilisation, improve efficiency and productivity of public spending, and help small businesses, especially women-led businesses to access low-cost innovative bank financing.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The United Nations General Assembly - has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters in New York to honour fallen peacekeepers.**

- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' on June 14 in the UN General Assembly Hall.
- ✓ While introducing the resolution, Kamboj said the memorial wall will be a testimony to the importance that the UN bestows on peacekeeping and also to commemorate all the troops from UN member states who had given their lives while on duty under the Blue Flag of the United Nations.
- ✓ Kamboj highlighted that more than one million men and women from 125 countries have served in 71 peacekeeping missions worldwide over the last 75 years.
- ✓ The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the US.
- ✓ India is currently the 3rd largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping with more than 6,000 military and police personnel deployed to Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East and Western Sahara
- ✓ About 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice, the highest number by far from any troop-contributing country.
- ✓ In 2015, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN launched a virtual memorial wall, dedicated to the Indian troops who made the supreme sacrifice while doing active service as UN peacekeepers.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India - is set to host the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference 2025 in February in Kochi, Kerala**



- ✓ The government's decision was conveyed to IIAS' Council of Administration in a virtual meeting held on June 14
- ✓ The annual conference will be attended by 30 countries, 18 national sections, and over 50 IIAS universities/ institutes of public administration.



- ✓ The conference will be held under the theme “Next Generation Administrative Reforms - Empowering The Citizens And Reaching The Last Mile”.
- ✓ The IIAS was established in 1930 and it is headquartered in Brussels
- ✓ It is a federation of member states and academic research centres which elaborates on public administration solutions to policy challenges

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Scientists - have discovered Phosphorus, a key chemical element for many biological processes, in one of Saturn's moons called Enceladus.**
- ✓ Phosphorus is the least abundant essential element necessary for life – the others are carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen and sulphur – and has been detected in icy grains from Enceladus
- ✓ It's the first time this essential element has been discovered in an ocean beyond Earth
- ✓ Phosphorus is fundamental to the structure of DNA and a vital part of cell membranes and energy-carrying molecules existing in all forms of life on Earth
- ✓ The discovery was based on data collected by NASA's Cassini spacecraft, the first to orbit Saturn
  - ✓ The spacecraft has completed 13-year landmark exploration of the gaseous giant planet, its rings and its moons from 2004 to 2017.
- ✓ The findings announced by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) outside of Los Angeles, which designed and built the Cassini probe.
- ✓ The same team previously confirmed that Enceladus' ice grains contain a rich assortment of minerals and complex organic compounds, including the ingredients for amino acids, associated with life
- ✓ The presence of phosphorus, complex organic compounds, water and other fundamental building blocks of life are evidence that a place such as Enceladus is potentially habitable
- ✓ Enceladus – which is about one-seventh the size of Earth's moon – is the sixth largest among Saturn's 146 known natural satellites
- ✓ Over the past 25 years, scientists have discovered habitable places with oceans beneath a surface layer of ice in the solar system.
- ✓ These include Jupiter's moon Europa, Saturn's largest moon Titan, and Pluto.
  
- **US Space Force - is preparing to launch a constellation of satellites named "Silent Barker" to track Chinese and Russian space vehicles that pose a threat to orbiting objects**
- ✓ Silent Barker, described as the first network of its kind, will work alongside ground-based sensors and low-earth orbit satellites.
- ✓ The satellites will be positioned at geosynchronous orbit, approximately 22,000 miles above the Earth's surface, rotating at the same speed as the planet.



- ✓ The primary objective of Silent Barker is to provide indications and warnings of potential threats against high-value US systems.
- ✓ The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is collaborating with the Space Force in the development of these satellites.
- ✓ The launch of Silent Barker is scheduled after July, using an Atlas V booster operated by the Boeing Co.-Lockheed Martin Corp.'s United Launch Alliance.

## DEFENCE

- **Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd - achieved a remarkable feat in shipbuilding recently**

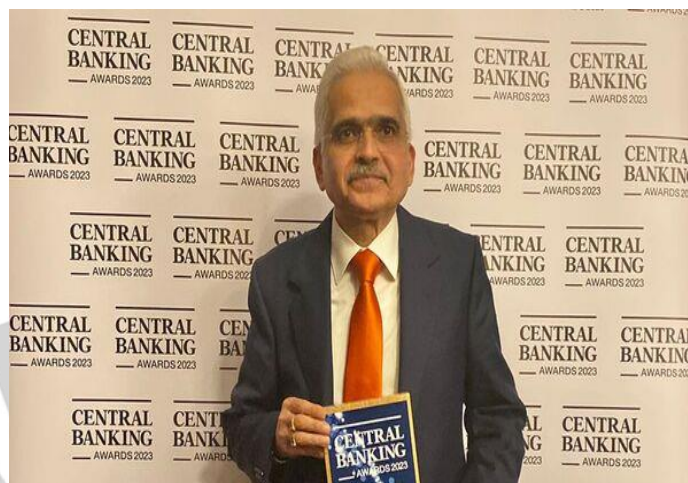


- ✓ The country's defence entity launched two warships of different classes and laid the keel of a third vessel on the same day at the Larsen and Toubro, Kattupalli Port in Chennai.
- ✓ On June 13, two warships - INS Anjadip and INS Sanshodhak - were launched and the keel-laying ceremony for the 7th ASWSWC was also held
- ✓ GRSE is now building eight ASWSWCs and four SVLs for the Indian Navy and the Ships are at various stages of completion
- ✓ The INS Anjadip was the third vessel of Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC) series to be launched and INS Sanshodhak is the fourth and last in the series of Survey Vessel Large (SVL) being built by GRSE.
- ✓ As per the contract between GRSE and Ministry of Defence signed in April 2019, four ships are to be built by GRSE while the remaining four ships have been subcontracted to Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding, Kattupalli.
- ✓ The first ASWSWC was launched on December 20, 2022 and the first SVL was launched on December 5, 2021.
- ✓ Sanshodhak, indicating discoverer or investigator in Hindi, is an apt name for the SVL that will be carrying out hydrographic surveys to chart the ocean floor and provide valuable information on our seas and oceans for defence purposes
- ✓ The ASWSWCs have the ability to operate in shallow waters and are designed to detect and neutralize underwater threats, including midget submarines and mines.

- ✓ INS Anjadip is named after an island close to India's Western coast that is now part of Indian Naval base INS Kadamba.
- ✓ Anjadip offered strong resistance in 1961, when India took back Goa from the Portuguese.
- ✓ The island also has a memorial for the brave Indian marines who were martyred there.
- ✓ This ship is also the reincarnation of a soviet era ASW Ship of the Indian Navy which was decommissioned in December 2003.

## AWARDS

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das - has been conferred as the 'Governor of the Year' at London's Central Banking Awards 2023.**



- ✓ Das was chosen for the prestigious award by 'Central Banking', a London-based organisation that covers and analyses issues around the world's central banks and financial regulators.
- ✓ He was awarded the title for his leadership of the central bank during global turmoil and tough situations.
- ✓ Das managed India's central bank, and ultimately the whole banking system with finesse during Covid-19 pandemic, significant non-banking companies, Russia-Ukraine war, etc.
- ✓ Under his leadership, RBI was instrumental in implementing crucial reforms, managing inflation, innovative payment systems, and growth-oriented measures during the pandemic and global turmoils.
- ✓ The other top prize, 'Central Bank of the Year', was awarded to the National Bank of Ukraine.
- ✓ Das is the second Central Bank governor to be honoured with the award after Raghuram Rajan, who bagged the title in 2015.

