

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 29, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Police Commissioner Shankar Jwal - launched a “Cyber Alert” mobile application on June 28**



- ✓ The App, which was developed in-house, will be useful to classify and group cybercrime complaints and details of offenders for the benefit of investigating officers.
 - ✓ The app will have details of phone numbers, bank account numbers and e-mail ids of cybercrime offenders.
 - ✓ If these details are required in other cases, the app will automatically group those cases and alert investigators and senior officials.
 - ✓ This will help officers to monitor cyber crime cases and guide the investigating team accordingly.
- **On June 28, the Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) - launched a ‘Smart Ambulance Traffic Facilitation’ system to enable green corridors for emergency ambulances**
 - ✓ The new system has been designed by a private firm, mSiren



- ✓ The mSiren platform consists of signal "Transmitter" and "Receiver" components
- ✓ The transmitters were fixed to existing sirens of ambulances, which will transmit communication signals whenever ambulance siren is turned on.
- ✓ The corresponding receivers were fixed to Variable Message Sign (VMS) boards at 16 major road junctions.
- ✓ Whenever an ambulance reaches within 200 metres of these junctions, real-time alerts are displayed on the VMS boards to alert traffic police and motorists to clear the way.
- ✓ These boards will display the incoming direction of the ambulance along with the street names.
- ✓ Further, public address systems has been installed at road junctions to announce (in Tamil and English) the approach of ambulances.
- ✓ Both VMS and the said audio systems will work simultaneously
- ✓ At present, three private hospitals (Kauvery, Rela and Global hospitals) having a fleet of 25 ambulances (mSiren smart device installed) have been tied up for this operation.
- ✓ On an average, this new project to avoid ambulances getting stuck in traffic costs Rs.15,000 per ambulance.
- ✓ The pilot project, aimed at tackling the golden hour challenge, is the first of its kind in the country.
 - ✓ The first hour following an accident is called the golden hour.
- ✓ In Chennai, ambulances' average response time (from receiving the call to admitting the patient at the nearest hospital) is eight minutes.
- **The state archaeology department – has unearthed major discoveries in the third phase of archaeological excavation underway at the Maaligaimedu archaeological site near Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district**
 - ✓ A terracotta seal, a coin mould and fragments of Chinese are three notable archaeological findings made by the state archaeology department
 - ✓ The discoveries reveal the trade links between the Cholas and China.
 - ✓ The terracotta seal found at the site is particularly noteworthy as it is the first-of-its-kind discovered there.



- ✓ This site is known for its Chola-era palaces, including that of emperor Rajendra Chola.
 - ✓ According to state archaeology department, the fragment of a coin mould suggests its use in coin casting while the terracotta seal likely served as an administrative imprint in ancient times.
 - ✓ A coin mould was previously discovered at the same site during an excavation in the 1980s, along with Chinese ceramics.
 - ✓ The recent discoveries are believed to date back to the 11th century.
 - ✓ Over 40 personnel, including research scholars, have been involved in the excavation since April near Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
 - ✓ In this third phase alone, more than 400 archaeological remains have been uncovered, including a partial structure of an ancient brick channel.
 - ✓ The previous two phases of excavation took place between February and September 2021 and between February and September 2022, respectively.
 - ✓ Totally, more than 2,000 antiques such as copper coins, iron nails, and ornaments were unearthed during the first two phases.
 - ✓ The present-day Gangaikonda Cholapuram, once a busy mercantile town, flourished as the capital city of the Cholas.
- **On June 27, Coimbatore-based ICAR Sugarcane Breeding Institute has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) to develop location-specific and climate-resilient sugarcane varieties for tropical and sub-tropical regions.**
- ✓ The MoU was signed on the ICAR-SBI premises in the presence of Aditya Jhunjunwala, president of New Delhi-based ISMA, and G Hemaprabha, director of ICAR-SBI.
 - ✓ The project will be carried out at an outlay of Rs.7.5 crore.
 - ✓ It will help in enhancing the yield and quality potential of sugarcane crops, benefiting farmers across the nation
 - ✓ The project involves evaluating elite sugarcane clones in various sugar mills located in different zones of India
 - ✓ The objective is to achieve a cane yield of 100 tonnes per hectare and a sugar recovery rate of approximately 11.5%.

- ✓ The evaluation trials will be conducted over a span of five to six years, testing 40 to 50 superior clones for their yield and quality potential.

NATIONAL

- **On June 28, the Centre - has approved a unique package of innovative schemes for farmers with a total outlay of Rs.3.7 lakh crore, focussed on their “overall well-being” and “sustainable agriculture”.**
- ✓ The initiatives will boost farmers’ income, strengthen natural and organic farming, rejuvenate soil productivity, and ensure food security.
- ✓ Under the package, the cabinet approved Rs 3.6 lakh crore for urea subsidy for three years — from 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- ✓ The Cabinet further introduced Sulphur-coated urea (Urea Gold) for the first time in the country to address the issue of Sulphur deficiency of soil and save input costs for the farmers.
 - ✓ It is more economical and efficient than the currently used Neem coated urea.
- ✓ Regarding sugarcane, the government has announced the highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Rs. 315 per quintal for the 2023-24 sugar marketing season starting October, while last year's FRP of sugarcane was Rs. 305 per quintal and Rs. 210 per quintal in the 2014–15 season
 - ✓ FRP or the fair and remunerative price is the minimum price at which sugarcane is bought from farmers.
- ✓ The move will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, as well as five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related ancillary activities.
- ✓ Further, the Cabinet also approved a new scheme, PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth), which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in February
- ✓ The scheme aims to boost the well-being of farmers, rejuvenate soil productivity and ensure food security and environmental sustainability.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, financial assistance will be given to the states that promote alternative fertilisers and reduce chemical fertilisers.
 - ✓ Under PM-PRANAM, 50% of fertiliser subsidies saved by a state will be given back to it as a grant, which the state can put to any use, especially investments in producing alternative manure
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also approved Rs. 1,451 crore for promoting organic fertilisers from GOBARdhan plants
- ✓ This initiative will facilitate the implementation of the Budget announcement of establishing 500 new waste-to-wealth plants under GOBARdhan scheme for promoting circular economy.

- ✓ Organic fertilisers are those that are produced naturally and contain carbon elements without any chemicals.
- ✓ Their primary raw materials are mineral sources, animal waste, waste from the preparation of meat, manure, slurry and plant-based fertilisers and plant composts.
- ✓ Gobardhan plants produce fertilisers such as fermented organic manures or FOM, liquid FOM, phosphate-rich organic manures or PROM, as a by-product from biogas plants and compressed biogas.

➤ **On June 28, the Union Cabinet - approved a bill to set up a National Research Foundation**

- ✓ The Foundation will “seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of innovation throughout Indian universities, colleges, institutions and R&D laboratories”.
- ✓ The National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, will be brought in the upcoming session of Parliament and will replace the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008.
- ✓ The bill, after approval in Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- ✓ The government has set aside Rs. 50,000 crore for research till 2027-28.
- ✓ Of this amount, the government will make available Rs. 14,000 crore directly in the next five years, while the remaining Rs. 36,000 crore will be garnered from public sector enterprises, industry, foundations and international research organisations.

➤ **On June 28, the Union Cabinet - approved the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) between the central government and the New Delhi-based Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).**

- ✓ CDRI, an initiative launched by India at the UN in 2019, has 31 member countries, UN agencies and multilateral banks as partners.
- ✓ The signing of the HQA allows CDRI to be an international organization exempted with immunities and privileges applicable to UN bodies.

➤ **Cyclone ‘Biparjoy’ – became the second longest cyclone over the North Indian Ocean in the last 50 years, according to the India Meteorological Department’s final report on the event**

- ✓ With a life period of 13 days and three hours, cyclone ‘Biparjoy’ that hit the Gujarat coast this month was the second longest cyclone over the North Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea
- ✓ The ‘Biparjoy’ cyclone changed its path nine times, resulting in relatively higher difficulty in predicting the path of the cyclone.

- ✓ The longest duration cyclone over the North Indian Ocean (NIO), with a life period of 14 days and six hours, was reported during November 8-23, 1977.
 - ✓ It developed over the Bay of Bengal and weakened over the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ The average life period of the very severe cyclonic storm category during monsoon season over the Arabian Sea is six days and three hours based on data during 1990-2013.
- ✓ In recent years, extremely cyclonic storm Kyarr (October, 2019) over AS had a life period of 9 days and 15 hours.
 - ✓ It developed over east-central Arabian Sea, had multiple recurvatures and weakened over southwest Arabian Sea.
- ✓ Very severe cyclonic storm Gaja (November, 2018) over southeast Bay of Bengal too had a life period of nine days and 15 hours.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 28, South Korea - adopted new laws that require using only the international method of counting age, replacing the country's traditional method.**
 - ✓ Under the age system most commonly used in South Koreans' everyday life, people are deemed to be a year old at birth and a year is added every January 1.
 - ✓ However, since the early 1960s, the country used the international norm of calculating from zero at birth and adding a year on every birthday for medical and legal documents.
 - ✓ But many South Koreans continued to use the traditional method for everything else.
 - ✓ In December, South Korea passed laws to scrap the traditional method and fully adopt the international standard.
 - ✓ As per a government survey conducted in September, 86% of South Koreans said they would use the international age in their everyday life when the new laws took effect.

SPORTS

- **The Indian contingent - ended its successful Special Olympic World Games 2023 campaign with 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze)**
 - ✓ The Indian contingent consists of 198 athletes and unified partners and 57 coaches who competed in 16 sports.
 - ✓ The special games started in 1968 for people of all skill levels with intellectual disability, cognitive delay and developmental disability.
 - ✓ The 16th Special Olympics World Games, the world's largest inclusive sports event, took place in Berlin, Germany, from June 17 to 25, 2023

