

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 19, 2023**

### **STATES**

- **On July 18, Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government - tabled a bill increasing recruitment exams paper-leak punishments to a life term from the existing 10 years**



- ✓ The Rajasthan Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 aims to instill fear among those involved in such illegal activities.
- ✓ In March 2022, the assembly passed a Bill providing for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 10 crore for offences such as government exam paper leaks and cheating in such recruitment tests
- ✓ The bill, 'The Rajasthan Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2022', introduced stiffer penalties for cheating and impersonation in recruitment examinations.
- ✓ The Rajasthan Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act was enacted in 1992 to curb unfair means in public examinations.
- ✓ The 1992 law prescribed a maximum jail term of three years and a maximum fine of Rs.2,000.

### **NATIONAL**

- **The Centre's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) - has decided to allow students to upgrade their choice of colleges up to the third round of the counselling process.**

- ✓ Since 2018, DGHS' Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) was allowing upgradation of choices only till round two.
  - ✓ The MCC conducts four admission rounds in all, while the third round was open only for students without seats.
  - ✓ The change in policy, however, comes with a rider if students do not join the seats allotted to them in the second or third round, they will lose their refundable deposit amount
    - ✓ The deposit amount is Rs.10,000 for the all-India quota seats and central institutions and Rs.2 lakh for deemed universities.
  - ✓ In another important move, the directorate has mentioned that students, who are allotted seats in the stray round (fourth and final one) and do not join them, will be debarred from participating in the NEET-UG admission process for two years along with losing their deposit money.
  - ✓ The admission rules were announced in the brochure released by the MCC for all-India quota admissions on July 18.
- **On July 18, Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah - launched a portal for submission of legitimate claims by genuine depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies for payment of their legitimate deposits**



- ✓ The move would help crores of investors in getting back their hard-earned money which was stuck due to scam.
- ✓ The process of returning the amount of Rs.5,000 crore to small investors in a transparent manner began on a trial basis through the launch of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)-Sahara Refund Portal.
- ✓ The first payment will be made to one crore investors who had deposited Rs.10,000.

- ✓ Subsequently all small investors will get their money back, benefitting a total of nearly 1.78 crore depositors.
- ✓ The payment will be credited in the bank account of depositors within 45 days after filing their online claims through the portal.
- ✓ The largest number of small depositors in the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies are supposed to be from Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The portal has been developed for submission of claims by genuine depositors of four cooperative societies of Sahara Group — Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited.
- ✓ Acting on appeal filed by central agencies, the Supreme Court had in March directed that Rs.5,000 crore be transferred out of the “Sahara-SEBI Refund Account”, to the CRCS for disbursement against legitimate dues.
- ✓ The process of disbursement is being supervised by former SC judge Justice R Subhash Reddy.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On July 18, India and the US - sought proposals on “critical and emerging technology: quantum technologies and artificial intelligence for transforming lives”.**
- ✓ The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Secretariat for the US-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) have designed the programme.
- ✓ Through this competitive grant programme, USISTEF selects and supports joint US-India technology innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives that are commercially viable and socially relevant.
- ✓ These joint initiatives can originate from US and Indian entities including Start-Ups, government, academic institutions or commercial units
- ✓ However, they must focus on applied R&D, incorporate a business plan and proof of commercial concept, and have significant sustainable commercial potential.
- **Defence minister Rajnath Singh - held delegation-level talks with his visiting Argentinian counterpart Jorge Enrique Taiana on July 18**



- ✓ Both the leaders discussed the ongoing defence cooperation initiatives, including measures to enhance the bilateral defence-industrial partnership.
- ✓ The discussions focused on the possibility of exporting Tejas fighter jets, BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and other military hardware to the South American country
- ✓ Taiana went to the BrahMos Aerospace headquarters in New Delhi, and is scheduled to visit the facilities of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), which manufactures Tejas jets and Dhruv advanced light helicopters in Bengaluru
- ✓ An MoU on defence cooperation between the two countries has been in force since 2019

## AWARDS

- **On July 18, President Droupadi Murmu – conferred the ‘Bhoomi Samman’ to 68 district collectors and nine state secretaries for meeting 99% and above of the targets on all components of land records digitisation.**



- ✓ President Murmu conferred the Bhoomi Samman Award on Odisha as the best state in the country for its outstanding contribution to achieving the objectives of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
  - ✓ Around 19 districts of Odisha out of 68 in the country have attained 100% objectives of the programme in six components.
  - ✓ The Odisha team, which bagged the maximum awards, was represented by Satyabrata Sahu, additional chief secretary to the government in the Revenue and Disaster Management department and other officers
  - ✓ The award was given at a function organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi
- ✓ The officials who received the award are from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura and West Bengal

- ✓ The Centre is aiming for digitising land records across all districts by March 31 next year
- ✓ The ministry of rural development is also working on linking the digitised records with e-courts and banks to check fraudulent land transactions and prevent disputes.
- ✓ According to the ministry under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), 94% digitisation targets have already been achieved across the country.
- ✓ The targets have been met in 68 districts across nine states — Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tripura , Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Assam.
- ✓ The government, under DILRMP, carries out monthly grading on six components — computerisation of land records; digitisation of cadastral maps; linkage of land records with cad astral maps; computerisation of registration; integration of registration (sub registrar office) with land records (revenue office); and creation of a modern record room.
- ✓ The districts are graded as platinum (99% and above), gold (95% and above till 99%) and silver (90% and above till 95%).

## OBITUARY

- **Former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy - died at Chinmaya Mission Hospital in Bengaluru on July 18**



- ✓ The Kerala government has announced July 18 as a public holiday and two days' mourning as a mark of respect to the late former chief minister.
- ✓ The 79-year-old Senior Congress leader had been undergoing treatment in Bengaluru for the past few months
- ✓ Chandy, who is suffering from cancer, was previously treated in Germany.
- ✓ Oommen Chandy had been an MLA for a record 53 years from his home constituency Puthupally, in Kottayam district, winning in every assembly election since 1970.
- ✓ In August 2022, he became the longest serving member of the state assembly by representing Puthupally, in the House for 18,728 days.
- ✓ He surpassed the record of former Kerala Congress (M) supremo late K M Mani.

- ✓ Chandy served as the chief minister twice for a total of seven years (2004–2006 and again from 2011–2016).
- ✓ He had also served as Minister of Labour, Home, and Finance in various governments headed by K Karunakaran and A K Antony.

## SPORTS

- **Star India shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy - has set the Guinness world record for the fastest hit by a male player in badminton, recording a mindboggling 565kmph with his smash.**



- ✓ Satwik broke the record set in May 2013 by Malaysian Tan Boon Heong, who had produced a speed of 493kmph with his smash.
- ✓ Satwik, along with his doubles partner Chirag Shetty, won the Indonesia Open Super 1000 recently
- ✓ Malaysia's Tan Pearly holds the Guinness record for the fastest female badminton hit with a speed of 438kmph.
- ✓ The world record attempts were achieved on April 14, 2023, and were verified by judges from the Guinness world records based on the speed measurement results from that day.
- ✓ Satwik's smash was conducted in a controlled environment at the Yonex factory gymnasium in Soka, Saitama, Japan.

