

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 14, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Retired Director General of Police Shakeel Akthar - has been named Chief Information Commissioner.



- ✓ Shakeel, former CB-CID head, succeeds R Rajagopal, an ex-IAS officer who recently joined the Congress party.
- ✓ Shakeel will be the second Indian Police Service (IPS) cadre officer to be appointed as the chief of the Tamil Nadu information commission
- ✓ K Ramanujam was the other cop to hold this post in between 2010 and 2017.
- ✓ The commission deals with appeals and complaints filed under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- ✓ Meanwhile, retired Additional Director General of Police P Thamarai Kannan and three others were also appointed as information commissioners.
- ✓ The RTI Act allows the commission to initiate disciplinary action against erring officers and collect a fine of Rs. 250 per day for delays.

NATIONAL

- Prabhanjan J from Villupuram district – created history by becoming the first candidate from Tamil Nadu to top the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) by scoring 720 out of 720 marks with a 99.99 percentile.

TOP 10 RANK HOLDERS	
Candidate (Gender)	State
Prabanjan J (M)	TN
Bora Varun Chakravarthi (M)	AP
Kaustav Bauri (M)	TN
Pranjal Aggarwal (F)	Punjab
Dhruv Advani (M)	K'taka
Surya Siddharth N (M)	TN
Shriniketh Ravi (M)	Maha
Swayam Shakti Tripathy (M)	Odisha
Varun S (M)	TN
Parth Khandelwal (M)	Raj

- ✓ This is the first time that candidates from Tamil Nadu have secured the first and third positions in the test.
 - ✓ Prabanjan shares the first position with Bora Varun Chakravarthi from Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) UG 2023 on June 13
 - ✓ Six students from Tamil Nadu are among the top 50 rank-holders in the test, which was held across the country on May 7.
 - ✓ Among states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of qualifying candidates (1.39 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (1.31 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1 lakh).
 - ✓ Furthermore, this is the third time in NEET's history after 2020 and 2021 that the toppers have scored full marks
 - ✓ NEET became mandatory as the single gateway exam for admissions to all medical schools in the country since 2017
 - ✓ This year NTA conducted NEET-UG for 20,87,462 candidates in 13 languages at 4,097 different centres located in 499 cities throughout the country, including 14 cities outside India
 - ✓ Around 1.44 lakh students had written the NEET exam from Tamil Nadu, out of which 78,693 people have passed.
- **On June 14, the Union Cabinet - is likely to approve the City Bus Augmentation scheme worth Rs 62,000-63,000 crore to boost public transport in 169 cities.**
- ✓ The City Bus Augmentation was announced by the government during the Budget 2021-22.
 - ✓ The scheme would facilitate deployment of innovative PPP models to enable private sector players to finance, acquire, operate and maintain the buses in the country.
 - ✓ The augmentation scheme aims to provide support for new buses of all fuel types.

- ✓ The cities will be selected through a challenge or competition and over 300 cities with a population in the range of 340 lakh are likely to participate in the scheme.
- ✓ Around 10,000 city buses will be brought under this scheme on public private partnership mode.
- ✓ The central government will provide only Rs.20,000 crore for the scheme, while the remaining fund will come from state governments and around Rs.7,000 crore will come as an external loan.
- ✓ In this 10-year duration scheme, electric buses will get priority across the selected cities.
- ✓ The scheme will be on operational expenditure (opex) model in which the buses will be procured by private operators and states will invite bids from them.
- ✓ Additionally, the Cabinet is also likely to approve the PM-PRANAM scheme that was announced in Budget 2023 to promote alternative sources of fertilisers.
 - ✓ PM PRANAM stands for PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana, announced to reduce the subsidy burden on chemical fertilisers.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet is also likely to approve a new premium variety of sulphur coated urea called 'Urea Gold' to incentivise farmers.
 - ✓ This is expected to be sold by fertiliser makers in market-determined prices.
- **On June 13, the Centre - announced a Rs. 8,000 crore package for states and Union territories for disaster risk reduction.**
- ✓ Out of this, Rs.5,000 crore has been allocated for expanding and modernising fire services across the country
- ✓ Further, an allocation of Rs.2,500 crore was made to reduce the risk of urban flooding in most populous metros of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune
- ✓ Besides, a sum of Rs. 825 crore has been allotted towards landslide risk mitigation in 17 states and UTs.
- ✓ A model fire bill has also been proposed for all states to have a uniform regulation and protocol to be followed.
- **The Union Government - announced four new initiatives to strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the country**
- ✓ The new measures have been notified by the Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ These include allowing the Urban Cooperative Banks to open new branches, permitting these banks for One Time Settlement at par with Commercial Banks, giving them two years more to meet the priority sector lending targets and designating a Nodal Officer in RBI.
- ✓ According to the Ministry of Cooperation, UCBs can now open new branches up to 10% of the number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation.

- ✓ The Ministry added that now co-operative banks through board-approved policies can provide process for technical write-off as well as settlement with borrowers on par with other commercial banks
- ✓ RBI has also decided to extend the timeline for Urban Co-operative Banks to achieve Priority Sector Lending targets by two years up to March 31, 2026.
- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal - launched 'Sagar Samridhi' - the online dredging monitoring system - in order to accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the Ministry**



- ✓ This system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of MoPSW
- ✓ According to the ministry, 'Sagar Samridhi' will streamline the monitoring process by integrating multiple input reports, such as daily dredging reports and pre- and post-dredging survey data to generate real-time dredging reports.
- ✓ It aims to bring about significant change in project implementation and bring down cost of dredging through use of the dredged materials.
- ✓ To support effective dredging operations, the MoPSW had issued dredging guidelines for major ports in 2021, which specifies procedures for planning, technical investigations, dredged material management, and cost estimation.
- ✓ According to the ministry, the annual maintenance dredging at major ports and waterways in India amounts to approximately 100 million cubic metre, with an expenditure of around Rs.1000 crore per year.
- ✓ Cochin Port and Mumbai Port have already adopted the new system, while New Mangalore Port and Deendayal Port are running the system on a trial basis.
- ✓ The MoPSW has mandated all major ports and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to monitor dredging activities through this new system

- **The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) - hosted a three-day SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency in Goa from June 12 to 14.**



- ✓ Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI20) is the Engagement Group of Audit organisations belonging to the G20 countries.
- ✓ Chair of the SAI20 engagement group, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu delivered the inaugural address at the SAI20 Summit on June 12
- ✓ SAIs of Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain, UAE, Morocco and Poland participated in the Summit.
- ✓ During the inaugural event, CAG G C Murmu signed MoUs for strengthening cooperation and knowledge sharing with SAIs from Indonesia, Turkey.
- ✓ The SAI20 Engagement Group's two priority areas are - Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ Blue Economy is the sustainable use of oceanic resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ecosystem.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Women's G-20 summit - will be held in Mamallapuram on June 15 and 16**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the inaugural session and union minister for women and child development Smriti Irani will deliver the keynote address.
- ✓ The theme of this year's summit is 'Women-Led Development- Transform, Thrive and Transcend'.
- ✓ The summit will consist of an exhibition, a Janbhagidari event, 8 sessions and a closed-door meeting.
 - ✓ The exhibition will offer a platform for women entrepreneurs to showcase their skills, creativity, and innovation
- ✓ Chief Minister of Tamilnadu M.K.Stalin will deliver the keynote address on the closing session on celebrating the power of women's empowerment with closing remarks by Dr.Sandhya Purecha, W 20 Chair 2023.

- ✓ The delegates will be taken for an excursion organised by the State Department of Tourism to UNESCO heritage sites on June 17.
 - ✓ The Women 20 (W20) is the official G20 engagement group, created in 2015 under Turkey's Presidency of G20, with the objective of focusing on gender equity.
 - ✓ The primary objective of W20 is women's empowerment and advocating for women's rights, raising women's voices in society.
 - ✓ India's W20 agenda focuses on five key priorities - Women's Entrepreneurship, Grassroots Women's Leadership, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education and Skill Development, and Climate Change.
- **The first-ever national conference of tribal writers - was held in Jammu and Kashmir recently on June 10 and 11.**
- ✓ It was organised at the Jammu University's Baderwah campus in Doda district



- ✓ The two-day conference was attended by 37 Adivasi writers, poets and cultural experts from across the country.
- ✓ Representatives from different tribes, including Santhali, Gondi, Ho, Bhundhari, Koya, Banjara, Kharia, Kudhuk, Gujjar, Bakerwal, Gaddi and Munda, attended the meet.
- ✓ The participants hailed from states and Union territories such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The participants unanimously decided to set up a national tribal writers' forum to work for safeguarding authentic tribal literature and encouraging young Adivasi writers to showcase their unique culture through their writings

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **On June 13, Chennai-based tyre maker MRF - became the first stock to cross the Rs.1lakh price mark.**
- ✓ The company's shares jumped 1.37% to hit a new 52-week high of Rs 1,00,300 on the BSE whereas it reached Rs 1,00,439.95 on the NSE.

- ✓ The company is at the top of the list of stocks with the highest price tags.
- ✓ The second place on the list is held by Honeywell Automation whose shares were being sold at Rs 41,152, followed by other companies like Page Industries, Shree Cements, 3M India, Abbott India, Nestle, and Bosch.
- ✓ Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar and other cricketers such as Virat Kohli had endorsed the MRF brand for more than a decade.
- ✓ The company has a total of 42,41,143 shares, of which 72.16% or 30,60,312 shares are owned by public shareholders.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Nitin Agarwal, an IPS officer of the 1989 Kerala cadre - has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force**



- ✓ This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position.
- ✓ Agarwal had been appointed 'from date of joining post and up to July 31, 2026, his date of superannuation, or till further orders, whichever is earlier'
- ✓ Agarwal is presently serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi
- ✓ Throughout his career, he has held various notable positions, including IG Training at ITBP, IG Sashastra Seema Bal, and ADG-Police with Kerala Police.
- ✓ The Union government awarded Agarwal the Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2007 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2015 to recognise his outstanding contributions to law enforcement.
- ✓ The BSF is India's leading security agency responsible for safeguarding the 4,096-kilometer-long international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, besides safeguarding internal security
- ✓ The BSF comprises a workforce of over 2.65 lakh personnel serving in diverse roles.
- ✓ The additional charge of the BSF has been held by Sujoy Lal Thaoson, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), since the retirement of Pankaj Kumar Singh on December 31, 2022.