

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 16, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On June 15, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital in Guindy.



- ✓ The six-storey building will deal with advanced surgeries related to various specialties like Cardiology, Oncology, Neurology, Gastrointestinal, Renal Vascular, Brain Vascular Radiology etc.
- ✓ The hospital, spreading over about 4.89 acres of land, will be the second Multi-Super Specialty Hospital in Chennai after Tamil Nadu Government Omandurar Multi Super Speciality Hospital
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid foundation for the hospital in March 2022 and the construction work of the hospital was completed in a record span of 15 months, three months prior to its deadline
- ✓ The 1,000-bed facility was constructed at a cost of Rs 230 crore
- ✓ During the event, the Chief Minister announced that a 250 – bed facility Kalaignar centenary hostel will be constructed at Perumugai village in Vellore district.
- ✓ The CM also invited nurses and doctors attached to the new hospital to be part of the inaugural ceremony by cutting the ribbon.

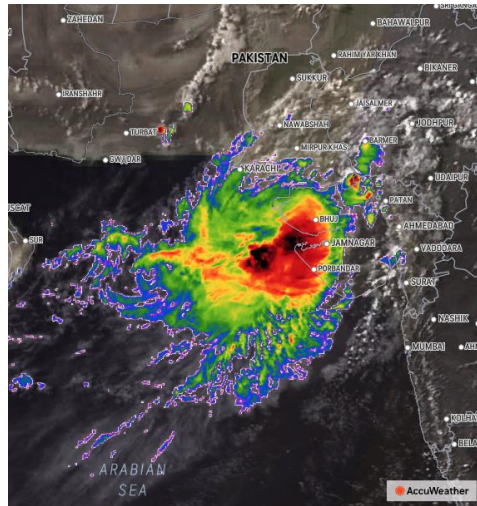
- ✓ Minister for Water Resources Department Durai Murugan, Public Works Department Minister EV Velu, Health Minister Ma Subramanian, Chennai Mayor R Priya, Deputy Mayor M Magesh Kumar, Chief Secretary V Iraianbu, PWD Secretary B Chandramohan, Health Secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi, and other senior officials were part of the inaugural event.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu, who was to preside over the inaugural function in the first week of June, cancelled the state event.

STATES

- **On June 15, the Karnataka cabinet - decided to repeal the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act**
 - ✓ The Act, popularly known as the anti-conversion law, was brought in by the previous BJP government, led by Basavaraj Bommai, in September 2021.
 - ✓ The state government will introduce a bill in this regard in the upcoming legislature session beginning on July 3.
 - ✓ The law aims to provide protection of right to freedom of religion and prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means.
 - ✓ According to the law, anyone involved in illegal conversion would face a jail term of three to 10 years and a fine of Rs.50,000.
 - ✓ The act stipulates compensation up to Rs.5 lakh to those who were made to convert, and in cases of mass conversion there was a 3-to-10-year jail term and a fine of up to Rs.1 lakh.
 - ✓ The cabinet also decided to repeal the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act amended by the BJP government and restore the original act with some modifications.
- **The Madhya Pradesh government – has notified Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined protected area**
 - ✓ With this, the state is all set to get its seventh tiger reserve
 - ✓ The new reserve is yet to be officially named and will cover three districts — Narsinghpur, Sagar, and Damoh.
 - ✓ It spans an expansive 2,339 sq km and around 20km from Bhopal
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh is known for its six tiger reserves - Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, Sanjay Dubri, and Satpura
 - ✓ The seventh tiger reserve is expected to be named 'Durgavati Tiger Reserve'.

NATIONAL

- **Cyclone Biparjoy - made landfall over north Gujarat on the evening of June 15th as a very severe cyclone.**



- ✓ Most parts of Saurashtra and Kutch have received moderate to heavy rain due to the cyclone, which was in the Arabian Sea for 10 long days.
 - ✓ Cyclone Biparjoy was 300-350km in diameter with its eye stretching around 50km.
 - ✓ The cyclone was impacting an area of around 1 lakh sq km in Saurashtra-Kutch region.
 - ✓ This is the second major tropical storm ravaging Gujarat after Cyclone Tauktae wrecked severe destruction in Saurashtra in May 2021, leaving at least 50 people dead.
- **On June 15, the Delhi Police - filed a chargesheet against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment, assault and stalking of six women wrestlers.**
- ✓ In a 1500-page chargesheet, police have mentioned statements of at least 22 witnesses from across four states - Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Karnataka - including wrestlers, a referee, coach and physiotherapist



- ✓ The chargesheet has been filed on the basis of corroborative statements and some photographs, besides some technical evidence in one or two cases.
- ✓ Singh has been booked under Sections 354 (molestation), 354D (stalking), and 354A (sexual harassment) of the IPC

- ✓ While Section 354 entails punishment of one to five years and a fine or both, 354 A and 354 D have punishment up to three years.
- ✓ The Delhi Police also filed a 550-page report in the Patiala House Courts, requesting cancellation of the POCSO (Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences) case against Singh
 - ✓ The action comes after their investigation besides the retraction of allegations by the complainant and her father.
- ✓ The chargesheet has also been filed against Vinod Tomar, a suspended Assistant Secretary of the WFI, who has been charged under IPC sections 354 and 354 A, in addition to abetment of offence (Section 109) and criminal intimidation (Section 506).
- ✓ During investigation, police also obtained the report of the government-appointed Oversight Committee, chaired by boxer Mary Kom, that was set up to probe the sexual harassment complaints against Singh
- ✓ Several Indian wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshee Malikkh, have accused Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual assault, including that of a minor wrestler.
- ✓ The wrestlers - who have been protesting against Singh since April 23 - are demanding his arrest over the sexual harassment charges

INTERNATIONAL

- **Women in Pakistan - have been officially given permission by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) to perform Haj pilgrimage without a Mehram**
- ✓ Pakistan has given women conditional permission for Haj without being accompanied by a close male relative, known as mehram.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia had last year allowed women of all ages to make the annual Mecca pilgrimage without a mehram on the condition that they go in a group.
- ✓ The CII is the constitutional body tasked with giving legal advice on religious matters to the government and parliament.
- ✓ According to the CII, the Jafri, Maliki, and Shafi'i schools of thought permit Haj for women without a mehram but the Hanafi and Hanbali schools insist on a male relative —husband, son or father.
- ✓ The council proposed that a woman could go for Haj without a mehram if allowed by her parents or husband.

DEFENCE

- **On June 15, the defence ministry - approved the major acquisition of 31 weaponised Predator or MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones from the US**
- ✓ This paves way for the formal announcement of the mega project during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Washington next week.

- ✓ The Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC), chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh, accorded the initial 'acceptance of necessity (AoN)' to the estimated \$3.5 billion (almost Rs.29,000 crore) procurement of the 'hunterkiller' drones
- ✓ Once the DAC accords the AoN for the project, India will issue an actionable letter of request to the US government.
- ✓ The final contract will be signed after Washington notifies the US Congress and responds with an LoA (letter of offer and acceptance).



- ✓ The drones will be delivered under the FMS (foreign military sales) programme of the US government.
- ✓ The induction of the 31 high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) Predator-B drones — 15 for the Navy and eight each for the Army and IAF — is planned in stages.
- ✓ The deal will also involve setting up MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) facilities in India
- ✓ The fighter-sized Predators are armed with air-to-ground missiles and smart bombs as well as capable of flying for 35 hours at a stretch
 - ✓ They are purchased to boost the long-range surveillance and strike capabilities both in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and along the land borders.
- ✓ Only some NATO countries and close military allies of the US have the Predator drones manufactured by General Atomics.
- ✓ Such armed drones, like manned fighters, are capable of firing missiles and precision-guided munitions on enemy targets before returning to their home bases to re-arm for their next mission.
- ✓ The Navy has been using two unarmed MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones, on lease from General Atomics from September 2020, for surveillance missions in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ The drones have a maximum range of 5,500 nautical miles and an endurance of 35 hours
- ✓ They have been deployed to monitor troop build-up as well as infrastructure upgrades along the land borders with China amid the continuing military confrontation in eastern Ladakh.

- ✓ The pact between US company General Electric (GE) and defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics to jointly produce GE-F414 turbofan engines to power the indigenous Tejas Mark-2 fighter jet is already on the agenda during the PM's visit.

