

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 23, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - has granted Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance to the Karunanidhi Pen Memorial to be constructed in the sea near Chennai's Marina Beach.**



- ✓ It has stipulated 15 specific conditions and certain general conditions for the project.
  - ✓ Some of the conditions include prohibition of construction activities during the turtle nesting period, obtaining a no-objection certificate from the naval base INS Adyar and monitoring of erosion and accretion in the area.
- ✓ The union ministry has also said the clearance is subject to the final order of the Supreme Court in Goa Foundation versus Union of India case as may be applicable to the project.

- ✓ The clearance assumes significance as the state government is holding year-long celebrations to mark the 100th birth anniversary of DMK patriarch and late chief minister, M Karunanidhi, born on June 3, 1924.
  - ✓ The DMK government had planned the Pen Monument to celebrate the contributions of Dravidian leader M Karunanidhi to Tamil literature
  - ✓ The monument , estimated to cost Rs 80 crore, would be located 360 metres into the Bay of Bengal from the Marina and a footbridge would be built to reach it
  - ✓ The proposed 42m tall project would be spread over an area of 8,551.13 sq.m
    - ✓ It encompasses various components such as the pen pedestal, a lattice bridge, and pedestrian pathways on the beach, on the sea, and from the Dr Kalaignar memorial to the bridge through the beach.
  - ✓ Earlier, the state has sought the centre's permission under Section 4 (ii) (j) of CRZ notification, amended in March 22, 2016, for constructing the monument.
  - ✓ The union government has written a letter to the state public works department on June 19, saying CRZ clearance was being accorded to the project based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ)
  - ✓ The CRZ had cleared the project on April 17, 2023 and as per the advice of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) dated April 6, 2023
- **The second phase of the Vadakkupattu excavation – is under progress near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district.**



- ✓ Nearly 400 artefacts, including a Chola-era coin belonging to the period of King Raja Raja Chola, have been found during the excavation
- ✓ Vadakkupattu was turning out to be an important archaeological site, which had been continuously inhabited over several thousands of years.
- ✓ Besides the Teri sites at Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts, Vadakkupattu is the only place in Tamil Nadu where evidence of tools of the Mesolithic period has been found
- ✓ The archaeologists have reached a depth of 40 cm and four trenches have been dug so far.

- ✓ The findings in the second phase, which began last month on May 19, include two coins that belong to the Chola period between the 9th and 10th century CE, a copper bow, copper lid, glass beads and bangles.
- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is carrying out the excavation, had identified about 300 antiquities including implements in the first phase of excavation held during September 2022.
  - ✓ During the first phase, evidence from the early historical period, such as semi-precious stones including carnelian beads, agate and quartz have been discovered.
- ✓ Based on the artefacts discovered, about 10,000 years of evolution of mankind could be traced from Vadakkupattu site.

## STATES

- **On June 22, US chipmaker Micron Technology - said it will invest up to \$825 million in its first semiconductor assembly and test facility in India**
- ✓ The proposed facility is to be constructed at the SANAND Industrial Park in Gujarat under a Union government incentive scheme.
- ✓ The announcement came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi — who is on a three-day state visit to the US — met Micron Chief Executive Sanjay Mehrotra
- ✓ The combined investment by Micron and the two government entities over the course of two phases will be up to \$2.75 billion.
- ✓ As per the scheme, the company will receive 50% fiscal support for the total project cost from the government and incentives representing 20% from the state of Gujarat
- ✓ This is the first approval in the country's semiconductor mission, and Micron's plant has been approved under the government's 'Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) scheme.
- ✓ In December 2021, the government had first announced a \$10 billion (Rs 76,000-crore) semiconductor Productivity-Linked Incentive (PLI) programme.
- ✓ The facility will enable assembly and test manufacturing for both Dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) and NAND products, and address demand from domestic and international markets
- ✓ The few facilities of Micron will procure and package chips for clients at the plant, or other companies could send their chips for testing before shipping.
- ✓ According to Micron, the plant will create up to 5,000 new direct jobs and 15,000 community jobs over the next several years.
- ✓ Set up in 1978, Micron Technology is a semiconductor company that produces DRAM, SDRAM, flash memory, SSD and CMOS image sensing chips.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The five passengers aboard the deep-sea Titan submersible - were declared dead by the US Coast Guard**

- ✓ The vessel is said to have experienced a “catastrophic implosion” in the Atlantic Ocean, following which death of five passengers would have been instant.



- ✓ At the depth of the Titan wreck, the pressure is close to 60,000 pounds per square inch.
- ✓ An unmanned deep-sea robot deployed from a Canadian ship discovered the wreckage of the Titan on June 22
  - ✓ The debris was found at about 1,600 feet (488 meters) from the bow of the century-old wreck of Titanic and at 2-1/2 miles (4 km) below the surface
- ✓ The remains of the Titanic rest on the seabed in the North Atlantic at a depth of some 3,800 meters (12,400 feet).
- ✓ Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his 19-year-old son Suleman, British billionaire Hamish Harding, French explorer Paul Henry Nargeolet, and OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush were onboard the expedition.
  - ✓ The passengers paid as much as \$250,000 each for the journey to 12,500 feet (3,810 meters) below the surface to the wreckage site.
- ✓ The US Coast Guard was assisted in their search by British submariners, a French deep-sea robot, and Canadian ships
- ✓ The Titan submersible, operated by OceanGate Expeditions, went missing about an hour and 45 minutes into its dive to explore the wreckage of the sunken Titanic on June 18 off the coast of Newfoundland
- ✓ The Titan was launched from an icebreaker - the Polar Prince - that was hired by OceanGate and formerly operated by the Canadian Coast Guard.
- ✓ The RMS Titanic, which struck an iceberg and sank during its maiden voyage in 1912, killed more than 1,500 people aboard.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On June 22, World’s leading aircraft engine maker General Electric - said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with India’s state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to make fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force.**

- ✓ The development comes at a time when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on an official state visit to the United States.
  - ✓ According to the US aerospace company, the agreement includes the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 fighter jet engines in India.
  - ✓ The deal requires final approval from the US Congress and is part of the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft Mk2 programme
  - ✓ The agreement will advance GE Aerospace's earlier commitment to build 99 engines for IAF as part of the LCA Mk2 programme,
  - ✓ India has been using F404, which is lighter than the GE 414 engines, to power its indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1 and Mk1A.
  - ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by PM Modi, in August 2022 cleared the much-awaited LCA Mk2 project.
  - ✓ The government has sanctioned around Rs.10,000 crore for the LCA Mk2 programme.
  - ✓ The single-engine fighter jet will be the most advanced LCA variant.
  - ✓ The new aircraft will have a payload capacity of 6.5 tonne and will be able to carry a mix of weapons including beyond visual range air-to-air missiles, air-to-ground missiles, heavy precision guided weapons and conventional bombs
  - ✓ The 17.5-tonne fighter jet will have a maximum speed of 1.8 Mach and service ceiling of 50,000 feet.
  - ✓ The LCA Mk2 will form an important element of IAF's future air combat capabilities, setting the stage for its production and subsequent operational availability around 2028 to replace the Mirage 2000s and Jaguars.
- **The US - will open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad while India will establish a mission in Seattle and two other places in the US.**
- ✓ India and US have identified around 25 areas of technology partnership in the joint statement as a direct result of the discussion between US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - ✓ India has five consulates in the US in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston and Atlanta, apart from the embassy in Washington.
  - ✓ The US embassy in New Delhi is one of the largest US diplomatic missions in the world.
    - ✓ The embassy coordinates the activities of four consulates — in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad
  - ✓ The US issued a record 125,000 visas to Indian students last year.
  - ✓ Indian students are set to become the largest foreign student community in the United States with a 20% increase last year alone
  - ✓ Further, the US Department of State is going to launch a pilot to introduce in-country renewable H-1B visas later this year
    - ✓ This will help Indian professionals in the US to continue with their jobs without travelling overseas for renewal of their work visas



- **On June 22, the White House – has announced that India has decided to join the Artemis Accords, the United States-led international agreement on civil space exploration**
- ✓ Besides, US space agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have also agreed for a joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2024.
- ✓ The development in space co-operation comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US
- ✓ The Artemis Accords is a non-binding international agreement based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to guide civil space exploration and sustainable use.
  - ✓ The agreement is meant to reinforce the commitment by the United States and signatory nations for the “peaceful use of outer space.”
  - ✓ Artemis program is NASA's initiative to return humans to the Moon by 2025, in which it aims to land the first woman and the first person of colour on the Earth's natural satellite, and eventually expand space exploration to Mars and beyond.
  - ✓ The US-led Artemis Accords were launched in October 2020 with Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.
  - ✓ As on date, there are 28 signatories to the agreement, including India.

## **AWARDS**

- **President Droupadi Murmu - conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards for 2022 and 2023 to 30 dedicated nursing professionals from across the country on June 22**



- ✓ Out of the total awardees, there were 10 Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (ANM), 4 lady health visitors and 16 nurses.
- ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was also present at the function.
- ✓ The awardees for 2022 include two nurses - Ganapathy Santhi and Suganthi K - from Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Santhi, a staff nurse at the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, Chennai, has 24 years of clinical experience.
  - ✓ Santhi established the human milk bank for the first time in Tamil Nadu in 2014, and her contribution to managing Covid-19-affected newborns was remarkable.
- ✓ Suganthi K has been working as a village health nurse at the R. Rediyapatti government Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Virudhunagar.
  - ✓ She was actively involved in promoting female sterilisation and reducing anaemia among adolescents.
- ✓ The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.
- ✓ The award consists of cash award of Rs. 50000, a certificate and a medal.

## OBITUARY

- **Former Tamil Nadu chief secretary P Sabanayagam – died at the age of 101 in Chennai on June 22**



- ✓ He was described as an 'iconic civil servant' by chief minister MK Stalin at an event to mark his 100th birthday last year.
- ✓ Sabanayagam, an IAS officer belonging to the 1945 batch, became the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu in March, 1971 and continued in the post till April 1976
- ✓ In 33 years as civil service officer, he had worked with Rajaji as his private secretary and with four former Chief Ministers K Kamaraj, M. Bhaktavatsalam, C.N. Annadurai, and M. Karunanidhi; and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

- ✓ Sabanayagam, who was born in Chennai on June 7, 1922, was an alumnus of the Madras Christian College and served in the British-Indian Army before Independence.
- ✓ He was selected to the first batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), when India became independent and continued to serve the country in various capacities for 33 years.
- ✓ Sabanayagam started his career as an IAS officer as sub-collector of Pollachi in Coimbatore district.
- ✓ He served as Salem district collector, director of industries and commerce, chief controller of imports and exports, TN Electricity Board Chairman, TN government chief secretary besides secretary, education and culture, government of India.
- ✓ Sabanayagam was the Secretary of Industries when former President R. Venkatraman was a Minister in the state and made the state a destination of industries.
- ✓ His efforts ensured the Madras Checks came to be protected under the Patent Law in the 1960s.
- ✓ After the declaration of Emergency, Sabanayagam was transferred to Delhi as Secretary, Government of India and had even represented India at the meetings of UNESCO in Paris.
- ✓ Sabanayagam had headed various commissions constituted by the governments.
- ✓ He retired as Secretary, Union Ministry of Education and Culture, in New Delhi, in August 1980.
- ✓ Subsequently, Sabanayagam involved himself in the Sekkizhar Charitable Trust, in the field of education and industry

## SPORTS


- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC) - voted to derecognize the International Boxing Association (IBA), boxing's governing body, at a specially called meeting on June 22**
- ✓ Boxing, however, will keep its status as an Olympic sport at the 2024 and 2028 Games in Paris and Los Angeles.
- ✓ The IOC executive board voted by 69 votes to one, with 10 abstentions, to expel the IBA from the Olympic Movement
- ✓ However, the IBA hit back with a strongly-worded statement, comparing their expulsion to Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.
- ✓ The IOC's decision brings to an end four years of dispute between the Olympic body and the IBA
- ✓ The IBA was suspended earlier by the IOC in 2019 for multiple corruption scandals.
- ✓ The IBA, whose president is Umar Kremlev of Russia, has also come under attack for its governance, financial transparency and sustainability.



# RANKINGS

- **Gujarat - has taken the lead over Tamil Nadu to become the top state in the installed wind energy capacity in the country.**

<b>GONE WITH THE WIND</b>		
	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>
May 2023	<b>10,415*</b>	<b>over 10,100*</b>
April 2023	<b>10,144</b>	<b>10,073</b>
2022-23	<b>9,978</b>	<b>10,017</b>
2021-22	<b>9,209</b>	<b>9,866</b>
2020-21	<b>8,561</b>	<b>9,608</b>
2019-20	<b>7,630</b>	<b>9,304</b>
2018-19	<b>6,162</b>	<b>8,969</b>



- ✓ Tamil Nadu was in the top position in the renewable power segment for about four decades and has a cumulative installed wind energy capacity of over 10,100 MW
  - ✓ However, Gujarat rose to the first rank with an installed capacity of 10,415 MW recently.
  - ✓ This was for the first time that Gujarat is ahead of Tamil Nadu in the installed wind energy capacity since 1985.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu was the top state with the installed wind energy capacity till March, 2023.
  - ✓ The development comes at a time when India will add 58 GW of wind energy capacity over the next seven years at an investment of more than Rs.4 lakh crore.
  - ✓ This would take the cumulative installed capacity of onshore wind energy to 100 GW, from the present 42.8 GW spread over nine states.
- **For the second year running, the Austrian capital Vienna - was ranked as the world's most liveable city, followed by Copenhagen, Sydney, Melbourne and Vancouver**
  - ✓ This is based on the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2023
  - ✓ The honour is attributed to Vienna's 'stability, good culture & entertainment, reliable infrastructure, and exemplary education & health services'
  - ✓ Asia-Pacific cities were ranked as the most improved destinations in the Index, with eight of the 10 biggest upward movers coming from the region.
    - ✓ New Zealand's Wellington rose 35 spots to take 23rd place, while Auckland rose 25 places to land at number 10.
  - ✓ Of the 10 cities to slip farthest down the rankings, three were in the UK — Edinburgh, Manchester and London — and two in the US, Los Angeles and San Diego.



**TOP 10**

- 1 | Vienna, Austria
- 2 | Copenhagen, Denmark
- 3 | Melbourne, Australia
- 4 | Sydney, Australia
- 5 | Vancouver, Canada
- 6 | Zurich, Switzerland
- 7 | Calgary, Canada
- 8 | Geneva, Switzerland
- 9 | Toronto, Canada
- 10 | Osaka, Japan

**LEAST LIVEABLE**

- 164 | Douala, Cameroon
- 165 | Kyiv, Ukraine
- 166 | Harare, Zimbabwe
- 167 | Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 168 | Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- 169 | Karachi, Pakistan
- 170 | Lagos, Nigeria
- 171 | Algiers, Algeria
- 172 | Tripoli, Libya
- 173 | Damascus, Syria



**WAR-RAVAGED** | Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv made a comeback on the list (it had to be excluded in 2022 due to war). The city's score has fallen by 5.9 percentage points since 2021 owing to the damage the war has done to its stability, infrastructure and general liveability. Moscow (Russia) stable at 96th place

**5 INDIAN CITIES ON LIST**

New Delhi (141), Mumbai (141), Chennai (144), Ahmedabad (147), Bengaluru (148)

**GAINERS** | Asia-Pacific cities made biggest gains, accounting for 8 of the top 10 movers up the rankings. Wellington (New Zealand) soared by 35 places to 23rd place, Auckland (New Zealand) by 25 to land at number 10, while Hanoi (Vietnam) moved up 20 spots to rank 129

**LOSERS** | Western European cities dominate the list of the top 10 fallers amid a rise in workers' strikes and civil unrest. Edinburgh (UK) fell from 35th position to 58th, Stockholm (Sweden) down 22 places to 43. The US cities of Los Angeles and San Diego also both fell by 17 places to 57 and 61, respectively

- ✓ Among Asian countries, only Osaka in Japan features among the top 10 most liveable countries at number 9.
- ✓ Damascus, Syria and Libya's Tripoli remain at the bottom of the list
- ✓ The EIU ranked 173 cities on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories - stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure

