

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 30, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On June 29, the state government - posted senior bureaucrat Shiv Das Meena as the next chief secretary



- ✓ He will be succeeding V Irai Anbu, who retires on June 30.
- ✓ Meena is serving at present as the secretary, municipal administration and water supply department
- ✓ Meena was handpicked by late chief minister J Jayalalithaa and chief minister M K Stalin for important positions.
- ✓ He ranks 12th in TN cadre, and will be the 49th chief secretary of the state.
- ✓ Meena was on central deputation serving as Central Pollution Control Board chairman when the Tamil Nadu government requested him to return to the state cadre to helm the municipal administration and water supply department in June 2021
- ✓ Meena had a three-year tenure in the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs as joint secretary and at the level of additional secretary.

- ✓ He was appointed as commissioner of commercial taxes, agriculture, civil supplies and consumer protection departments after former chief minister J Jayalalithaa returned to office in 2011.
 - ✓ She made him the first secretary of the newly-formed special programme implementation department.
 - ✓ Later, she appointed him as administrator of Annamalai University in Chidambaram, in the specially created post, to set the system right after financial irregularities made headlines.
 - ✓ He introduced large-scale reforms in admission and examinations, and transparency in tendering, while excess staff were deputed to other departments based on his report to the government.
 - ✓ Meena also held the post of principal secretary of cooperation, food and consumer protection department before becoming secretary II to Jayalalithaa when she won a second consecutive term in June 2016.
 - ✓ The 1989 batch officer, Meena is a native of Tonk in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ A civil engineering graduate from Rajasthan University, the bureaucrat has a master's in international development studies from Kobe, Japan.
 - ✓ He began his over three-decade career from Kancheepuram district as an assistant collector in 1990 and held various posts.
 - ✓ The UPSC convened an empanelment committee meeting last week in Delhi and recommended a panel of names of suitable IPS officers for appointment to the post of DGP and head of police force.
 - ✓ The government examined the recommendation of the committee along with the service records of the empanelled officers, said a government order.
- **Chief secretary V Irai Anbu - to superannuate on June 30 after four decades of rich administrative stint in the Tamil Nadu government.**



- ✓ A multi-faceted officer, Irai Anbu is also a motivational speaker and writer
- ✓ He drew praise from then chief minister M Karunanidhi at a public rally for the successful completion of a Samathuvapuram (to promote social harmony) in Kancheepuram district in 1997 when he was collector.
- ✓ Irai Anbu took charge as chief secretary the same day that the M K Stalin government assumed charge in May 2021 and subsequently took on the major task of containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ✓ He is credited with coordinating the massive Covid vaccination special camps across the state to supervising the grand Chess Olympiad in Chennai.
- ✓ A graduate in agriculture, Irai Anbu gave special focus to agriculture programmes and helped the government present budgets exclusively for agriculture.
- **Chennai city commissioner of police, Shankar Jiwal - was appointed director-general of police and head of police force in Tamil Nadu on June 29**



- ✓ Jiwal succeeds C Sylendra Babu who is retiring on June 30.
- ✓ The 1990-batch IPS officer from Uttarakhand began his stint in Tamil Nadu as an assistant superintendent of police in Mannargudi in 1993.
- ✓ During his central deputation, Shankar Jiwal served as zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) from 2000 to 2006.
- ✓ Then he served in the state intelligence wing and internal security as the deputy inspector-general of police and inspector-general of police (IGP) too.
- ✓ He served in the special task force based in Sathyamangalam, Erode as inspector-general and additional director-general of police (ADGP).
- ✓ He had stints in Aavin as its chief vigilance officer and then as ADGP of armed force, before being posted as Chennai city commissioner of police on May 7, 2021, soon after the DMK returned to power.
- ✓ Jiwal was awarded with the President's Police Medal for his meritorious service in 2007.
- **DGP, C Sylendra Babu, the 1987-batch IPS officer - retires on June 30, after 36 years of service entirely in Tamil Nadu.**



- ✓ A fitness freak and a cycling enthusiast, Sylendra Babu earned a huge following within the force and on social media platforms.
 - ✓ As a young assistant superintendent of police at Gobichettypalayam, he came close to eliminating Veerappan during the forest brigand's period, killed two of his gang after surrounding them with four police teams.
 - ✓ A native of Kanyakumari district, Sylendra Babu is credited with dismantling the ganja plantation network in the interiors of Theni hills, camping in Manjampatti, Klovarai and nearby tribal villages for days before destroying ganja plantations in an extensive operation.
 - ✓ Sylendra Babu had served in police, prison and fire and rescue services departments as the chief.
 - ✓ During his tenure as the Coastal Security Group-CID, he created marine police stations as the first line of coastal defence.
 - ✓ He has served as ADGP (law and order), Coimbatore city police commissioner and superintendent of police, Special Task Force, Erode.
 - ✓ Sylendra Babu is an ace shooter who regularly wins trophies in national level contests.
- **Sandeep Rai Rathore, a highly decorated IPS officer belonging to the 1992 batch - has been named the new commissioner of police of Chennai city.**



- ✓ Rathore is a versatile law and order officer who had served in different parts of Tamil Nadu, as well as Chennai city, besides serving a central deputation with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- ✓ Rathore is recipient of the UN Peace Keeping Medal in 2002.
- ✓ He was awarded the President Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2015, and a medal for meritorious service in 2008.
- ✓ Rathore is to assume charge as the Chennai city's 109th commissioner of police on June 30.
- ✓ Earlier, Rathore served as joint commissioner of police in Chennai
- ✓ In January 2022, he was appointed the first commissioner of police of the newly created Avadi commissionerate, before being promoted to the director-general of police rank and moved to the Tamil Nadu Police Academy (TNPA) as its head.

- ✓ Rathore is credited with tackling and suppressing violence that had erupted after the serial bomb blasts in Coimbatore city in February 1998.
 - ✓ During his stint with the CB-CID, he supervised the team probing the Telgi stamp paper scam.
 - ✓ While serving as inspector-general of CISF in Delhi, he was assigned to handle the Commonwealth Games held in 2010.
 - ✓ Rathore is a doctorate in disaster management, having earned the qualification from Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT).
 - ✓ He had completed MA in disaster management from Annamalai University and obtained a masters degree in philosophy from Madras University.
 - ✓ During his stint as Avadi commissioner, he built the commissionerate from the scratch and made it vibrant with events like Avadi night marathon with a theme of drug-free Tamil Nadu in October 2022.
 - ✓ About 3,500 runners participated in the maiden night marathon.
 - ✓ In 2023, he also conducted an “ITF Avadi Triathlon-2023” to create awareness against drug abuse in collaboration with the Indian Triathlon Federation.
 - ✓ State Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udayanidhi Stalin flagged off the event in which over 500 participants from 18 states participated.
 - ✓ To promote a healthy lifestyle, Rathore conducted another “Duathlon” event.
 - ✓ The amount collected as entrance fee was donated to the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore.
- **On June 29, Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi - “dismissed” minister V Senthil Balaji from the council of ministers “with immediate effect” over corruption charges**



- ✓ However, after some hours, he backtracked and kept the order “in abeyance” until he seeks AG’s opinion, based on the suggestion of Union home minister
- ✓ The startling “sacking” of a minister by a governor without advice from the CM and the immediate withdrawal of the order are possibly unprecedented in modern Indian political history.
- ✓ According to the Governor’s statement, Senthil Balaji was facing serious criminal proceedings and several cases of corruption, including those to do with the cash-for-job scam and money-laundering.

- ✓ According to Article 164(1) of the Constitution, the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor
 - ✓ The Governor's move came days after the Tamil Nadu government said Balaji would continue as a state cabinet minister but will hold no portfolio
 - ✓ Balaji's electricity portfolio had been given to Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu and the Prohibition and Excise portfolio had been given to Housing and Urban Development Minister Muthusamy.
 - ✓ On June 14, Minister Senthil Balaji was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a cash-for-jobs scam.
 - ✓ He is in judicial custody in a private hospital after having undergone a heart bypass surgery.
- **DGP C Sylendra Babu and Chennai police commissioner Shankar Jiwal - inaugurated a one-of-its-kind drone unit for police at Adyar on June 29.**



- ✓ The unit, established at a cost of Rs.3. 6 crore, is the first such in the country
- ✓ It comes with thermal imaging and night vision cameras to ensure clear images.
- ✓ The drone has a 2km flying range and 30 minutes flying time

NATIONAL

- **The road transport ministry - has proposed to implement India's own regime of star rating of cars on safety parameters, BNCAP, from October 1.**
- ✓ The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) will give safety ratings to new cars in the range of "One to Five" based on the test results.
 - ✓ The new assessment programme will host the star ratings and test results on its website after approval of an apex committee, which will be set up by the central government.
 - ✓ To begin with, the ratings will be voluntary and samples for testing will be either offered by the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) or can be randomly picked up by the BNCAP authority from dealers' showrooms as well.

- ✓ The new regime will also help domestic car manufacturers as they won't need to send their samples abroad for testing and star rating, which is very expensive.
- ✓ Currently, India has mandatory crash test norms for cars for structural safety and the star rating will be of superior standard.
- ✓ The rating will be based on three features — Adult Occupant Protection (AOP), Child Occupant Protection (COP) and Safety Assist Technologies (SAT).

INTERNATIONAL

- **New Zealand - will become the first country to ban the thin plastic bags that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables.**
- ✓ The new ban, which comes into effect from July 1, will also extend to plastic straws and silverware
- ✓ Earlier in 2019, the government banned the thicker plastic shopping bags that customers used to carry home their grocery items.
- ✓ Each New Zealander sends more than three-quarters of a ton of waste to landfills every year.
- ✓ According to the government, the 2019 bag ban had already prevented over 1 billion plastic bags from being used in New Zealand, and the new ban on thin bags would add a further reduction of 150 million bags per year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Virgin Galactic, the venture founded by British billionaire Richard Branson in 2004 - successfully launched its first paying customers to the edge of space over 80km above the New Mexico desert on June 29.**



- ✓ This milestone marks a significant achievement for Virgin Galactic after two decades of development.
- ✓ The inaugural commercial flight was a research-focused mission with Italian Air Force-funded passengers.
- ✓ The mission - dubbed Galactic 01 - carried two Italian Air Force personnel and two other individuals

- ✓ Colonel Walter Villadei and Lieutenant Colonel Angelo Landolfi of the Italian Air Force flew on the craft along with Pantaleone Carlucci of the National Research Council of Italy, and Colin Bennett of Virgin Galactic.
- ✓ The passengers boarded VSS Unity, which was attached beneath the wing of a mothership called VMS Eve.
- ✓ There were also two pilots on the spaceplane, and two on the carrier plane.
- ✓ VMS Eve took off like an airplane and ascended to over 40,000 feet.
- ✓ After reaching its designated altitude, VSS Unity detached and ignited its rocket engine, propelling it to the edge of space.
- ✓ The next mission, Galactic 02, is set for August
- ✓ Jeff Bezos's company, Blue Origin and Elon Musk's SpaceX are the other two companies that competes in the "suborbital" space tourism sector

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL DAY

➤ **International Day of Parliamentarism – June 30**



- ✓ The day is observed every year on June 30, commemorating the founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889
- ✓ The IPU was established with the objective of promoting democratic governance, accountability, and encouraging collaboration among national parliaments.
- ✓ The International Day of Parliamentarism was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 to acknowledge the importance of parliamentary institutions.
- ✓ The IPU was founded through the collaborative efforts of two visionary individuals, William Randal Cremer from England and Frederic Passy from France.
- ✓ According to the website, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) recently launched the campaign 'Parliaments for the Planet.'
 - ✓ This campaign promotes the idea that climate action should begin within parliaments themselves.
 - ✓ It encourages parliaments and parliamentarians to adopt sustainable practices within their institutions before advocating for broader change among the general public.

➤ World Asteroid Day – June 30

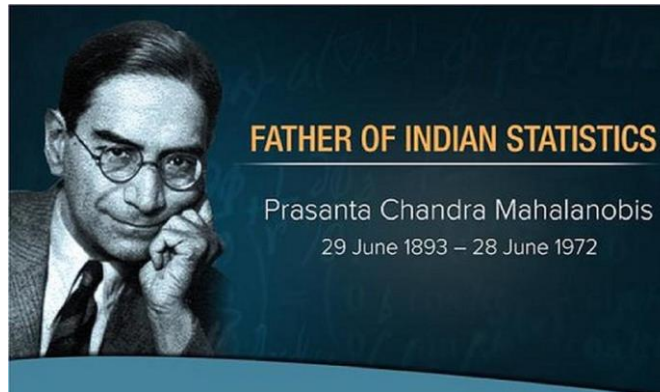


- ✓ World Asteroid Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the potential dangers the asteroids can inflict upon impact with our planet.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly declared June 30 as International Asteroid Day by passing a resolution in December 2016.
- ✓ The date has its own significance as it is also the anniversary of the Tunguska asteroid's impact over Siberia on June 30, 1908.
- ✓ Another prominent asteroid event took place on February 15, 2013, when a large fireball, travelling at a speed of 18.6 kms per second, entered the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated in the skies over Chelyabinsk, Russia
 - ✓ According to NASA, the diameter of the asteroid was estimated at 18 meters and its mass at 11,000 tons, while its total impact energy was estimated at 440 kilotons.
- ✓ The Asteroid Day was co-founded in 2014 (the year after the 2013 Chelyabinsk meteor air burst) by renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking, Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart, astrophysicist Brian May and some others.
- ✓ Asteroids are small celestial rocks revolving around the sun.
- ✓ These rocky bodies are the leftovers from the solar system formation about 4.6 billion years ago, and their size could be as small as 10 metres and as large as 510 km in diameter.
- ✓ Most asteroids are found orbiting in the asteroid belt, which is a series of rings located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
- ✓ According to NASA's Centre for Near-Earth objects Studies, so far more than 16,000 Near Earth Asteroids have been discovered.
- ✓ Ceres was the first asteroid to be discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801.
- ✓ Around 65 million years ago, a huge asteroid struck earth with a devastating force that is believed to have wiped out the existence of dinosaurs which inhabited our planet at the time.

➤ National Statistics Day – June 29

- ✓ National Statistics Day is celebrated on June 29 every year to recognize the contributions of PC Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics and economic planning

- ✓ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, an eminent statistician, and visionary.



- ✓ Prof. Mahalanobis made significant contributions to the field of statistics, especially in the area of sample surveys.
- ✓ Often referred to as the 'Father of Indian Statistics', Professor Mahalanobis is best known for the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure used to find the distance between a point and a distribution.
- ✓ PC Mahalanobis, who founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1932, later went on to establish the National Sample Survey in 1950 and the Central Statistical Organisation to coordinate statistical activities.
- ✓ From 1955 to 1967, he served as a member of the first Planning Commission.
- ✓ In recognition of Prof. Mahalanobis's immense contributions, the Indian government designated June 29 as Statistics Day in 2007.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals".
- ✓ The Statistics Day 2023 main event will be held at the Scope Convention Centre, Scope Complex, Lodhi Road in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Chief Guest of the event is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Rao Inderjit Singh.
- ✓ World Statistics Day, which is a UN-designated day, is celebrated on October 20 every 5 years.

