EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JUNE 16, 2022

TAMIL NADU

➢ **The Tamil Nadu government - initiated the process of monetisation of temple jewellery by converting unused jewellery into gold bars**

✓ Under the scheme, the government has converted 27,250g of gold of the Irukkankudi Mariamman temple in Virudhunagar district into gold bonds worth Rs.10 crore.

✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin handed over the gold bonds to temple authorities on June 15.

✓ Earlier, in October, the State government had announced that it would monetise the unused gold in the form of jewellery and bars in temples, purify it and then convert them into gold bars and deposit in nationalised banks.

✓ As a first process, gold that has been donated to temples over the past decade were assessed and those that were not used were sent to the gold purifying facility of the Union government and moulded into bars.

✓ The bars thus invested would bring revenue for the temples, which could be used for its various schemes.

- ✓ The temples were divided into Chennai, Trichy and Madurai zones, and retired judges were appointed to supervise the proceedings.
- ✓ This scheme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, M K Stalin, through video conferencing on October 13, last year.
- ✓ Retired judge Justice R Mala was in charge of the Irukkankudi temple gold conversion scheme in the Madurai zone.
- ✓ The gold bars were deposited in the SBI's bullion branch in Mumbai on April 29.
- ✓ This gold deposit would generate an annual income of Rs. 24 lakh for the temple as interest.
- ✓ Minister for HR&CE P K Sekhar Babu, principal secretary HR&CE, B Chandramohan and HR&CE commissioner J Kumaragurubaran among others were present at the event.

- ➢ **The state Information Technology department - has been renamed Information Technology and Digital Services department.**
- ✓ The department was established in 1998 under the DMK government headed by Dr. M Karunanidhi to support the growth of the IT industry
- ✓ The government has ordered the change in name to strengthen the growth of emerging technologies and digital technology services

STATES

- ➢ **The Andhra Pradesh Comprehensive Cancer Care (APCCC) project - has proposed to set up the country's largest cancer hospice centre with 100 beds in Tirupati.**
- ✓ This is apart from the centre of excellence proposed at Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), in the name of 'Balaji Institute of Oncology'
- ✓ This institute will specialise in paediatric cancer care, bone marrow transplantations and cancer genome research.
- ✓ The Balaji Institute will also act as an international cancer care centre.
- ✓ Overall, the project has planned to develop Tirupati into a medical tourism hub.
- ✓ A centre of excellence in nuclear medicine will also be established in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ Palliative care is one of the key elements of this project after prevention and treatment.
- ✓ Hospice care, a type of palliative care, is used in the last months of life of the patients when treatment can no longer cure or control the disease.
- ✓ Palliative care aims to reduce their suffering, and does the work of trauma management of patients and their families.
- ✓ The APCCC has also proposed to create a directorate for comprehensive cancer care to lead prevention and treatment initiatives.

- ✓ The directorate may initiate public-private partnership projects at various levels to ensure proper development of physical infrastructure, mammogram buses, and academic research and training.
- ✓ Under this project, the state government may also explore the avenues of external funding through international agencies like the World Bank and others.
- ✓ A digitally equipped command and control centre will also be developed as part of the APCCC project.

> **The Telangana government - has mandated Telugu as second language for students of CBSE, ICSE, IB and other board-affiliated schools from Class I to X beginning this academic year 2022-23**

- ✓ In this regard, the school education department has issued a circular to the schools
- ✓ The decision has been taken as part of the state government's implementation of the Telangana (Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Telugu in Schools) Act 2018 in a phased manner from 2018-19.
- ✓ As per the Act, Telugu was made compulsory from Class I to X irrespective of the Board with which schools are affiliated.
- ✓ The department has designed two Telugu textbooks, one for Telugu-speaking students and the other for those children whose mother tongue is not Telugu.

NATIONAL

> **'Agniveers' recruited through Agnipath scheme – to constitute half of the 12-lakh strong Army by 2030-2032 following 1.5 lakh recruitments to be made every year**
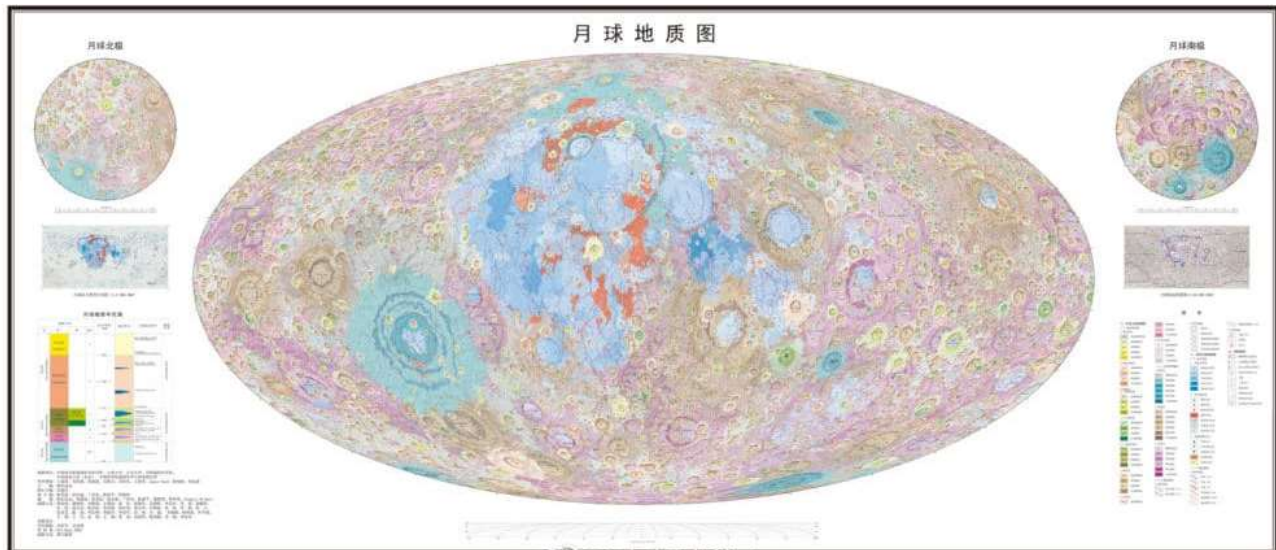
- ✓ This was announced by Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt General BS Raju on June 15
- ✓ Under the scheme, 40000 jawans will be recruited this year in the Indian Army, while 3000 Agniveers will be recruited in the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy
- ✓ As per the scheme guidelines, only 25% of the good soldiers from each batch of Agniveers will be inducted into the regular cadre for the next 15 years, whereas the remaining 75% will be removed after four years.
- ✓ The main aim of the scheme is to increase the fitness of the army, cut the rising salary and pension bills and bring down the average age of the armed forces through short-term induction of soldiers
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Union ministry of education said it will consider the in-service training received by these Agniveers as credits for admission to different undergraduate programmes to help them pursue civilian careers of their choice.
- ✓ These specialised programmes – BA, BCom, BA (vocational), BA (Tourism Management) – will be offered by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and it will be recognised both in India and abroad for employment and education.

- ✓ Under this three-year skill-based bachelor degree programme, 50% of the credits required for a graduate degree will come from the skill training — both technical and non-technical — received by the Agniveer, while the balance will come from a wide range of subjects
- ✓ In this regard, a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) is to be signed between IGNOU and the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for implementation of the scheme.
- ✓ The programme will also allow for multiple entry-exit points with appropriate certification
- ✓ It is aligned with norms of the University Grants Commission (UGC), and with the National Credit Framework / National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) as mandated under the National Education Policy-2020
- ✓ Meanwhile, Union home minister Amit Shah announced that Agniveers, on completion of their stint, will be given priority for induction into the central paramilitary forces and Assam Rifles
- ✓ On June 14, the Union Cabinet approved Agnipath, a recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years on an "all-India, all-class" basis, and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as 'Agniveers'.

- ➢ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will chair the first national conference of chief secretaries of states on June 16 at Dharamshala**
- ✓ The conference is aimed at strengthening the partnership between the Centre and state governments.
- ✓ There will be more than 200 participants in the two-day conference, representing the central government, all states, Union territories and domain experts.
- ✓ Spanning over three days, the conference will focus on the rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the states.
- ✓ It seeks collaborative action for higher growth with sustainability, creation of jobs, education, ease of living and "aatma nirbharta" in agriculture.
- ✓ The conference will emphasise on evolution and implementation of a common development agenda and blueprint for cohesive action to achieve the aspirations of the people.
- ✓ The concept and agenda for this conference has been finalised after more than 100 rounds of deliberations spread over six months.
- ✓ Three themes have been identified for detailed deliberations in the conference:
  - ✓ implementation of the National Education Policy;
  - ✓ urban governance; and
  - ✓ crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities.
- ✓ There would be a session on Aspirational Districts Programme which would deliberate upon the achievements made so far, with successful case studies

including on data based governance, presented by the young collectors in specific districts.

INTERNATIONAL

- ➢ **China - has released a new comprehensive and detailed geologic map of the moon**
- ✓ The high resolution topographic map was created based on data from China's lunar exploration Chang'e project and other data and research findings from international organizations

- ✓ The new comprehensive geologic map of the moon is to a scale of 1:2,500,000 and the "most detailed to date"
- ✓ The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures
- ✓ It is expected to make a great contribution to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the moon.
- ✓ The Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has led the project, along with other organisations such as Chinese Academy of Geological Science, China University of Geosciences and Shandong University.
- ✓ The team was able to highlight 90 different types of structures on the moon, which were all specifically colour-coded on the map
- ✓ Previously, the USGS Astrogeology Science Centre had released a moon map to a scale of 1:5,000,000 in 2020

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ➢ **The US - hosted the ninth summit of the Americas from June 6 to 10, 2022 in Los Angeles**
- ✓ The summit witnessed the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries along with the US and Canada

✓ This year, the summit was held under the theme 'Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future'

✓ This year, the US President Joe Biden has decided to exclude Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua from the Summit because these countries are accused of having undemocratically elected leaders

✓ Further, the President of Mexico, Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala and Saint Vincent did not attend the event

✓ President Donald Trump did not participate in the last summit held in Lima, Peru in 2018

✓ The United States currently serves as Chair of the Summit's deliberative body, the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

✓ The Summit has taken place approximately once every three years since 1994

✓ It is the only meeting of all leaders from the countries of North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean.

✓ The US-led Summit of the Americas was launched in 1994 by President Bill Clinton in the context of the end of the Cold War and the rise of globalization

✓ This is the first time the event has returned to the US after the first summit in Miami

✓ The subsequent regular summits have taken place in Santiago, Chile (1998), Quebec City, Canada (2001), Mar del Plata, Argentina (2005), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (2009), Cartagena, Colombia (2012), Panama City, Panama (2015), and Lima, Peru (2018).

✓ Special summits took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (1996), and Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico (2004).

SPORTS

➢ **World Chess body FIDE - is planning to have the first ever Olympic-style Torch Relay, on the eve of 44th Chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai**

✓ Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the official logo and mascot 'Thambi' of the event on June 9, 2022

✓ The Olympiad will take place from July 28 to August 10 in Mamallapuram
✓ The CM also unveiled a countdown clock for the Olympiad at Ripon Buildings, the headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation.
✓ Health Minister Ma. Subramanian, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekarbabu, Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Siva V. Meyyanathan and Tourism Minister M. Mathiventhan were present.
✓ Greater Chennai Corporation Mayor R. Priya, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, All India Chess Federation president Sanjay Kapoor and senior officials were also present.
✓ The competition has already received a record 343 teams in the open and women's sections from 187 countries.
✓ The mascot 'Thambi' is a knight dressed in the traditional Tamil attire veshti (Dhoti) with a shirt and is seen with folded hands, apparently extending the Tamil greeting 'Vanakkam'.
✓ The words "Chess Believe" are seen on its shirt.
✓ This event was initially supposed to be held from August 5 to 17, 2020, in Khanty-Mansiysk, which hosted the Chess Olympiad 2010 and later shifted to Moscow
✓ However, in the aftermath of Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, FIDE decided to move the event from Moscow.