



EVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-june**

TAMIL NADU

- On June 16, Chief Minister M K Stalin – gave away medals to collectors of Coimbatore, Thanjavur and Karur for improving the sex ratio at birth in their districts, at a function in Chennai.



- ✓ The Chief Minister handed over gold medal to Coimbatore district collector G.S. Sameeran, silver medal to Thanjavur district collector Dinesh Ponraj Oliver and bronze medal to Karur district collector T. Prabhakaran for the performance of the districts in increasing the child sex ratio in 2021-2022.
- ✓ In Coimbatore, child sex ratio at birth improved from 942 in 2020 to 956 in 2021, while the child sex ratio at one year of age has improved from 941 in 2020 to 967 in 2021
- ✓ The collectors were bestowed with the medals as part of the CM's girl protection scheme awards for the year 2022.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also handed over appreciation letters to the three district collectors.
- ✓ Social Welfare department Minister Geetha Jeevan and other officials were present on the occasion.

STATES

- **In a first in Uttarakhand, the BadriKedar Temple Committee (BKTC) - has announced Rs.1 lakh insurance cover for pilgrims of the Char Dham yatra.**
- ✓ The insurance amount will be given to the next of kin of the pilgrims if they die on the premises of any of the four Himalayan shrines — Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- ✓ This is for the first time that such an insurance cover is being provided to the pilgrims.
- ✓ The insurance scheme is being facilitated by the Dehradun branch of government-run United India Insurance Company Limited.
- ✓ The BadriKedar Temple Committee (BKTC) administers the shrines in the state

NATIONAL

- **On June 16, the government - raised the upper age limit for recruitment under Agnipath scheme to 23 years from 21 years**
- ✓ The government's decision is proposed as a one-time waiver for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022, under which 46,000 Agniveers will be recruited
- ✓ The decision has been taken as no recruitment has taken place in the last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ On June 13, defence minister Rajnath Singh, along with the three service chiefs, announced the Agnipath scheme for induction of soldiers between 17.5 and 21 years for a four-year period
- ✓ After a four-year engagement period, up to 25% of each specific batch of Agniveers will be enrolled in regular cadre of the Armed Forces.
- ✓ At the end of the four-year period, Agniveers will be accorded Rs 11.71 lakh as a lump sum amount, which will be tax-free
- ✓ Under the old system, young men aged between 17-and-a-half and 21 years were selected for a minimum of 15 years and they received pension, medical and canteen facilities after the retirement
- ✓ States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have declared that 'Agniveers' recruited in the Indian Armed Forces will be given preference in the state police and allied forces.
- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also announced that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will give priority to 'Agniveers' in getting recruitment to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles.
- ✓ Unveiling the 'Agnipath' scheme, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that upon the completion of four years of Agniveers, many central ministries and states governments including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) & corporations will give priority to them in job opportunities.

- **On June 13, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - launched the country's first homegrown Covid-19 vaccine for animals.**
- ✓ Developed by the Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, the vaccine, called Ancovax, can protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- ✓ Ancovax is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant.
- ✓ In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.
- ✓ Ancovax can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits
- ✓ India reported at least nine Covid infections in Asiatic lions in Chennai zoo last year
- ✓ Besides Anocovac, Tomar launched the 'CAN-CoV-2 ELISA kit' for antibody detection against SARS-CoV-2 in canines
- ✓ ICAR is the country's premier agri-research institute that functions under the Union Agriculture Ministry.
- ✓ In April 2021, Russia became the first country in the world to register a vaccine for animals against Covid-19
- ✓ The vaccine called Carnivac-Cov generated antibodies against in the virus in dogs, cats, foxes and mink.

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) - has adopted a resolution on multilingualism that mentions three major languages of the subcontinent—Hindi, Urdu and Bengali—for the first time**
- ✓ The resolution passed recently on June 10 encourages the UN to continue publishing important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in the three languages as well as in Portuguese, Kiswahili and Persian.
- ✓ The UN has six official languages—English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and French, while English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat
- ✓ The UN Resolution, co-facilitated by Andorra and Colombia, was co-sponsored by over 80 countries including India, Bangladesh and Pakistan in the 193-member UNGA
- ✓ As part of India's efforts, 'Hindi @ UN' project was launched in 2018 to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in the Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations around the world.
- ✓ Last month, India contributed \$800,000 towards efforts to continue to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.
- ✓ Since 2018, the UN News in Hindi is disseminated through UN's website and social media handles on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.
- ✓ A UN News-Hindi audio bulletin (UN Radio) is released every week, while its weblink is available on the UN Hindi News website

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – June 17



- ✓ The Day is observed annually to focus on turning degraded land into healthy land to enhance food fertility
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Rising up from drought together'
- ✓ The UN General Assembly established the day in the year 1994
- ✓ In 1995, people across the globe observed World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought for the first time.
- ✓ The observation of the day is led by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification
- ✓ It is estimated that 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity by 2025, as per the United Nations
- ✓ Every year, as many as 55 million people across the globe are directly affected by droughts, while the number and duration of droughts have risen by 29% since 2000

➤ World Crocodile Day – June 17



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the plight of the crocodiles and protect them from extinction in the near future
- ✓ The global day has been observed since 2017 and was started by the Crocodile Research Coalition in collaboration with Belize Zoo
- ✓ To conserve crocodiles in the wild, the Government of India initiated the Crocodile Conservation Project in 1975 to rebuild the crocodile population

REPORT

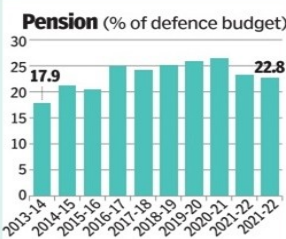
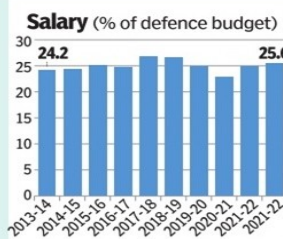
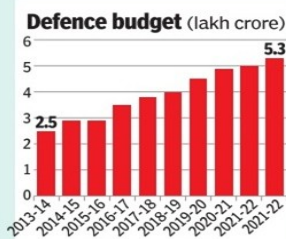
How Pay & Pension Gobble Up A Large Chunk Of Defence Budget

The primary aim of the Agnipath scheme, under which jawans are to be recruited for four years, is to bring down the government's expenditure on military salaries and pensions. That is expected to free up much-needed funds to modernise the armed forces and give India a leaner and younger fighting force. While expenditure on defence, like all other expenses, has increased, so has the size of the economy. Data from Union budgets, analysed by **Atul Thakur**, shows in the past few years, the share of pensions in the overall defence outlay – which increased dramatically after OROP (One Rank One Pension scheme) – has actually seen a slight decline and might stabilise in the future

Nearly Half The Defence Budget Is Spent On Salaries, Pensions

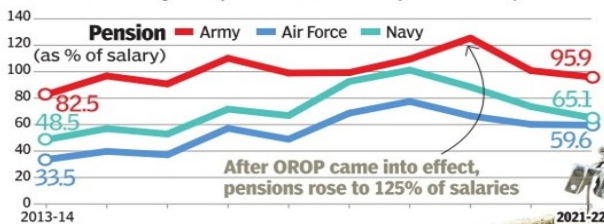
Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, India's GDP more than doubled from Rs 112 lakh crore to Rs 237 lakh crore. During this period, the defence budget also doubled, though the share of salaries in the budget remained largely stable. However, pension expenditure increased considerably following the introduction of the OROP scheme whose benefits became effective from July 1, 2014

In 2013-14, the combined spend on salaries and pensions accounted for 42.2% of the total defence budget. In the latest Budget, the share has risen to 48.4%



Pension Expenditure Versus Salary On The Decline Now

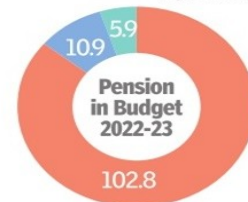
In 2013-14, the army's expenditure on pension was 82.5% of what it spent on salaries. By 2020-21, after OROP came into effect, the army's pension bill was actually higher (125%) than what it was paying out as salaries. But it has come down since then. It would have fallen even more had regular recruitment not stopped because of Covid as the salary expenditure would then have gone up. It's the same story for the Navy and Air Force



Army Has Lion's Share Of Salaries, Pensions

Since the Army's share in total defence employment is much higher than that of the Navy and Air Force, it also makes up the largest share of total defence salaries and pensions

Army Air Force Navy (Figures in '000 cr)



In the 2022-23 Budget, the Army accounted for the highest share of both pensions and salaries at 86% and 79%, respectively

US, China Spend Much Less Of Their Defence Budgets On Salaries, Pensions

Data compiled by Nato and MP-IDSA (which identifies itself as a non-partisan, autonomous body that researches defence and security) shows that India's expenditure on salaries and pensions is on the higher side but for most large countries, military salaries take a significant chunk of the budget

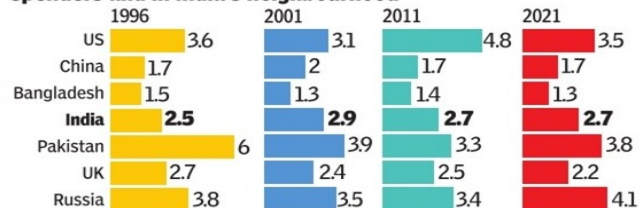
Share (%) of personnel expenditure in total defence expenditure (latest available data)



Def Spend Tends To Stay Stable Around World

In absolute terms, most major economies have seen their defence expenditure rise considerably over the past decade but as a share of GDP, spending has remained steady. China, for instance, has doubled its military spending over the last decade but its share in the country's GDP has remained at the same level

Defence expenditure as share (%) of GDP among largest spenders and in India's neighbourhood



In India's neighbourhood, Pakistan has seen a significant drop in its defence spend as a share of its GDP

Source: Union Budget, SIPRI, Nato, MP-IDSA