

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 20, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu Government - has passed an order approving the labour department's proposal for a standard operating procedure (SOP) to end bonded labour in the state**

BREAKING THE CHAINS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Depending on a complaint, a multi-disciplinary team shall be formed having two or more women officers > There should be two independent witnesses > NGOs/ social workers should be part of the team > Release certificate should be issued within 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 24 hours of rescue > ₹20,000 should be given to each beneficiary as immediate relief > FIR should be filed within 24 hours of rescue > Welfare assistants: Aadhaar, ration card, community certificate, house site/land patta, voter ID
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- ✓ The government has come up with a uniform procedure in identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers to guide the implementing agencies of the Bonded Labourer System (Abolition) Act and the Central Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers 2016
- ✓ As per the SOP, the district collectors should ensure the safe return of migrant bonded labourers to their native places while repatriation shall be subject to their consent
- ✓ The district collectors should form a multi-disciplinary team comprising officials from revenue, police and labour departments, social workers and a representative from NGOs – to act on complaints.
- ✓ Victims would receive financial aid of ₹1 lakh (adult male), ₹2 lakh (women and children) and ₹3 lakh (persons with disability) as per the Centre's scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourer 2016, if the case ends in conviction
- ✓ Two independent witnesses would accompany the team deputed for the rescue of bonded labourers
- ✓ TN, incidentally, has recorded the fifth highest number of human trafficking cases in the country.

◆ **The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry – has launched the ‘online facility’ for enrolling as an advocate in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry**

- ✓ The online enrolment facility was launched by the former Chief Justice of the Madras high court and present judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Indira Banerjee
- ✓ The event which saw enrolment of 826 advocates was presided over by Chief Justice of the Madras high court Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani
- ✓ Apart from enrolment of advocates, even police verification of their antecedents has been made online.

NATIONAL

◆ **Ranchi - to host the main event of International Yoga Day 2019 on June 21, 2019**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform Yoga along with 18,000 participants including Chief Minister Raghubar Das, Ministers and senior officials of the state
- ✓ This would be fifth International Yoga Day since its inception.
- ✓ The theme for International Yoga Day 2019 is 'Climate Action' and it will be celebrated at the United Nations on June 20 with the theme "Yoga with Gurus"
- ✓ The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2014, announced that June 21 will be seen as International Yoga Day or World Yoga Day
- ✓ The first International Yoga Day was celebrated worldwide in 2015 with the theme 'Yoga for Harmony and Peace'
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September of 2014 addressed the UN assembly and discussed the essence of Yoga.

◆ **NASSCOM, the Indian apex body for IT industry - to collaborate with ICANN, the global internet body - in developing standards and technology for managing Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices and infrastructure using internet**

- ✓ As per the agreement, both will initially focus on updating Internet of Things (IoT) devices using domain name system (DNS) even in situation when manufacturer or supplier has closed down the business.
- ✓ The teams have already begun research on DNS (Domain name system) and Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) in context of Internet of Things (IoT) in 2018
- ✓ ICANN stands for Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
- ✓ It is responsible for allocating IP addresses and managing domain name system (DNS)
- ✓ NASSCOM stands for National Association of Software and Services Companies

◆ **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs - launched DBT Tribal web portal to streamline and expedite the releasing of scholarships directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary students**



- ✓ It provides a single common platform for the States/UTs to upload data in the specified format related to beneficiaries, raise queries and give feedback
- ✓ It is linked with Aadhaar and the Public Financial Management System, thus reducing the chances of duplication of beneficiary and manipulation
- ✓ There are five scholarship schemes funded by Central Government and implemented by State Governments

◆ **India - has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments**



- ✓ It is located near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC) in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, with 20 rescued elephants
- ✓ The centre is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS
- ✓ Situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura, the hydrotherapy jumbo pool is 11-foot-deep
- ✓ It has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation

◆ **The Indian government - has signed agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea, under which Doordarshan India will be available in those countries**

- ✓ The move is part of a robust cultural exchange, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Act East policy
- ✓ The government has also approved the proposal of Prasar Bharati for making KBS World, an English 24x7 channel of the government of Republic of South Korea, available on the DD Free Dish.

COMMITTEES

◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has constituted a 6-member high-level committee under the chairmanship of VG Kannan, Chief**

Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to review the entire range of ATM charges and fees.



- ✓ There are around 2 lakh ATMs in India with around 80.9 crore transactions being done through debit cards on ATM.
- ✓ The committee will examine existing patterns of costs, charges and interchange fees by banks for automated teller machines (ATMs) transactions.
- ✓ It will make recommendations on optimal charge or interchange fee structure and pattern within a period of two months from the date of its first meeting

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Sri Lanka's first ever satellite 'Raavana-1' - was successfully placed into orbit

- ✓ It was designed and developed by two Sri Lankan engineers, Tharindu Dayaratne and Dulani Chamika who are studying space engineering at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology



- ✓ It was launched from International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal
- ✓ It is a cube satellite measuring 11.3 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm, and weighs around 1.05 kg
- ✓ It is expected to fulfill 5 missions including capturing pictures of Sri Lanka & its surrounding regions.
- ✓ It is designed for a minimum lifespan of 1.5 years but is expected to be active for about five year.
- ✓ The satellite was officially handed over to JAXA (Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency) on February 18
- ✓ It was later sent to International Space Station on April 17, through assistance of Cygnus-1 spacecraft from United States.
- ✓ The 'Birds project' is an acronym for 'Joint Global Multi-Nation Birds Satellite project', which is a cross-border interdisciplinary satellite project.
- ✓ The Birds 3 project is led by Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology and involves students from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Japan.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **Indian Navy - is hosting a Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019 edition under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC- IOR) at Gurugram**



- ✓ The two-day event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral MS Pawar, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff in 12 June 2019
- ✓ More than 41 delegates from 29 countries of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond participated in the workshop
- ✓ The IFC-IOR was launched on 22 December 2018 by then Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), Gurugram, Haryana
- ✓ With over 75% of world's maritime trade and 50% of global oil consumption passing through Indian Ocean Region, the region is vital to world trade and economic prosperity of many nations

ECONOMY

- ◆ **HCL Technologies - has signed a multi-year deal with Cricket Australia, the national governing body for the game in that country.**



IT Services major HCL Tech signs multi-year deal with Cricket Australia

DIGITAL PITCH

- This is HCLTech's third-largest sports deal after Volvo Ocean Race and Manchester United
 - Infosys has a 3-year technology-led partnership with French Open
 - TCS has tie-ups with New York City Marathon, Amsterdam Marathon
 - Tech Mahindra has a long-time association with FIFA
 - Genpact uses AI to power Envision Virgin Racing Team, the largest electric car racing event
 - Drones, GPS and AI-based analysis a major aspect of ongoing cricket World Cup
- ✓ According to the deal, the firm would help deliver a digital experience to cricket fans, players, partners, employees and volunteers across Australia and around the world
 - ✓ HCL Technologies would manage Cricket Australia's digital products, including Cricket Australia Live App, cricket.com.au, bigbash.com.au and community cricket applications such as MyCricket as well community.cricket.com.au.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) and B. Sriram, former managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) were appointed part-time members of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet**



- ✓ K Subramanian, an Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad professor was appointed chief economic adviser for a period of 3 years in December 2018.
- ✓ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet is composed of Prime Minister of India (who is Chairman), Union Minister of Home Affairs and the order for appointment was issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)
- ✓ IBBI, an insolvency regulatory agency was established on 1 October 2016
- ✓ It oversees insolvency proceedings in India and to regulate entities registered under it.
- ✓ IBC covers Individuals, Companies, Partnership firms etc., and handles cases under it using tribunals namely National company law tribunal (NCLT) and Debt recovery tribunal (DRT)

AWARDS

- ◆ **Nitesh Kumar Jangir, an Indian Engineer - won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom**



- ✓ He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called 'Saans' for premature babies
- ✓ Saans is a breathing support device used for tackling avoidable deaths of premature babies from Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS)
- ✓ The inaugural Commonwealth Innovation Awards was conferred upon 15 innovators from 53 member-countries of Commonwealth.
- ✓ Bangalore-based Nitesh is the co-founder of Coeo Labs, a medical device company which holds a vision of preventing preventable deaths in field of emergency and critical care.
- ✓ Saans has been in circulation for past 3 months across several district hospitals of India that lack neonatal ICU facilities

RANKINGS

◆ QS World University Rankings 2020

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), has emerged as best-ranked Indian institute globally at 152nd position.
- ✓ It has been securing top position among all Indian institutes for past three years and in 2020 edition it has improved its rank by moving up 10 places from the 2018 rankings



QS World University Rankings 2020: Global Top-20			
2020	2019	Institution Name	Location
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
2	2	Stanford University	USA
3	3	Harvard University	USA
4	5	University of Oxford	Reano Unito
5	4	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	USA
6	7	ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)	Swizzera
7	6	University of Cambridge	Reano Unito
8	10	UCL (University College London)	Reano Unito
9	8	Imperial College London	Reano Unito
10	9	University of Chicago	USA
11=	12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
11=	11	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
13	13	Princeton University	USA
14	14	Cornell University	USA
15	19	University of Pennsylvania	USA

- ✓ The world-class Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) created a history by topping QS World University Rankings for 8th consecutive year.
- ✓ Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) were ranked at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions respectively
- ✓ In total, there are 23 educational institutions from India which featured in broader list of top 1000, with only nine in the top 500

UNIVERSITY	INDIA RANKING			WORLD RANKING		
	2020	2019	Change	2020	2019	Change
IIT Bombay	1	1	—	152	162	▲
IIT Delhi	2	3	▲	182	172	▼
IISc Bangalore	3	2	▼	184	170	▼
IIT Madras	4	4	—	271	264	▼
IIT Kharagpur	5	6	▲	281	295	▲
IIT Kanpur	6	5	▼	291	283	▼
IIT Roorkee	7	7	—	383	381	▼
Univ of Delhi	8	9	▲	474	487	▲
IIT Guwahati	9	8	▼	491	472	▼

- ✓ IIT-Delhi emerged as 2nd-best ranking institute from India by at 182nd place, replacing Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore
- ✓ IISc Bangalore lost 14 places in this year's ranking and ended at 184th place even though it achieved world's 2nd-best score for research impact and secured full 100 marks for citations per faculty metric.
- ✓ It is also 1st ever Indian institution to see its research cited over 1 lakh times in five-year period
- ✓ Apart from IISc Bangalore, five Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) — in Roorkee, Kanpur, Delhi, Kharagpur and Guwahati — stood in the top 100 ranks in terms of citations per faculty with scores ranging from 93.8 to 71.2.
- ✓ IIT-Madras (271), IIT-Kharagpur (281), IIT- Kanpur (291), IIT-Roorkee (383), University of Delhi (474) and IIT-Guwahati (491) are the other institutions in the Top 500 from India
- ✓ IIT-Guwahati, ranked 491, saw a decline in its ranking since last year when it was placed at 472.
- ✓ The Delhi University improved on its last year's rank of 487 and is placed at 474 in the latest rankings.
- ✓ The rankings has 50 new entrants globally and India-based O P Jindal Global University (JGU), established in 2009, has become the youngest university to break into top 1,000 in the prestigious rankings
- ✓ Other universities that figure in the rankings are Jamia Millia Islamia, Jadavpur University, Aligarh Muslim University, Hyderabad University, Calcutta University and Mumbai University.
- ✓ QS World University Rankings is one of the two most sought after rankings for educational institutes globally
- ✓ It was launched in 2004 by London-based QS Group

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION – A REPORT

◆ Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – put forward a policy of 'one nation one election' as the first major reform initiative in his second term as Prime Minister

- ✓ The idea first cropped up in the 2017 Republic Day address of President Pranab Mukherjee
- ✓ In his speech, he remarked that the Election Commission can take this exercise forward in consultation with political parties

WEIGHING IN ON THE ISSUES

LOOKING AT THE POSITIVES

- > Cost of elections will decrease
- > One election will cut down on the time senior leaders spend on campaigning at the cost of ministerial work suffering
- > Ample time for the state legislature to discuss about policies or to implement those policies

POINTS OF CONCERN

- > Article 83(2) deals with the tenure of Lok Sabha, which is five years, unless dissolved earlier and the same for the state assembly under Article 172. **State governments can dissolve the assemblies before the tenure ends but the problem is if they dissolve for simultaneous polls, it will be a violation of the Constitution**
- > Possibility of similar government at the state and Centre, which happened in 1952, 1957 and 1962; situation will be like one party in the whole nation with no opposition to any action
- > Consent of regional parties is an issue because there is a tendency among voters to vote for the same party in the state and at the Centre

ACROSS THE WORLD

SWEDEN | General election to the Riksdag, regional/county council assemblies and municipal councils are held every four years, in September on the same day; the electoral system is proportional, which means parties are given a number of representatives in the elected assembly, proportional to their share of votes



BELGIUM | Elections for the federal parliament are usually held every five years, coinciding with the European (and consequently also regional) elections

SOUTH AFRICA | Elections for national and provincial assemblies are held simultaneously in a five-year cycle and the electoral system is based on 'party-list proportional representation'

The first election of Independent India in 1952 was conducted simultaneously. This was the practice till 1967 when it was ended because the Lok Sabha was liquidated early

