

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - handed over financial assistance of Rs 14 lakh to the families of Pulwama martyrs on June 6**



- ✓ Two CRPF personnel from the state – G Subramanian of Savalapperi village in Thoothukudi district and C Sivachandran of Kargudi in Ariyalur district - died in a terrorist attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14
- ✓ The assistance was given by Greater Chennai police to honour the supreme sacrifice
- ✓ Already, the Chief Minister had granted Rs 20 lakh each to the families on February 15.
- ✓ Besides, he also ordered government employment to the spouses of both the martyrs
- ◆ **In a first, the admissions to MBBS and BDS courses in Tamil Nadu goes 'Online' this year**
 - ✓ The Directorate of Medical education has called for the online registration of applications this year under state quota in government colleges and self-financing medical colleges affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr M G R Medical University
 - ✓ However, the students will have to send the hard copy of the application along with the attachments for verification of documents
 - ✓ The state has 23 government medical colleges offering 3,250 seats this year

◆ **The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu - will implement the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP) with funding support from the World Bank**

- ✓ The total project cost is Rs 2,857.003 crore, out of which Rs.1,999.902 crore is funded by the World Bank
- ✓ The goal of the five-year project is to improve the quality of care in all government health institutions, strengthen the management of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and injuries, and reduce the inequities in reproductive and child health services in the State
- ✓ The implementation of the project would begin in July

◆ **Chennai Police - have commissioned a new e-challan system, a completely online mechanism integrated with Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the country, for the first time in the country**



- ✓ The software ecosystem has been developed by National Informatics Centre
- ✓ The device has real-time access to vehicle owner database and driving licence database of all RTOs in the country
- ✓ Photograph of the user, genuineness of vehicle owner/licensee can be verified.
- ✓ Challans can be issued for any vehicle belonging to any State.
- ✓ Location of officers booking cases can be seen on a digital map real-time by senior officers
- ✓ Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan Iso launched the mobile application called 'GCTP Citizen Services' on June 7
- ✓ The user can take photographs and videos of traffic violations and upload them on it
- ✓ In 2011, The Chennai Police introduced e-challan devices for booking traffic rule violations

◆ **Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy – has directed the Chief secretary to initiate efforts for installing biometric attendance system in all government offices in the Union territory**

- ✓ He noticed a sizeable number of government servants did not reach office on time during his surprise inspection at the chief secretariat on June 7

STATES

◆ **Delhi Metro - has become first ever project in India to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant**



- ✓ It has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh)
- ✓ This plant is India's first Euro norms compliant waste-to-energy facility
- ✓ The power received is being utilised at Vinod Nagar Receiving Sub-station (RSS) for meeting operational requirements of Pink Line of Delhi Metro
- ✓ Delhi Metro, which began its operation in 24 December 2002, is first ever rail based organisation in world to claim carbon credits

◆ **In a first, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy - to have 5 deputy CM's in his 25-member cabinet to be sworn in on June 8**



- ✓ The deputy CMs will be selected from five major social groups, SCs, STs, Backward classes, minorities and the upper caste, Kapus
- ✓ The YSR Congress party swept the elections recently by winning 151 of the 175 assembly seats
- ✓ The CM had also said that half of his council of ministers would be from SC, ST, BC and minority communities.
- ✓ The earlier Chandrababu Naidu Cabinet had two Deputy CMs — one BC (K.E. Krishnamurthy) and a Kapu (Ch. China Rajappa)

◆ **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) - became the first political party from the North east to be recognised by the Election Commission (EC) as a National party**



- ✓ The NPP, already having the status of a state party in Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya, was given the status of a state party in Arunachal Pradesh too, where it had won five seats in the recent assembly polls
- ✓ The move of the EC follows the recognition of the party in Arunachal Pradesh as a state party
- ✓ The party was formed by the father of Conrad K. Sangma and former Speaker, Purno A Sangma in 2013

NATIONAL

◆ **The Ministry of HRD - likely to collaborate with the Carbon Zero Challenge team of IIT, Madras next year - to develop carbon neutral prototypes and other related projects**

- ✓ The ministry is considering partnering with the team for the next smart India hackathon initiative, especially on sustainability and waste management



- ✓ A team from IIT, Madras 'Pristine Energia' won first place for designing a coconut shell activated synthesizer.



- ✓ Teams from IIT, Bhuvanewar and again IIT, Madras, Clean Electric and Elicius Energy, secured the second and third positions
The final of the second edition of the contest was held on June 7
- ✓ The Carbon Zero Challenge is an innovation contest aimed at creating indigenous solutions for the energy and environmental problems of the country
- ✓ It was organised by IIT, Madras along with Virtusa Enterprises
- ✓ The contest had received the applications from 996 teams of entrepreneurs and startups from across 25 states, out of which 24 were shortlisted
- ✓ The shortlisted teams received training and mentoring in addition to financial support of up to Rs 5 lakh over a period of 6 months to build their prototypes and develop their business models

INTERNATIONAL

◆ Russia - has launched first Arctic train service running from St. Petersburg station headed to Norway



- ✓ The inaugural trial journey of first tourist train will be a 11-day trip with 91 passengers aboard
- ✓ The train is named 'Zarengold' (means 'The Tsar's gold' in German)
- ✓ It will allow passengers to discover areas in Arctic region which are difficult to access by other means
- ✓ The train is expected to run twice by 2020 and four times in 2021

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ The 4th Coast Guard Subordinate Officers Conclave 2019 - was inaugurated by Rajendra Singh, Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at New Delhi



- ✓ The conclave presents an unique opportunity for the jawans to provide their suggestions and ideas for the effecting running of the force
- ✓ It will have brainstorming and other plenary sessions, involving highly motivated and committed subordinate officers who have come from various Coast Guard units across the country
- ✓ During the conclave, Navik Vinod was conferred 'Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak' in recognition of his exceptional courage and selfless service exhibited in performing a life-saving act in 2018
- ✓ On the occasion, a Coast Guard Benevolent Association App was launched.
- ✓ It can be used for applying the financial assistance through 'online' mode by the Coast Guard personnel

PERSONALITIES

◆ **The terror outfit, Al-Qaeda - has announced a new chief for its India wing, Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, two weeks after its Chief Zakir Musa was killed in an encounter in Pulwama's Tral.**

- ✓ Hameed Lelhari alias Haroon Abbas will replace Musa and Ghazi Ibrahim Khalid will be his deputy



- ✓ However, Lelhari did not figure in the list of top ten wanted militants compiled by the Union Home Ministry recently
- ✓ Musa had replaced slain militant 'commander' Burhan Wani in 2016
- ✓ The Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent is counselling Afghan Taliban and also many jihadis in Kashmir

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **NASA - to open up the International Space Station (ISS) to business ventures including space tourism — with stays priced at \$35,000 a night for an astronaut**



- ✓ The missions will be for stays of up to 30 days
- ✓ There will be up to two short private astronaut missions per year, with about a dozen private astronauts to visit the ISS every year
- ✓ These travellers would be ferried to the orbiter exclusively by the two companies currently developing transport vehicles for NASA - SpaceX, with its Crew Dragon capsule, and Boeing, which is building one called Starliner.
- ✓ These companies would choose the clients and bill for the trip to the ISS, which will be the most expensive part of the adventure - around \$58 million for a round trip ticket.
- ✓ The tourists will have to pay NASA for their stay in space, for food, water and use of the life support system on the orbiter.
- ✓ ISS was built along with Russia starting in 1998
- ✓ U.S. businessman Dennis Tito had the honour of being the first space tourist to the ISS in 2001.
- ✓ He paid Russia around \$20 million for the trip.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **India - is planning to conduct its first-ever simulated space warfare exercise named 'IndSpaceEx' in the last week of July**

A TABLE-TOP WAR-GAME



- All stakeholders from military and scientific community to take part
- **Purpose:** To help grasp strategic challenges in space that need to be handled; to assess capabilities India needs to ensure it can protect its space assets
- China launched a rocket with seven satellites from a ship at sea three days ago
- The New Defence Space Agency has begun to take shape by amalgamating Defence Imagery Processing and Analysis Centre in Delhi and Defence Satellite Control Centre in Bhopal

- ✓ It will be a 'table-top wargame' with the participation of all the stakeholders from the military and scientific community
- ✓ It will be conducted under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff of the defence ministry
- ✓ The main aim of the exercise is to assess the requisite space and counterspace capabilities in order to protect our national security interests in warfare

ECONOMY

- ◆ **State Bank of India - becomes the first bank to link the cost of its home loans to the RBI's repo rate**

- ✓ Starting from July 1, it will be introducing a new product in which loans up to Rs 75 lakh will be available at 2.65% over the repo rate, i.e. at 8.40% as per the revised repo rate
- ✓ Currently, banks link their lending to an internal benchmark, the marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) which is computed based on their cost of funds and due to which transmission of rate cuts are slower
- ✓ The repo rate is what the RBI charges for its short-term lending to banks
- ✓ The current repo rate is 5.75%, reduced from 6% by RBI on June 6
- ✓ It was the RBI's third rate cut in a row in 2019 and the lowest since 2010
- ✓ Last year, Citibank India was the first to link its home loans to an external benchmark - the 91-day treasury bill
- ✓ Under this product, changes in the rates will be effected once in every quarter, i.e. on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha - was given an extension of three months in service beyond June 12, 2019**



- ✓ This is the third extension for Mr. Sinha since his appointment as the top bureaucrat in 2015 for a fixed term of two years
- ✓ Mr. Sinha's extended term as the Cabinet Secretary will now expire on September 12, 2019

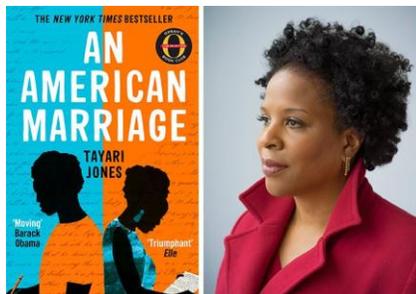
- ◆ **Former Chief Election Commissioner, N. Gopalaswami - will be the electoral officer for the BCCI elections to be held on October 22**



- ✓ The process will begin on June 30, with the electoral officer preparing an protocol in consultation with the CoA
- ✓ It will then be communicated to all State associations
- ✓ As per the schedule, the completion of elections of state associations will be concluded by September 14

AWARDS

- ◆ **American novelist, Tayari Jones - won this year's Women's Prize for Fiction for her fourth novel "An American Marriage"**



- ✓ She was declared winner ahead of five other shortlisted authors, including two former Booker prize winners namely Anna Burns (novel "Milkman" won booker prize for 2018) and Pat Barker's new novel "The Silence of the Girls"
- ✓ The prize is United Kingdom's only annual book award for fictions in women's writing from around the world, established in 1996

SPORTS

◆ ICC - appoints Kris Srikkanth as an ambassador for the ongoing Cricket World Cup



- ✓ He joins an elite list of former World cup winners like Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Clive Lloyd, Allan Border and Steve Waugh
- ✓ Apart from these players, the list includes former players Jacques Kallis, Abdul Razzak, Daniel Vettori, Mirwais Ashraf, Waqar Younis, Mahela Jayawardene and Heather Knight.
- ✓ Throughout the tournament, the ambassadors will be making match-day appearances at the fanzones inside the stadium and city fanparks apart from connecting with the fans through the ICC's social media channels.
- ✓ They will also pen exclusive columns throughout the tournament
- ✓ Srikkanth was part of the team which won the World Cup in 1983 apart from being the chairman of selectors for the Indian team that reclaimed the world title in 2011

RANKINGS

◆ Three Indian-origin women - have been named by Forbes among America's 80 richest 'self-made women' for the year 2019



- ✓ The three women of Indian-origin featured are –
 - ✓ Jayshree Ullal, President and CEO of computer networking firm, Arista Networks
 - ✓ Neerja Sethi, co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm, Syntel and
 - ✓ Neha Narkhede , CTO and co-founder of streaming data technology company, Confluent
- ✓ Ullal, who has been ranked 18th in the list, has a net worth of \$1.4 billion
- ✓ Sethi, ranked 23rd, cofounded Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai in 1980 in their apartment in Troy, Michigan
- ✓ Her current net worth is one billion dollars.

- ✓ Narkhede is ranked 60th on the list with a networth of \$360 million.
- ✓ The list has been topped by Diane Hendricks, who chairs ABC Supply, one of the largest wholesale distributors of roofing, siding and windows in America
- ✓ The 72-year old has a net worth of \$7 billion.
- ✓ The list also includes media mogul Oprah Winfrey ranked 10, Facebook's Chief Operating Officer (12), reality TV star Kylie Jenner (23), fashion designer Tory Burch (29), pop stars Rihanna (37) and Madonna (39), singer Beyonce (51), author Danielle Steel (56), TV show Ellen DeGeneres (63) and tennis star Serena Williams making history as the 1st athlete ever to be named, ranked on the 80th spot.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Food Safety Day - June 7

- ✓ The first-ever World food safety day was celebrated on June 7, 2019
- ✓ It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018
- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Food Safety, everyone's business'
- ✓ The celebration of the inaugural edition of World Food Safety Day will be facilitated by World Health Organisation (WHO), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.



- ✓ The first observation of Food Safety Day this year includes a launch event in New York with a panel discussion
- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the importance of safe food and to reduce the problems related to it
- ✓ As per the WHO data, almost 1 in 10 people in the world fall ill after eating contaminated, with almost 1,25,000 deaths of children under 5 years
- ✓ In India, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHWF) inaugurated the first-ever World Food Safety Day being celebrated by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ✓ Dr. Harsh Vardhan urged the people of India to make 'Eat Right' movement a 'Jan Andolan' with 'Jan Bhagidhari'
- ✓ FSSAI has developed the first State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States on 5 parameters of food safety

- ✓ The 7 leading States/Union Territories Chandigarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu were felicitated based on the ranking for the year 2018-2019 for their impressive performance.
- ✓ Golden Temple Street of Amritsar was recognized as a 'Clean Street Food Hub'
- ✓ Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched a new-age, hand-held battery-operated device 'Raman 1.0' which performs rapid detection (in less than 1 minute) of economically driven adulteration in edible oils, fats, and ghee
- ✓ Along with this, 'Food Safety Magic Box', an innovative solution to take food safety to schools was launched.
- ✓ FSSAI instituted the 'Eat Right Awards' to recognize the contribution of food companies and individuals to empower citizens to choose safe and healthy food options

