



CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUGUST 1-31, 2023

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Foot Prints (Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ Foxconn Signs 1,600 Crore Deal



- ✓ Foxconn Technology Group, a prominent Taiwanese company and a key supplier to Apple Inc., has pledged to invest 1,600 crore in establishing a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The investment is expected to create significant employment opportunities and boost the electronics manufacturing sector in Tamil Nadu.

➤ First Woman Kavadi (Assistant to a Mahout)

- ✓ Oscar winning 'Elephant Whisperer' fame V Bellie, a tribal woman - has become the first woman kavadi (assistant to a mahout) in Tamil Nadu.



- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin gave her the appointment order at the secretariat on August 2.
- ✓ Bellie will be posted at the Theppakadu elephant camp, the oldest in the country, located at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the Nilgiris.
- ✓ The Oscar-winning movie was made on the deep bonding between the mahout couple and the elephant calves, Raghu and Bommi, at Theppakadu.

➤ **Tamil Nadu celebrates Cultural Festival Aadi Perukku**



- ✓ The **Tamil** Cultural community celebrates **Aadi Perukku**, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the **monsoon season** and the fertility of the soil. Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the **18th day** of the Tamil month of **Aadi**.
- ✓ Traditionally observed in late July or early August, this festivity centers around expressing gratitude to water bodies, as the entire month of Aadi is considered to herald the onset of the monsoon season.

➤ **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - launched the intensified mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 to immunize pregnant women and children below five years old against life-threatening diseases as a part of a national drive.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian launched the intensified Mission on August 7.
- ✓ This initiative will ensure such beneficiaries who have missed doses get their vaccination.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**

- ✓ On August 8, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau at the state secretariat and released the logo for the Bureau.



- ✓ The bureau will be headquartered at Panagal Building, Saidapet in Chennai and function under a director and four additional directors for Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Ramanathapuram zones.
- ✓ The objective of the bureau is to check illegal wildlife crime across the state and protect them from getting endangered.
- **Facilitating MSMEs Tamil Nadu' (FaMe TN)**
- ✓ On August 8, Retailers Association of India (RAI) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MSME support and promotion agency 'Facilitating MSMEs Tamil Nadu' (FaMe TN).



- ✓ FaMe TN (erstwhile MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau) was established in 2019 to promote trade and investments among MSMEs.
- ✓ As per the agreement, RAI will help the state develop a retail policy, collaborate with FaMe TN to support the retail industry especially MSMEs.
- **Vadakkupattu Archaeological Site**

- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India - has discovered a rare finding in the Vadakkupattu archaeological site, near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district.
- ✓ A potsherd with a Tamil Brahmi script, 'Mththi', in three letters, was found in the excavations conducted in the site.



- ✓ The ASI has taken up excavations in the Vadakkupattu site for the second consecutive year.
 - ✓ According to ASI, 42 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi scripts on them had been discovered in Tamil Nadu so far from the various archaeological excavation sites.
 - ✓ Tamil Brahmi was used to write Tamil from the 3rd century BCE to the first century BCE.
- **Global Investors Meet 2024 - Logo**
- ✓ On August 10, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - unveiled the 'logo' for the State government's ambitious 'Global Investors Meet 2024' scheduled to be held on January 7 and 8 next year in Chennai.



- ✓ The theme of the meet is 'Towards a Resilient Economy, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Growth'.
- ✓ The Tamil letter 'tha', which signifies the Tamil language, people and state, was unveiled as the logo of GIM 2024.

- ✓ Organised by the state industries department, GIM 2024 is expected to take the country's second largest economy closer to achieving its goal of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

➤ **Porpanaikottai**

- ✓ State archaeology department - has unearthed several brick structures during the first phase of excavation being carried out at Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district.



- ✓ The excavations indicated people used rare fragments of western rouletted ware as coins in the game of hopscotch instead of the usual fragments of domestic pottery.
- ✓ Further digging revealed a portion of a semi-circular brick structure at 3.8cm below the surface level, which belongs to different timelines, including the Sangam age and the medieval period.

➤ **Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival (TNIKF)**

- ✓ The second edition of the Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival (TNIKF) - commenced on August 12 at the TTDC Ocean View, Mahabalipuram near Chennai.



- ✓ The theme for this year's event is 'Save Marine Life, Save Mother Earth'.
 - ✓ International kite teams, with over 200 kites, from eight countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, France, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and India are participating in the festival.
 - ✓ The kites conform to the theme and have aquatic and sea creatures colourfully decorated.
- **Best Performing Corporation**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government announced that the Trichy Corporation has been chosen as the Best Performing Corporation in Tamil Nadu for the year 2023.
 - ✓ The award will be presented to the Mayor of Trichy on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
 - ✓ Every year, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presents awards on Independence Day to the best-performing Municipalities, Boroughs, and Corporations in the state.
- **India's First Drone Common Testing Centre**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), the nodal agency overseeing the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone), at the SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur at an outlay of Rs 45 crore.
 - ✓ With a steadfast commitment to innovation, quality, and progress, Tamil Nadu is poised to revolutionize the industry and secure its position as a beacon of growth in the realm of Aerospace and Defence.
- **Tamil Nadu Startup Thiruvizha 2023**
- ✓ StartupTN, the State's nodal agency for Startup and Innovation, is set to organize the 'TamilNadu Startup Thiruvizha 2023' event at the CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore on August 19 and 20.

Our sincere Thanks to

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10,000+ Visitors

Expo & Convention

- Fireside Chat
- Pitching Session
- B2B Meeting
- Cultural Events

Thiru. M. K. Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. T. M. Anbarasan
Hon'ble MSME Minister
of Tamil Nadu

Register

www.tnstartupfest.com

- ✓ This two-day celebration aims to highlight Tamil Nadu's entrepreneurship culture and the government's support for startups at different growth stages.
- ✓ The event is expected to draw 1,500 delegates from Tamil Nadu and the global startup ecosystem.

➤ **Freedom Filling Station**

- ✓ On August 18, Tamil Nadu law and prisons minister S Regupathy - inaugurated the eighth petrol bunk, under the brand name of 'Freedom Filling Station' at Madurai.
- ✓ The 'Freedom Filling Stations' will have prisoners as employees.



- ✓ Around 36 prisoners from Madurai central prison will be employed in this petrol retail outlet, and they will be paid Rs.300 per day as wages.
- ✓ The government is already operating seven such stations in Chennai, Coimbatore, Vellore, Palayamkotai and Pudukottai.
- ✓ These retail outlets are being run in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

➤ **Matti Banana Variety of Kanniyakumari District**



- ✓ The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- ✓ These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste.

➤ **Green Fellowship Programme**

- ✓ On August 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched a green fellowship programme at the Secretariat to fight climate change.



- ✓ Forty young postgraduates from various fields will work as 'Green fellows' with the state government under the green fellowship programme.
- ✓ They will be attached to district collectors and other IAS officials to work on solutions to environmental issues.
- ✓ The Department of Environment and Climate Change of the State government is the implementing agency for the Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme, while the Institute for Energy Studies (IES), Anna University is the knowledge partner.

➤ **South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant**

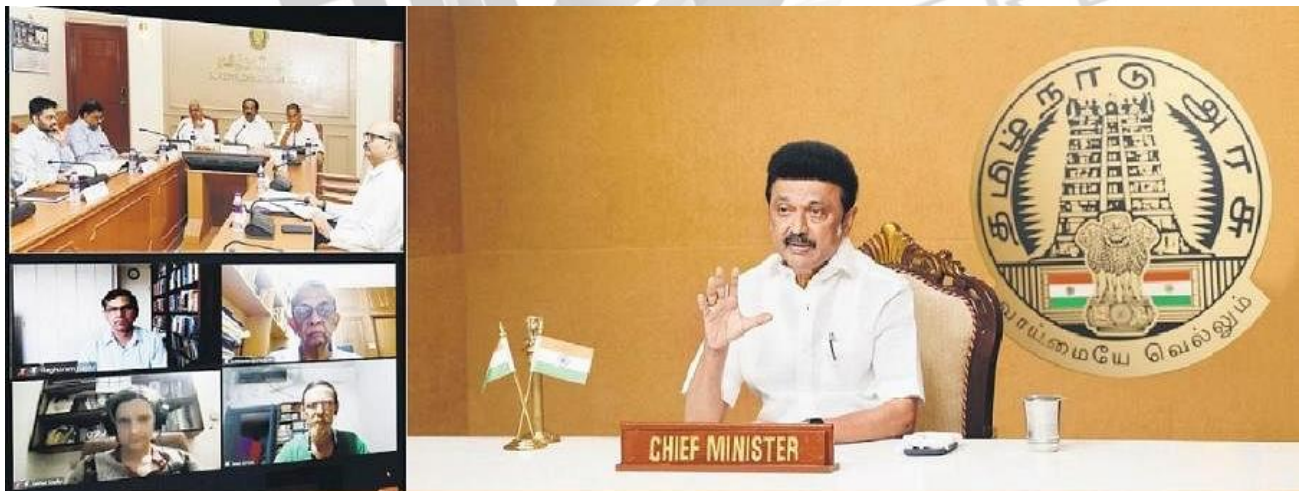
- ✓ In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping Chennai city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become South East Asia's largest water desalination project.
- ✓ Spearheaded by VA Tech Wabag, a renowned pure-play water technology Indian Multinational Group based in Chennai, this project is poised to revolutionize the region's water supply.

➤ **India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - is planning to establish the 'India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing' in Chennai.



- ✓ The India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing aims to support companies in their innovation, sustainability, and R&D endeavours.
- ✓ It is proposed as an initiative to involve national and international collaboration in advanced technologies.
- ✓ The proposed centre is likely to be operational by January 2024 in line with the Global Investors Meet.
- **CM Breakfast Scheme**
- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the CM breakfast scheme will be expanded from August 25, benefitting several lakh more students.



- ✓ The inauguration is scheduled to take place in the Nagapattinam district of the Cauvery Delta region.
- ✓ Speaking during the meeting of the Economic Advisory Committee, the CM announced the intention to expand the programme to 18.53 lakh school students studying in 31,000 schools at a cost of Rs 404 crore.
- ✓ At present, the scheme covers 1,14,095 primary school children studying in 1545 Government schools.
- **Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023 - has come into force from August 17.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023 was passed on the last day of the recent assembly session, on April 21
- ✓ The act, which intends to protect water channels, rivers and streams, will allow acquiring large parcels of land for special projects even if there are water bodies.
- ✓ Firms that require more than 100 hectares for projects can apply to the government for consolidation of the required land.

➤ **Tamilians for Tamil Nadu project**

- ✓ Tamilians for Tamil Nadu, a project to enable 1,000 children from government schools gain creative problem-solving skills through specially-curated projects and collaborate with eminent professors across the world, was launched in the city on Monday.
- ✓ The students will receive scholarships to access projects in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and humanities to nurture skills to solve real-world issues and will be guided in Tamil by professors across the world through the platform.

STATE

➤ **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**

- ✓ On August 8, the Kerala state assembly - passed unanimously a resolution against Uniform Civil Code (UCC), making it the first legislature in the country to pass such a resolution.
- ✓ The resolution said that the Centre's unilateral and hasty move to impose UCC goes against the Constitution's secular character.
- ✓ The resolution said the Constitution refers to a general civil code only in its directive principles, whose implementation is not mandatory.

➤ **Keralam**

- ✓ On August 9, the Kerala Assembly - passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as "Keralam" in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and all office records.
- ✓ The Assembly has unanimously requested the Union Government to take immediate steps under Article 3 of the Constitution to change the name of the state to Keralam.



- ✓ From November 1, the Kerala state will commemorate 'Keraleeyam 2023', an event aimed at showcasing the accomplishments of the state on the global stage.

➤ **Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Treatment**

- ✓ Goa - will become the first State in the country to provide In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment facility free of cost from September 1 this year.



- ✓ This facility will be operational in the super-specialty block of Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, for childless couples.
- ✓ On August 14, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)/In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Centre.
- ✓ The government will pay on an average Rs 5 to Rs 7 lakh for the IVF treatment.

➤ **India's First 3D-Printed Post Office**

- ✓ India's first 3D-printed post office – was inaugurated by Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Bengaluru on August 18.



- ✓ The post office, built by Larsen & Toubro Limited in just 43 days, demonstrates the rapid advancement of 3D printing technology.
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind post office was built layer by layer using quick-setting materials, and a specially created robotic arm extruder, which did the contour crafting.

➤ **Garib Kalyan Mahaabhiyan**

- ✓ Union Home Affairs and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah - launched the Garib Kalyan Mahaabhiyan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



- ✓ Under the initiative, the BJP plans to brand the achievement of bringing 1.36 crore people of the state out of the poverty line.
- ✓ A NITI Aayog report has highlighted that 1.36 crore people came out of the poverty line in Madhya Pradesh between 2019 and 2021, as compared to 2015-16.

➤ **Bapu Pariksha Parisar**

- ✓ On August 23, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar - inaugurated a state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind exclusive examination complex in Patna.



- ✓ Spread over six acres, it can host over 25,000 examinees when fully ready.
- ✓ The complex is named 'Bapu Pariksha Parisar' (Bapu Examination Complex) after Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The complex has 44 halls with a current seating capacity of 20,680 examinees for offline examination.
- ✓ The premise can host another 4,400 students for online examination in 20 halls which will be ready in the next phase.

NATIONAL

➤ **Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023**

- ✓ Lok Sabha - has passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023, on July 31, during the Parliament's ongoing Monsoon Session.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20 July, 2023 and passed post discussion on July 27.
- ✓ The bill will now be presented to the President of India before it is signed into law.
- ✓ The bill prohibits the recording or assistance in recording any film being exhibited at a cinema theatre using audio-visual devices to combat film piracy.

➤ **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill**

- ✓ On August 1, Lok Sabha - passed the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill would enable the use of a birth certificate as a single document for various purposes.
- ✓ The birth certificate will serve as a valid document for admission to an educational institution, registration of marriage, appointment to a government job, issuance of driving licence and preparation of voters' list.
- ✓ The bill will also help create a national and state level database of registered births and deaths, which would ensure efficient and transparent delivery of public services and social benefits.

Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order Amendment Bill

- ✓ The Constitution Order Bill provides for inclusion of "Mahra" and "Mahara" communities of Chhattisgarh in the list of SCs.
- ✓ They are synonyms of "Mahar" which is already considered a Dalit community.
- ✓ The Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to provide a fixed 50-year production lease for offshore minerals and regulate mining in maritime zones of India.
- ✓ It allows the government to reserve offshore areas that are not held under any operating right.

➤ **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023**

- ✓ On August 2, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 by a voice vote.
- ✓ It seeks to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- ✓ The bill intends to grant Exploration Licence to private sector players for critical minerals.

- ✓ It envisages the exploration licence-holder getting a share of the premium to be paid by the mining leaseholder.
- **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023**
- ✓ On August 3, the Lok Sabha - passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 by a voice vote.



- ✓ The bill was tabled by home minister Amit Shah in Parliament on August 1.
- ✓ The bill will give the central government primacy over the Delhi government on appointment of officers belonging to the all India services and Delhi, Andaman Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli Civil Service (DANICS).
- ✓ The Bill seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023**
- ✓ On August 3, Union Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw - introduced the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The bill aims to regulate the processing of digital personal data while ensuring individuals' right to protect their data and the need to process it for lawful purposes.



- ✓ The Bill requires entities that collect personal data – called data fiduciaries – to maintain the accuracy of data, keep data secure, and delete data once their purpose has been met.
- ✓ It gives powers to the central government to order blocking of an internet platform (data fiduciary) when it is found to be engaging in repeated and serious violations on data handling.

- **Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, 2023**
- ✓ On August 4, the Lok Sabha - passed the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, 2023.
- ✓ The bill seeks to empower commander-in-chief and officer-in command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) to exercise disciplinary or administrative control over personnel of the army, air force, and navy serving under their command.
- ✓ At present, military personnel are governed by their own service acts like the Air Force Act, 1950, the Army Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957.
- ✓ Consequently, the commander of a triservice establishment is not empowered to exercise disciplinary or administrative powers over personnel from other services.
- ✓ As per the bill, the Central government will have the power to create new Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) through official notification.

- **Study In India (SII) Portal**
- ✓ The government - recently launched the Study In India (SII) portal, a one-stop platform to provide information about higher education institutions (HEIs) in India for international students.
- ✓ The portal will showcase the academic programmes in the HEIs covering undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral programmes as well courses in Indian Knowledge System (IKS) such as Yoga, Ayurveda, classical arts and more.



- ✓ The SII programme is a flagship project introduced by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2018.
- ✓ The programme aims to increase the number of international students in India and promote India as the preferred study destination, providing affordable and quality education as per global standards.
- **e-CARe (e-clearance for after life remains) Portal**
- ✓ The Central government - launched e-CARe (e-clearance for after life remains) portal recently on August 3 to facilitate fast transfer of mortal remains of Indian nationals who die abroad.

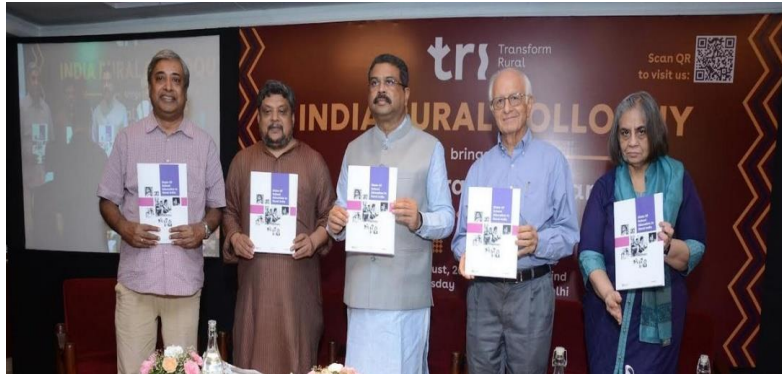


- ✓ The portal has two provisions – one for bringing dead bodies from aboard while other one is to bring mortal remains.
- ✓ This portal will ensure seamless coordination and transparency in the entire procedure.
- **Port Health Organisation (PHO)**
- ✓ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal - recently launched Port Health Organisation (PHO) module in Sagar Setu -- National Logistics Portal (Marine).



- ✓ The Port Health Organisation module has been developed as a part of 'Ease of Doing Business' and implementing the digitisation process in the maritime process.
With a focus on public health, the Port Health Organisation will conduct disease surveillance, health inspections, and quarantine measures to safeguard citizens and port workers.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) via video link to initiate the rejuvenation of 13 railway stations across the country.
- ✓ The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs.
- ✓ As part of this initiative, work on 508 stations in various States commenced, with an investment of 25,000 crore.
- **Lok Sabha passes Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023**
- ✓ The Lok Sabha passed the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023.
- ✓ The Bill amends the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, of 2005.
- ✓ The amendments decriminalize certain offences to promote ease of doing business.
- ✓ The Bill was brought in April 2023 and was later sent to the Standing Committee.
- **State of Elementary Education in Rural India - 2023**
- ✓ On August 8, Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan - launched the first 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India - 2023' report.

- ✓ This report was launched at the India Rural Colloquy 2023 in Delhi, an event that features over 100 leaders – in development, culture, business, and beyond – in over two dozen conversations held across four Indian cities.



- ✓ In this study, it was revealed that a total of 78% of parents of girls and 82% of parents of boys in rural India wanted to educate their children to graduation and above.
- ✓ The survey revealed, out of the total dropped-out children, around one-fourth of male children discontinued their education during primary schooling.
- **The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 - Revamping India's Criminal Justice System**
- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new bills in Lok Sabha to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, which aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872.
- ✓ The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, seeks to consolidate and establish general rules and principles of evidence to ensure a fair trial in criminal cases.
- ✓ The new bill aims to rectify this by modernizing the laws surrounding evidence and aligning them with the current needs and aspirations of the populace.
- **Seven New Laws Passed by Parliament**
- ✓ Seven new laws passed by Parliament this week - came into force on August 12 after they received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ The legislations that become operational are –
 - The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023
 - The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
 - The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - The National Dental Commission Act, 2023 and
 - The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras**

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways - will establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at select railway stations across the country.



- ✓ The initiative aims to make available quality medicines to all at an affordable price.
- ✓ The Ministry has identified the list of fifty stations for the pilot project.
- ✓ According to the Railways, this will enable passengers and visitors at railway stations to easily access Janaushadhi products.
- ✓ It will also create employment opportunities and generate avenues for entrepreneurs for opening Janaushadhi Kendras.

➤ **FloodWatch**

- ✓ On August 17, the central water commission (CWC) - launched an App – 'FloodWatch' – to disseminate real-time information on the flood situation in affected areas.



- ✓ Using the App, the public can check the CWC flood forecast (up to 24 hours) or flood advisory (up to 7 days) by selecting specific stations having readable and audio broadcasts.
- ✓ The App utilises near real-time river flow data from various sources.
- ✓ It collects data from 338 stations to send real-time flood updates across states and UTs.

➤ **India's Hydrogen Fuel Bus Starts from Leh**

- ✓ India's First Commercial Hydrogen fuel bus service is to be started from Leh.
- ✓ The project comes two years after the announcement of Prime Minister Modi's Vision of Carbon Neutral Ladakh.
- ✓ The project is implemented by NTPC which supplies 5 Hydrogen fuel buses to the Ladakh administration.
- ✓ A refuelling station and solar plant to produce hydrogen on 7.5 acres is built by the state-run organisation.

➤ **Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)**

- ✓ Union minister for health and family welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya, launched the 'Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) - a World Health Organisation (WHO) Managed Network'.
- ✓ The initiative has been launched in Gujarat's Gandhinagar during the second and final day of the G20 health ministers' meeting on August 19.



- ✓ The GIDH will be a WHO Managed Network ('Network of Networks') that will promote equitable access to digital health by addressing challenges such as duplication of efforts and "product-focused" digital health transformation.
- ✓ The ultimate goal of GIDH is to align efforts to support the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025.
- ✓ During the session, Mandaviya also launched the World Bank's flagship report on 'Digital in Health: Unlocking Value for Everyone'.

➤ **India announces 'Green' Hydrogen Standard**

- ✓ India has announced the definition of Green Hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India sets a criterion of 2 kg CO₂ equivalent per kg H₂ as a 12-month average emission threshold.
- ✓ The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be

fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.

➤ **Bharat NCAP(New Car Assessment Programme)**

- ✓ The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi.
- ✓ The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.

➤ **Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icon**

- ✓ Legendary Cricketer and Bharat Ratna Awardee, Sachin Tendulkar - was declared as the Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icon to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation in the electoral process.



- ✓ As per terms of the MoU, the cricketer will push EC's endeavour to raise voter awareness and educate the electorate about the value and significance of each vote in nurturing a vibrant democracy.
- ✓ The Election Commission has continuously associated itself with renowned Indians from various fields and designates them as its national icons to motivate voters.

➤ **New National Curriculum Framework**

- ✓ On August 23, Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan - released the new National Curriculum Framework.



- ✓ The proposed changes include two Board exams in an academic year besides 'on-demand exam' for any subject and making three and two languages mandatory in Class X and XII respectively.
- ✓ Based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisaged education in Indian languages, the new curriculum for Classes III to XII has made study of native Indian languages mandatory.

➤ **Tele-Law- 2.0**

- ✓ On August 25, Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal - launched Tele-Law- 2.0, an initiative of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.



- ✓ Tele-Law-2.0 seeks to integrate Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App, enhancing citizen's access to legal aid and Justice.
- ✓ This will enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ BRICS Expands to Include 6 New Members



- ✓ BRICS has invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to become new members.
 - ✓ The expansion will take effect from January 2024.
 - ✓ India has always supported the expansion of BRICS and believes that it will strengthen the organization.
 - ✓ The new members are all large emerging economies with significant potential to contribute to BRICS.
 - ✓ The expansion is seen as a way to counter the West's influence and promote a more multipolar world order.
- **78th Anniversary of Hiroshima Atomic Bombing**
- ✓ Japan, on 8 August 2023, commemorated the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in the final phase of World War II.
 - ✓ On August 6, 1945, US bomber Enola Gay set off the world's first atomic bomb dropped on a population center.
 - ✓ The American atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima was nicknamed "Little Boy."

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ First Visit to Greece in 40 Years



- ✓ **PM Narendra Modi** arrived in **Greece** today for a one-day visit.
- ✓ This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years.
- ✓ Modi is expected to hold bilateral talks with Greek Prime Minister **Kyriakos Mitsotakis** and President **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**.
- ✓ The two sides will discuss ways to further deepen their ties in areas such as maritime transport, defence, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties.

SCHEMES

➤ **Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana**

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi - approved a new Central Sector Scheme 'Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana' with a financial outlay of Rs.13000 crore for a period of five years.
- ✓ PM Modi announced the introduction of this scheme to uplift workers with traditional skills, during his Independence Day speech on August 15.
- ✓ The scheme will benefit about 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers and barbers.

➤ **'PMe-Bus Sewa**

- ✓ On August 16, the Union Cabinet - approved the 'PMe-Bus Sewa' scheme to provide financial support for operation of 10,000 electric buses in 100 cities that have 3-40 lakh population.
- ✓ The Centre will provide Rs.20,000 crore financial assistance out of the total estimated investment of Rs.57,613 crore.
- ✓ It will give "priority to cities having no organised bus service".
- ✓ The scheme has two components – augmenting the city bus service and green urban mobility initiatives.

➤ **'Lakhpati Didi' Scheme**

- ✓ In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation.
- ✓ The 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme is designed to empower women by equipping them with essential skills that pave the way for the establishment of micro-enterprises.
- ✓ The scheme's core objective is to train two crore women, thereby encouraging them to initiate and manage small-scale businesses effectively.

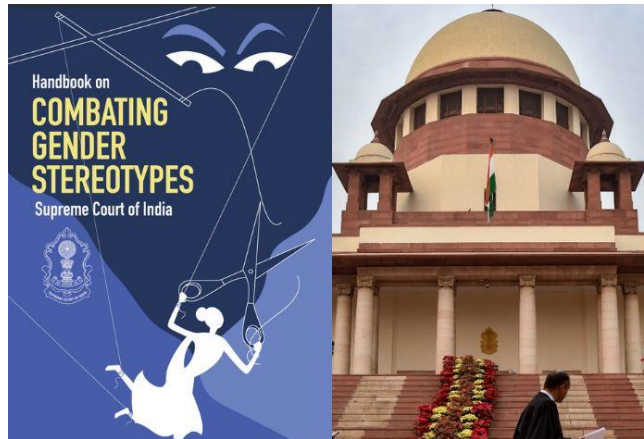
➤ **Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' - GST Reward Scheme**

- ✓ In a significant move towards enhancing transparency in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is set to launch the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme.
- ✓ This pioneering scheme, scheduled to commence from September 1, aims to promote the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability.

COURT VERDICT

➤ **Handbook On Combating Gender Stereotypes**

- ✓ The Supreme Court - released a handbook meant to be used by judges as a guide to gender-just language.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud released the 'Handbook On Combating Gender Stereotypes' on August 16.



- ✓ The 'gender stereotype handbook' contains words, phrases which judges, lawyers should avoid using in orders, judgements, pleadings, submissions, as well as the alternatives to be used in place.
 - ✓ It cited several offensive words that have been used for women in past court judgments.
- ## ➤ **'Suyamariyathai ' (Self-Respect) Marriages**
- ✓ On August 28, the Supreme Court - said lawyers can solemnise 'suyamariyathai ' (self-respect) marriages between two consenting Hindu adults and then issue marriage certificates under the amended Hindu Marriage Act in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ It sets aside a recent Madras high court order which had held that the advocates cannot preside over such marriages in their offices.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government, in 1968, had amended one of the provisions of the Act to legalise 'suyamariyathai' marriages.
 - ✓ The amendment was made with a view to avoid the need for the upper caste priests and elaborate rituals to complete wedding ceremonies.
 - ✓ These marriages too, however, needed to be registered as per law.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ G-20 Ministerial Summit on Women Empowerment

- ✓ The G-20 Ministerial Summit on Women Empowerment - concluded in Gandhinagar on August 3.



- ✓ The G20 EMPOWER Summit was organised around the theme- “Women-Led Development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth”.
- ✓ The delegates deliberated upon the five major issues pertaining to women-led development in all sectors including education, digital skills, and women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Women20 (W20) and the EMPOWER Summit under G20 are specifically dedicated to women and their inclusion for the development.

➤ 9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023

- ✓ Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of Jammu and Kashmir commenced the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Micro & Small enterprises play a crucial part in driving socio-economic transformation, especially for women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, over 74,000 SMEs are under the leadership of women, highlighting the empowerment and transformative influence these enterprises bring.

➤ Traditional Medicine Global Summit

- ✓ The first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- ✓ This event will intertwine with the G20 health ministerial meeting, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both political commitment and evidence-based actions in the realm of traditional medicine.

✓ This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites.

➤ **WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit**

✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya - inaugurated the first-ever WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on August 17.



✓ The meeting is being organised with the theme “Towards Health and Well-being for All” on the sidelines of G20 health Ministers' meeting in Gandhinagar.

✓ The Summit was expected to be one of the largest gatherings of its kind, bringing together participants from over 90 countries, distinguished members of academia, government representatives and significant players from the traditional medicine sector.

➤ **G20-DIA (Digital Innovation Alliance) Summit**

✓ Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar - inaugurated the G20-DIA (Digital Innovation Alliance) Summit in Bengaluru on August 17.



✓ The two-day summit is being held on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of DEWG (Digital Economy Working Group) under G20 grouping

✓ The summit featured discussions on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Security in the Digital Economy, and Digital Skilling, among others.

➤ **Fishermen Conference**

- ✓ On August 18, Chief minister M K Stalin - participated in the fishermen conference organized by Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperation Federation Limited (TAFCOFED) at Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district.



- ✓ During the conference, the CM announced that the fishing ban assistance to coastal fishermen will be hiked from Rs.5,000 to Rs.8,000.
- ✓ The assistance will benefit 1.79 lakh fishermen across the state.
- ✓ The subsidised diesel to mechanized boats will be increased from 18,000 litres per annum to 19,000 litres while the motorized country boats will get 4,400 litres of subsidized diesel from the existing ceiling of 4,000 litres diesel per annum.

➤ **Youth 20 Summit -2023**

- ✓ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath - jointly inaugurated the Youth 20 Summit -2023 at Varanasi on August 18.
- ✓ The Youth 20 (Y20) Summit has been organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the framework of India's G20 Presidency.
- ✓ The Y20 summit provides a platform for youth to express their voices and ideas on G20 priorities.

➤ **B20 Summit India 2023**



- ✓ The B20 Summit India 2023 started in New Delhi today.
- ✓ The summit is based on the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.
- ✓ The summit will discuss the three transitions that the world is navigating through: digital and Artificial Intelligence transition, energy transition and global value and supply chain transition.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

COMMITTEES

➤ One-Member Committee

- ✓ On August 12, chief minister M K Stalin - announced a one-member committee of retired high court judge K Chandru to suggest ways to prevent caste and ethnic divisions among school and college students.



- ✓ The Chandru committee would seek the views of academicians, students, parents, social activists and the media among others and would then submit a report to the government.
- ✓ The development comes days after the 17-year-old boy and his teenage sister belonging to Scheduled Caste were brutally assaulted by three teenage schoolmates from an intermediate caste inside their home.

DEFENCE

➤ **Malabar Naval Exercise**

- ✓ India, Japan, the US, and Australia prepare to begin the first Malabar naval exercise off Australia.
- ✓ The exercise will take place between August 11 and 22 and will witness the participation of the Quad navies (India, Australia, Japan, USA) in the mega-international event.
- ✓ The 10-day exercise aims to deepen coordination between the countries amid China's continuing aggressive moves in the Indo-Pacific.

➤ **India and UAE Bilateral Exercise**

- ✓ Two Indian Navy ships INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand arrived at Rashid Port in Dubai, UAE on August 09. The exercise is scheduled to take place from August 8 to August 11.
- ✓ The joint naval exercise between India and the United Arab Emirates, 'Zayed Talwar', will contribute to regional security and enhance coordination between the two countries.

➤ **Heron Mark-2 Drones**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself.
- ✓ The Heron Mark-2 is a medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, with a maximum range of 3,000 kilometers and an endurance of 24 hours.
- ✓ It is equipped with a variety of sensors, including a synthetic aperture radar (SAR), an electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) camera, and a laser designator.

➤ **Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A Frigate**

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu - will launch Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A frigate, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, on August 17.



- ✓ Named after a mountain range in Karnataka, Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A frigates.
- ✓ 'Vindhyagiri' is a technologically advanced Frigate and pays a fitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS Vindhyagiri, the Leander Class ASW Frigate.
- **India's First Long-Range Revolver**
- ✓ India's first long-range revolver Prabal - will be launched on August 18.



- ✓ This lightweight .32 bore revolver can meet its target up to 50 metres, more than double the range of the other revolvers being manufactured.
- ✓ It was manufactured by state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Further, the capacity of all the revolvers available in the market is only up to 20 metres, but Prabal's range is up to 50 metres.
- **INS Kulish**
- ✓ INS Kulish participated in the celebration of Singapore's 77th Independence Day.
- ✓ As part of its on-going engagement in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore.



- ✓ Currently embarked on a four-day tour, INS Kulish is participating in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise.
- ✓ Hailing from the Andaman and Nicobar Command's Port Blair, the corvette's primary mission is to contribute to the Harbour Phase of SEACAT 2023.
- **9th International Military-Technical Forum, Army-2023**
- ✓ The 9th international military-technical forum, Army-2023 - is taking place in Moscow region from 14-20 August.



- ✓ Defense ministers from 108 countries have been invited to the forum where around 1,500 defense industry companies are expected to present their production.
- ✓ BrahMos Corporation, a joint venture between India and Russia, is also part of the expo.
- **Passage Exercise**
- ✓ On August 21, INS Sunayna - reached Durban and conducted a "passage exercise" with South African warship 'SAS King Sekhukhune I'.
- ✓ The warship is now at Durban in a move to boost goodwill, mutual cooperation and "interoperability" between the navies of the two countries.

- ✓ During the port call, the two navies will share best practices and experiences through professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges and cross deck visits.



- ✓ INS Sunayna is a Saryu-class patrol vessel with a displacement of 2,200-tonne.
- **LCA Tejas Successfully Fires ASTRA BVR Air-to-Air Missile**



- ✓ The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile.
- ✓ The missile was fired from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 feet.
- ✓ The test was a success and all the objectives were met.
- ✓ The ASTRA missile is a state-of-the-art weapon that can engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets.
- ✓ The successful test is a major step towards making India self-reliant in defense production.
- **Exercise Bright Star**
- ✓ An Indian tri-service contingent - will participate in Exercise Bright Star 2023 at Cairo Air Force Base in Egypt from August 27 to September 16.



- ✓ It is a multinational tri-service exercise being held between India, Egypt, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.
- ✓ It is a biennial exercise and will see participation from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for the first time ever.
- ✓ The main aim of this exercise is to enhance cooperation and share best practices between the participating nations.

- **AUSINDEX**
- ✓ 5 edition of AUSINDEX was organized from 22-25 August in Sydney.
- ✓ Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) took part in the 5th edition of AUSINDEX in Sydney.
- ✓ AUSINDEX included a series of complex exercises in all three domains of maritime operations.
- ✓ The exercise's main aim was to reaffirm close linkages and interoperability between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

- **Fifth Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Bangladesh**
- ✓ India and Bangladesh organized the fifth Annual Defence Dialogue on 28th August in Dhaka. The Annual Defence Dialogue is the highest institutionalised interactive mechanism between India and Bangladesh.



- ✓ Both countries have reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation activities. They also expressed satisfaction at the increasing defence cooperation engagements.
- ✓ The Armed Forces of both sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple fields and increase engagements for the future of the relations of both countries.
- **Mahendragiri - India's New Warship**
- India's defence sector is poised to achieve a significant milestone as the country's latest warship, Mahendragiri, is set to be launched on September 1 at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.



- ✓ The launch of Mahendragiri, the seventh and final stealth frigate of Project 17A, symbolizes the remarkable progress India has made in constructing a self-sufficient naval force.

AWARDS

➤ Thagaisal Thamizhar Award for 2023

- ✓ On August 1, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award for 2023 will be presented to Dravidar Kazhagam president K Veeramani.



- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin will present this award to Veeramani on August 15 during the independence day celebrations at Fort St George.
 - ✓ 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award was instituted by the state government in 2021 to honour eminent personalities who contributed to the development of Tamil Nadu and Tamils.
- 77th Independence Day Awards - TN

Award Name	Recipient
Thakaisal Tamil Award	Dr. K. Veeramani
ABJ. Abdul Kalam Award	Dr. W. B. Vasantha Gandaswamy
Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Adventure	Na. Muthamishelvi
Chief Minister's Good Governance Award	Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency Dr E Theranirajan W. Badrinarayanan
Tamil Nadu Government Awards for outstanding service to the differently abled	T. Jayakumar - Best doctor Shanthi Nilayam - Best institution Ratan Vidyaakar - Best social worker M/S Teddy Exports - Best private employer Ramanathapuram central cooperative bank - best district central cooperative bank
Outstanding contribution to social welfare and outstanding service	Village light - welfare of women Best charity D. Stanley Peter - Great social worker
Best Corporations	Tiruchirappalli Tambaram
Best Municipal Corporation	Rameswaram Thirutharapoondi Mannargudi
Best municipalities	Vikravandi, Villupuram Alangudi, Pudukottai Veerakalputur, Salem

➤ Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- ✓ The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was granted to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in Pune, Maharashtra, during a ceremony that commemorated the 103rd death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.



- ✓ The prestigious award, instituted by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983, aims to honour the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.
- ✓ Shri Narendra Modi became the 41st distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition.

➤ **State Award for Organ Donation**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has won the best-performing state award for organ donations at the national level.
- ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian received the award from union minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event held to commemorate the 13th National Organ Donation Day on August 3.



- ✓ The National Organ - Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) under the Union Health Ministry announces the award every year for best performance in organ donation and transplantation
- ✓ Until 2020, Tamil Nadu received the award for the best State for the excellence in the organ donation program in India for six consecutive years.

➤ **Udyog Ratna**

- ✓ On August 19, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde - presented the state's first 'Udyog Ratna' award to veteran industrialist Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata for his outstanding work in the industry sector.



- ✓ The CM presented the award to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons at his residence in South Mumbai along with a cheque of Rs.25 lakh.
- ✓ The Maharashtra government introduced the prestigious Udyog Ratna award this year and Tata was the first person to receive the award.

➤ **69th National Film Awards**

- ✓ The winners of the 69th National Film Awards - were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi on August 24.
- ✓ The Best Feature Film award - Rocketry: The Nambi Effect (Hindi).
- ✓ The Best Non-Feature Film award - Ek Tha Gaon directed by Srishti Lakhera.
- ✓ Hindi movie "Kashmir Files" - Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration.
- ✓ Telugu movie "RRR" - Award for Best Popular Film.
- ✓ Best Actor - Allu Arjun for his stellar performance in the movie Pushpa.
- ✓ Best Actress Award - Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon have become joint winners for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively.
- ✓ Telugu blockbuster 'RRR' won six awards, while Sanjay Leela Bhansali's biopic 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' was a close second with five awards.
- ✓ **'Kadaisi Vivasayi' (The Last Farmer) won the best Tamil film award.**

➤ **India Smart Cities Awards (ISCA)**

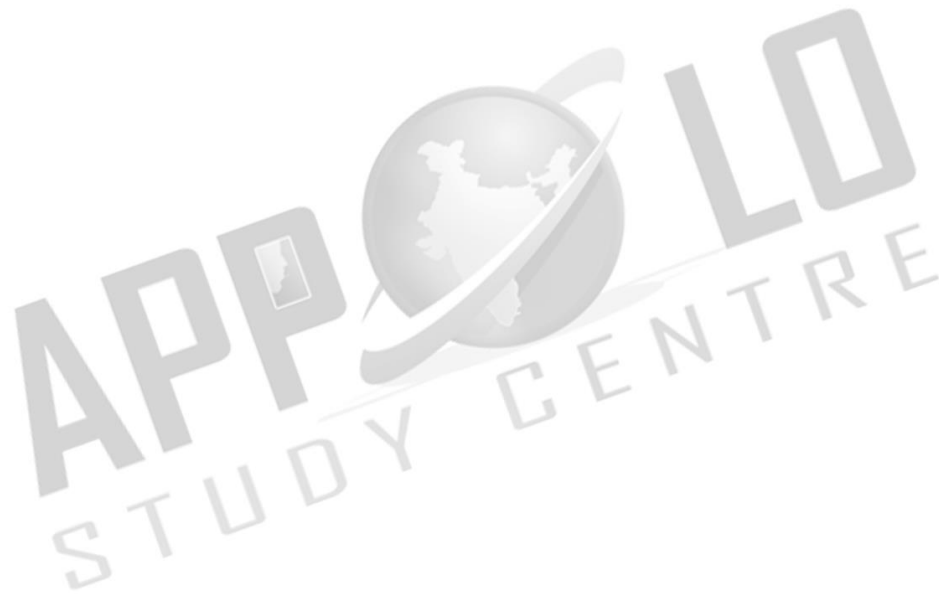
- ✓ On August 25, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry - announced the winners of the fourth edition of India Smart Cities Awards (ISCA) under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) for the year 2022.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the first and second best performers, while Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have jointly bagged the third spot.
- ✓ Among the Union territories, Chandigarh has got the highest score.
- ✓ Indore, which has been the cleanest city for the past six years in a row, has bagged the best "National Smart City Award" of 2022 for exemplary performance among the 100 smart cities.

➤ **Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour**

- ✓ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by Greek President **Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou** in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government.



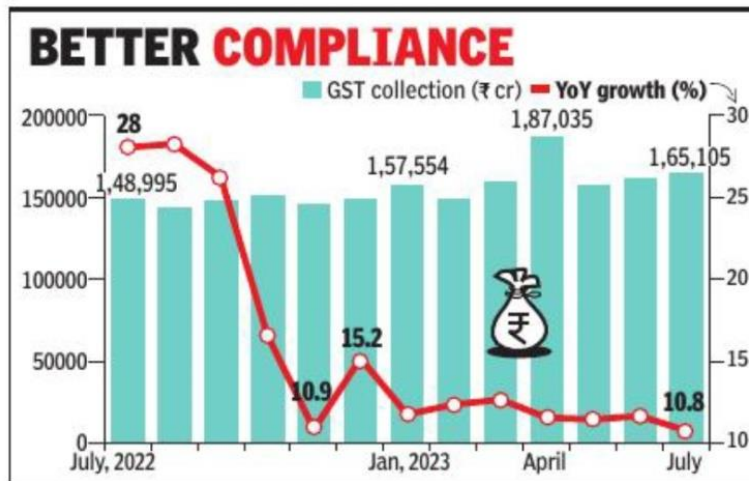
The citation for the award said that it was being given to PM Modi “in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Greece and India”.



ECONOMY

➤ GST collection - July 2023

- ✓ The GST collection for the month of July - was recorded at Rs 1,65,105 crore, registering an 11% year-on-year growth, according to figures released by the Ministry of Finance on August 1.



- ✓ Out of the total collection, CGST stood at Rs 29,773 crore, SGST at Rs 37,623 crore and IGST at Rs 85,930 crore and cess at Rs 11,779 crore
- ✓ This is also the fifth time when monthly GST collection crossed the mark of Rs 1.60 lakh crore since its inception.

➤ Zepto

- ✓ Mumbai-based quick commerce startup Zepto - has become the country's first unicorn of 2023.



- ✓ It was founded by Stanford University dropouts Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra.
- ✓ The startup has bagged afresh \$200 million (around Rs 1,653 crore) in funding led by new investor StepStoneGroup at a valuation of \$1.4 billion.
- ✓ Zepto, which competes with Swiggy Instamart, Blinkit and struggling peer Dunzo, had last raised \$200 million at a valuation of \$900 million in May last year.

- ✓ The startup Zepto makes \$50-60 million in sales per month.
- **Tamil Nadu's gross state domestic product (GSDP)**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's gross state domestic product (GSDP) - grew at 8.19% for the year 2022-23 as against India's GDP growth rate of 7.24% during the same period.
- ✓ This was announced by State minister for finance and human resources management Thangam Thennarasu on August 28.

TN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The growth rate of TN GSDP was 7.92% and 8.19% in 2021-22 and 2022-23 ➤ The growth rate of Indian GDP during the two years was 9.05% and 7.24% ➤ Indian economy had a negative growth during Covid-19 and registered higher growth post-Covid in 2021-22, while TN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remained positive, but had a de-growth ➤ Inflation index values for Tamil Nadu were 7.92 and 5.97, while all-India values were 9.31 and 8.82 during 2021-22 and 2022-23 # Per capita income of TN in 2021-22 and 2022-23 was ₹1.55 lakh and ₹1.67 lakh, while for India it was ₹92,583 and ₹98,374

- ✓ However, India's GDP growth rate was higher at 9.05% in the year 2021-22 during Covid-19 pandemic as against Tamil Nadu's GSDP growth of 7.92% during the same period.
- ✓ The proportion of GSDP of Tamil Nadu to GDP of India in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are 8.82% and 8.68% at current prices and 9.00% and 9.08% at constant prices.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranked 2nd in terms of GSDP at current prices and 3rd in terms of GSDP at constant prices in 2021-22.

APPOINTMENT

➤ Ignatius Delos Flora

- ✓ Ignatius Delos Flora - became the first woman to reach the rank of Major General in the Military Nursing Service.
- ✓ On August 2, the Twitter handle of the Indian Army's Northern Command congratulated Major General Flora, who hails from Kanyakumari district.
- ✓ Shortly after this, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin reposted the same and congratulated Major General Ignatius Delos Flora for her achievement.



- ✓ The 38-year service of Flora includes the handling of Covid-19 as well.

➤ Srettha Thavisin

- ✓ Srettha Thavisin from the Pheu Thai Party - was elected as the 30th Prime Minister of Thailand.



- ✓ Srettha Thavisin became the first new leader to take charge of Thailand since 2014, when former army chief Prayuth Chan-Ocha staged a coup and became Prime Minister.
- ✓ Srettha, a former real estate tycoon, will lead a coalition of 11 parties assembled by Pheu Thai, for the elections held in May.

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Ruth John Koyyala**

- ✓ Ruth John Koyyala, a 29-year-old from Telangana - has created history by becoming the first in India to qualify for a postgraduate degree in medicine under the transgender category.



- ✓ She is currently working as a medical officer at the state-run Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in the Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) section that deals with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ The 28-year-old, Dr. Koyyala had qualified for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-PG) in 2021 and was denied a seat under the trans category, and instead was shortlisted for counselling under the female category.

➤ **Miss Diva Universe 2023**

- ✓ Shweta Sharda from Chandigarh - has won the Miss Diva Universe 2023 title at the beauty pageant finale held in Mumbai on August 27.



- ✓ Sharda will now represent India at the 72nd Miss Universe pageant to be held in El Salvador in November.
- ✓ Rajasthan's Sonal Kukreja was crowned Miss Diva Supranational 2023 and Trisha Shetty from Karnataka secured the Miss Diva 2023 runner-up title.

- ✓ Sonal Kukreja will be a representative for India at the 12th edition of Miss Supranational pageant.
- **N T Ramarao**
- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu - released a commemorative coin of Rs.100 denomination to mark the birth centenary of legendary actor and former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, N T Ramarao.



- ✓ In an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 28, President Murmu unveiled the special coin in the presence of NTR's family members.
- ✓ It has a diameter of 44mm with NTR's picture, and the wording, Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao Satajayanti, engraved in Hindi on one side, and the lions emblem with Ashoka Chakra on the other side.

➤ **Miss Earth India 2023**

- ✓ Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held on August 26 in New Delhi.



- ✓ The 20-year-old student, dancer, and taekwondo player from Jaipur, Rajasthan succeeds last year's winner Vanshika Parmar, and will now prepare to represent India at the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI)

- ✓ India's third lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3 - will attempt a lunar orbit insertion (LOI) on August 5.
- ✓ The spacecraft has covered about two-thirds of the distance to the moon and LOI is set for August 5, around 7pm.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 had entered the moon's sphere of influence on August 1.
- ✓ A successful LOI will mark a key milestone for the spacecraft.
- ✓ The mission will complete 22 days on August 5 since Chandrayaan-3 was launched on July 14, leaving 17 crucial days before Isro attempts to soft-land Vikram lander on August 23.

➤ Hemidactylus of Geckos

- ✓ In a groundbreaking discovery for the field of herpetology, a team of researchers from Maharashtra, Assam and Tamil Nadu - has identified and described a new species of genus Hemidactylus of geckos, in Madurai district.





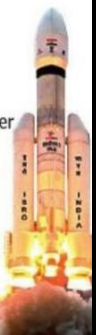
- ✓ It is the first time that an unknown species of Hemidactylus geckos was found in south India, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity.
- ✓ The research, led by Amit Sayyed, involved a comprehensive examination of morphological and molecular evidence.
- ✓ Based on the findings, the new species was confirmed as a member of the Hemidactylus acanthopholis and is named Hemidactylus multisulcatus.

➤ Aditya-L1 Satellite

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation is planning its next launch of the Aditya L1 satellite this month.
- ✓ It will be the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.
- ✓ The satellite will carry seven instruments to study the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms and their impact on the environment around Earth.

➤ Agnibaan SOrTeD (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator)

- ✓ Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos has commenced the integration process of its groundbreaking launch vehicle, Agnibaan SOrTeD (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator).
 - ✓ The Agnilet engine, a marvel of innovation, is an entirely 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kN semi-cryogenic engine.
 - ✓ This innovative propulsion system marks a departure from conventional rocket engines and showcases.
- **Maisie's Galaxy**
- ✓ The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) - has confirmed the existence of one of the earliest galaxies ever discovered.
 - ✓ The galaxy, named Maisie's Galaxy, is now confirmed to have formed about 390 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was still developing.
 - ✓ The discovery was made by a team led by Steven Finkelstein, an astronomer at the University of Texas at Austin.
 - ✓ Finkelstein named the galaxy after his daughter as it was discovered on her birthday.
- **India 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon**
- ✓ India successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, making it the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China.

ACE OF SPACE: OUR MOONMENT IN THE SUN		OVER THE MOON	
<p>THE LANDING AS IT HAPPENED</p> <p>5.43pm Power descent begins with rough braking phase. Vikram lander's velocity at 1,680m/s</p> <p>Next 11.5 mins Lander velocity reduced to 358m/sec. Altitude down from 25km to 7.4km</p> <p>➤ In next 10secs, it descends to 6.4km</p> <p>Next 3 mins Altitude reduced to 800m</p> <p>➤ Vertical descent begins. Vikram hovers at 149.8m for around 22 seconds. In next 38 seconds, it descends to 10m above lunar surface</p> <p>➤ Vikram takes 9 seconds for final descent of 10m</p> <p>6.03pm Touchdown!</p>	 <p>Start of a golden era... No one in the world can do it like we do</p> <p>ISRO CHAIRPERSON S SOMANATH</p>	<p>AFTER LANDING</p> <p>Vikram lander deploys its solar panels</p> <p>After midnight, rover rolled on to Moon</p> <p>Health of instruments on the lander and rover to be checked</p> <p>Rover's movement on Moon surface to begin</p> <p>Lander and rover to start sending data</p> 	<p>CHANDRAYAAN-1</p> <p>Launch Date October 2008</p> <p>Payload An orbiter and a Moon impact probe</p> <p>Result Successful</p> <p>CHANDRAYAAN-2</p> <p>Launch Date July 22, 2019</p> <p>Landing Date September 6, 2019</p> <p>Payloads Orbiter, lander, rover</p> <p>Result Orbiter in Moon's orbit, lander crashed minutes before touchdown</p> <p>CHANDRAYAAN-3</p> <p>Launch Date July 14, 2023</p> <p>Landing Date August 23, 2023</p> <p>Payloads Propulsion module, lander, rover</p> <p>Status Lander soft-lands on Moon, Pragyan rover deployed</p> 

- ✓ The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before.
 - ✓ The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.
- **National Projects Excellence Award**

- ✓ The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) - has received the prestigious National Projects Excellence Award from the Indian Project Management Associates (PMA).
- ✓ This award was received by ICF for the design and manufacture of Vande Bharat project, India's first semi high speed train-set.
- ✓ This award is given by the PMA for projects of National Excellence every year.

➤ **e-Crop**

- ✓ Thiruvananthapuram-based Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) - has developed 'e-Crop' (electronic crop) to assist farm sector.
- ✓ The e-Crop is an Internet of Things (IoT) device that aims to provide crop-specific agro-advisories to farmers through text messages.
- ✓ The device calculates nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and water requirements of field crops with an aim of minimising the yield gap.
- ✓ The e-Crop based smart farming is highly advantageous than traditional farming because of the precise application of fertiliser and water via fertigation based on the climate and real-time plant growth.

➤ **Namoh 108**

- ✓ Union minister for science and technology Jitendra Singh - unveiled a new type of lotus flower called "Namoh 108" in Lucknow on August 19.



- ✓ This unique lotus has 108 petals and was developed by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), a plant-based research center in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.
- ✓ This new type of lotus is better at withstanding different weather conditions, unlike other types of lotus.
- ✓ Unlike others that only flower for about four to five months, this lotus remains in bloom for a more extended period.
- ✓ It can bloom anytime from March to December, making it the longest-lasting among lotus varieties.

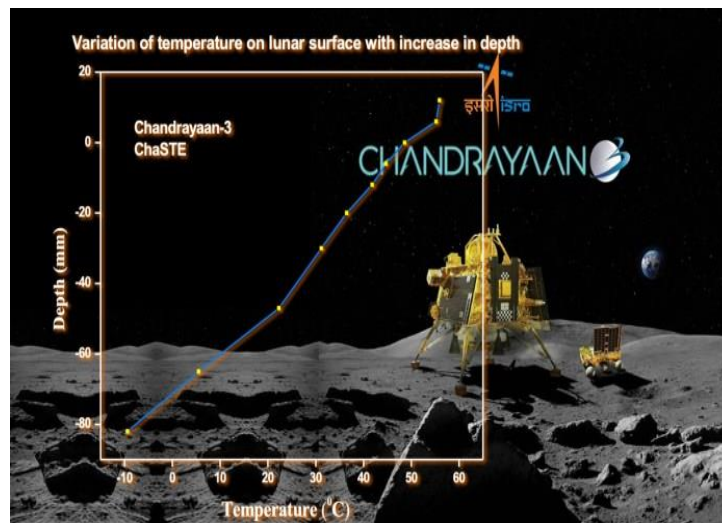
➤ India's Pragyan Rover Rolls Out on Moon



- ✓ India's **Pragyan rover** has rolled out on the lunar surface, marking a historic moment for the country's space program.
- ✓ The rover is made in India and is designed to explore the moon's south pole.
- ✓ It has six wheels and is equipped with various instruments to study the **moon's geology, mineralogy, and atmosphere**.
- ✓ The rover's deployment is a major milestone for India's lunar exploration program and will help scientists learn more about the moon.

➤ Moon's Thermo-physical Properties

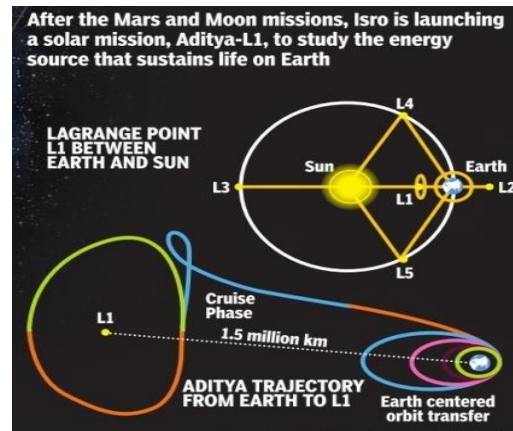
- ✓ On August 27, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - released the first set of data regarding the Moon's thermo-physical properties.
- ✓ The current set of data has been obtained from the ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) payload which is onboard the Vikram lander.
- ✓ This is the first data Isro has officially announced from the Moon after Vikram's landing on August 23.
- ✓ According to ISRO, the ChaSTE payload is being used to understand the thermal behaviour of the lunar surface



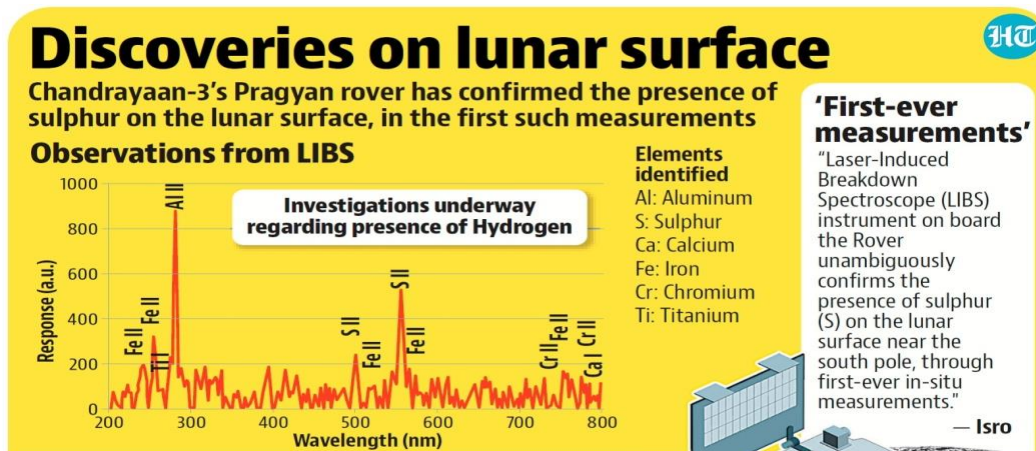
- ✓ ChaSTE measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole by means of 10 individual temperature sensors mounted on it.

➤ Aditya-L1

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - is set to launch its first-ever space-based solar observatory, Aditya-L1, on September 2.
- ✓ Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed for providing remote observations of the solar corona and in-situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth Lagrangian point), which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.



- ✓ The Aditya-L1 mission will be the first dedicated Indian space mission for observations of the Sun.
 - ✓ The mission to study the Sun will be the country's fifth biggest mission after the Mangalyaan programme and the three Chandrayaan missions (1,2 and 3).
- ### ➤ Sulphur in the Lunar Surface
- ✓ On August 29, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - said the Pragyan rover has confirmed the presence of sulphur in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements.



- ✓ The rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Iron, Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon and Oxygen, while the search for hydrogen is underway.
- ✓ The rover and lander continues to obtain science data via attached payloads.
- ✓ India achieved history on August 23 by becoming the first country to touch down on the moon's South Pole.
- ✓ It is also the fourth country – after the US, China, and Russia – to have successfully landed on the moon's surface.

➤ **World's First Ethanol-Run Toyota Innova Car**

- ✓ Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari introduced the world to a remarkable innovation: a 100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's Innova HyCross car.



- ✓ The newly unveiled car stands as the world's premier BS-VI (Stage-II) electrified flex-fuel vehicle, demonstrating the union of cutting-edge technology and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

➤ **World-First Seven-Minute Cancer Treatment Job**

- ✓ The UK's National Health Service (NHS) has gained approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to offer an "under the skin" injection treatment for cancer using the immunotherapy drug atezolizumab.



- ✓ This revolutionary approach aims to dramatically cut treatment times by up to 75%. Atezolizumab, usually given intravenously via a drip, can take around 30 to 60 minutes, making vein access challenging for some patients.
- ✓ The new injection method takes only seven minutes.

➤ **Super Blue Moon**

- ✓ India - witnessed a rare Super Blue Moon across the country on August 30.



- ✓ The Super Blue Moon appeared about 14% larger and 30% brighter than a typical full moon, since the moon will be closer to Earth than usual.
- ✓ This phenomenon is a rare astronomical event that occurs when a full moon coincides with both a blue moon and a perigee moon
- ✓ A perigee moon is a full moon that occurs when the moon is at its closest point to Earth in its orbit.
- ✓ This happens about once every two and a half years.

SPORTS

➤ Asian Champions Trophy Hockey

- ✓ The seventh edition of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey - is being held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai from August 3 to 12.



- ✓ India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and the People's Republic of China are the countries participating in the tournament.
- ✓ For the first time in 16 years, International Hockey will return to Chennai's Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium.

➤ Gukesh D

- ✓ India's 17-year-old Grandmaster Gukesh D - has become India's number one chess player after overtaking Viswanathan Anand.



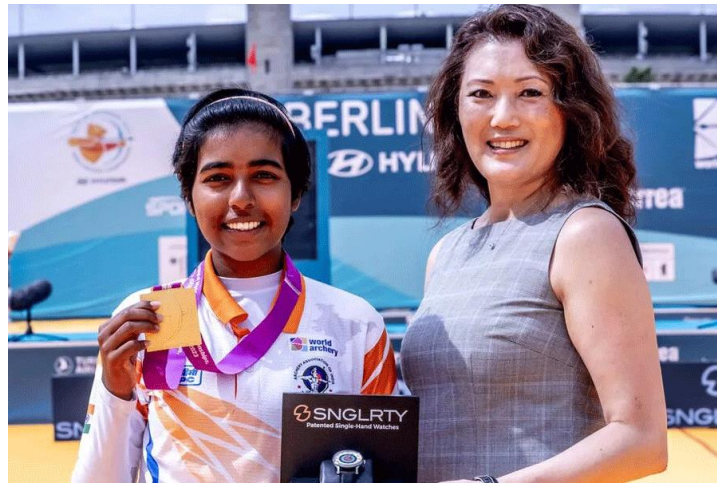
#	Name	Classic
1	Carlsen, Magnus	2838.4
2	Caruana, Fabiano	2786.4
3	Nakamura, Hikaru	2781.4
4	Ding, Liren	2780.0
5	Nepomniachtchi, Ian	2778.6
6	Firouzja, Alireza	2777.0
7	So, Wesley	2766.4
8	Giri, Anish	2763.6
9	Gukesh D	2755.9
10	Anand, Viswanathan	2754.0

- ✓ Currently, in Live Ratings, Gukesh is ranked 9th in the world in classic chess with a rating of 2755.9 while Anand (ELO rating 2754) is at 10th place.
- ✓ Gukesh became the youngest player to reach the 2750 rating recently, breaking the record held by Magnus Carlsen.

The Chennai-born Gukesh, who made it to the top 100 in the World in April 2022, was ranked 11th in the World with a rating of 2751 when the FIDE Rankings were last published on August 1.

➤ **Aditi Swami**

- ✓ On August 5, Indian archer, Aditi Swami - became the youngest-ever world champion at 17 years.



- ✓ In the individual women's compound event final in Berlin, Aditi defeated Mexico's Andrea Bercerra with a near perfect score of 149 out of a possible 150 points to win the country's first ever individual title at senior level.
- ✓ The class 12 student also became a double world champion in less than two months, having won the Under-18 title in Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland on July 8.
- ✓ She is now the first individual world champion in archery from India, across any discipline and gender.

➤ **Commonwealth Youth Games**

- ✓ India's Shoan Ganguly - became only the third Indian swimmer to win a medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
- ✓ The 18-year-old Bengaluru based swimmer claimed silver in the 400m individual medley event on August 7.
- ✓ Others to have won medals at the Commonwealth Youth Games are Virdhawal Khade and Suriyo Mondol.



- ✓ Ganguly, who trains at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre, registered the best Indian timing, surpassing Aryan Nehra's record set at the Hyderabad Nationals last month.

➤ **Asian Champions Trophy 2023**

- ✓ On August 12, the Indian hockey team - defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.
- ✓ With this win, India clinched the title for a record 4th time.



- ✓ With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament, followed by Pakistan with three titles.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government announced a cash award of Rs.5 lakh for each member of the Indian team.

➤ **Chennai Formula Racing Circuit**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin - launched the Chennai Formula Racing Circuit on August 16.



- ✓ The 3.5 km circuit track is located around the Island Grounds in the heart of the Chennai city and follows an anti-clockwise layout with 19 corners.
- ✓ Also, it would become the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.
- ✓ This new street circuit, only the second in India, will also host the 2023 F4 Indian Championship and Indian Racing League on December 9-10.

➤ **Junior (Under-20) World Championship**

- ✓ India's Antim Panghal - created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win back-to-back junior (Under-20) world championship titles.



- ✓ Antim secured a dominant 4-0 victory over Ukraine's Mariia Yefremova in the 53kg division showdown in Amman, Jordan on August 18.
- ✓ The wrestler from Haryana's entered record books after becoming the World U20 champion with a win over Kazakhstan's Atlyn Shagayeva in Sofia last year.

➤ **Women's World Cup**

- ✓ Spain - beat England by a margin of 1-0 in the final of the Women's World Cup at Accor Stadium in Sydney, Australia on August 20.



- ✓ Spain's Olga Carmona scored the lone goal of the final to give her country their first-ever WWC title.
- ✓ With this win, Spain also became only the second nation to clinch both the men's and the women's World Cups after Germany.

➤ **FIDE Chess World Cup**

- ✓ Norway's World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen - defeated Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa in tiebreakers in the final of the FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan on August 24.



- ✓ The world No. 1 beat Praggnanandhaa in the first tie-break match and then ended the second game with a draw, to win the finals 1.5-0.5
- ✓ The two classical games on August 22 and 23 had ended in draws forcing the final to a tie-break.
- ✓ For the five-time World Championship winner Carlsen, who has been at the top of the sport for 12 successive years, this was his first-ever World Cup title.

➤ **World Athletics Championships**

- ✓ On August 27, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra - clinched the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.



- ✓ With the historic achievement, the 25-year-old became the first-ever Indian athlete to secure a gold medal at this prestigious championship.
- ✓ Displaying exceptional skill, Chopra recorded a stellar throw of 88.17 meters during his second attempt.
- ✓ Chopra has now become only the second Indian -- after legendary shooter Abhinav Bindra -- to simultaneously hold the Olympics and World Championships title.

OBITUARY

➤ V S Arunachalam

- ✓ Eminent scientist and former scientific advisor to the defence minister V S Arunachalam - passed away in California at the age of 87 years.




- ✓ Arunachalam was the founder-chairman of Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a not-for-profit think tank, in Bengaluru.
- ✓ He served as the scientific adviser to the defence minister from 1982 to 1992.
- ✓ Arunachalam was conferred the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan.
- ✓ He was a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Indian National Academy of Engineering.

➤ Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao

- ✓ Renowned Indian-American mathematician and statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, 102, popularly known as C R Rao - passed away on August 23.

REMEMBERING THE LEGEND



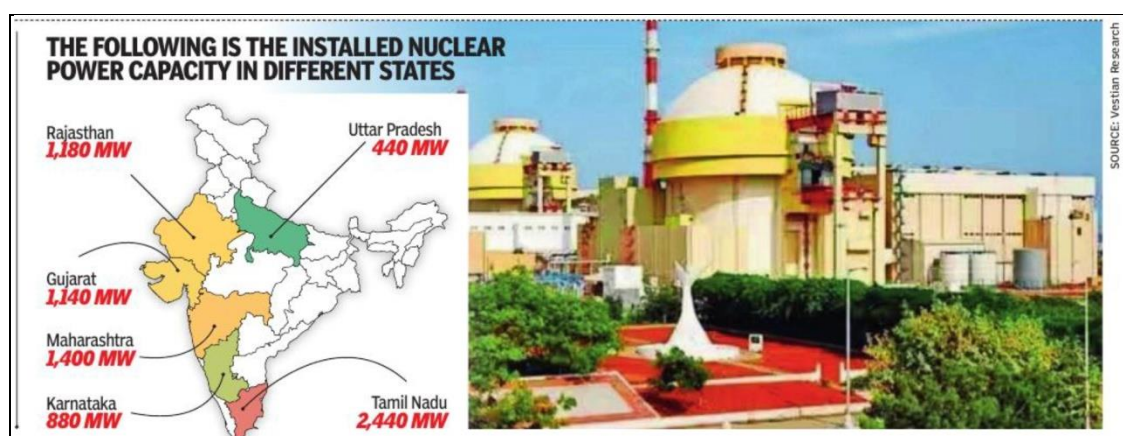
- CR Rao born in a Telugu family in Hadagali, Karnataka, in 1920
- Completed MSc in maths from Andhra University and MA in statistics from Calcutta University in 1943
- Obtained PhD from UK, held top positions in premier institutions in India & abroad
- Awarded Padma Bhushan in 1968 & Padma Vibhushan in 2001
- Bagged National Medal of Science presented by ex-US President George Bush in 2002
- Authored several books in diverse fields such as estimation theory, multivariate analysis, matrix algebra

- ✓ He was recently awarded the 2023 international prize in statistics, which is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field.
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1968 and Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He was further awarded the National Medal of Science by the then US President George Bush in 2002.

REPORT

➤ States with High Installed Nuclear Power Capacity

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has the highest installed nuclear power capacity in the country.
- ✓ The state has 2,440 MW of installed nuclear power capacity and accounts for nearly 33% of the total installed nuclear power capacity in India, which is 7,480 MW, spread over six states.
- ✓ The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 2.8% in the year 2022-23.
- ✓ These details are furnished by Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh in Rajya Sabha recently.



➤ States of Cities: Towards Low Carbon and Resilient Pathways July 2023

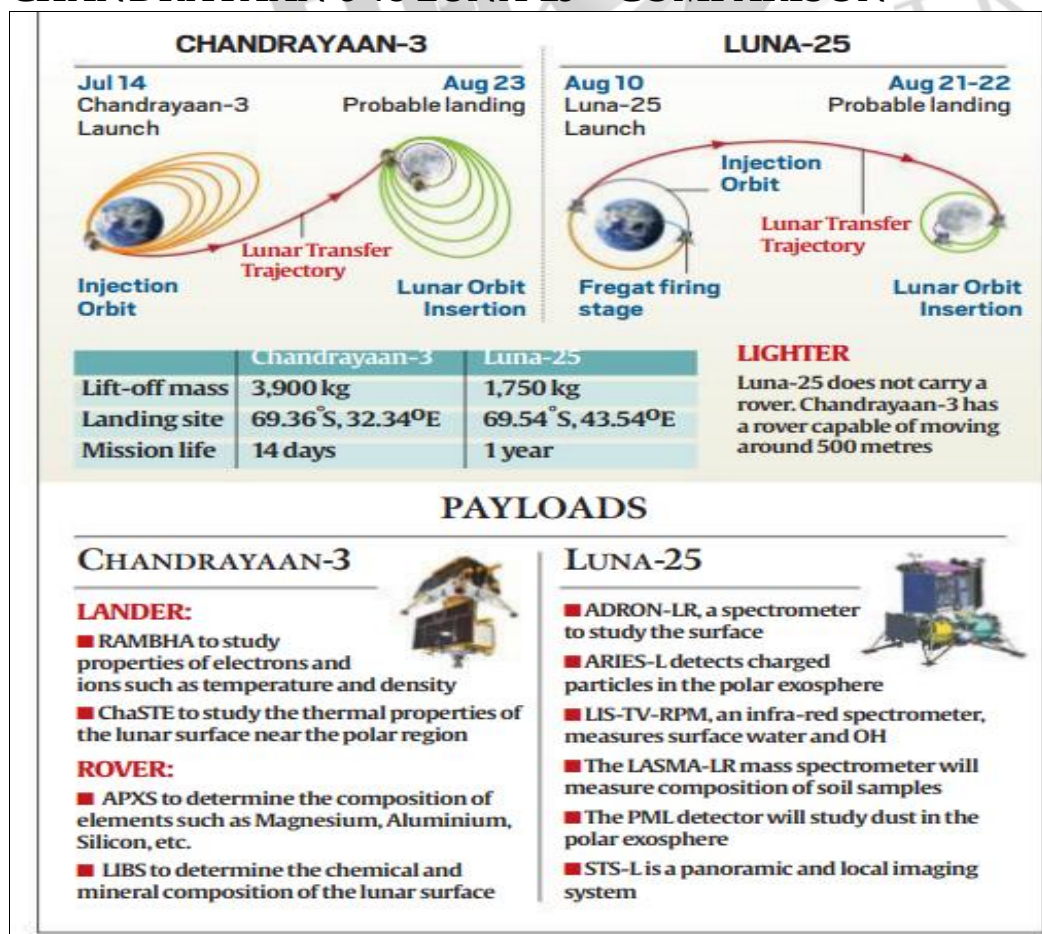
- ✓ Coimbatore - topped the cities in the state with three stars in the 'States of Cities: Towards Low Carbon and Resilient Pathways July 2023' report.
- ✓ The report was prepared by the National Institute of Urban Affairs under the Union housing and urban affairs ministry and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, South Asia.
- ✓ The ranking under the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 was based on the adaptation and mitigation measures taken by the urban local body towards climate action.

MITIGATION MEASURES IN PIPELINE

COIMBATORE CITY	TRICHY CITY	TIRUNELVELI CITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public bicycle sharing system Electrification of public transport by replacing 500 diesel buses with electric buses Biomining of legacy waste Waste incineration facility with 250 tonnes daily capacity Bio-methanation plants with a capacity of 200 tonnes a day Bio-CNG plant with a capacity of 200 tonnes a day Deployment of floating solar power plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCADA for improving efficiency of water supply through regular monitor provisions Plant to treat additional 100 MLD waste water Plastic waste resource recovery centre with a capacity of 25 tonnes a day Bio-gas plant with a capacity of 100 tonnes a day Biomining of legacy waste Green bus terminal and 9.6MW solar power plant at Panjappur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCADA for improving efficiency of water supply through real time data Tech upgrade in sewage management to cut cost Upgrade of underground sewerage network Preparation of comprehensive mobility plan Identification of non-motorised transport corridor Promotion of electric-vehicle mobility

- ✓ The three-star status indicates that the city has institutional mechanisms in place or is in the process of developing climate action plans.
- ✓ Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli were among the 15 cities in India assessed for the climate resilience goals in the report
- ✓ The findings mentioned in the report are based on the 2020-21 financial year data.

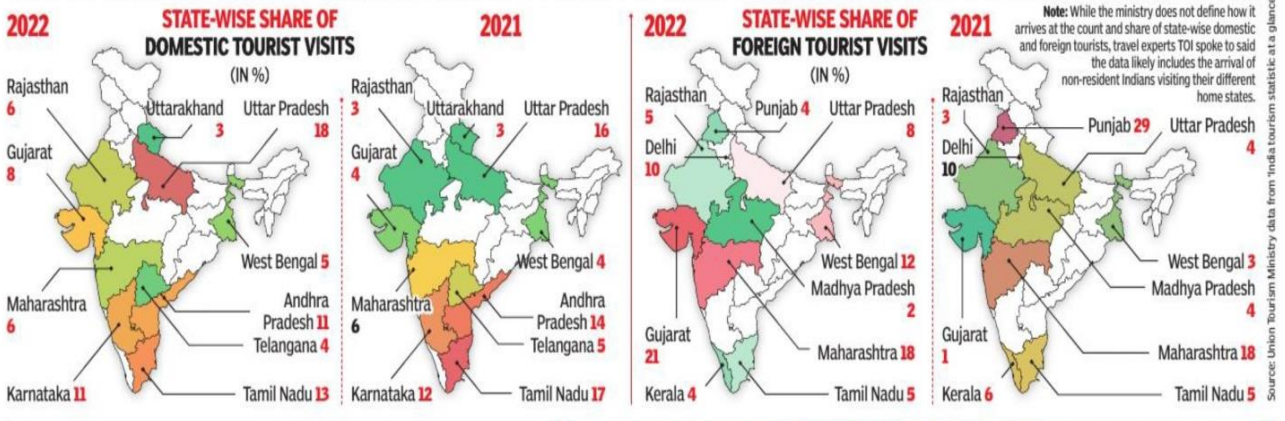
➤ CHANDRAYAAN-3 vs LUNA-25 - COMPARISON



➤ Domestic Tourism

TAMIL NADU IN SECOND SPOT IN DOMESTIC TOURISM

Travel sector and tourist activity picked up across India in 2022 after a Covid-induced slump in 2021. Data from the Union tourism ministry shows that domestic tourist visits in all of India stood at 1,731 million in 2022 compared to 677 million in 2021. Similarly, the year saw 8.5 million foreign tourist visits compared to around 1 million in 2021. In case of foreign tourism, Tamil Nadu was at the sixth spot in 2022, attracting more than 0.4 million foreign tourists compared to just around 57,622 tourists in 2021. The state was in second spot for domestic tourism. Events like the International Chess Olympiad and other business, sporting and cultural events helped raise the count.



➤ State of India's Birds

- ✓ The second edition of State of India's Birds report - was published in New Delhi on August 25, after a gap of three years.

Warning signs for bird species

A total of 142 bird species in India were found to be declining, while only 28 were increasing, in recent years (annual change over past eight years), according to the State of Indian Birds report 2023 released on Friday. A look at its findings. **By Jayashree Nandi**

CURRENT ANNUAL TREND

942 birds assessed (299 had insufficient data)

142 species declining (of which 64 seeing a rapid decline)

217 species stable (189) or increasing (28) in the last eight years

643 with sufficient data

28 Increasing

189 Stable

78 Declining

64 Declining rapidly

284 Trend inconclusive

HOW SPECIES ARE FARING

Certain groups of birds are faring particularly poorly, including open habitat species such as bustards and coursers; riverine sandbar-nesting birds; coastal shorebirds; open-country raptors; and a number of ducks, the report said.

- 14 species, including **Indian Roller**, recommended for IUCN Red List reassessment
- **Asian Koel** has increased in the past three decades
- Birds that **live in key habitats** like open ecosystems, rivers, and coasts have declined
- **Indian Peafowl** continues to thrive
- Raptors, migratory shorebirds, and ducks have **declined the most**

The Asian Koel (top) shows a dramatic increase since 2000. **Photo by Abhishek Das**

Western Ghat endemic birds like the White-bellied Blue Flycatcher (above) are most severely impacted. **Photo by Albin Jacob**

THE MAJOR THREATS FACING INDIAN BIRDS

CLIMATE CRISIS

Timings of annual events (e.g. migration, nesting, insect emergence) become asynchronous.

For sedentary birds, dealing with climate change will require rapid adaptive changes.

Higher temperatures also cause birds to alter their behaviour, making them more likely to seek shade and spend less time foraging.

Bird species are shifting their ranges to higher latitudes (i.e., away from the tropics and towards the poles) and in mountains, to higher elevations.

DISEASE

Nearly 7% of globally threatened bird species have declined due to avian malaria.

Avian influenza outbreaks in 2020-2021 across India, caused mass mortality of wild birds.

ENERGY INFRA

Collision of birds with rotating wind turbine blades; Displacement of birds from the turbine area due to disturbance

URBANISATION

Urban habitats tend to be unsuitable for rare and specialist species, while promoting common species.

In central Delhi, fruiting trees offer resources for arboreal frugivorous birds such as Brown-headed Barbet and Yellow-footed Green Pigeon. But, urbanisation leads to a homogenisation of bird communities due to the increased abundance of birds adept at exploiting ecological niches.

- ✓ According to the report, more than 60% of India's bird species saw a decline over the long term and only a small fraction increased.
- ✓ The report assessed 942 species of birds and found that populations of raptors, migratory shorebirds, and ducks are on the sharpest decline in the country.
- ✓ The report was based on contributions of 30 million observations by 30,000 birdwatchers which were analysed for trends and distribution across India.
- ✓ It also concluded that birds that live in key habitats like open ecosystems, rivers, and coasts have declined.
- ✓ As per the report, several bird species such as the Indian Peafowl, Rock Pigeon, Asian Koel and House Crow are not only healthy in both abundance and distribution, but showing an "increasing trend".

➤ Moon Landing Sites

MOON LANDING SITES

Chang'e 3 Dec 2013

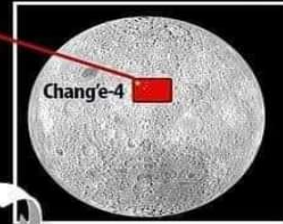


First Chinese moon lander

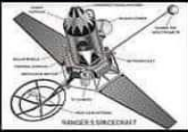
Chang'e 4 Jan 2019



Chinese probe. First successful landing on the far-side of the moon



Ranger program



US unmanned lunar impact probes of the 1960s

Ranger 7 July 1964

Ranger 8 Feb 1965

Ranger 9 Mar 1965



Surveyor program

Not all shown on map

Unmanned 'soft landing' moon probes

Surveyor 1 June 1966

Surveyor 2 Sept 1966

Surveyor 3 April 1967

Surveyor 4 July 1967

Surveyor 5 Sept 1967

Surveyor 6 Nov 1967

Surveyor 7 Jan 1968



Apollo program

Manned moon landings

Apollo 11 July 1969

Apollo 12 Nov 1969

Apollo 14 Feb 1971

Apollo 15 Aug 1971

Apollo 16 April 1972

Apollo 17 Dec 1972



Chandrayaan 3

Chandrayaan 3

Aug 2023 India becomes the first nation to land a spacecraft on the lunar south pole region. Rover module to be deployed and is expected to discover the presence of ice in the Lunar soil



Luna program

Soviet unamanned moon landings

Luna 2 Sept 1959

Luna 7 Oct 1965

Luna 8 Dec 1965

Luna 9 Jan 1966

Luna 13 Dec 1966

Luna 15 July 1969

Luna 16 Sept 1970

Luna 17 Nov 1970

Luna 18 Sept 1971

Luna 20 Feb 1972

Luna 21 Jan 1973

Luna 23 Oct 1974

Luna 24 Aug 1976

Apollo 11

July 1969



Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the surface of the Moon

TAMIL NADU TO HOLD 8% SHARE IN INDIAN ECONOMY IN FY28

India will become the third largest economy in the world by fiscal year 2028 and Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu will be the top three states contributing to the country's GDP, shows a new report by SBI Research

TOP 10 STATES CONTRIBUTING TO INDIA GDP IN FY28

State	Estimated size (\$ bn)	Estimated share (%)	Countries with equal size in FY28
Maharashtra	647	13%	Vietnam
Uttar Pradesh	515	10%	Norway
Tamil Nadu	426	8%	Chile
Karnataka	395	8%	Colombia
Gujarat	386	7%	
Rajasthan	252	5%	Qatar
Andhra Pradesh	243	5%	Ethiopia
Telangana	239	5%	
Madhya Pradesh	234	5%	Algeria
Kerala	218	4%	Hungary

Source: SBI Research

While Maharashtra and UP are expected to break the \$500 billion mark in FY28, Tamil Nadu is expected to reach a size of \$426 billion with 8% share

Interestingly, the GDP size of the top three states in 2027 will be more than that of countries such as Vietnam, Norway, Hungary, Chile

SBI's analysis notes that India's GDP growth in Q1FY24 is likely to surpass 8%. This will push India's GDP growth to beyond 6.5% for FY24



➤ Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

- ✓ Delhi - has emerged as the world's most polluted city, as per the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.
- ✓ In Delhi, each resident would live about 11.9 years longer if the air were clean.
- ✓ The average person worldwide would add 2.3 years to their life expectancy, if PM2.5 levels, or pollution caused by fine particulate matter, was permanently reduced to meet World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.
- ✓ As per the report, India is the second most polluted country in the world after Bangladesh.
- ✓ In India, particulate pollution takes about 5.3 years off the life of the average Indian.
- ✓ In India, the national air quality standard is 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, far higher than the WHO guideline of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, yet no city in the country meets these relaxed standards.
- ✓ The report also found that 67.4% of the country's population lives in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Day	Theme
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	Every year, World Lung Cancer Day is observed on 01st August to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer
August 1	Muslim Women's Rights Day	Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed every year on the 01st of August to celebrate the enforcement of the law against the 'Triple Talaq' rule
August 1	World Wide Web Day	World Wide Web Day is celebrated on August 1 every year. The day is observed to commemorate the World Wide Web (www) and its impact on the world.
August 1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme 2023 - 'Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!'
August 6	Hiroshima Day	Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II
August 7	National Handloom Day	The National Handloom Day is observed annually to honour the handloom-weaving community and to recognise the contribution of the handloom sector
August 7	Friendship Day	Friendship Day is celebrated every year as a special one dedicated to the friends in our life and how they form one of the most important parts of our existence

August 7	Javelin Throw Day	The day was first observed in 2021 in honour of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first Olympic gold medal in athletics at Tokyo
August 8	Quit India Movement Day	The Quit India movement was started on August 8, 1942. It was during this time that the famous slogan 'Do or die' was given by MK Gandhi.
August 9	International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples	Theme: Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination.
August 9	Nagasaki Day	The Nagasaki Day is observed every year to commemorate the day when the US military dropped an atomic bomb named 'Fat Man' from US B-29 bomber on the city of Nagasaki
August 10	World Biofuel Day	World Biofuel Day is commemorated on 10 August every year to raise awareness about the use of non-fossil fuels
August 10	World Lion Day	The day aims to spread awareness of lions and the urgent need to strive toward their conservation
August 12	World Elephant Day	The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation
August 12	International Youth Day	Theme 2022 - "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World".
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	Theme 2023 - "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".

August 13	International Lefthanders Day	The theme for International Left-Handers Day 2023 revolves around "Left-Handers in Sports."
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	The partition of India into India and Pakistan led to grave violence and communal riots, loss of property, and extreme upheaval
August 15	Independence Day of India	India celebrated its 77th Independence Day on August 15, 2023.
August 19	World Photography Day	The theme for World Photography Day 2023 is "LANDSCAPES."
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2023, "No Matter What," encapsulates the steadfast dedication of humanitarians worldwide.
August 20	World Mosquito Day	2023 Theme: "Fighting the World's Deadliest killer - the Mosquito."
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas	This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a visionary leader who championed the cause of national integration, peace and public harmony.
August 20-24	World Water Week	It is a non-profit event which aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis (alongside several other problems).
August 21	World Senior Citizen Day	The day is observed with the intent to highlight the contributions of elderly people

		in human society
August 22	Madras Day	Madras was founded on August 22, 1639.
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	“Combating intolerance, discrimination, stigmatization, violence and acts of violence against persons based on religion or belief”.
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	It commemorates the day when an uprising began in Saint Domingue, now called Haiti, on August 23, 1791, against the slave trade.
August 23	National Space Day	Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 26 announced to celebrate August 23, when India’s Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as National Space Day.
August 26	Women’s Equality Day	The theme for Women’s Equality Day 2023 is “Embrace Equity”
August 29	National Sports Day	This annual observance, held on August 29 in India, is a tribute to the enduring legacy of Major Dhyan Chand.
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	The Day aims to raise awareness about the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the global crime of enforced disappearance.
August 30	National Small Industry Day	A day dedicated to recognizing

		and celebrating the invaluable contribution of small industries to the nation's economic development.
August 30	International Whale Shark Day	To raise awareness about the plight of whale sharks, the largest fish in the world.
August 31	International Day for People of African Descent	The day is a significant initiative towards ending racism
August 31	World Sanskrit Day	The purpose of this day is to raise awareness and promote Sanskrit, one of India's oldest languages.



**CURRENT AFFAIRS - TNPSC ORIGINAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – EXAMS
CONDUCTED IN JULY 2023**

**JUNIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN TAMIL NADU FORENSIC SCIENCES
SUBORDINATE SERVICE - 23/07/2023**

UNIT – II - CURRENT EVENTS

Problems in Public Delivery Systems

1. National Food Security Act was introduced in the year
a. 2012 **b. 2013** c. 2014 d. 2015 e. Answer not known
உணவு பாதுகாப்புச் சட்டம் கொண்டுவரப்பட்ட ஆண்டு
a. 2012 **b. 2013** c. 2014 d. 2015 e. விடை தெரியவில்லை

Latest inventions in Science and Technology

2. Identify the personality:
1. She has been appointed as the “first woman Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
2. She is an Electrochemical Scientist
a. Sellappan Nirmala **b. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi**
c. T.S. Kanaka d. Radha Balakrishnan
e. Answer not known
யார் என அடையாளம் காண்க:
1. இவர், அறிவியல் மற்றும் தொழில்துறை ஆராய்ச்சி கவுன்சிலின் முதல் பெண் தலைமை இயக்ககுனர் ஆவார்.
2. இவர் ஒரு எலக்ட்ரோ கெமிக்கல் விஞ்ஞானி
a. செல்லப்பன் நிர்மலா b. நல்லதம்பி கலைச்செல்வி c. டி.எஸ். குனகா
d. இராதா பாலகிருஷ்ணன் e. விடை தெரியவில்லை
3. EOS-04 Earth Observation Satellite was injected by India’s ____ rocket
a. PSLV – C53 **b. PSLV – C52** c. PSLV – C51
d. PSLV – C50 e. Answer not known
‘புவி’ கண்காணிப்பு செயற்கைக்கோள் இந்தியாவின் _____ ராக்கெட் மூலம் செலுத்தப்பட்டது.
a. PSLV – C53 **b. PSLV – C52** c. PSLV – C51
d. PSLV – C50 e. விடை தெரியவில்லை

