

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 5, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On August 4, Tamil Nadu - notified the ban on hookah bars at restaurants and hotels in the government gazette.**



- ✓ In October last year, the state assembly passed the bill amending the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 to ban hookah bars as part of efforts to eradicate tobacco abuse.
- ✓ The bill was tabled by the health and family welfare department and passed unanimously
- ✓ As per the legislation, no person shall, either on his own or on behalf of any other person, open or run any hookah bar or serve hookah to the customers in any place, including a eating house.
- ✓ The bill empowers police officers of the rank of sub-inspector and above to seize material and articles from a hookah bar
- ✓ It also specified the punishment for running hookah bar, which includes an imprisonment for a term not less than one year but may extend to three years and shall be liable to fine of not be less than Rs.20,000 but may extend to Rs.50,000.

NATIONAL

- **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
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ 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.
 - ✓ These organisations can include joint services commands, which refer to the integration of the capabilities of three forces- the army, the air force and the navy.
 - ✓ These commands will consist of units and troops from all three-armed forces and personnel from other forces attached to them.
 - ✓ They are essential for the armed forces' theaterisation plan
 - ✓ The head of these organisations will be the commander-in-chief or the officer-in-command.
 - ✓ The central government will be responsible for these inter-services organisations and will have the authority to issue directions on matters related to national security or general administration.
- ✓ In the military, a specific geographic area where military operations are planned, coordinated, and carried out under a single command is referred to as the theatre command.
 - ✓ It is a strategy for directing military assets toward a certain region or theatre of operations.
- ✓ On March 15, the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control, and Discipline) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ On April 24, the Speaker sent it to the Standing Committee on Defence for review and a report of The Standing Committee on Defence, led by Jual Oram, has approved all the provisions of the bill

- **On August 4, the Lok Sabha – passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 by a voice vote**
- ✓ The bill was introduced by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan



- ✓ The bill entrusts the accountability of IIMs with the President who, as the ‘Visitor’, will have powers to conduct audits, and even appoint or remove the chairpersons of the board of governors and directors.
 - ✓ The bill also seeks to declare the 20 IIMs across the country as ‘institutions of national importance’ and upgrade the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Mumbai to the status of an IIM.
 - ✓ The bill proposes amendments to the IIM Act of 2017, including increased presidential powers in IIMs
 - ✓ Under the existing dispensation, the President is also a ‘Visitor’ at IITs and NITs.
 - ✓ As per the Act, an IIM director is to be appointed by the board of governors, based on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee.
 - ✓ The bill mandates that the Board obtain prior approval of the ‘Visitor’ before the appointment of the director.
- **On August 4, senior Bombay high court judge Justice Rohit Deo - announced his resignation as a judge with immediate effect in open court.**



- ✓ This is perhaps the first time in history that an HC judge has made his resignation public in open court
- ✓ A former advocate-general of Maharashtra, Deo declared in open court that he had put in his papers and said his resignation was a personal decision

- ✓ Justice Rohit Deo , also a former assistant solicitor-general of India, had over two years of his tenure left as he was to retire on December 4, 2025.
 - ✓ Deo is the second judge in the recent past to resign, after Justice Pushpa Ganediwala who quit on February 11, 2022.
 - ✓ Justice Deo was elevated to the High Court in 2017
- **On August 3, the Rajya Sabha – passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Bill, 2023 by a voice vote**
- ✓ The bill aims to replace the existing Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867
 - ✓ The bill, approved by the Union Cabinet last month, will soon be tabled in the Lok Sabha.
 - ✓ It seeks to simplify the registration process for periodicals and newspapers, and do away with several penal provisions that led to prosecution and imprisonment of publishers.



- ✓ According to Information and broadcasting (I&B) minister Anurag Thakur, the legislation will lead to ease of doing business for media and publishing companies, simplify the process of registration and decriminalise several “colonial-era” penal provisions.
- ✓ Earlier, the registration process involved eight steps, now it will be done in just a single step through an online portal, which will be launched soon.
 - ✓ This will considerably reduce the time period from two to three years to just two to three months
- ✓ The bill further seeks to remove the penal provisions of the PRB Act, which made improper declaration of information a punishable offence with a prison term of up to six months.
- ✓ The legislation provides a provision for an “appellate authority” to hear an appeal against refusal of grant of registration, imposition of any penalty or suspension/cancellation of registration by Press Registrar General (PRG).
 - ✓ The authority comprises a chairperson, Press Council of India (PCI), and two members of PCI
- ✓ The bill also empowers the PRG to suspend or cancel the registration in case it has been obtained by furnishing false information or the publisher fails to publish periodicals continuously or provided false particulars in annual statements

- ✓ Further, those involved in terrorist activities or unlawful activities against the state will not be granted permission to start a paper or periodical.
- ✓ The bill empowers the PRG to impose penalties of up to Rs.5 lakh for publishing periodicals without registration or failing to furnish annual statements within the specified time.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - stayed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's conviction without spelling out any specific reason, in a defamation case over his 'Modi' surname remark**



- ✓ It had faulted the trial court order for awarding punishment of two years — the maximum for criminal defamation — which led to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha
- ✓ A bench of Justices B R Gavai, P S Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar, however, said his utterance was “not in good taste”.
- ✓ The court's order would restore Rahul Gandhi as the MP of Wayanad constituency.
- ✓ The top court said the trial court order to award two-year imprisonment not only affected the right of one individual but the rights of people of Wayanad as he was disqualified, resulting in his constituency in Kerala going unrepresented in Parliament.
- ✓ The two-year sentence would have entailed Rahul getting barred from the electoral arena for a further period of 6 years after its completion, as per Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **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.

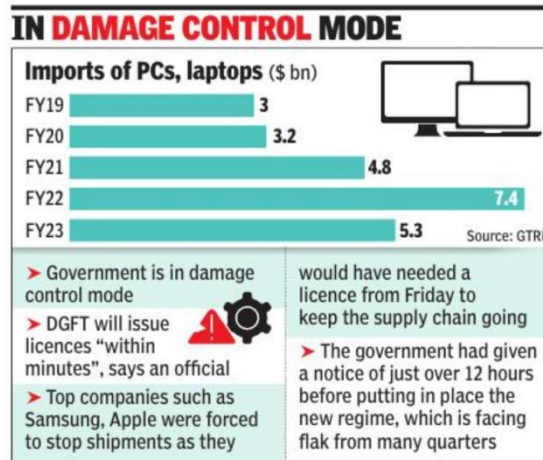
- ✓ But, its inability to do so, in the worst-case scenario, could render the mission a failure even before it attempts a soft landing on the moon.
 - ✓ The mission will complete 22 days on August 5 since Chandrayaan-3 was launched on July 14, leaving 17 crucial days before Isro attempts to soft-land Vikram lander on August 23.
 - ✓ A successful LOI has been achieved twice before —in 2008 (with Chandrayaan-1) and in 2019 (with Chandrayaan-2).
 - ✓ The LOI should last 29-30 minutes and guide Chandrayaan-3 into an elliptical orbit.
 - ✓ After that, minor adjustments will be carried out to ensure the right inclination of the spacecraft
- **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.
- **The world's oceans - set a temperature record in the past week with their surface hitting 20.96°C (69.7°F)**
- ✓ This was revealed in the European Union climate observatory data showed on August 4.
 - ✓ The ocean surface temperature reached 20.96°C on July 30, according to the ERA5 database, while the previous record was 20.95°C in March 2016.
 - ✓ Oceans have absorbed 90% of the excess heat produced by human activity since the start of the industrial age, according to scientists.
 - ✓ Globally, the average ocean temperature has been beating seasonal heat records on a regular basis since April, affecting marine life.

ECONOMY

- On August 4, the government – announced its decision to defer the implementation of import curbs on laptops, tablets and personal computers by nearly three months
- ✓ In a separate notification, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said import consignments of laptops, computer and tablets will be cleared without licence until October 31, 2023.



- ✓ The government had given a notice of just over 12 hours before announcing the new regime a day earlier
- ✓ The government reversed the decision as top companies such as Samsung, Apple and others were forced to stop shipments into the country as they would have needed licence from August 4 to keep the supply chain going.

SPORTS

- Tamil Nadu - have roped in a 'guest' player - Madhya Pradesh paceman Kuldeep Sen - for the first time to play in the Ranji Trophy



- ✓ Though Kerala's Sandeep Warrier has recently played for Tamil Nadu, he was originally a resident of Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ The decision-makers felt Tamil Nadu was lacking a quality pacer and Sen, who has already made his ODI debut for India, would be the right candidate.
 - ✓ Sen has played 17 first class matches and has 52 wickets at an average of 28.40.
 - ✓ He will be available for Tamil Nadu after he gets a clearance from the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.
- **Indian women's compound archers team of Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami and Jyothi Vennam - created history by winning India's maiden gold medal in World Archery Championships**



- ✓ The second-seeded Indian team prevailed over top seed Mexico in the final in Berlin on August 4.
- ✓ This was India's 12th World Championships medal that previously included nine silver and two bronze.
- ✓ The 17-year-old Aditi is the reigning Under-18 World champion and the 18-year-old Parneet is a 2021 World U-18 and a 2023 World U-21 team champion
- ✓ After receiving a firstround bye, India beat Turkey, Chinese Taipei, and defending champions Colombia to book a berth in the final.

