

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 8, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- 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.
- ✓ The camps will be held in three phases — between August 7 and 12, September 11 and 16, and October 9 and 14
- ✓ According to the Health Department, the drive will be conducted through health sub-centres (HSC), anganwadi centres and urban primary health centres (UPHC) from 9 a.m to 4 p.m.
- ✓ As part of the mission, healthcare workers will provide 11 different vaccines for 12 vaccine-preventable diseases
 - ✓ The 12 vaccine-preventable diseases are diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia,

Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis, rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and measles-rubella

- ✓ At least 72,760 children and 14,180 pregnant women were yet to be vaccinated in the state, according to the directorate of public health.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has been implementing the nationwide vaccination programme since 1985 and under this programme around 10 lakh pregnant mothers and 9.16 lakh infants have been vaccinated annually.
 - ✓ About 1.72 lakh pregnant mothers and 6.94 lakh children were given the "missed" doses through 2.98 lakh camps since the Indradhanush programme was launched in 2014
- **The state government - has announced financial aid for bereaved families to transport to their native places the bodies of guest workers, who die in mishaps on construction sites.**
- ✓ According to the government order, the state government would provide a maximum of Rs.one lakh to transport the bodies either through ambulances, trains or flights.
 - ✓ The funds would be given from the Tamil Nadu construction labourers' welfare board through the district collectors.
 - ✓ Similarly, the welfare board would bear the expenses for transporting the bodies of construction workers from Tamil Nadu, who die in mishaps at the workplace.
 - ✓ The funds for expenses incurred to transport the bodies would be handed over through the district collectors.
 - ✓ The announcement for providing financial aid of transporting the bodies of guest workers and construction labourers from the state was made by state labour minister C V Ganesan in the assembly in March this year.
- **President Droupadi Murmu - arrived in Puducherry for a two-day visit on August 7**
- ✓ This is Murmu's first visit to Puducherry after she became President.



- ✓ During the day, President Murmu inaugurated the Linear Accelerator at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER)
- ✓ Later, she virtually inaugurated a 50-bed hospital constructed at a cost of Rs.10.52 crore under the national Ayush mission at Villianur in Puducherry.
- ✓ Further, the President attended the civic reception hosted in her honour by the Government of Puducherry.
- ✓ Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Chief Minister N Rangasamy and officials accompanied the President
- ✓ On August 8, Murmu is scheduled to visit Aurobindo Ashram to pay homage at the memorial of Sri Aurobindo, the spiritual philosopher and founder of the Ashram, and also at the memorial of the Mother of the Ashram (Meira Alfasa) on its precincts.
- ✓ The President would also pay a visit to Auroville, an international township, to participate in the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, before winding up her visit

NATIONAL

- **On August 7, Lok Sabha - passed five bills in just over four hours, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023.**
- ✓ The other four Bills passed were Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, the Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Mediation Bill, 2023, as well as the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha approved the digital personal data protection bill, 2023 through a voice vote.
 - ✓ The bill, aimed at regulating and safeguarding the use of personal data, was introduced in Parliament by Ashwini Vaishnaw, minister for communications, electronics, and information technology
 - ✓ It is the first-ever legislation dedicated for digital privacy
 - ✓ The government brought up the bill after six years after the Supreme Court declared Right to Privacy as a fundamental right.
 - ✓ Once the Bill comes into effect, all digital platforms will be required to obtain unconditional, free, specific, and informed consent from users for processing their data.
 - ✓ They will also need to issue a notice explaining the purpose of data processing and the rights of the users.
 - ✓ The bill permits cross-border data flow to specific countries and territories, accompanied by relaxed data localisation requirements, enabling greater flexibility in data handling.
 - ✓ The government will appoint a data protection board, an independent body that will examine personal data breaches and impose penalties.
 - ✓ The Bill prescribes penalties of up to Rs 250 crore for each instance of a data breach arising from a lack of reasonable safeguards on platforms.

- ✓ The Lok Sabha also passed the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill with a voice vote.
 - ✓ The bill was introduced by Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh.
 - ✓ The Bill proposes to set up a national agency - The National Research Foundation (NRF) - to fund research in universities across the country.
 - ✓ The bill aims to establish Rs 50,000-crore fund to "seed, grow and promote" research and development (R&D) throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories for a period of five years.
 - ✓ This includes Rs 10,000 crore from the government, Rs 4,000 crore from the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), and Rs 26,000 crore from sources such as the private sector, philanthropists, or other aid.
 - ✓ The NRF will have a governing board consisting of 15 to 25 eminent researchers and professionals, headed by the Prime Minister.
 - ✓ The education minister and the science and technology minister will serve as vice presidents.
 - ✓ The foundation will also have an executive council under the principal scientific advisor.
- ✓ Lok Sabha passed the Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill 2023, which allows persons qualified or registered under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011 to be registered as pharmacists under the Pharmacy Act, 1948
 - ✓ This will be subject to the condition that the person shall submit an application for registration within a year of the amendment coming into force, and paying a prescribed fee.
 - ✓ Under the current dispensation, registration under the Pharmacy Act is mandatory for persons practising pharmacy in the country.
 - ✓ The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 3, 2023 by health minister Mansukh Mandaviya
- ✓ The Lower House also passed the Mediation Bill 2023, which requires individuals to try to settle civil or commercial disputes through mediation before approaching any court or tribunal.
 - ✓ The Mediation Bill, 2023 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 1, 2023.
 - ✓ Within the provisions of the Bill, a party may withdraw from mediation after two mediation sessions.
 - ✓ The entire process must be completed within 180 days, which may be extended by another 180 days by involved parties.
 - ✓ As per the bill's provisions, there are plans to set up the Mediation Council of India, whose functions include registering mediators, and recognising mediation service providers and mediation institutes, which train and certify mediators.
 - ✓ Law and justice minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the bill in the lower house

- ✓ The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed through voice vote to decriminalise offences committed while carrying out aquacultural activities
 - ✓ To decriminalise the offences, the bill seeks to remove the jail term of up to three years and impose only a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh on offenders.
 - ✓ Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Parshottam Rupala introduced the bill
 - ✓ The proposed legislation also aims to spell out operational procedures of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority to make it more responsive to the needs of the stakeholders

- **On August 7, Rajya Sabha - passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 or the Delhi services bill**
 - ✓ The bill was passed with 131 votes in its favour, and 101 votes against it.

A HISTORY OF STRAINED TIES

<p>May 21, 2015 Union home ministry issues a gazette notification, saying that the LG will have jurisdiction over matters connected with services, public order, police and land and he may consult the chief minister whenever he thinks necessary on issues of services using his own 'discretion'</p>		<p>May 6, 2022 Three-judge bench refers the issue of control of services in Delhi to five-judge constitution bench</p>
<p>May 26, 2015 PIL filed in HC against Centre's May 21 notification</p>	<p>public functions</p>	<p>Nov 9, 2022 Five-judge constitution bench commences hearing the matter</p>
<p>May 28, 2015 Delhi government moves HC against Centre's notification on LG's powers</p>	<p>Aug 4, 2016 HC says LG is administrative head of National Capital Territory and AAP government's contention that he is bound to act on the advice of council of ministers is "without substance".</p>	<p>May 11 SC rules that Delhi government has legislative and executive powers over administration of services except for public order, police and land</p>
<p>Jan 27, 2016 Union government tells HC that Delhi is under Centre's control and not a full-fledged state</p>	<p>Feb 15, 2017 SC refers to constitution bench the pleas on Delhi-Centre row over governance</p>	<p>May 19 Centre's promulgates The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 overriding the SC judgment</p>
<p>Apr 5, 2016 The Delhi government asks HC to refer to larger bench petitions on powers of LG on governance of Delhi</p>	<p>Jul 4, 2018 SC says LG does not have independent decision-making powers, and is bound to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers. Upon deciding the interpretation of Article 239AA, the appeals directed to be listed before a regular bench to decide the specific issues</p>	<p>June 30 The Delhi government moves SC to quash the ordinance</p>
<p>May 24, 2016 HC reserves order on AAP government's plea for a stay on proceedings on the petitions arising out of its standoff with LG over powers to appoint bureaucrats in the national capital and other issues</p>	<p>Feb 14, 2019 Two-Judge bench delivers two separate judgments, recommends to CJI to set up three-judge bench to finally decide the issue of control of services in the national capital</p>	<p>July 20 SC refers Delhi government's plea against the Ordinance to the constitution bench</p>
<p>Jul 1, 2016 SC agrees to hear AAP government's plea seeking a direction that HC be restrained from delivering judgment on issues, including the scope of powers of the city government to exercise its authority in performing</p>		<p>July 25 The Union Cabinet gives its nod to the proposal to replace the ordinance with a new legislation</p>
		<p>Aug 1 Bill to replace Delhi ordinance tabled in Lok Sabha</p>
		<p>Aug 3 Lok Sabha passes Delhi Services Bill amid Opposition walkout</p>
		<p>Aug 7 Union home minister Amit Shah moves the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in the Rajya Sabha</p>

- ✓ The bill, that has been a point of dispute between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Centre, was passed in the Lok Sabha on August 3
- ✓ The bill was introduced in the Upper House by Union Home Minister Amit Shah for handling the transfers and postings of officials in the Delhi government.
- ✓ The Supreme Court on May 11 ruled that the elected government of Delhi has control over services in the national capital, excluding the matters relating to public order, police and land.
- ✓ On May 19, the Centre promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi.
- ✓ The Bill, which will replace the ordinance, will now go to the President for her assent before it becomes a law.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Scientists from IIT-Roorkee and Geological Survey of India (GSI) - have discovered the oldest fossil remains of a long-necked, plant-eating dicraeosaurid dinosaur in Jaisalmer.**



- ✓ The study reveals that the remains are 167 million years old and belong to a new species, unknown to scientists thus far.
- ✓ It has been named 'Tharosaurus indicus', the first name referring to the Thar desert where the fossils were found, and the second after its country of origin.
- ✓ According to the scientists, fossils of dicraeosaurid dinosaurs have been found previously in North and South Americas, Africa and China, but such fossils were not known from India.
- ✓ A systematic fossil exploration and excavation programme initiated by the Centre in 2018 in the Middle Jurassic rocks in the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan has led to this discovery
- ✓ The rocks in which the fossils were found are dated to be around 167 million years old
- ✓ The new Indian sauropod is not only the oldest known dicraeosaurid but also globally the oldest diplodocoid group.
- ✓ As per the records, the oldest dicraeosaurid was discovered in China (about 166-164 million years old).

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- Qatar's sovereign wealth fund - has invested Rs 3,920 crore (\$474 million) for a 2.7% stake in billionaire Gautam Adani's renewable energy unit.

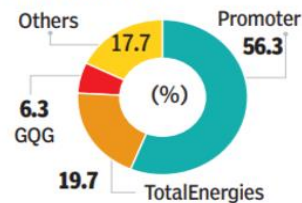
2nd Major Deal For Adani This Year

- The investment will serve as a vote of confidence for **Gautam Adani**, who has been attempting a comeback from the crisis triggered by US-shortseller Hindenburg
- QIA's investment would also mark another major investment into the conglomerate after Australia-listed **GQG Partners**

- In 2020, the Qatari fund had infused ₹3,200cr for a 25.1% stake in **Adani Electricity**, which supplies power to parts of Mumbai
- QIA's move comes after its reported interest in acquiring



Adani Green shareholding as of June-end



a stake in Mukesh Ambani's retail business

- The fund has exposure to **Reliance Industries** and through Bodhi Tree Systems it holds a stake in RIL's media and entertainment business

- ✓ This would also mark another major investment in Adani's renewable unit, Adani Green Energy, after GQG Partners.
 - ✓ Australia-listed GQG owns 6.32% in Adani Green, while France's TotalEnergies owns a 19.7% interest in Adani Green.
 - ✓ Adani Green has a market capitalisation of just over Rs 1.5 lakh crore
 - ✓ Adani Green, which reported a 51% jump in Q1FY24 profit, has an operational portfolio of 8.3GW renewable energy capacity.
 - ✓ It aims to build 45GW capacity by financial year 2030.
 - ✓ This is the \$450-billion Qatari fund's second investment in Adani's energy utility venture.
 - ✓ In 2020, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) invested Rs 3,200 crore (\$450 million) for a 25.1% stake in Adani Electricity, which supplies power to large parts of Mumbai.
- **Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja** - has been appointed as Tesla's finance chief, replacing CFO Zachary Kirkhorn.



- ✓ Taneja, 45, joined Tesla in 2016 after the automaker acquired SolarCity, where he held positions in finance and accounting.
- ✓ Taneja has worked at PwC in India and the US between 1999 and 2016.
- ✓ The Elon Musk-led firm did not specify a reason for Kirkhorn's departure, who has been with Tesla for 13 years.
- ✓ He will remain with the company through the end of the year to help a smooth transition.
- ✓ Kirkhorn was also being considered a possible successor to Musk earlier this year.

