

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 11,2023

### TAMIL NADU

- 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.
- ✓ During the event, the chief minister said that in the past two years, his government signed 241 MoUs with companies who have committed investments of Rs 2,97,196 lakh crore.
- ✓ The investments were expected to generate 4,15,282 new jobs in the state, he further said.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Industries minister T R B Rajaa, chief secretary Shiv Das Meena, S Krishnan, additional chief secretary of industries S Krishnan, Guidance MD Vishnu

Venugopalan, other diplomats and leading industry executives were among those part of the event.

- **Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL) - has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu government to set up a manufacturing facility in the state, which will generate employment to 400 people.**



- ✓ The deal was signed in the presence of chief minister M K Stalin and Nisaba Godrej, executive chairperson, GCPL at the Secretariat.
- ✓ The new facility will be set up with an investment of Rs.515 crore spread over the next five years.
- ✓ The proposed factory is to be located in Tiruporur taluk in Chengalpet district
- ✓ It will serve as a manufacturing hub for brands such as Cinthol, Godrej Expert Rich Crème, Godrej Selfie shampoo hair colour and Goodknight.
- ✓ The proposed factory will employ 50% of women along with 5% of employees from LGBTQ and people with disability (PWD) communities
- ✓ The GCPL will build a factory that will be Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified within the investment period

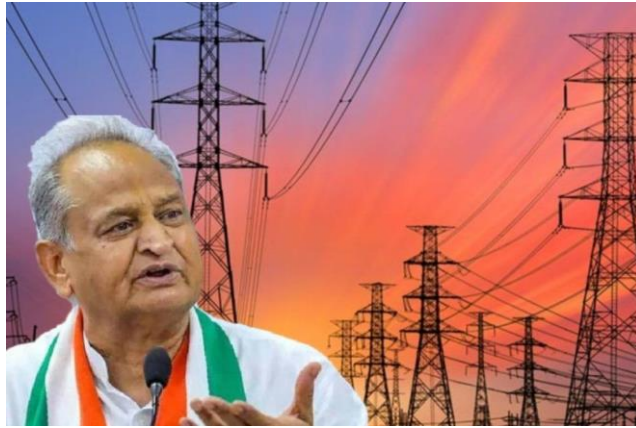
## STATES

- **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 resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was passed unanimously
- ✓ While moving the resolution, the CM said it was Keralam in Malayalam.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Article 3 in the constitution deals with the formation of new states and the alteration of areas, boundaries, or names of existing states.



- ✓ Just a day earlier, the Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously approved a resolution criticizing the Central government's rapid and independent efforts to introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across the nation.
  - ✓ While the approval of the Union government is not necessary for renaming cities, however, in the case of renaming states, the Union home ministry's nod is mandatory.
  - ✓ A constitutional amendment is necessary for such a change to take effect, requiring parliamentary approval.
  - ✓ If the proposal is accepted, the resolution, introduced as a Bill in the parliament, becomes a law and the name of the state is changed thereafter.
  - ✓ States were formed on the basis of language on November 1, 1956, which is also observed as Kerala formation day.
  - ✓ The Syed Fazl Ali Commission recommended that states be reorganised on the basis of a common language.
  - ✓ On July 1, 1949, two princely states of Travancore and Kochi were integrated, resulting in the formation of Travancore-Cochin state.
  - ✓ Later, on November 1, 1956, the present-day Kerala came into being, in line with the formation of linguistic states.
  - ✓ From November 1, the Kerala state will commemorate 'Keraleeyam 2023', an event aimed at showcasing the accomplishments of the state on the global stage.
- **On August 10, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot - announced the abolition of fuel surcharge for all domestic and agricultural electricity consumers, irrespective of the units consumed.**
- ✓ According to the CM, the waiver will put an extra burden of Rs.2,500 crore, which will be borne by the state government
  - ✓ The state government will give Rs.2,500 crore to the power distribution companies or discoms.
  - ✓ The state is currently giving 100 units of free power to all and no surcharge is levied up to 200 units.



- ✓ Further, the chief minister announced the launch of the '**Indira Gandhi Smartphone Yojana**', a free smartphone scheme for women in the state.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the state government will transfer Rs.6,800 to the e-wallet of a beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- ✓ The beneficiary, after the completion of their KYC (know your customer) process, can then purchase a mobile phone of their choice in the camps set up by the government.
- ✓ The CM said that under the second phase of the scheme, smartphones will be provided to eight million women.

## NATIONAL

- **The no-confidence motion against the National Democratic Alliance government - was defeated by voice vote in the Lok Sabha on August 10.**



- ✓ The opposition had moved the no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi government on July 26, which was taken up by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for discussion on August 8-10.
- ✓ The voice vote was taken after PM Modi's hard-hitting speech, the longest no-confidence debate speech by any PM.
- ✓ At 2 hours 13 minutes, it was a minute longer than former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's as well as home minister Amit Shah's speech delivered a day earlier.

- ✓ This is the second time Prime Minister Narendra Modi faced a no-confidence motion.
  - ✓ The first such motion against the BJP government was introduced in 2018 over granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh, which was also defeated
- ✓ This was the first no-confidence motion moved against the 17th Lok Sabha, the one that was elected in 2019 and will complete its term in 2024
- ✓ So far, 28 no-confidence motions have been moved in Parliament
- ✓ The NDA has majority in the Lok Sabha with 331 MPs, out of which the BJP alone has 303 MPs, while the combined strength of the Opposition bloc INDIA at 144.
  
- **The Centre - has moved a bill in the Parliament seeking the removal of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as a selection committee member for the appointment of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and other election commissioners (ECs) in the Election Commission**
- ✓ The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Law Minister Arjun Singh Meghwal on August 10
- ✓ As per the new bill, the Election Commissioners shall be selected by a panel consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The bill says that if the leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha has not been recognised as such, then the leader of the largest party in the Opposition in the Lower House shall be deemed the LoP.
- ✓ As per the bill, the term of the CECs and ECs remained unchanged at six years or until they reach the age of 65 or whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The bill also seeks to downgrade the status and standing of the CEC and election commissioners from that equivalent to a Supreme Court judge to that of the cabinet secretary.
- ✓ The salary of the CEC and ECs would be the same as the Cabinet Secretary
- ✓ According to the bill, a search committee comprising the cabinet secretary and two other secretary-level officers will shortlist five names — officers not lower than the rank of secretary and with experience in election matters — to be put up before the selection panel for appointment as members of the poll body
- ✓ In March 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice K.M. Joseph held that the selection of the CEC and other ECs should be made by the President on the advice of a panel headed by the Prime Minister, and comprising the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- ✓ The ruling said that the process of appointment outlined by the Supreme Court will continue to hold until a law is made by Parliament.
- ✓ The ECI is a three-member body with a CEC and two ECs.

- ✓ Under Constitution Article 324(2), the President is empowered to appoint the CEC and ECs on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers without any involvement of the judiciary in the appointments.
- ✓ The existing Act makes the service conditions of an SC judge applicable to the CEC and election commissioners.
- **The ministry of electronics & information technology (MeitY) - has launched a competition called Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBD) calling upon technology enthusiasts, innovators, and developers to create an indigenous web browser.**
  - ✓ The web browser is expected to have its own trust store, have an inbuilt CCA (Controller of Certifying Authorities) India root certificate, cutting edge functionalities, and enhanced security & data privacy protection features.
  - ✓ The IWBD challenge is spearheaded by MeitY, CCA and C-DAC Bangalore.
  - ✓ The proposed browser is also expected to focus on accessibility and user friendliness, ensuring built-in support for individuals with diverse abilities.
  - ✓ The browser must have the ability to digitally sign documents using a crypto token, supporting secure transactions and digital interactions.
  - ✓ The total prize money offered is to the tune of Rs 3.4 crore.
- **The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India - has found irregularities in the award of the Union government's Bharatmala highway projects.**
  - ✓ The report on "Implementation of Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana" was submitted to the Parliament on August 10
  - ✓ The audit examined planning, financial management, implementation, and monitoring of 66 sampled projects implemented during the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21 under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana.
  - ✓ The violations include successful bidder not fulfilling tender conditions or bidder selected on the basis of falsified documents and award of works without approved detailed project reports (DPRs) or faulty reports.
  - ✓ The CAG also found deficiencies in the appraisal and approval mechanism proposed to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in many of the high cost Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) projects or fully funded government projects
  - ✓ The report noted that the implementing agencies were awarding projects without ensuring availability of required land and forest clearance, which are resulting in delayed commencement and completion of projects.
  - ✓ The National Highways Authority of India and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited are the implementing agencies.
  - ✓ The Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana was for development up to September 2022, at an investment outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ➤ World Elephant Day – August 12



- ✓ The World Elephant Day is observed every year to acknowledge the significance and importance of Elephants in our ecosystem
- ✓ The World Elephant Day was initiated in 2012 to raise awareness to the disturbing situations of African and Asian elephants, which are subjected to poaching, mistreatment in captivity and habitat loss
- ✓ The first ever World Elephant Day was observed by Canadian filmmakers Michael Clark and Patricia Sims with the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.
  - ✓ In 2012, Patricia Sims founded an organization called the World Elephant Society to create awareness about the dangers faced by the elephants and the urgency needed to protect them globally
- ✓ According to National Geographic, the elephant population has reduced by 50% over the past 75 years with an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants left
- ✓ African elephants are listed as 'vulnerable' and Asian elephants as 'endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

## ➤ International Youth Day - August 12



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness on various issues faced by the world's youth and the role of youth in important topics in the world
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World".
- ✓ The delegates, who attended the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, in 1991, suggested that an International Youth Day be declared to help raise money for the United Nations Youth Fund.
- ✓ At the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon in August 1998, August 12 was declared International Youth Day.
- ✓ The International Youth Day was recognised by the United Nations in 1999 at the United Nations General Assembly
- ✓ The first International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12, 2000.
- ✓ In India, National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, since 1984

