

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 16,2023

TAMIL NADU

- On August 15, Chief minister M K Stalin - hoisted the national flag for the third consecutive year at the ramparts of Fort St George on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day.



- ✓ In his Independence Day speech, the Chief Minister announced a welfare board for Gig workers, extending the breakfast scheme to all government schools in the state, launch of a scheme that disburses Rs.1,000 per month to every eligible woman from September 15 and special skill coaching for those aspiring to join armed services.
- ✓ During his address, the CM said all those subjects that have a direct connect to the people must be moved into the state list of the constitution.
 - ✓ He said only if education is moved to the state subject from the Concurrent List, qualifying examinations like NEET can be scrapped.

- ✓ The Constitution (Forty-second amendment) Act, 1976 transferred the subject 'education' from the state list to the concurrent list during the emergency period by the Indira Gandhi government.
- ✓ The CM said late chief ministers C N Annadurai and M Karunanidhi had consistently advocated for state autonomy

STALIN SAYS

➤ **Expansion of free breakfast scheme to all 31,008 government schools, benefitting 15.75 lakh students, from August 25.** Chief minister M K Stalin will launch the

programme in a school in Thirukkuvilai, the alma mater of late chief minister M Karunanidhi, in Nagapattinam district. The state has allocated ₹404 crore. The scheme was originally launched in September last year for classes I to V

➤ **Kalaingar centenary park will come up in an area of 6.09 acres near Senganthal park on Cathedral Road in Chennai. It will be implemented at a cost of ₹25 crore. Only recently, the state government had recovered the encroached land after a long legal battle**

cities like Chennai and other towns

➤ **Expansion of a scheme that offers financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to 500 women auto drivers to purchase auto rickshaws. The scheme has benefited 141 women drivers so far and the plan is for third gender drivers**

➤ **Will fill 55,000 vacancies in various government departments**


➤ The government-run agriculture college and research institute in Killikulam in Thoothukudi will be named after freedom fighter V O Chidambaram. **This is in continuation of the announcements made on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the legendary fighter**

➤ **In continuation of Naan Mudhalvan scheme, a skill development and job guarantee programme at a cost of ₹7 crore will be implemented for the benefit of 10,000 ex-servicemen, who retired after serving the nation**

➤ **Hike in monthly pension to families of freedom fighters to ₹11,000 from the present ₹10,000**

➤ **A welfare board for gig workers will be set up given the increase in workforce in**

➤ **Free bus ride scheme for women named as 'Vidiyal Payanam'. The scheme benefits 50 lakh women daily and each one has saved ₹850 a month on an average. Women have made 314 crore trips since the scheme's launch on May 7, 2021 as per government estimate**



Pic: B A Raju

Chief Minister M K Stalin during the 77th Independence day celebrations at Fort St George in Chennai on Tuesday

- ✓ The Chief Minister recalled Tamil Nadu's significant contributions to the freedom struggle, highlighting Arya Bhashyam, a young freedom fighter who replaced the Union Jack with the Indian flag atop the historic Fort St George's tallest flagstaff in 1930.
- ✓ He also stressed upon the growth of state by following Dravidian model of governance that provides equal development and opportunity to everyone.
- ✓ On the occasion, the chief minister announced that approximately 55,000 vacancies would be filled in various government departments.

- ✓ For the benefit of retired personnel of the armed forces, the CM announced a plan to upskill them to facilitate suitable re-employment opportunities.
 - ✓ At an outlay of about Rs.7 crore, about 10,000 personnel would be trained, and the government will provide all support till they get right placements.
- ✓ CM Stalin further added that the monthly pension to family members of freedom fighters would be increased to Rs.11,000 from Rs.10,000.
- ✓ The breakfast scheme for government school students would be extended from August 25 to all the 31,008 state-run schools which shall benefit 15.75 lakh students.
 - ✓ The scheme would be launched in a school in Tirukkuvalai (Tiruvarur), where former CM Dr. M. Karunanidhi studied and Rs.404 crore has been allotted for the scheme for the current fiscal.
- ✓ Further, the CM announced the setting up of a separate welfare board to protect the interests of workers of firms such as Ola, Uber, Swiggy and Zomato
- ✓ He reiterated that the monthly Rs.1,000 assistance scheme for women (Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thittam) would be launched on September 15, the birth anniversary of former CM C.N. Annadurai.
- ✓ The CM said the Rs.1 lakh subsidy plan for women autorickshaw drivers to buy new vehicles would be extended to 500 more beneficiaries.
- ✓ He also announced 'Kalaigiar Centenary Park' on a 6.09 acre land parcel on downtown Cathedral Road in Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore.
- ✓ The chief minister also referred in detail to the welfare schemes of the DMK regime and said the scheme providing for free bus for women would be renamed as 'Vidial Paynam' (Journey of Dawn) as it marked the new dawn in the state
 - ✓ The scheme enabled 50 lakh women to travel free of cost every day and so 314 crore journeys had been made by women in the government buses with each beneficiary saving an average of over Rs 850 per month
- **The forest department - is planning to radio collar a male and female Nilgiri tahr (varayadu), the state animal of Tamil Nadu, in each of the four tiger reserves in the state to study the animal's habitats.**



- ✓ A few months ago, the state government had launched 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' to conserve the endemic animal

- ✓ Under the initiative, the government had appointed a team comprising a senior scientist and four senior research fellows for its successful implementation.
- ✓ The state is home to 3,122 Nilgiri tahrs, which inhabit in its four tiger reserves - Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sri villiputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve and the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The radio collar would help monitor the movement of the animal through the global positioning system (GPS) and study their habitats.

NATIONAL

- **On August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the country on the occasion of 77th Independence Day.**
- ✓ Since assuming office, this marked his tenth consecutive Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech ended at the 90-minute mark, making it his fourth longest Independence Day address ever.
- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi touched upon pressing issues from Manipur violence, corruption to welfare schemes and India's development in the post pandemic world.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi started his Independence Day speech talking about the sacrifices made by freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and their compatriots.
- ✓ He also lauded women self-help groups and said his dream was to make two crore 'lakhpati didis'.
- ✓ PM Modi announced the launch of the Vishwakarma Yojana, earmarking an initial allocation of Rs.13,000 to Rs.15,000 crore, on September 17.
 - ✓ This scheme, which will be launched on Vishwakarma Jayanti, is especially for skilled workers such as carpenters, weavers, blacksmiths, masons, barbers, tanners, goldsmiths, washermen etc.
 - ✓ The scheme aims to benefit individuals possessing traditional skills, many of whom belong to the OBC community.

- ✓ PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman or PMVIKAS scheme was announced in the Budget 2023
- ✓ He said the government is trying to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendra or subsidised medical shops from 10,000 to 25,000.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also announced a new scheme for drone training for women self-help groups for application in agriculture sector.
- ✓ He also said a new urban housing scheme will be launched to help the urban poor and the middle-class own a house of their own.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, government would provide relief in the interest on home loans to such families which live in cities but stay in rented homes, slums and unauthorized colonies and want to build a home of their own
 - ✓ The scheme may be an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) which is scheduled to end in December this year.
 - ✓ Under the current scheme, beneficiaries get central assistance and interest subsidy for development of homes.
 - ✓ The prime minister had launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Urban (PMAY-U) — a flagship Mission of the Central government — on June 25, 2015
 - ✓ The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has been implementing the PMAY-U scheme.
 - ✓ According to the ministry, around 1.18 crore houses have been sanctioned under PMAY (Urban) till July 31 this year, out of which 76.02 lakh have been delivered to the beneficiaries.



PM MODI INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH: TOP 10

- Govt to increase number of 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra'
- Many steps taken to control inflation
- Every rupee going towards welfare of citizens
- The whole country stands with the people of Manipur
- In 2047, India will be a developed nation
- Corruption, nepotism, appeasement the biggest obstacles
- 10 crore fake beneficiaries of welfare schemes removed
- Regional aspirations need to be taken care of
- Govt to launch 'Vishvakarma Yojana' to help workers
- India will not stop now, rating agencies lauding India

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- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the achievements of the NDA government in the past 10 years, while promising the citizens a "New India" with a bright future in next five years.
- ✓ He also added that India will become the third largest global economy in next five years.
- ✓ PM Modi used the term 'parivaarjan' (family members) to address citizens in his Independence Day speech
- ✓ He said that 'Nation First' was the bedrock of his government's policies
- ✓ The PM said, in five years, over 13.5 crore poor people came out of poverty to become part of neo-middle, middle classes.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the initiative of the Supreme Court in translating and providing its judgments in regional languages to litigants
 - ✓ The idea to provide judgments in regional languages, particularly to the litigants, was mooted by former President Ram Nath Kovind in 2017
 - ✓ Acting on his suggestion, the apex court took initiative and started translating its judgment in 2019.
 - ✓ Till now in 9,423 judgments of the apex court have been translated into regional languages and 8,977 in Hindi.
 - ✓ The judgments have also been translated in Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

OBITUARY

- **Bindeshwar Pathak, Sulabh International founder and social activist - died at the age of 80 in Delhi from cardiac arrest on August 15.**



- ✓ As the founder of Sulabh International, Pathak dedicated his life to promoting human rights, environmental sanitation, non-conventional sources of energy, and waste management through education.
- ✓ Bindeshwar Pathak founded the Sulabh International Social Service Organization in 1970 from Bihar.
- ✓ Pathak, a resident of Rampur Baghel village in Vaishali, launched his first Sulabh toilet in the early 1980s in Bihar with innovative technology and designs.

- ✓ That particular lavatory came up at Ram Gulam Chowk, near the historic Gandhi Maidan in the heart of Patna.
- ✓ Pathak's innovative approach to sanitation has led to the conversion of dry latrines into two-pit pour flush latrines in 1749 towns, and the construction of over 160,835 toilets.
- ✓ He was also trying to end the practice of manually cleaning human waste from bucket latrines in India
- ✓ Pathak is a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.
- ✓ In 2003, Pathak was added to the Global 500 Roll of Honour, and in 2009, he was awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize.
- ✓ His other accolades include the Energy Globe Award, the Dubai International Award for Best Practices, and the Legend of Planet award from the French senate in Paris.
- ✓ In 2020, a book detailing his work as a social innovator, 'Namaste, Bindeshwar Pathak!' was published
- ✓ In 2016, New York Mayor Bill De Blasio declared April 14 as Bindeshwar Pathak Day.

