

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 22,2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu government - formed a five-member online gaming regulatory authority headed by a former IAS officer Md Nasimuddin on August 18.**



- ✓ The other members of the authority are retired IPS officer M C Sarangan, retired professor of college of engineering, Guindy, C Chellappan, retired clinical psychologist from Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Porur, O Raveendran and founder and CEO, In-Gage Group, Vijay Karunakaran.
- ✓ The authority was notified as required under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022
  - ✓ It will regulate online games and issue certificates of registration to local online games-providers
- ✓ The legislation banning online gambling and online games, rummy and poker played with money or other stakes, came into force on April 21.
- ✓ The authority will identify online games of chance and recommend to the government for inclusion in the 'schedule' for ban.
- ✓ It will also oversee the functioning of the online games-providers in the state, collect and maintain information and data regarding the activities of the providers.

- ✓ The authority shall request the government to take appropriate action as per the IT Act, 2000, whenever deemed necessary, and resolve grievances or complaints received against any provider.
  - ✓ It will send periodical reports to the government and advise the government on any matter regarding online gaming.
  - ✓ The authority is empowered to issue show-cause notice to the online games provider if it satisfies that the certificate of registration has been obtained by misrepresentation or fraud or the holder of the certificate failed to comply with the conditions.
- **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.
- ✓ Under the initiative, one programme lead, 40 green fellows, and four research associates were selected on merit by IES.
  - ✓ Of the 40 appointees, 38 will be focusing on one district each and two others shall function at the state level at the Project Management Unit (PMU) at Anna University's Climate Studio.
- ✓ The programme will ensure the participation of 'Green fellows' in preparing policies pertaining to environment protection, renewable energy, biodiversity, sustainable living, and others
- ✓ They will assist in the implementation of Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, and Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, apart from promoting the 'Meendum Manjappai' initiative.
- ✓ The 'Green fellows' will serve a two-year term with a monthly stipend of Rs.60,000 and a travel allowance of Rs.15,000.

- ✓ At the end of two years, the 'Green fellows' will receive a PG Diploma of Climate Change and Sustainability from the Anna University.
- ✓ The scheme was announced in the Assembly as part of the 2021-22 Budget demand for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - laid the foundation stone for the Perur desalination plant via video conference on August 21.**



- ✓ The new plant, coming up at the budget of Rs. 4,276.44 crore, will be the biggest in south-east Asia
- ✓ It will supply 400 MLD water to Chennai city by December 2026.
- ✓ This is the fourth desalination plant in the Chennai city after the 100 MLD and 150 MLD plants in Nemmeli, and the 100 MLD plant in Minjur.
- ✓ The new plant is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- ✓ The desalination plant would benefit 22.67 lakh people belonging to parts of GCC, Tambaram Corporation, and 20 other neighbouring local bodies.

## STATES

- **On August 20, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan - inaugurated the Rs 2,400-crore Kerala Solid Waste Management Project as part of the second phase of 'Malinya Muktham Navakeralam' (garbage free) campaign**



- ✓ The project is an ambitious technology-driven plan aimed at making the state's 93 urban local bodies self-sufficient in collecting and treating garbage by March next year
- ✓ The KSWMP is being implemented by the state government with funding aid from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
  - ✓ As per the terms, the World Bank is expected to provide around Rs 870 crore, while AIIB's share will be nearly Rs 870 crore and the state government will contribute around Rs 700 crore
- ✓ The current financial year will see the state's 87 municipalities and six corporations launching sub-projects worth Rs 300 crore to recover land by processing accumulated waste
- ✓ The project will involve the participation of 33,378 Haritha Karma Sena volunteers
- ✓ The first phase of the project drew encouraging response, with the percentage of doorstep garbage collection rising from 48 to 78
- ✓ In the second phase, the project will enable 422 urban local bodies (ULBs) to sort 90–100% of their waste at the source-of-origin stage

## NATIONAL

- **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.
- ✓ Further, it's also the first lotus kind whose complete genetic makeup has been figured out to understand its traits.

- ✓ During the event, the Union minister also introduced clothing made from lotus fiber and a perfume named 'Frotus', which is extracted from lotus flowers.
- ✓ The perfume and clothing were developed by NBRI as part of the Lotus Research Program, in collaboration with Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj.
- ✓ During the event, Jitendra Singh also launched the “Lotus Mission”, which will be executed similarly to previous missions like the National Honey and Bee Mission (NHBM), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Mission Shakti, Aroma Mission among others.
- ✓ The event witnessed the launch of high-yield Aloe vera variant, herbal healthcare products like “Herbal Cold Drops” and “Herbal Anti Dandruff Hair Oil,” and a supplement for gout.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On August 21, the Supreme Court - assured the Tamil Nadu government that it will constitute a bench to hear its decades-old dispute with Karnataka over sharing Cauvery river water.**
- ✓ Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said the bench would be constituted at the earliest
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water immediately from its reservoirs at Billigundulu between August 14 and 31 to meet the pressing demands of its standing crops.
- ✓ On August 11, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), at its 22nd meeting, asked Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs for 15 days starting August 14 from its reservoirs at Billigundulu.
- ✓ However, Karnataka agreed to release 8,000 cusecs of water until August 22 due to a deficit in rainfall across the state.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has now urged the apex court to direct Karnataka to ensure the stipulated releases for August and September (36 tmcft) as per the Cauvery Tribunal award as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu pleaded that Karnataka should make up for the shortfall of 28 tmcft of water for the period between June 1 and July 31.

## **OBITUARY**

- **India's oldest captive elephant, named Bijuli Prasad - died at the age of 89 in Sonitpur district of Assam on August 21**
- ✓ The jumbo breathed its last at the Behali tea estate of The Williamson Magor Group due to age-related issues

- ✓ Rescued from the wild in the 1940s, Bijuli Prasad was sold by the family of Ranjeet Dutta, the current local MLA, to Williamson Magor & Co Ltd in the 1950s for about Rs.3,000.



- ✓ The company had allocated Rs.40,000 a month for the elephant's diet and healthcare.

## SPORTS

- **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa – defeated world No. 3 Fabiano Caruana in tie-breaker to reach final of FIDE World Cup chess tournament in Baku, Azerbaijan on August 21.**



- ✓ After the two-game classical series ended 1-1, the 18-year-old Indian prodigy outplayed the highly-rated American GM in a nerve-wracking tie-breaker, which ended in 3.5-2.5 scoreline.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa emerged victorious, securing his place in the final against Norway's World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen

- ✓ He also secured his berth for the 2024 Candidates tournament, set to take place in Canada, whose winner will challenge China's Ding Liren for the World Championships title.
- ✓ Five-time title winner Magnus Carlsen beat Azerbaijan's Nijat Abasov 1.5-0.5 in his semifinal.
- ✓ Chennai-based Praggnanandhaa is going to be the only other Indian other than five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand to compete in the Candidates.
  - ✓ Viswanathan Anand bagged the World Cup title twice, in 2000 and 2002, though it was in a different format – a 24-player league-cum-knockout format.
- ✓ With the win, Praggnanandhaa becomes the third youngest to qualify for the Candidates Tournament after 16-year old Bobby Fischer (1959) and Magnus Carlsen (2007).
- ✓ He is also the first Indian to reach the World Cup final since the knockout format was introduced in 2005.
- ✓ Now, Praggnanandhaa will get a chance to break Ruslan Ponomarev's record to be the youngest ever knockout champion of FIDE's global event.
  - ✓ The Ukrainian had won in 2002, aged 19, when this event was known as the knockout world championship.
- ✓ Earlier, Praggnanandhaa beat compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4 in a sudden death tie-break in the quarterfinals on August 17.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa had produced one of the biggest upsets of the FIDE World Cup after he eliminated American grandmaster World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura in the tiebreakers, enroute his run to the final.
- ✓ **Earlier, in the women's final, second seeded Russian GM Aleksandra Goryachkina defeated 20-year-old Bulgarian Nurgyul Salimova to win a well deserved maiden title in rapid tiebreaks.**



- ✓ Goryachkina had beaten former world champion Tan Zhongyi in the semi-final to book a spot against Salimova in the final

- ✓ The result ensured the top prize of \$50,000 for Goryachkina and the consolation for a disappointed Salimova was \$35,000
- ✓ Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk beat Tan Zhongyi in the match for third place and gained a spot in the 2024 Women's Candidates Tournament.
- **India's Sift Kaur Samra - bagged a Paris Olympics quota place in the women's 50m rifle 3 Position final in Baku, Azerbaijan, on August 21.**



- ✓ Sift, who was ranked fifth in the qualification round, had won the quota even before playing the final.
- ✓ In the final, Sift, 21, finished fifth and got one of the four available Olympic berths in the category.
- ✓ This was the sixth quota place in shooting for India and third secured at this World Championships after Mehuli Ghosh (10m air rifle) and Akhil Sheoran (50m rifle 3P) sealed the spots in their respective categories.
- **Indian squash star Anahat Singh - clinched gold in the girls under-17 category of the 30th Asian Junior Squash Individual Championship held in Dalian, China, on August 20.**



- ✓ The 15-year-old Anahat defeated Hong Kong's Ena Kwong in the final to win the gold medal.
- ✓ Last year in Thailand, the Delhi-based Anahat had won her first gold medal in the girls under-15 category at the Asian junior championships in Thailand



- ✓ The Indian player shot to prominence in 2019 when she won the U-11 title during the British Junior Open Squash and by winning the U-13 title in the Dutch Junior Open Squash.
- ✓ Earlier this year, Anahat emerged winner in the U-15 category of the British Junior Open Squash
- ✓ She also advanced to the quarterfinals of the Indian Open in 2021, which was held in Noida, earning her a spot on the 2021–22 PSA World Tour.
- ✓ Anahat represented India at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, where she competed as the youngest Indian competitor at the age of 14

## REPORT

### 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.

