

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 30,2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On August 29, the Cauvery water management authority (CWMA) - directed the Karnataka government to ensure that 5,000 cusecs of water reaches Biligundlu, the inter-state border, every day for the next 15 days.**



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government had insisted on the release of water at 15,000 cusecs, while Karnataka wanted it restricted to 3,000 cusecs.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu water resources secretary Sandeep Saxena represented the state at the meeting.
- ✓ The authority looked at the hydro-meteorological condition, position of inflows, rainfall prediction as given by India Meteorological Department before arriving at the decision.
- ✓ The authority also looked at the inflows into the four reservoirs of Cauvery basin in Karnataka, in comparison with 30 years average inflow
- ✓ Last week, the SC had ordered the Union government to submit a report of the CWMA as to whether the directions issued by it for discharge of water have been complied with or not and posted the Cauvery dispute case for hearing on September 1.
- ✓ According to water resources minister Duraimurugan, there was a shortfall of 49 tmcft since June

STATES

- **The Gujarat government - announced raising reservation for other backward class (OBC) candidates in local body elections in the state to 27%, which was previously set at 10%.**
- ✓ The decision followed recommendations of the Justice K S Jhaveri Commission that was formed in response to a Supreme Court directive in July 2022 to make suggestions for OBC reservation in local bodies in Gujarat.
- ✓ The expanded 27% OBC reservation will apply to all levels of local bodies, including municipal corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats, taluka panchayats, and district panchayats.
- ✓ CM Bhupendra Patel assured that the 27% quota for OBCs will not affect the existing reservations for candidates from SCs and STs.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On August 29, the Islamabad High Court - suspended ex-PM Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana (treasure house for state gifts) case**

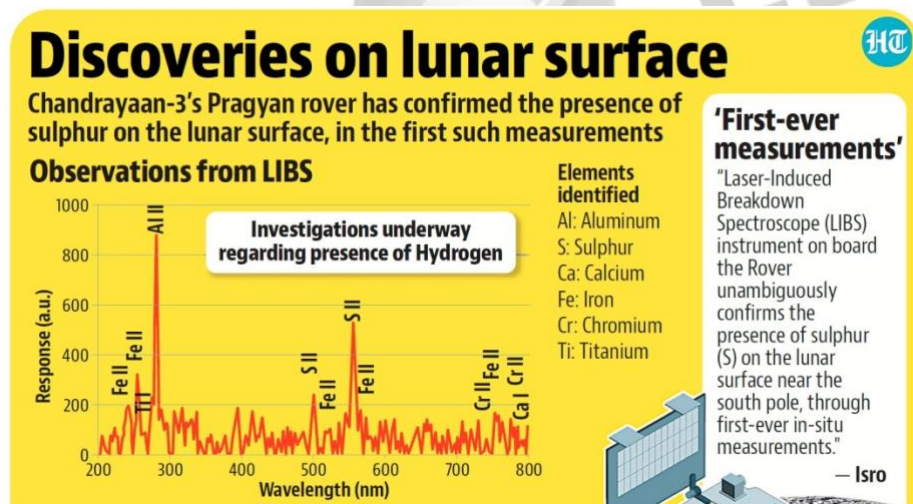


- ✓ However, another special court established to hear cases under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 has directed the jail authorities to keep the PTI chief behind bars in the missing cipher case.
- ✓ The cipher case relates to the alleged leaking of a diplomatic cable, which allegedly went missing from Imran Khan's possession.
- ✓ The ex-PM has been questioned several times by Federal Investigation Agency officials in the cipher case
- ✓ Khan was named in the case along with his party's jailed vice chief and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi
- ✓ Khan was sentenced to three years in prison by a trial court in the Toshakhana case on August 5
- ✓ He was jailed for failing to disclose in his annual declaration of assets the money he earned from selling gifts he had received during his time in office (2018-2022).
- ✓ Khan had subsequently filed an appeal in the HC against his conviction.
- ✓ He is currently lodged at Attock Jail in Punjab province.

- **On August 29, the Biden administration - announced it will send an additional \$250 million in weapons and ammunition to Ukraine as part of its ongoing support of Ukraine's counteroffensive.**
- ✓ The weapons will be drawn from existing US stockpiles and will include mine-clearing equipment, artillery and rocket rounds, ambulances and medical gear, among other items and spare parts.
- ✓ The package contained AIM-9M missiles for air defense, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System munitions, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition and more than 3 million rounds of small arms ammunition.
- ✓ Ukraine has already received more than \$43 billion from the US since Russia invaded last year.
- ✓ Those funds have provided weapons systems like howitzers and millions of rounds of ammunition to fight back against the much larger Russian military.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On August 29, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - said the Pragyan rover has confirmed the presence of sulphur in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements.**



- ✓ The rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Iron, Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon and Oxygen, while the search for hydrogen is underway.
- ✓ LIBS instrument is developed at the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS)/ISRO, Bengaluru
- ✓ The rover and lander continues to obtain science data via attached payloads.
- ✓ India achieved history on August 23 by becoming the first country to touch down on the moon's South Pole.
- ✓ It is also the fourth country – after the US, China, and Russia – to have successfully landed on the moon's surface.

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day for People of African Descent – August 31



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the exceptional contributions of Africans and people of African descent around the world.
- ✓ The first International Day for People of African Descent was proclaimed and observed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last year on August 31, 2021.
- ✓ The day was first observed halfway through the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)
- ✓ The day is a significant initiative towards ending racism, launched twenty years after the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action held in 2001

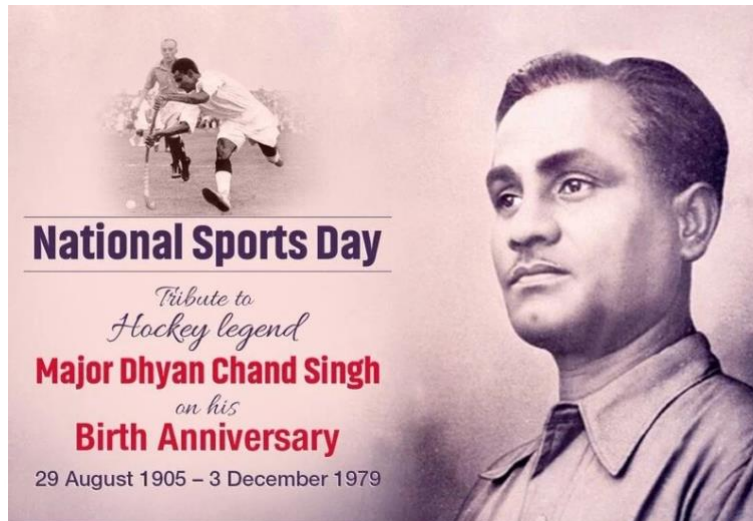
➤ National Small Industry Day – August 30



- ✓ The day is observed every year to celebrate the rise and development of small-scale businesses for the economic development of the country
- ✓ In August 2000, the Indian government formulated a comprehensive policy package for the small-scale industries (SSI) in the country
- ✓ The Ministry of Small Scale Industries declared this day in 2000 and this day was observed for the first time, on August 30, 2001

- ✓ The small-scale industry sector contributes as much as 40% to the gross industrial value of the country's economy
- ✓ National Small Industries Corporation Limited, a Mini Ratna government agency was established by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in 1955
- ✓ The central government has launched various initiatives such as the CHAMPIONS portal, UDYAM, and National SC-ST Hub, that contribute to making the MSMEs stronger and more stable.

➤ **National Sports Day (NSD) – August 29**



- ✓ The NSD is observed every year commemorating the birth anniversary of Major Dhyanchand, the hockey wizard of India.
 - ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the benefits of sports and physical activities in our daily life.
 - ✓ The day is dedicated to the nations' sports heroes and champions, honoring their contribution towards bringing laurels to the country.
 - ✓ The day was first observed in 2012 as a tribute to Major Dhyanchand, who scored a record 570 goals in his career.
 - ✓ Major Dhyanchand played a crucial role in India's gold medal victory at the Olympics three consecutive times – 1928, 1932, and 1936.
 - ✓ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in 1956.
 - ✓ In 1979, the Indian Postal Department issued special stamps to honour the hockey wizard.
 - ✓ His autobiography "Goal!" was published by Sport & Pastime (Madras) in 1952.
- **International Day against Nuclear Tests – August 29**
- ✓ The Day aims to raise awareness about the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world
 - ✓ The day was first declared by the United Nations during the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 2, 2009



- ✓ This resolution was initiated by Kazakhstan to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the closing of the USSR-controlled Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site, which took place in Kazakhstan in 1991.
- ✓ The inaugural International Day against Nuclear Tests was observed in the year 2010
- ✓ On July 16, 1945, during World War II, the United States detonated the world's first nuclear weapon, codenamed Trinity, over the New Mexico desert.
- ✓ Less than a month later, the US dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 100,000 people instantly on August 6 and 9 in 1945, respectively
- ✓ In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into force and more than 190 UN member states are active party to it.
- ✓ Further, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted on 10 September 1996, but not ratified by all UN member states.

REPORT

- **Delhi - has emerged as the world's most polluted city, as per the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago**
- ✓ In Delhi, each resident would live about 11.9 years longer if the air were clean.
- ✓ The average person worldwide would add 2.3 years to their life expectancy, if PM2.5 levels, or pollution caused by fine particulate matter, was permanently reduced to meet World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines
- ✓ As per the report, India is the second most polluted country in the world after Bangladesh
- ✓ In India, particulate pollution takes about 5.3 years off the life of the average Indian
- ✓ In contrast, cardiovascular diseases reduce the average Indian's life expectancy by about 4.5 years, while child and maternal malnutrition reduce life expectancy by 1.8 years.
- ✓ Three-quarters of air pollution's impact on global life expectancy occurs in just six countries, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Indonesia, where

people lose one to more than six years off their lives because of the air they breathe

- ✓ In India, the national air quality standard is $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, far higher than the WHO guideline of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, yet no city in the country meets these relaxed standards.
- ✓ The report also found that 67.4% of the country's population lives in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

