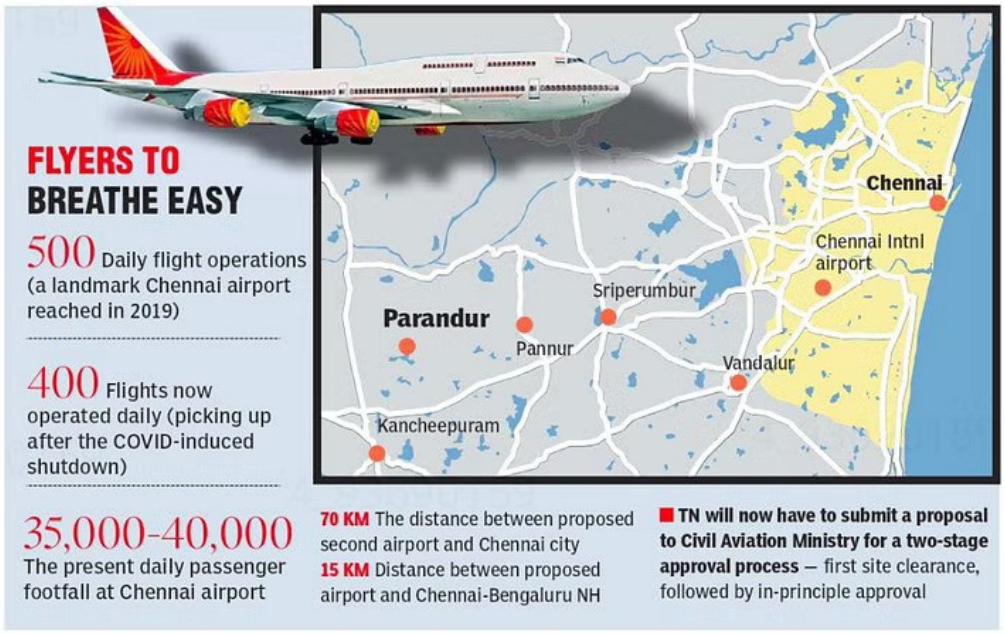
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–august

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai's second Greenfield airport - will come up in Parandur of Kancheepuram district near Sriperumbudur at an estimated expense of Rs 20,000 crore**



- ✓ This was disclosed by Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh on August 1 while replying to a query raised by DMK's NVN Kanimozhi at the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Following the announcement, the AAI forwarded the pre-feasibility report to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) advising it carry out obstacle limitation surface (OLS) survey and charting work of the identified sites
- ✓ As per the provisions of the Greenfield Airport Policy, 2008, the state government is now required to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for grant of 'site clearance'.

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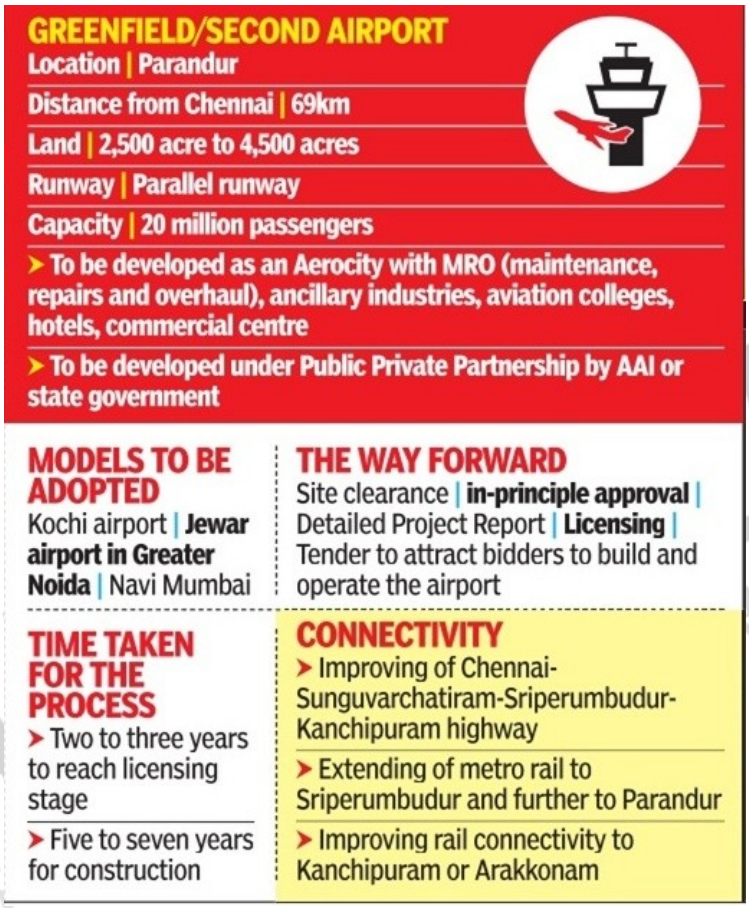
- ✓ The state government had shortlisted Parandur and Pannur, both of which the Airports Authority of India found suitable after conducting its inspection
- ✓ The plan is to build an airport that will have two parallel runways and terminals to handle around 20 million passengers a year
- ✓ The site is to be developed as a huge aero city with facilities for maintenance and repairs, aviation ancillary units, and commercial establishments



- ✓ In Pannur, 4,500 acres of land have been identified, while in Parandur, the site spans 4,791.29 acres.
- ✓ In 2007, the then DMK government proposed to develop a greenfield airport at Sriperumbudur in over 4,000 acres.
- ✓ Parandur, which is 60 km from the Chennai Airport, was shortlisted as a possible site for the second airport by the previous AIADMK government in 2020
- ✓ In March this year, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that Parandur and Pannur had been shortlisted.
- ✓ In June, the Union minister said the airport was likely to come up with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore and it would be cleared shortly
- ✓ The present State government had originally considered four sites - Cheyyur and Mamandur in Chengalpattu district, Parandur in Kancheepuram district and Pannur in Tiruvallur district – for the airport

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- **A stone inscription, dating to the 14th century CE – was found on a land in Kottaimedu on Dindigul-Palani Road near Dindigul**
- ✓ It has the name 'Dindigul' inscribed on it in grantha script along with some information on tax exemptions and temple donations.

- ✓ The block of stone that weighs about two tonnes is 8ft long, 3ft wide and 1ft thick.
- ✓ The stone has information about some donations made to a Vishnu temple and has forms of His incarnations carved on it.
- ✓ Most of the letters in the stone are decipherable and it is stated that it was inscribed in 1,478CE.
- ✓ The stone specifies the four boundaries of a place, and also states that tax is exempted to the land bordering the channels carrying water to the Shiva and Vishnu temples.
- ✓ As per the inscription, tax reduction was provided for people working on the specified land including goldsmiths, potters and craftsmen.
- ✓ According to the inscription, Vijayanagara king made many donations to Thadikombur Soundaraja Perumal temple.
- ✓ He also constructed dams across Kudaganaru and Mangarai rivers on request of farmers and gave them tax exemptions.
- ✓ Dindigul was known as Thindeeswaram during the 7th and 8th century and Padmagiri in Pandya inscriptions from the 11th and 12th century.

NATIONAL

- **The 5G spectrum auctions - came to a close on August 1 after seven days and fetched a record Rs 1. 5 lakh crore for the exchequer**
- ✓ The government now prepares to launch the high-speed 5G telecom services from October this year across metros and top cities.
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio was the biggest purchaser, buying spectrum worth Rs 88,078 crore.
- ✓ Jio was followed by Sunil Mittal's Airtel that bought spectrum worth Rs 43,084 crore, while Vodafone Idea spent Rs 18,799 crore.

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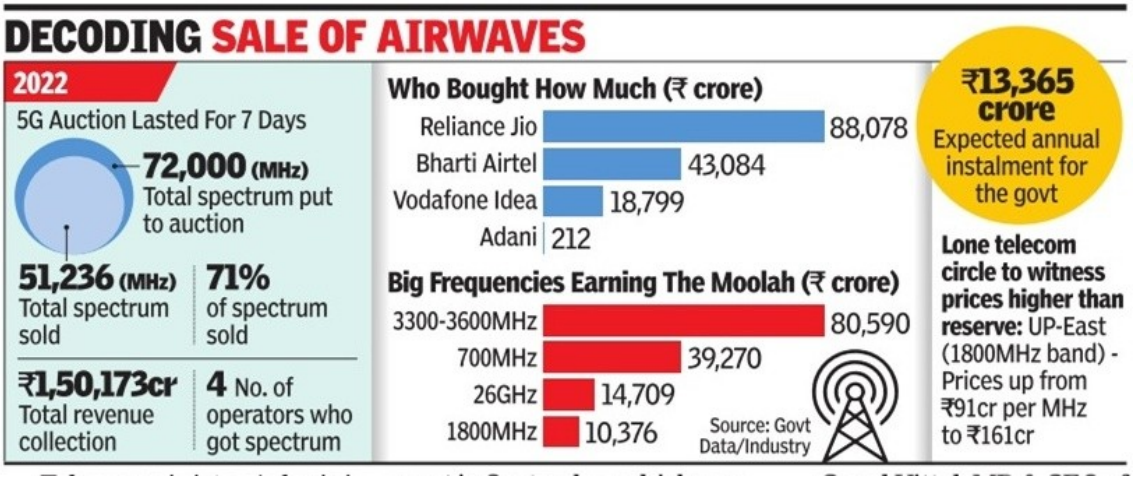

- ✓ Gautam Adani's Adani Data Networks spent Rs 212 crore for buying airwaves in Gujarat, Mumbai, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The company had earlier announced that it is buying spectrum mainly for enterprise purposes, and has no active plan to enter consumer mobility business.
- ✓ The current collections of the government far exceed the previous record of Rs 1.1 crore of 2015 auctions
- ✓ Around 71% of total 72,000MHz of spectrum put up for sale was sold, and the biggest achievement was sale in 700MHz band, which failed to find buyers in last two auctions.

➢ **India** - **has reported the first death of a patient, who tested positive for monkeypox**.

- ✓ On August 1, the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) confirmed that a 22-year-old Kerala man who died on July 30 in Kerala's Thrissur district was infected with the West African strain of the virus.
- ✓ This would be India's first monkeypox death and the fourth one outside Africa.
- ✓ The man who had returned to India from high-risk UAE on July 21 was admitted to a hospital in Thrissur on July 27 for severe fatigue and brain fever.
- ✓ According to the WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis, a virus transmitted to humans from animals, with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe
- ✓ It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting for two to four weeks
- ✓ India has reported a total of six cases of the disease so far.

➢ **Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw – launched an event to celebrate "8 Years of MyGov" in New Delhi on July 30, 2022**

- ✓ NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and Secretary of Capacity Building Commission Hemang Jani were present during the event
- ✓ During the event, the Union Minister also launched a new initiative 'Responsible AI for Youth 2022'.

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- ✓ It was created by the National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration with Intel India and the support of the Ministry of Education
- ✓ The Program will be open to all school students studying in classes 8-12 across the country to provide a deeper understanding of AI-tech and encourage youngsters to become human-centric designers
- ✓ MyGov, the Government of India's citizen engagement platform, was launched on 26th July 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has been built on the three pillars of 'Do', 'Discuss' and 'Disseminate'.
- ✓ MyGov has evolved as the one stop destination for citizens to contribute their unique skills towards nation-building through various creative formats and mediums such as videos, infographics, podcasts, interactive dashboards etc
- ✓ Some of the most prominent logos of the Government of India including Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Digital India, PM Jan Dhan Yojana and Swachh Bharat have been created by MyGov Saathis through various contests on the platform.
- ✓ Some of the most notable campaigns steered by MyGov in the last year include Seva Samarpan (20 years of Good Governance), Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Sabka Vikas Maha Quiz and Agniveer

COMMITTES

- ➢ **The Centre - has constituted a task force to monitor the emerging monkeypox situation in the country.**
- ✓ It has been mandated to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination for the infection
- ✓ Dr V K Paul from Niti Aayog, who spearheaded the policy framework to manage the Covid-19 pandemic, is one of the members of the task force.
- ✓ It also has Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan and other senior health officials as members.

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- ✓ The government's actions come amid a constant rise in cases of the viral infection which was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation (WHO) recently.

- ✓ In India, six cases of monkeypox have been confirmed so far— four from Kerala and two from Delhi.
- ✓ India's first death due to monkeypox was reported from Kerala recently.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➢ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - will launch the first developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on August 7.**
- ✓ The SSLVD1/EOS-2 mission will be launched at 9. 18 AM on August 7 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), in Sriharikota.
- ✓ SSLV, in its maiden flight, will carry an earth observation satellite EOS-02 (formerly known as Microsat 2A).
- ✓ The new rocket will also carry Azaadisat, a student satellite with 75 femto experiments, selfie camera to click pictures of its own solar panels and long range communication transponders.
- ✓ Azaadisat is made by 750 girls students from 75 schools across the country.
- ✓ SSLV is a three-stage rocket measuring 2m in diameter and 34m in length with a lift off weight of 120 tonnes.
- ✓ It is capable of launching 500kg satellite in 500km planar orbit from SDSC.
- ✓ The key features of the rocket are low cost, with low turn-around time (the rocket can be manufactured within a week), flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, launch on demand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements.

- ➢ **On July 29, the Earth - broke its record for the shortest day in history after completing a full spin in 1.59 milliseconds less than its standard 24-hour rotation**

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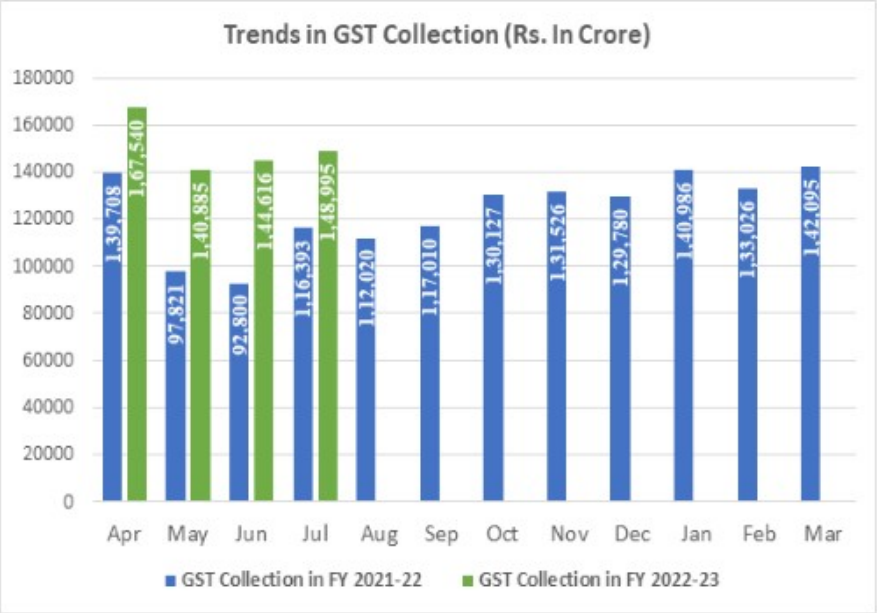
- ✓ The change in time was recorded by the atomic clock which is used to measure the rotational speed of the planet to the minutest detail.
- ✓ Back in 2020, the Earth saw its shortest month that has ever been recorded since the 1960s
- ✓ On July 19, 2020, the shortest day of all time was measured, which was 1.47 milliseconds lesser than a typical 24-hour day
- ✓ The Earth's rotation is affected by major forces of nature including the oceans, tides, churnings in its inner and outer layers, and even the climate
- ✓ While scientists are yet to conclude the reasons behind the downtrend in Earth's rotational speed, it is being attributed to the Chandler wobble
- ✓ Chandler Wobble, according to Nasa, is a motion exhibited by Earth as it rotates on its axis
- ✓ It is basically an irregular movement of the Earth's poles across the surface of the planet.
- ✓ While two-thirds of the Chandler wobble is caused by ocean-bottom pressure changes, the remaining one-third is by fluctuations in atmospheric pressure.

ECONOMY

- ➢ **The GST collections for the month of July – stood at Rs.1.48 lakh crore, making it the second highest monthly collection since the introduction of new tax regime.**



- ✓ The collection for July is 28% higher than the GST revenues recorded in the same month last year of Rs 1,16,393 crore
- ✓ Of the total GST collection, Central GST is Rs 25,751 crore, State GST is Rs 32,807 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 79,518 crore and cess is Rs 10,920 crore

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- ✓ Prior to this, GST collections had recorded the highest-ever level of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022 for year-end sales in March
- ✓ The July collections were predominantly contributed by imports with revenues from that segment increasing 48%, compared to a 22% growth from domestic sources.
- ✓ For five months in a row, the monthly GST revenues have been more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore

SPORTS

- ➢ **Debutant Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli - lifted 313kg to win the gold medal in 73 kg category at the National Exhibition Centre Hall, Birmingham**

- ✓ Sheuli's gold is India`s third in the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the sixth medal in total, all coming in weightlifting
- ✓ The 20-year old lifter lifted 143kg in snatch and 170kg in clean and jerk to top the field
- ✓ Sheuli, a junior world championship silver medallist, smashed the Games record in snatch category and improved his personal best
- ✓ Malaysia`s Erry Hidayat Muhammad took silver with a total of 303kg, while Canada's S. Darsigny claimed bronze with a total of 298kg.
- ✓ Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli became the second Army man, after Jermey Lalrinnunga, to win a gold medal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Naib Subedar Lalrinnunga and Havildar Sheuli are part of the Army's programme named "Mission Olympics".
- ✓ Both are a product of the Army Sports Institute
- ✓ Judoka Shushila Devi Likmabam clinched India's seventh medal, and the first medal outside weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham
- ✓ This is her second medal at the Commonwealth Games after she won silver at Glasgow in 2014.
- ✓ Shushila bagged silver after losing to Michaela Whitebooi of South Africa in the women's 48kg final in Judo event
- ✓ Further, India's Vijay Kumar bagged bronze medal in the men's 60 Kg Judo event

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