



## **FIVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august** **STATES**

- **Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot - inaugurated the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Advanced Technology (R-CAT) at DigiFest 2022 on August 20**



- ✓ R-CAT is an IT training school equipped with world-class infrastructure and facilities to provide training in advanced technologies.
- ✓ The centre will conduct training programs on advanced and emerging IT areas with a duration ranging from one week to six months for professional graduates like BE/BTech, BCA, MCA, MBA, MSc (IT) and so on
- ✓ The targeted technologies would be Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI-ML), Blockchain, Augmented Reality/ Virtual Reality (AR/VR), Big Data Analytics, Robotics and Quantum Computing etc.
- ✓ In this regard, the state government has collaborated with global tech giants like Oracle, VM Ware, SAS, RedHat, CISCO, CAD, and Autofina Robotics.
- ✓ The centre will issue industry standard certificates after the completion of the courses to the successful candidates
- ✓ The setting up of centre at a cost of Rs. 200 crore was announced in the state budget of 2020-21 by chief minister Ashok Gehlot
- ✓ The centre is being established as a society and will be governed by society by-laws under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958

# NATIONAL

- **On August 21, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh - unveiled India's first indigenous Hydrogen fuel cell bus in Pune, Maharashtra**



- ✓ The Hydrogen fuel cell bus is developed by the CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and a private firm, KPIT Limited.
  - ✓ The hydrogen fuel cell uses hydrogen and air to generate electricity, producing only heat and water in the process.
  - ✓ This electricity is then used by electric motors to propel the vehicle forward.
  - ✓ Fuel cells work in a similar manner to conventional batteries found in electric vehicles but they do not run out of charge and don't need to be recharged with electricity.
  - ✓ These cells continue to produce electricity as long as there is a supply of hydrogen.
  - ✓ Just like conventional cells, a fuel cell consists of an anode (negative electrode) and cathode (positive electrode) sandwiched around an electrolyte.
  - ✓ The operational cost of hydrogen fuel cell trucks is lower than the ones run on other fossil fuels like diesel
  - ✓ Further, the fuel cell vehicle will be the most environment-friendly mode of transportation
  - ✓ For comparison, a single diesel bus plying on long-distance routes typically emits 100 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually
  - ✓ Fuel Cell vehicles also give zero greenhouse gas emissions in contrast to diesel-powered heavy commercial vehicles which account for 12-14% CO<sub>2</sub> and particulate emissions.
- **On August 20, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda - launched the Grameen Udyami Project in Ranchi, Jharkhand to promote skill development and entrepreneurship amongst the tribal youth**
  - ✓ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in collaboration with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society, announced the second phase of the Grameen Udyami Project



- ✓ The goal of the project is to multiskill India's youth and teach them functional skills so as to earn a living.
  - ✓ Rural Tribal Technical Training Program (Grameen Udyami) is a one-of-a-kind multiskilling project funded by the National Skill Development Corporation that aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
  - ✓ The initiative is being carried out in six states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat
  - ✓ Under this programme, the beneficiaries receive training in five different fields - electrical and solar energy, agricultural mechanization, e-governance, plumbing, and two-wheeler repair and maintenance
  - ✓ The Ministry has been also implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to provide short-term Skill Development training to youth from all sections of society, including tribal communities.
- **The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 - will be held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh in January next year.**



- ✓ In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Centre and Madhya Pradesh government for hosting the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas
- ✓ On the occasion, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also present

- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- ✓ It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January 1915.
- ✓ The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in New Delhi with theme “Contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat”.
- ✓ The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was taken in accordance with recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Indian Diaspora set up by the government of India under the chairmanship of L. M. Singhvi.
- ✓ The then Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, received the report of the Committee at a public function at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and announced the “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas” (PBD) on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002.
- ✓ The first ever Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2003

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **External Affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar - has embarked on a three-nation visit in South America starting August 22**
- ✓ This will be the minister’s first visit to the South American Region when he travels to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina from August 22-27
- ✓ During the Minister’s meeting with top leaderships of these three countries as well as his counterpart, focus will be on food and energy security, defence and security, space, IT, and aerospace



- ✓ On August 21, the Minister has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Paraguay and visited the historic Casa de la Independencia from where the South American country's Independence movement started more than two centuries ago.
- ✓ In his first ever visit to Paraguay, India’s first embassy’s premises was inaugurated by the Minister, which started functioning in January 2022
- ✓ Later, during his visits to Brazil and Argentina, the EAM will co-chair the Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) with his counterparts.
- ✓ In addition to this, the minister is also scheduled to deliver an address at the Rio Branco Institute (Brazilian Diplomatic Academy) in Brazil.

- ✓ Ahead of the Minister's visit, navies of both the countries had their first bilateral drill Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in which INS Tarkash took part along with Brazilian Naval Ship Uniao, a Niteroi class frigate
- ✓ INS Tarkash, which is deployed in the Atlantic, was in Brazil to unfurl the tricolour on August 15 at Rio de Janeiro, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- ✓ In two decades this was the first deployment of an Indian Navy ship to South America

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Vijay Shekhar Sharma - has been reappointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of financial services platform, Paytm**



- ✓ The company's shareholders have voted with a 99.67% majority in favour of Vijay Shekhar Sharma's reappointment as the Managing Director for five more years
- ✓ The decision was taken during the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the brand Paytm, held on August 19, 2022
- ✓ This was the first AGM of OCL as a public listed company
- ✓ During the AGM, the shareholders also passed a resolution for the appointment of Madhur Deora as president and group chief financial officer (group CFO).
- ✓ The shareholders have also agreed to retain Ravi Chandra Adusumalli as director.
- ✓ Earlier in May 2022, OCL's Board of Directors approved the reappointment of Sharma as Managing Director
- ✓ In February this year, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had made it voluntary for Indian companies to have a separate chairperson and managing director or CEO
- ✓ Paytm is India's leading digital payments and financial services company and the pioneer of QR and mobile payments.
- ✓ Paytm has lost more than 60% of its value since its high-profile initial public offering in November