



FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- On August 22, Chief minister M K Stalin - virtually inaugurated six archaka schools and three music and Divyaprabandham training centres.
- ✓ HR & CE minister P K Sekarbau and chief secretary V Irai Anbu were present during the event
- ✓ A total of 197 students enrolled into the archaka training centres, music schools and Divyaprabandham (devotional hymns) training centres in the state.

INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

New centres | Odhuvar training centre in Samayapuram, Music (Thavil and Nadaswaram) training centre at Kumbakonam and Divyaprandham training centre in Srivilliputhur Andal temple

➤ **151 students** joined the archakar course, **46 joined the new training centres**

First batch | 207 students passed out

➤ The centres were established in 2007. It remained non-functional

from 2008 due to legal battles over Agama rules and religious sentiment

➤ In 2015, SC passed a verdict giving the nod to appoint trained archakars as per Agama rules. The AIADMK regime appointed only two non-Brahmins as priests following the SC order

➤ **The DMK regime appointed 24 non-Brahmin trained achakars**, including a woman Odhuvar, on August 14, 2021



V Subbulakshmi and her brother Sambooprabha

Six Archakar training centres | Tiruvannamalai Annamalaiyar temple, Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple, Palani Murugan temple, Trichendur Murugan temple, Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple and Mylapore Kapaleswarar temple.

- ✓ The newly created training centres will come under the purview of the state Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments department
- ✓ The government has developed the six centres and established the three new centres at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.
- ✓ The centres would provide accommodation for students, who would receive a monthly incentive of Rs.3,000 each.
- ✓ The revival of archaka training centres after a gap of 14 years is one of the poll promises of the DMK government
- ✓ The government, on August 14 last year, handed over appointments to 24 non-Brahmin archakas, including four dalits, in HR & CE temples.

- ✓ It was one of the flagship programmes of former CM M Karunanidhi, launched in 2007
- **Tamil Nadu's paddy cultivation - was spread across 22 lakh hectares during 2021-22, which is an historic achievement in the last two decades**

BREAKING RECORDS

Paddy yield increases year after year

Year	Area*	Production**
2016-17	14.4	53.8
2017-18	18.3	100.6
2018-19	17.2	92.9
2019-20	19.1	110.1
2020-21	20.4	104.3
2021-22	22.1	122.2

(*Lakh hectares, **Lakh tonnes)

- Cauvery delta districts record short-term Kuruvai crop coverage of 5.363 lakh acres, the highest in the last two decades
- Cumulative coverage of major crops, paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane and oil seeds surpasses 10.93 lakh hectares as on Monday in the current fiscal as against 10.3 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last fiscal
- Water level at Mettur reservoir continues to remain at its full capacity of 93.47tmcft since July 17
- TN realised 282tmcft of Cauvery water from Karnataka as against the prescribed 67tmcft between June 1 and August 18

- ✓ This has been made possible due to a good monsoon and release of water from Karnataka reservoirs across Cauvery
- ✓ Paddy production rose to 122 lakh tonnes during this period, which is also a record.
- ✓ Further, the paddy coverage during the short-term kuruvai season this year too is the highest in the last two decades.
 - ✓ The Cauvery delta districts have seen a cumulative coverage of 5.36 lakh acres, which is 9% higher than last year.
- ✓ The sluices of Mettur dam were opened on May 24 this year, against a historic first since Independence, and ahead of the customary date of June 12.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu received 282tmcft this year until August 18, as against 67tmcft that should have been released from the Karnataka reservoirs across Cauvery as per the final award of the Cauvery water disputes tribunal and modified by the Supreme Court

- ✓ It has to be noted that paddy production last surpassed 120 lakh tonnes in 2014-15.
- ✓ The short-term Kuruvai crop is raised between April and July and the cultivation is usually on 1.5 lakh acres to 3 lakh acres in the delta districts due to delayed monsoon and release of water from Karnataka reservoirs.
 - ✓ The cultivation, however, touched 4.9 lakh acres last year, the highest
 - ✓ Last year, the government also provided Rs.61 crore special package of subsidized inputs and machinery to help farmers increase the coverage.
- ✓ This year, the cumulative coverage of paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane and oil seeds was spread across 10.9 lakh hectares across the state until August 22, as against 10.3 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year.

STATES

- **On August 21, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee - announced that state government offices will be closed for 11 days from September 30 to October 10 this year for Durga Puja**
- ✓ Further, the CM announced that the clubs organizing Durga Puja will get a government grant of Rs.60,000 each, up from last year's Rs.50,000.
- ✓ The CM announced the decisions after an administrative meeting with organisers at Netaji Indoor Stadium
- ✓ The government's decision indicates the return of state's biggest festival to pre-pandemic normality after the Covid restrictions of the last two years.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the state government employees enjoyed 16 days of holiday in the Durga Puja month last year
- ✓ This year, with the state declaration of 11 days of closed offices, the number of holidays is set to increase to 22 days.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has cleared the Uttar Pradesh government's plan to issue identity cards to each family in the state using Aadhaar data and ration cards for authentication of details**
- ✓ In this regard, the state is likely to launch within a fortnight a new portal, where citizens can apply for their IDs
- ✓ This will help execute the government's "one job for each family" proposal and other welfare schemes like pension and housing.
- ✓ According to the government, there are 15 crore Aadhaar-validated ration card holders in the state who can be immediately issued family ID cards.
- ✓ About 60% of the state's population is covered by the ration card scheme.

COURT VERDICT

- **On August 22, the Madras High Court - upheld the Tamil Nadu government's decision to appoint people from any caste as archakas (priests) for non-agama temples**

- ✓ The first bench of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice N Mala directed the state government to constitute a five-member committee to oversee the appointment of archakas to temples following agama sastra in the state.
 - ✓ The five-member panel will also assist in identifying temples in Tamil Nadu that were built following agama rules.
 - ✓ The committee will be headed by a retired judge, M Chockalingam, while the commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department will be an ex-officio member.
 - ✓ Two more members will be nominated by the government, and N Gopalswami, head of executive committee of Madras Sanskrit College, will be the last member of the panel
- ✓ Further, the HC ordered that appointment of archakas for temples following agama sastras should be based on the agama rules
- ✓ On identification of the temple constructed as per particular Agama, the appointment of Archaka would be governed accordingly as per the judgment of the Apex Court
- ✓ Agamas relate to construction of temples and other rituals, like who is permitted to perform temple rituals, and who is qualified to worship, and from which part of the temple
- ✓ In August last year, the government appointed 24 archakas, five of whom belonged to the SC, six were from MBC, 12 from BC, and one from a non-Brahmin forward caste.
- **On August 22, the Supreme Court - terminated the Committee of Administrators (CoA) formed on May 18 to govern the All India Football Federation (AIFF)**
 - ✓ The decision is aimed at facilitating the revocation of AIFF's suspension by FIFA and hosting of the prestigious U-17 Women's Football World Cup in India in October.
 - ✓ The CoA was headed by former SC judge A R Dave and comprised former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi and former captain Bhaskar Ganguly.
 - ✓ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna said that for the time being the AIFF secretary general — chosen already by the 36 state associations — shall look after the federation's affairs.
 - ✓ The bench postponed the August 28 elections by a week to elect a 23-member executive council
 - ✓ Out of the 23 members, 17 members will be elected by the electoral college consisting of 35 associations representing states/UTs
 - ✓ The president, a treasurer and one vice-president will be elected by the electoral college
 - ✓ Further, six eminent players are to be co-opted by the executive council with not more than one player from a state.

- ✓ A player would qualify to be in the eminent category if he/ she has played at least one international match for India and retired two years ago.
- ✓ On August 16, in a major setback and embarrassment for the country, FIFA had suspended India for "undue influence from third parties" and said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned"
- ✓ The CoA was viewed as third-party participation by FIFA, the Centre told the court on August 22 and requested the committee be dissolved
- ✓ After Praful Patel was removed as AIFF president in May 2022, the court put in place a CoA to take care of the day-to-day affairs of the body and finalise a constitution.
- ✓ The country is scheduled to host the FIFA event from October 11-30, 2022

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal - met Iran vice-president Mohammad Mokhber in Tehran on August 22**
- ✓ During the meeting, both the leaders discussed efforts needed to be taken to further strengthen Indo-Iranian bilateral relations.



- ✓ Both countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on recognition of 'certificates of competency in unlimited voyages'
- ✓ This agreement would help seafarers from both countries as per the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping for Seafarers (1978).

DEFENCE

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - will travel to the Uzbekistan capital, Tashkent, on August 23 on a three-day visit to attend a defence ministerial conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).**
- ✓ Chinese defence minister General Wei Fenghe and Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu are also expected to attend the SCO meet
- ✓ The meeting will witness defence ministers from other member countries of the grouping.



- ✓ The SCO defence ministerial meeting is taking place around three weeks ahead of the annual summit of the influential grouping.
- ✓ The summit is scheduled for September 15-16 in Samarkand.
- ✓ Rajnath Singh, during his August 23-25 visit to Tashkent, will also meet the defence ministers of some of the SCO member countries.
- ✓ He is scheduled to deliver his address at the SCO meeting on August 24.

SPORTS

- **On August 21, Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa - beat World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the seventh and final round of Miami's FTX Crypto Cup, an online event part of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour**



FINAL
STANDINGS

		PTS
1	MAGNUS CARLSEN	16
2	PRAGGNANANDHAA	15
3	ALIREZA FIROUZJA	15
4	LIEM LE	12
5	JAN-KRZYSZTOF DUDA	11
6	LEVON ARONIAN	8
7	ANISH GIRI	7
8	HANS NIEMANN	0

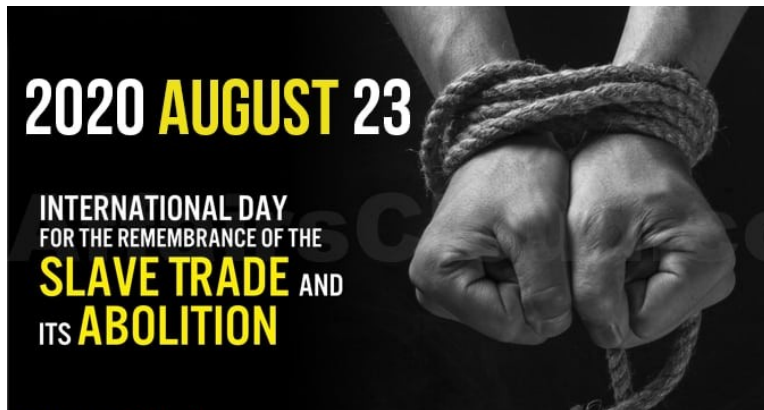


- ✓ With the win against the world champion in the tiebreaks, Praggnanandhaa finished second in the eight-player rapid event held in Miami, USA
- ✓ Carlsen scored 16 points, and thus emerged the champion, winning the FTX Crypto Cup for the second year in a row.
- ✓ The result also stretches his lead at the top of the \$1.6 million Tour leaderboard and wins him the tournament's unique NFT trophy.
- ✓ This was also his first win in a Major and the third win in this year's Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, with six events have taken place so far

- ✓ French GM Alireza Firouzja secured a third-place finish with a 2.5-1.5 win over Levon Aronian.
- ✓ Both Firouzja and Praggu had finished level with 15 points but the Indian finished second as he had beaten Firouzja in the head-to-head match.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa had beaten the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen twice this year — at the Airthings Masters in February and during Chessable Masters in May

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition – August 23**



- ✓ The day commemorates thousands of individuals who suffered and died in the transatlantic slave trade during the colonial rule
- ✓ The Slave trade was a common practice in the imperialist regimes of the European nations.
- ✓ Humans from the African and Asian countries were traded to be slaves of the colonial rule in Haiti, the Caribbean and other locations across the globe.
- ✓ In 1787, England passed the Slavery Abolition Act, which outlawed slavery throughout her colonies.
- ✓ The international slave trade was eradicated on March 25, 1807.
- ✓ On the night of August 22 to 23, 1791 in Saint Domingue, the Republic of Haiti, a revolution began which gave rise to events that led to the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.
 - ✓ In the 18th century, Saint Domingue was a colonial settlement of France.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism'
- ✓ The day, designated by UNESCO, was first observed on August 23, 1998.

