



FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- On August 25, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced plans to set up an exclusive export facilitation centre in each district to help entrepreneurs succeeding in the export market.

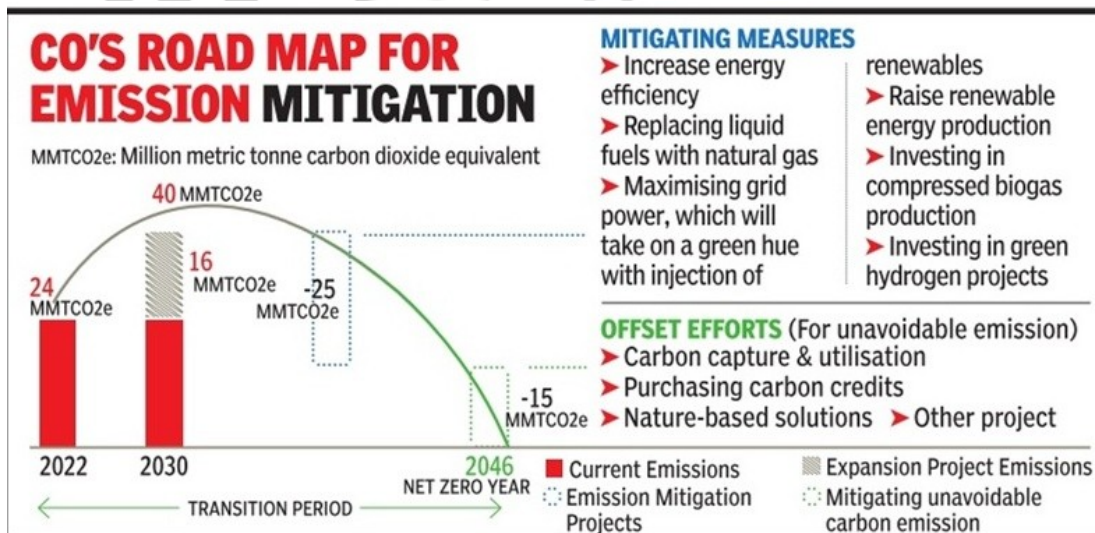


- ✓ The Chief Minister made the announcement while addressing the regional MSME meet in Tirupur
- ✓ The CM also announced plans to offer a special subsidy for the home textiles by bringing it under the thrust sector.
- ✓ He launched the Tamil Nadu Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in collaboration with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Micro and Small Enterprises and the Tamil Nadu Trade Receivables Discounting System at the event.
- ✓ The CM also virtually inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development Corporation building in Coimbatore
- ✓ He also laid foundation stone for a private industrial estate to be set up by COSIEMA at Solavampalayam at a cost of Rs.18.13 crore, among other initiatives
- ✓ The CM later issued sanctions to set up new coir clusters at Pollachi, K Paramathy in Karur, and Udumalpet and Kundadam in Tirupur at a cost of Rs.36.6 crore.

- ✓ Further, the CM renamed the MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau as FaMe-TN (facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu).
- ✓ He also released a book on 'how to start a business' at the event.
- **Tamil Nadu government – has issued orders for premature release of 16 prisoners on August 25 under an amnesty scheme**
- ✓ They were shortlisted for release following an announcement by chief minister M K Stalin in the assembly on September 13 last year
- ✓ According to the CM, 700 convicts would be released under the scheme to mark DMK founder and late chief minister C N Annadurai's 113th birth anniversary.
- ✓ On August 15, the first batch of five life convicts were released from Vellore prison
- ✓ Besides, the state government had announced the release of 19 convicts (10 on August 15 and nine on August 28) separately
- ✓ These prisoners had spent nearly 60% of their punishment period under the Centre's special remission to mark 75 years of Independence.
- ✓ With this, a total of 40 prisoners were to be released from various prisons and more convicts would be released in batches in the coming days under the special scheme.

NATIONAL

- **On August 25, India's largest oil refiner and fuel retailer Indian Oil - unveiled a Rs 2-lakh-crore road map to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emission from its operations by 2046.**



- ✓ The move is expected to boost PM Narendra Modi's vision of a net-zero India by 2070 announced at the COP26 climate meet at Glasgow, UK.
- ✓ Accordingly, the oil major will invest more than Rs 8,000 crore in technology, research & development on alternative energy, carbon capture and use projects as well as purchasing carbon credits to offset unavoidable emissions due to technological limitations.

- ✓ Indian Oil is the latest Indian energy company dealing with fossil fuels to announce its ambitious net zero target.
- ✓ In April 2020, Reliance Industries, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refining complex and an array of petrochemical units, announced a net zero ambition by the year 2035.
- ✓ Earlier this year, state-run Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — which are much smaller in size compared to Indian Oil — announced net zero targets by 2040.
- ✓ Globally, BP and Shell in 2020 had announced roadmap to achieve net zero by 2050, while ExxonMobil announced the same in January.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court- appointed technical expert committee – concluded that the controversial Israeli spyware Pegasus was not found in the 29 mobile phones of complainants which are examined by it.**
- ✓ The Pegasus panel in its report submitted in the Supreme Court said five out of 29 mobile phones were possibly infected with some malware, but that does not mean it was Pegasus.

PANEL FOR KEEPING REPORT SECRET

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PEGASUS PROCEEDINGS IN COURT

➤ Pegasus not found in 29 mobile phones and devices submitted for scrutiny by an SC-appointed technical committee

➤ Malware was detected in five devices, but data insufficient to determine it was Pegasus

➤ Centre did not cooperate with the technical committee in the scrutiny of mobile phones and electronic devices to detect Pegasus

➤ Report be kept secret, says Technical Committee(TC); some of the complainants too request report to be kept secret fearing leak of personal information

➤ TC says its report contains data about malware information which may be misused and may create security problems as the application of the properties of the malware may lead to criminals to get a lead over law enforcing agencies

➤ TC says information in its

report can be misused to create new wares and more sophisticated malware using their expertise in design of malware systems and their knowledge about the mobile operating systems.

➤ TC says contains information/research material related to malware, application of which may pose threat to national security apparatus

➤ Oversight Judge, Justice R V Raveendran gives six recommendations for strengthening cyber security; creation of an exclusive primary agency to probe threats to cyber security; amendment of laws to protect citizens against illegal surveillance; no private party be permitted to carry out snooping

➤ SC to hear the future course of action – creating an interim arrangement till Parliament fills the lacuna in surveillance laws – after four weeks



- ✓ The panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran had submitted its report in the apex court last month.
- ✓ According to the panel, the government did not fully cooperate while examining the phone for the malware.
- ✓ The members of the technical committee are Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Professor (Cyber Security and Digital Forensics) and Dean, National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Dr Prabakaran P, Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kerala, and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor (Computer Science and Engineering), IIT, Bombay.
- ✓ Justice Raveendran has been assisted by former IPS officer Alok Joshi and Sundeep Oberoi, Chairman of Sub Committee in International Organisation of Standardisation/ International Electro-Technical Commission/Joint Technical Committee – in monitoring the inquiry of the technical panel.
- ✓ The report consisted of three parts - report of the technical committee, digital images of phones examined for infection due to spyware, and the report of overseeing judge, justice Raveendran.
- ✓ The technical expert committee of the Supreme Court said its report contained sensitive technical information which could not be made 'public' and pleaded for keeping the report secret
- ✓ The report pointed out that there are certain malwares which could be misused causing concerns to the security, and also violate the privacy of citizens.
- ✓ It recommended amendment to laws on surveillance and enhancing cyber security while protecting the right to privacy to prevent unauthorised surveillance
- ✓ The bench, on October 27 last year, had ordered a probe into the allegations, based on a report by Amnesty International of illegal use of Pegasus, of use of Israeli spyware by government agencies for targeted surveillance of politicians, journalists, and activists
- ✓ An international media consortium had reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using Pegasus spyware

INTERNATIONAL

- **On August 24, India - voted against Russia during a "procedural vote" at the United Nations Security Council on Ukraine.**
- ✓ This was the first time India has voted against Russia on the issue of Ukraine since the Russian military operation began on February 24, 2022
- ✓ So far, India has abstained at the UN Security Council on several resolutions on Russia-Ukraine conflict

- ✓ On August 24, the UNSC held a meeting to take stock of the now six-month-old conflict on the 31st anniversary of Ukraine's independence.



- ✓ In this regard, the 15-member United Nations Security Council invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address a meeting through a video tele-conference.
 - ✓ Russian Ambassador to the United Nations, however, objected to this and stressed that the council cannot make an exception for one country or one person
 - ✓ He then called for a procedural vote concerning Zelenskyy's participation in addressing the UNSC through a video tele-conference
 - ✓ Russia was the only country to back its proposal as China abstained and others, including India, supported Zelenskyy's virtual address.
 - ✓ The Indian government justified its stand by saying this was not a vote against Russia as Zelenskyy had at least twice addressed the Council earlier through video conference.
 - ✓ Russia's objection was also limited only to the Ukrainian President speaking through a video conference, while Russia was not against participation by Zelenskyy in person.
 - ✓ Russia had not objected to Zelenskyy speaking earlier and that it was only on this occasion that it tried to block his virtual address and sought a vote on it.
 - ✓ India is currently a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term that expires in December
- **On August 25, the World Health Organisation (WHO) - announced that a million people had died from Covid-19 in 2022, calling it a "tragic milestone".**
- ✓ Nearly 6.5 million deaths have been reported to the WHO since the virus was first detected in late 2019.
 - ✓ WHO Chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wanted all countries to have vaccinated 70% of their populations by the end of June.
 - ✓ But 136 countries failed to reach the target, of which 66 still had coverage below 40%.
 - ✓ More than 593 million cases have now been reported to the UN health agency, with the BA.5 group of Omicron sub-variants remain globally dominant at 74%

- **South Korea - broke its own record for the world's lowest total fertility rate last year, as per the census data released.**
- ✓ The fertility rate — the average number of children born to a woman during her reproductive years —declined for the sixth straight year to 0.81 in 2021, down from 0.84 a year earlier, according to Statistics Korea.
- ✓ According to United Nations global population projections and World Bank data, South Korea is one of the world's fastest-ageing nations among economies with per-capita GDP of at least \$30,000.
- ✓ By 2100, the country's population is expected to drop by 53% to 24 million.
- ✓ South Korea's birth rate has been dropping since 2015, and in 2020 the country recorded more deaths than births for the first time
- ✓ By comparison, the fertility rate was 1.66 in the US and 1.3 in Japan.
- ✓ A fertility rate of 2.1 is needed for a population to remain the same size without migration.

PERSONALITIES

- **Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, two days before his retirement - created a record by heading six benches on a single day**



- ✓ On August 25, the CJI dealt with important cases relating to Pegasus, PM security breach, PMLA judgment review and Bilkis Bano convict remission controversy.
- ✓ First, a bench of CJI and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli pronounced three judgments.
- ✓ After this, he headed a bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Kohli to hear Pegasus and PM security matters.
- ✓ A little later, he and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar issued notice to the Centre on Karti Chidambaram's plea for review of the July 27 PMLA judgment.
- ✓ Then, he heard the PIL on Bilkis case remission controversy sitting with Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath.
- ✓ Afterwards, the CJI assembled with Justice J K Maheshwari to hear a specially marked matter.

- ✓ And at the end, he headed a bench, also comprising Justices Kohli and Ravikumar, to deal with a few other matters.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former Chief Economic Adviser, Krishnamurthy Subramanian - was appointed as Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund on August 25**



- ✓ Subramanian is currently Professor (Finance), Indian School of Business
- ✓ Serving as the country's youngest Chief Economic Advisor from 2018 to 2021, Subramanian formulated crucial policies that helped India emerge from the once-in-a-century Covid crisis
- ✓ A prominent name in the Indian banking sector, Subramanian has served on the expert committee on governance of banks for The Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ Previously, he has also served as a member of the Board of Directors at Bandhan Bank and the National Institute of Bank Management.
- ✓ Subramanian holds an MBA and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in financial economics from University of Chicago Booth School of Business.
- ✓ His PhD was completed under the supervision of former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Subramanian to the post of Executive Director (India) at the IMF, with effect from November 1, 2022 for a period of three years or until further orders
- ✓ He was appointed by curtailing the tenure of eminent economist and incumbent ED (India), Surjit S Bhalla at the IMF up to October 31, 2022.
- ✓ Bhalla was appointed to the post for three years in October 2019
- ✓ He succeeded former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who died in the US on 30 July after a brief illness.
- ✓ The government had appointed Subramanian, a ISB Hyderabad professor, as the CEA in December 2018, succeeding Arvind Subramanian.

- ✓ IMF, a United Nations agency, is an international organization that promotes global economic growth and financial stability, encourages international trade, and works in reducing poverty

SPORTS

- **Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi - clinched the 28th Abu Dhabi Masters chess tournament, beating Spain's David Anton Guijarro at Abu Dhabi on August 25.**



- ✓ The 18-year-old from Warangal emerged victorious over the Spaniard in the ninth and final round with 7.5 points
 - ✓ Erigaisi also remained unbeaten throughout the nine rounds and finished half-a-point ahead of Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov
 - ✓ Erigaisi, who is currently India's No. 3 in the live ratings list, posted six wins and drew the other three games to emerge a clear winner in a field that included several GMs from across the world
 - ✓ Erigaisi is currently ranked at India No. 3 behind five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand and Gukesh.
 - ✓ Arjun, with a live rating of 2724, is currently ranked World no. 24 while Anand (ELO rating of 2756) and Gukesh (2728) are 12th and 20th respectively.
 - ✓ Having begun the year by winning the Tata Steel Challengers in Wijk Aan Zee, Arjun won the senior Nationals and followed it up with the Delhi international open tournament.
- **Karim Benzema and Alexia Putellas - won UEFA's player of the year awards on August 25, making it a clean sweep for Spanish clubs.**
 - ✓ Benzema had been the heavy favourite for the men's award after scoring 15 Champions League goals to lead Real Madrid to a record-extending 14th European title.



- ✓ Putellas won a second straight UEFA women's best player award after helping Barcelona reach the Champions League final in defense of its title.
- ✓ She was expected to lead Spain at the European Championship in July but suffered a serious knee injury days before the tournament started in England.
- ✓ The coaching awards went to the winners of the two biggest events last season – Carlo Ancelotti of Madrid and Sarina Wiegman, who led England to the Euro 2022 title.
- ✓ The voting for the awards was done by coaches whose teams played in European competitions and selected journalists across Europe.
- ✓ Benzema won from a three-player shortlist that included Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne.
- ✓ Ancelotti again beat Jürgen Klopp, whose Liverpool team lost the Champions League final, and Pep Guardiola of Premier League winner Manchester City.

