



FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-september**

TAMIL NADU

- **On September 21, the state government - notified India's first ever 'Dugong Conservation Reserve' in the Palk Bay.**



- ✓ The move was aimed at conserving the endangered species and help protect and improve other marine animals
- ✓ Palk Bay is a shallow bay and the enclosed nature of the bay provides the ideal habitat for dugongs, dolphins, porpoises and turtles to frequent the region
- ✓ The gazette notification has identified 448.34 square kilometres (44,834 hectares) of coastal waters in Palk Bay from Adirampattinam village in Thanjavur to Ammapattinam in Pudukkottai as Dugong Conservation Reserve.
- ✓ The endangered dugongs live within 10-metre depth not far from the shore, usually in groups limited to 5 to 7 individuals among the seagrass beds.
- ✓ These marine mammals can weigh up to 300 kg, measuring 3.5 to 5 meters in length.
- ✓ Dugongs are largest herbivorous marine mammals which primarily thrive on sea grass beds
- ✓ Dugongs are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as their population was on the decline due to habitat loss.
- ✓ Over exploitation of the sea grass beds by fishermen in the past and due to reduction in their habitat, their numbers have come down drastically.

- ✓ There were only about 240 such Dugongs estimated to be present in the country and a majority of them was found on the Palk Bay area
- ✓ In September 2021, the government had announced in the Assembly that in order to protect the Dugong species and its marine habitats, a conservation reserve would be established in the Palk Bay region off the coast of Tamil Nadu.

STATES

- **Uttarakhand - becomes the first Indian state to allow the cultivation of 'industrial cannabis'**




- ✓ The state has granted licence to the Indian Industrial Hemp Association (IIHA) to grow the standardized 'industrial hemp' over 1,000 hectares on a pilot basis
- ✓ Eventually, IIHA will cultivate the fibre for a period of five years, in a bid to cover an area of 10,000 hectares
- ✓ This is the first time in India that industrial-grade hemp has been grown as per government guidelines for standardisation
- ✓ According to the report, the total economic value of hemp cultivation could be Rs 3.75 lakh per hectare
- ✓ India had formulated a policy to allow cultivation of non-narcotic cannabis in 1985 but the policy remained unimplemented as the country did not specify proper procedures for its cultivation
- ✓ Uttarakhand has a suitable climate and land for hemp cultivation as it requires very little water and can be harvested in three months.
- ✓ Cannabis' seeds and flowers are considered valuable in medical and food-processing industry, but its use is illegal in the country
- ✓ In 2016, Uttarakhand became the first state to allow cultivation of large-scale industrial hemp (cannabis sativa), which has low intoxication capacity

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On September 21, Amazon - launched its first utility-scale renewable energy projects – three solar farms - in India**

POWER BOOST

- The three solar farms include a 210 MW project to be developed by ReNew Power, a 100MW project by Amp Energy India, and a 110MW project by Brookfield Renewable
- Renewable energy generated per year will be enough to power over 360,000 households in New Delhi
- Amazon also announced 23



new solar rooftop projects across 14 cities including Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai

- ✓ The newly launched three solar farms are located in the state of Rajasthan.
- ✓ These include a 210 MW project to be developed by ReNew Power, a 100MW project to be developed by local developer Amp Energy India, and a 110MW project to be developed by Brookfield Renewable.
- ✓ These solar farms together have the capacity to generate 1,076,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy per year
- ✓ Amazon's project with ReNew Power for a 210 MW solar farm in Rajasthan is said to be one of the largest solar corporate power purchase agreements (PPA) by a technology company in India
- ✓ It is also the largest single business-to-business (B2B) project that ReNew Power is developing in India.
- ✓ Amazon has executed more than 500 MW of renewable energy PPAs with Brookfield globally till now.
- ✓ Amazon also announced 23 new solar rooftop projects as part of its fulfillment centers across 14 cities in India including in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Vadodara, Mumbai, Bengaluru and others.
- ✓ This will result in generating an additional capacity of 4.09 MW of renewable energy, and contribute to powering Amazon's fulfillment centres in India.
- ✓ Amazon now has a total of 379 renewable energy projects across 21 countries including 154 wind and solar farms and 225 rooftop solar projects, representing 18.5 GW of renewable energy capacity.
- ✓ In the Asia-Pacific region, the company now has a total of 57 renewable energy projects, and by the end of 2021, the company reached 85% renewable energy across its business.
- ✓ India had committed to be 100% renewable by 2030.
- ✓ The tech company had earlier set a target of powering its operations with 100% renewable energy by 2030.

PERSONALITIES

- **Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court, M Duraiswamy - demitted office on September 21**



- ✓ Following the retirement, Justice Duraiswamy has been appointed chairperson of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Board.
- ✓ Justice Duraiswamy retires after completing 13 years of service as a judge of Madras high court and disposing of 46,313 cases
- ✓ Born on September 22, 1960, Justice Duraiswamy completed his law degree from the Madras Law College and enrolled as an advocate on January 21, 1987.
- ✓ He was associated with the office of Justice A S Venkatachalamoorthy, former Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh high court.
- ✓ Justice Duraiswamy served as a central government standing counsel from for the period 1997-2000.
- ✓ He was elevated as an additional judge of the high court on March 31, 2009, and appointed permanent judge on March 29, 2011.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Tech giant Accenture - has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) to set up a Center of Excellence (CoE) for collaborative research projects**



- ✓ The Center will jointly develop intellectual properties and thought leadership in industrial digitization.

- ✓ It will be located at the IIT-M research park campus
- ✓ The CoE will also work as an incubator and identify disruptive early-stage startups to drive innovation and research in these areas.
- ✓ The specific areas of collaboration will include autonomous robotics systems (ARS), industrial internet of things (IIoT), digital twin systems (DTS) and advanced automotive technologies such as electric mobility services.
- ✓ IIT Madras has around 40 Centres of Excellences till date and has a total of 1,200 industry partnerships.

DEFENCE

- **Two large diving support vessels (DSVs), Nistar and Nipun - will be “launched” at Hindustan Shipyard in Visakhapatnam on September 22.**
- ✓ These vessels will also help in rescue operations for disabled submarines deep underwater



- ✓ They are the first of their kind ships to be indigenously designed and built for the Navy.
- ✓ The first of the two DSVs (Nistar and Nipun), each with a displacement of 9,350 tonnes, is likely to be delivered to the Navy by July 2023, with the next following in January 2024.
- ✓ Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar will be the chief guest at the launch ceremony of the DSVs
- ✓ The two DSVs are built at a cost of Rs.2,393 crore.
- ✓ The vessels, which are 118.4 metres long and 22.8 metres wide, will be deployed for deep sea diving operations
- ✓ The DSVs can carry deep submergence rescue vessels (DSRVs) and are also designed to undertake submarine rescue operations if the need arises.

ECONOMY/BUSINESS

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - has lowered its 2022-23 economic growth outlook for India**

- ✓ The move follows slower global demand and rising interest rates to manage inflationary pressures from elevated prices of oil and other commodities.
- ✓ ADB forecasts growth of 7% for fiscal 2022-23 in an update of its Asian Development Outlook as against a projection of 7.5% in April.
- ✓ The growth outlook for 2023-24 has also been revised down to 7.2% from the earlier 8.0%.
- ✓ Several multilateral agencies, economists and brokerages have lowered India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year due to the impact of the global slowdown and persistent inflationary pressures.

OBITUARY

- **Former Tamil Nadu assembly speaker and ex-Union minister Sedapatti R Muthiah (77 years) - died in Madurai after prolonged illness on September 21.**

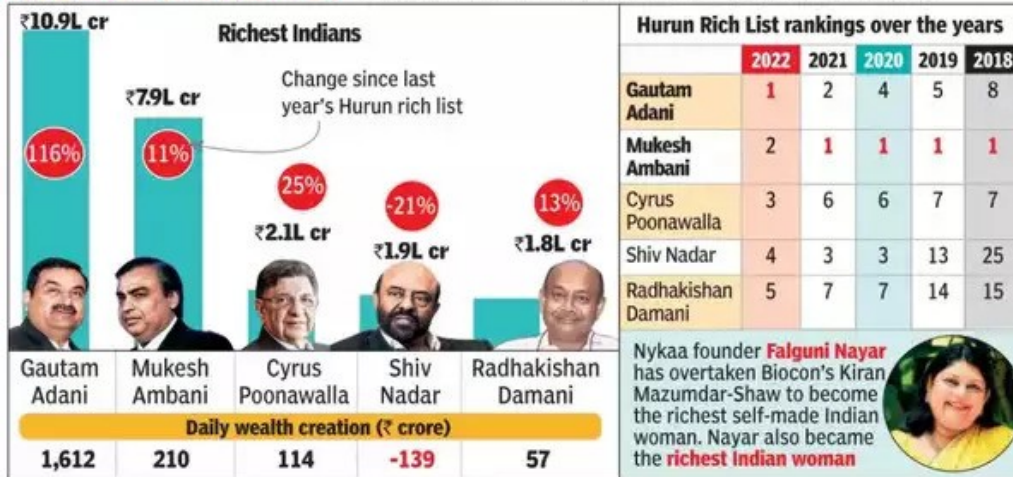


- ✓ One of the founding members of the AIADMK, Muthiah played a key role in the AIADMK until 1999 when he was expelled from the party by then general secretary J Jayalithaa.
- ✓ Muthiah won from Sedapatti assembly constituency four times and was made the speaker of the legislative assembly during the AIADMK's tenure from 1991 to 1996.
- ✓ He was elected as MP twice in the ninth Lok Sabha and in the twelfth Lok Sabha from Periyakulam constituency.
- ✓ He served as a Union minister for surface transport in the A B Vajpayee cabinet.

RANKINGS

- **Adani Group founder Gautam Adani – has become the richest man in India for the first time in 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2022'**
- ✓ He has overtaken Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani to become the richest man in India with a wealth of Rs 10.9 lakh crore (nearly \$140 billion).
- ✓ The list shows that Adani's wealth more than doubled, growing 116%, in just one year, while Ambani's net worth grew 11% to Rs 7.9 lakh crore (about \$99 billion).
- ✓ Ambani was ahead of Adani by Rs 2 lakh crore in the list's 2021 edition.

RISES TO THE TOP FROM 8TH RANK 4 YEARS AGO



- ✓ Ambani had held the top position ever since the Hurun's India rich list was launched in 2012.
- ✓ Adani's elder brother Vinod Adani, who manages trading businesses from Dubai, too increased his wealth by 28% to Rs 1.7 lakh crore to move to the number six position from 49 last year.
 - ✓ In the last five years, his wealth has increased by 850%, making him the richest NRI.
- ✓ Adani had surpassed Ambani as the richest Indian first on the Bloomberg Billionaires' Index in early February this year.
 - ✓ At the time, he had a net worth \$88.5 billion, surpassing Ambani's then \$87.9 billion net worth to become Asia's richest too.
- ✓ Last week, Adani also became the world's second-richest person behind Elon Musk, according to Bloomberg.
- ✓ Following the listing of beauty and wellness e-commerce platform Nykaa, Falguni Nayar, has overtaken Biotech chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw to become the richest self-made Indian woman.
- ✓ With this, Nayar has also become the richest Indian woman.
- ✓ Another major gainer during the year is vaccine king Cyrus Poonawalla, who has become the third-richest Indian with a wealth of just over Rs 2 lakh crore.
- ✓ Last year, Poonawalla ranked number seven on the list.
- ✓ For the first time since the launch of the Hurun lists, the cumulative wealth of the rich people has grown to cross Rs 100 lakh crore, which is more than the combined gross domestic product of Singapore, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day of Peace – September 21



- ✓ The day is observed every year to promote the concept of peace, and calls upon nations to observe 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire even during times of conflict.
- ✓ In 1981, all the member-states of the UN unanimously accepted the resolution to declare September 21 as the 'International Day of Peace.'
- ✓ Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.
- ✓ The day calls for temporary ceasefires in combat zones for humanitarian aid access.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'End racism. Build peace.'