



FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august**

TAMIL NADU

- **On August 14, the Union government - announced medals for 27 officers of the Tamil Nadu police for exemplary service on the occasion of the Independence Day, 2022**
- ✓ Of the 27 officers, 3 would be awarded the President's police medal for distinguished service and the other 24 would receive the police medal for meritorious service.
- ✓ President's police medal for distinguished service will be given to K Shankar ADGP, Administration, Chennai, C Easwaramoorthy, IGP, Intelligence (Internal Security), Chennai, and M Madasamy, DCP, Law and Order (North), Salem city.



- ✓ Meanwhile, the State government too announced Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Police Medal for 15 police officers.
- ✓ While five of them would receive the award for excellence in public service, the other 10 would receive the award for excellence in investigation.
- ✓ The recipients of the Medal would be given a gold medal weighing eight grams and a cash award of Rs 25,000.

- **A total of 30 officers from CBI - have been awarded the President's Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service this year on the occasion of Independence Day.**
- ✓ Six officers received the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service while 24 were honoured with the Police Medal for Meritorious Service
- ✓ Additional SP Alok Kumar, who is part of the special unit of Mumbai tasked with preventing corruption within the agency, received the President's Police Medal.
- ✓ The other five officers who received the honour are deputy SPs Atul Hajela, Tejprakash Devrani and T Sridharan, sub-inspector (SI) Gurmeet Singh, and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Narpat Singh.
- ✓ T Sridharan, deputy superintendent of economic offences branch of CBI is among six officers from across the country to get the prestigious police medal this year
- ✓ Sridharan, 53, topper of the 1996 batch, joined CBI as a sub-inspector and has been awarded the medal for his service spanning 26 years in the bureau.
- ✓ The officer has served in Nagpur, anti corruption wing and economic offences wing in Chennai, Kochi and Delhi.
- ✓ A native of Panruti in Cuddalore district, the DSP started his career as a clerk in the ministry of industries before clearing the departmental exam to be selected for CBI.
- ✓ In 2015, he was awarded Indian Police Medal for his distinguished service when he was serving in Nagpur.

- **Greater Chennai Corporation's Kovalam basin drain project – has obtained the nod of Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority**
- ✓ The integrated storm water drain project is being planned by GCC in Kovalam basin covering Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, Neelankarai, Enchambakkam and Uthandi.
- ✓ The total project, across 360km, costs an estimated Rs.1,243 crore, while German bank (KfW) is funding Rs.309 crore for the portion of the project.
- ✓ The civic body will soon hold a public hearing to get the opinion of residents who continue to protest, saying natural infrastructure interventions should be preferred over concrete blocks.
- ✓ The project proposal has been forwarded to the state government to be sent to the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change
- ✓ The GCC should ensure the design as per the directions of the National Green Tribunal (southern Zone) and the report of the NGT (SZ)-constituted expert committee.
- ✓ The civic body should also ensure the alignment and design proposed by the "Advisory Committee on Mitigation and Management of Flood Risk on Chennai Metro" headed by former civil servant Thirupugazh.

STATES

- **Haryana government - recently launched the “Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)” scheme**
 - ✓ The scheme aims to provide an option of affordable private school education to students from the economically weaker sections (EWS)
 - ✓ It was introduced in place of a similar scheme launched by Bhupinder Singh Hooda's government in 2007
 - ✓ Under the Cheerag scheme, government school students whose parents have an annual verified income of less than Rs 1.8 lakh can enroll in private schools from Class II to XII
 - ✓ The government will reimburse Rs 700 per student from Classes II to V, Rs 900 per student from Classes VI to VIII, and Rs 1,100 per student from Classes IX to XII.
 - ✓ A total of 381 private schools offered 24,987 seats for EWS students from government schools under the scheme.
 - ✓ The Bhupinder Singh Hooda-led Congress government in 2007 had introduced a provision to give admission to meritorious children from EWS of the society in private schools.
 - ✓ The idea of the scheme was that at least 25% of the total strength of private schools would consist of students from this quota and they would be provided education free of cost

- **The Assam government - launched a programme ‘Mission Bhumiputra’ recently for issuing digital caste certificates to students**



- ✓ Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the ‘Mission Bhumiputra’ and its portal at the Srimanta Shakardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati
- ✓ The scheme is being implemented by the departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice and Empowerment

- ✓ The applicants will be issued the certificates digitally signed by respective Deputy Commissioners, who will be assisted by official bodies of different castes in identifying or approving the caste of students.
- ✓ In October last year, the Assam CM launched Mission Basundhara with the aim of my land and my rights
- ✓ Under this mission, people were allowed to apply for the disposal of land-related problems through the portal – basundhara.assam.gov.in

NATIONAL

- **Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh – has become the first tribal district in India to achieve 100% literacy.**
 - ✓ In this regard, the Union HRD ministry will make an official announcement on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.
 - ✓ The surveys conducted in 2011 stated that the literacy rate of Mandla district was 68%.
 - ✓ The literacy rate achievement was an example of great teamwork through a campaign, 'Niraksharta Se Azadi Abhiyaan', launched from Independence Day in 2020
 - ✓ Women and child development department, school education department, anganwadis and social workers contributed to the drive.
 - ✓ Under the drive, education centres known as 'akshar gyanalayas' were opened at village panchayats, where classes were held at night for working persons.
- **In a first, the Border Road Organisation (BRO) - will take up the construction of a pilot road stretch in Arunachal Pradesh using steel slag**
 - ✓ If the technology found successful, it can be used for building durable roads which can withstand heavy rains and adverse climatic conditions along strategic areas.
 - ✓ The project has been initiated after the success of using 100% steel slag on the 1.2 km Hazira port connectivity road in Gujarat
 - ✓ This stretch was a research and development project carried out by CSIR-CRRI in collaboration with a major steel manufacturer and steel ministry.
 - ✓ The project was developed with the aim to "convert waste to wealth"
 - ✓ It was carried out by using around one lakh tonne of processed steel slag aggregates instead of the natural aggregates
 - ✓ The road stretch was found to have longer life and was built on an economical budget.
 - ✓ The project has entered the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records for being the first such road
 - ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to use the steel slag for construction of a portion on Mumbai-Goa highway

- ✓ Further, the Indian Railways has also sanctioned a major R&D project to CSIR-CRRI to explore possible utilisation of steel slag aggregate as railway ballast for track construction and maintenance.
- **The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) - has launched a new scheme titled “State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE)” recently**



- ✓ The scheme provides research support to active researchers in frontier areas of science, engineering, and quantitative social science, belonging to state and private universities and colleges.
- ✓ The scheme is also applicable to self-financed institutions working within these universities.
- ✓ The SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The two-day Jharkhand Janjatiya Mahotsav (Tribal Festival) – was held on August 9 and 10 at Ranchi’s Morhabadi Maidan.**



- ✓ The festival was held to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, popularly known as the International Tribal Day on August 9
- ✓ Rajya Sabha member and JMM supremo Shibu Soren inaugurated the festival in presence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren
- ✓ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel graced the concluding ceremony of the event
- ✓ The festival witnessed participation by artists from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Sikkim and North East, apart from the local artists of Jharkhand.
- ✓ A wide range of programmes related to tribal art, culture, tradition and literature were organized during the two-day festival
- ✓ Sports events, panel discussions, seminars and exhibitions featured in the festival.
- ✓ A tribal fashion show was also scheduled in the festival where tribal costumes will also be depicted.

ECONOMY

- **On August 16, State Bank of India (SBI) - will launch a dedicated branch for startups in Bengaluru, the first such branch by SBI in India.**
- ✓ The branch will not only provide all the required banking services, but will also have teams for capital markets and legal advisory services, forex, mutual funds, wealth advisory and custodial services.
- ✓ The branch, to be located in Koramangala, will have a young team with a decade long experience in various fields.
- ✓ The branch will handhold startups that are in their early years, as also provide sophisticated services, including help with raising private equity (PE) money, to mature startups.
- ✓ There are around eight unicorns within a 2km radius of the branch.

AWARDS

- **President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces - has approved 107 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and CAPF personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2022.**
- ✓ These include three Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- ✓ The nation's second highest gallantry medal in peacetime, Kirti Chakra, has been conferred on an Army soldier and two BSF personnel in this year's Independence Day awards list
- ✓ Naik Devendra Pratap Singh of 55 Rashtriya Rifles and BSF constable Sudip Sarkar (posthumous) have been awarded the Kirti Chakra for displaying exceptional bravery in counter-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir.

- ✓ Naik Devendra Pratap Singh was a part of an operation in Pulwama on January 29 where he killed two hardcore terrorists in a gunfight
 - ✓ The third awardee, BSF sub-inspector Paotinsat Guite, was killed while retaliating to enemy fire and also saving the lives of his colleagues during a ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control.
 - ✓ The Shaurya Chakra, the third highest medal, has been awarded to Army Majors Nitin Dhaania (2 ParaSF), Amir Dahiya (1 ParaSF), Sandeep Kumar (55 RR) and Abhishek Singh (50 RR), and Lt Commander Mritunjay Kumar from the Navy.
 - ✓ The others are Havildar Ghanshyam (55 RR), Lance Naik Raghvendra Singh (9 RR), Sepoy Karan Veer Singh (44 RR, posthumous) and Gunner Jasbir Singh (19 RR, posthumous).
 - ✓ The Shaurya Chakra has also been awarded to CRPF assistant commandant Amit Kumar and three from the Maharashtra police - additional superintendent Somay Vinayak Munde and Naiks Ravindra Kashinath Naitam and Tikaram Sampatrao.
 - ✓ The President has also approved 40 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army, one to Air Force personnel and another to the Army Dog, Axel (posthumously), for their significant contributions in different military operations which include Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Rhino, Operation Orchid, Operation Falcon, Operation Hifazat and Operatation Trikut (Deoghar).
 - ✓ Axel, a Belgian Malinois, was shot dead by a terrorist in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district last month during an anti-terror operation
 - ✓ President Murmu has approved President's Tatrakshak Medal as well on the eve of India's Independence Day
- **A total of seven IAF personnel - have been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for gallantry**
- ✓ The seven include four pilots, Wing Commander Deepika Misra, Group Captains Rahul Singh and Ravi Nanda, and Flight Lt D Ravindra Rao.
 - ✓ The others are Squadron Leader Dilip Gurnani, Sergeants Parminder Singh and Shyam Veer Singh.
 - ✓ Wing Commander Deepika Misra, a pilot of the Indian Air Force, was conferred with the Vayu Sena medal, becoming perhaps the first woman to bag the prestigious award.
 - ✓ She helped in saving 47 lives in operations carried out amid strong winds and inclement weather during flash floods in Madhya Pradesh in August, 2021
 - ✓ The government also conferred the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry to Group Captains Rahul Singh and Ravi Nanda for their roles in Operation Devi Shakti last year to bring back Indians from Kabul, Afghanistan.
- **A total of 1,082 personnel of various central para-military forces and state police - were awarded police service medals on the occasion of Independence Day this year**

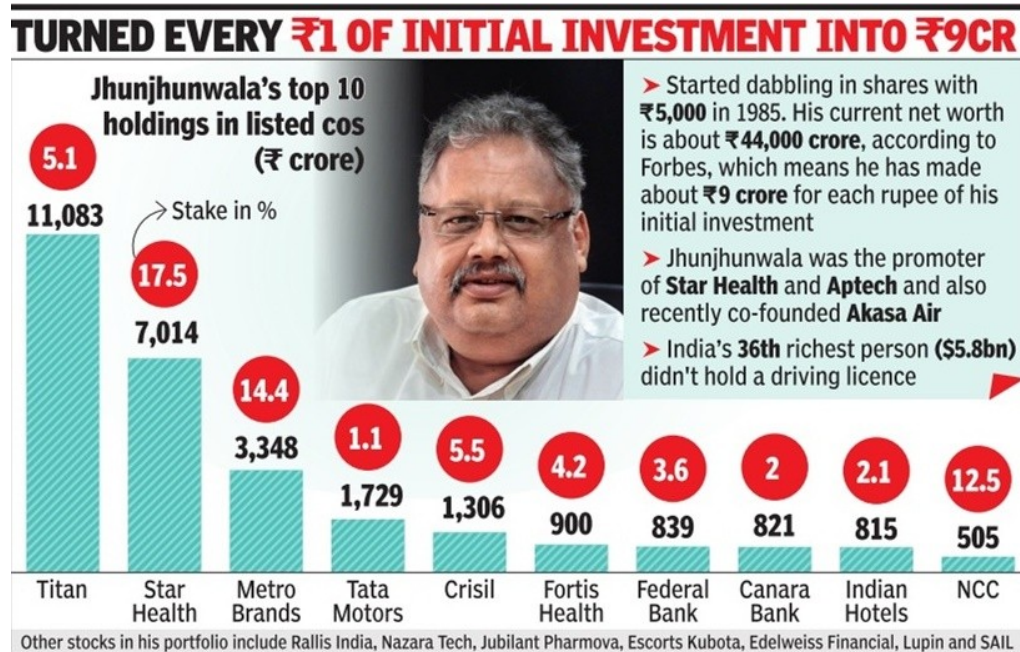
- ✓ The decorations include a total of 347 police medals for gallantry (PMG), 87 President's police medals for distinguished service and 648 police medals for meritorious service
 - ✓ Under the PMG category of medals, 204 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in Jammu and Kashmir, 80 for displaying bravery in Left Wing Extremism or Naxal violence-affected areas and 14 personnel for showing bravery in North-East Region
 - ✓ The CRPF and J&K police have together bagged over 62% of the police gallantry medals awarded this year
 - ✓ CRPF leads the tally with a total 171 medals, followed by J&K police with 125, Maharashtra police with 84, UP police with 80 and BSF with 70.
 - ✓ Delhi police received a total of 18 police medals, including one PMG, two PPM and 16 PM.
- **Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama - was honoured with the 'dPal rNgam Duston' award — the highest civilian honour of Ladakh — for his immense contribution to humanity, especially towards the union territory**



- ✓ The sixth award was conferred by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh on the occasion of its foundation day at Sindhu Ghat in Leh recently
- ✓ The 87-year-old spiritual leader, who is on a visit to the union territory since July 15, appreciated the gesture and stressed maintaining communal harmony in the region
- ✓ The 'dPal rNgam Duston' marks the celebration of the remarkable contribution and achievement of the heroes of Ladakh and seeks to instil a sense of pride in the younger generation

OBITUARY

- **Ace stock market investor and philanthropist, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala – passed away at age 62 on August 14 in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest after fighting several health-related issues for the last few years**
- ✓ He was also the co-founder of Akasa Air, India's newest airline which began commercial operations from Mumbai to Ahmedabad on August 7



- ✓ The veteran trader-cum-investor, known as the Big Bull of Dalal Street, was reported to have a net worth of around \$5.8 billion.
- ✓ He was the 36th richest billionaire in India, according to Forbes' 2021 listing.
- ✓ Jhunjhunwala had recently teamed up with ex-Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube and former IndiGo head Aditya Ghosh to launch Akasa Air
- ✓ Overall, Jhunjhunwala, often dubbed as "India's Warren Buffett", had investments in more than three dozen companies
- ✓ Titan, CRISIL, Sesa Goa, IHCL, Agro Tech Foods, Canara Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Escorts, Rallis India, Star Health, Tata Motors, Praj Industries, Nazara Technologies, Aurobindo Pharma, NCC and Metro Brands were some of his largest holdings.
- ✓ Jhunjhunwala held directorship in three firms — RARE Equity Private Ltd, RARE Family Foundation and HOPE Film Makers, besides at five limited liability partnership firms.
- ✓ He was also the chairman of Hungama Media and Aptech, as well as a director of Prime Focus Limited, Geojit Financial Services, Bilcare Limited, Praj Industries Limited, Provogue India Limited, Concord Biotech Limited, Innovasynth Technologies (I) Limited, Mid Day Multimedia Limited, Nagarjuna Construction Company Limited, Viceroy Hotels Limited, and Tops Security Limited.

- ✓ Jhunjhunwala took all his investment decisions and invested through his asset management firm Rare Enterprises
- ✓ His privately-owned stock trading firm Rare Enterprises derived its name from the first two letters of his name and that of his wife Rekha, who is also an investor.
- ✓ As of 2021, his biggest investment was in Titan Company which is worth Rs 7,294.8 crore.
- ✓ Jhunjhunwala is also a promoter of Star Health and Allied Insurance, where he and his wife together holds a 17.49% stake in the company.
- ✓ He was a member of the Board of Advisors of India's International Movement to Unite Nations (I.I.M.U.N.).
- ✓ Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was born on July 5, 1960 and grew up in a Rajasthani family, in Bombay
- ✓ He graduated from Sydenham College and thereafter enrolled at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
- ✓ A chartered accountant by qualification, Jhunjhunwala began investing with Rs. 5,000 in 1985 when the Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark index Sensex was at 150
- ✓ In 1986, he made his first significant profit when he purchased 5,000 shares of Tata Tea at Rs 43, and the stock rose to Rs 143 within three months.

RANKINGS

- **Nine Indian public and private companies - five of them state-owned, and four from the private sector - have made it to the prestigious 2022 Fortune Global 500 list released recently**
 - ✓ State-owned insurance major, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India ranked 98th on the list with revenue worth \$97.2 billion, up 2.6% YoY, in 2021-22
 - ✓ This is the highest spot for an Indian firm on the global index
 - ✓ The company broke into the list this year after it was listed on domestic stock exchanges in May this year
 - ✓ India's largest private business conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd. has been ranked 104th, with \$93,982 million (\$93.9 billion) in revenue in 2021-22, up 49.4% from the year 2020-21.
 - ✓ RIL's rank in Fortune's Global 500 jumped 51 spots in one year.
 - ✓ Government-owned oil and gas explorer Indian Oil Corporation rose 28 places to 142nd rank on the list, while the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation climbed 16 places and secured 190th rank
 - ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) climbed 17 places to rank 236th and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd rose 19 places to 295.
 - ✓ The list also has two Tata group firms -- Tata Motors at 370 and Tata Steel at 435th spot, while gold retailer Rajesh Exports at 437th rank was the other private Indian company on the list

- ✓ The U.S. retailer Walmart Inc. claims the top spot for the ninth consecutive year, and for the 17th time since 1995, trailed by Amazon, which reached its highest ranking ever of second place
- ✓ Chinese energy giants State Grid, China National Petroleum, and Sinopec rounded out the top five.
- ✓ China, including Hong Kong, had 136 companies on Fortune's largest companies list — the most of any nation.
- ✓ The US ranked second, with 124, while Japan was third with 47
- ✓ For the first time in the history of the rankings, the aggregate revenue of listed companies based in Chinese-speaking countries surpassed that of US companies on the list.

