



FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - has advanced the opening of direct procurement centres (DPCs) for paddy to September 1 from the customary month of October.**
- ✓ An announcement to this effect was made by ministers M R K Panneerselvam (Agriculture) and R Sakkarapani (Food and Civil Supplies), after a consultative meeting with the farmers in Chennai.



- ✓ The Union government has granted approval to the procurement following chief minister M K Stalin's request recently.
- ✓ Normally, the procurement season began from October 1 and culminated by September 30 the following year.
- ✓ Based on the approval of the union government for Tamil Nadu, kuruvai paddy will be procured at the new minimum support price (MSP) with Rs.100 added to the earlier MSP
- ✓ Accordingly, Grade A paddy variety will be procured at Rs 2,160 a quintal and the common variety at Rs 2,115 per quintal this year.
- ✓ The new Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Centre for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), 2022 would be applicable across the entire country from October 1, 2022 onwards.

- ✓ The decision of advance paddy procurement comes in the wake of southwest monsoon bringing copious rainfall in the districts
- ✓ For the first time since independence, the Mettur reservoir has been opened for Kuruvai paddy cultivation on May 24, 2022, ahead of the conventional date of June 12
- ✓ This year, farmers took up short-term (kuruvai) paddy cultivation on 10.22 lakh acres across the state, including 5.3 lakh acres in delta districts alone.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will commission the country's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant on September 2.**
- ✓ The Prime Minister will officially induct the vessel to the Indian Navy inside the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at Kochi




- ✓ On July 28, the Indian Navy had taken delivery of the carrier from CSL after it had successfully completed the fourth and the final phase of the sea trials last month.
- ✓ The aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and will be completed by mid-2023
- ✓ With trials of Dhruv, Sea King and Chetak helicopters completed, the IAC is now set for the MiG-29K trials to begin in October-November.
- ✓ Trials of the new submarine-hunting MH-60 "Romeo" helicopters acquired from the US as well as the Russian-origin early-warning Kamov-31 choppers are in progress now
- ✓ The IAC is equipped with the Israeli-origin 80-km range Barak-8 surface-to-air missile systems
- ✓ The largest ever warship to be built in India, Vikrant is designed by Indian Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design (DND)
- ✓ It was built by the CSL, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- ✓ Vikrant is named after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- ✓ Vikrant has a top speed of around 28 knots and a cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles

- ✓ The 45,000-tonne warship is 262 metres long, 62 metres wide and has a height of 59 metres
 - ✓ It was built at an overall cost of close to Rs 20,000 crore
 - ✓ The project has been implemented under the three phases of contract between the ministry of defence and Cochin Shipyard Ltd, beginning May 2007.
 - ✓ The carrier's keel was laid in February 2009, followed by its launch in August 2013
 - ✓ At present, India has only one aircraft carrier -- INS Vikramaditya -- which was bought from Russia in 2014.
 - ✓ India has now joined a select group of countries like the US, Russia, China, France and UK that can indigenously design, build and integrate an aircraft carrier
- **On August 23, the University Grants Commission – has released the draft guidelines for engaging ‘Professor of Practice’ in higher education institutions**

ACADEMIC DEGREE NOT ESSENTIAL

Draft guidelines for engaging ‘professor of practice’ in universities & colleges

‘Professor of practice’
To bring the industry & other professional expertise into the academic institutions through this new position




Objectives		Eligibility	
➤ To develop courses & curriculum to meet the industry and societal needs	➤ To enable the higher education institutions to formally associate with persons of eminence	➤ Those who have proven expertise in their specific profession or role with at least 15 years of service/ experience, preferably at a senior level	➤ A formal academic qualification is not considered essential for this position if they have exemplary professional practice in lieu

Duties & responsibilities

Designing of courses & curriculum	Introduce new courses and deliver lectures	Enhance industry-academia collaborations	Joint research project or consultancy services
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Categories of engagement

	‘Professor of practice’ funded by industries	‘Professor of practice’ funded by HEIs from their own resources	‘Professor of practice’ on honorary basis
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- ✓ The new initiative aims to use the experience of industry experts and professionals from various fields by engaging them to teach in colleges and universities
- ✓ According to the UGC, a formal academic qualification is not considered essential for this position if the experts have exemplary professional practice

- ✓ The guidelines, after obtaining public feedback, are likely to be notified in September.
 - ✓ The objective of the new initiative is to develop courses and curriculum to meet the industry and societal needs
 - ✓ It also enables the higher education institutions to work with industry experts on joint research projects and consultancy services for mutual benefits
 - ✓ The initiative encourages persons of eminence to participate in experiential learning, research, training, skilling, mentorship and entrepreneurship
 - ✓ The experts can be drawn from various fields such as engineering, science, technology, entrepreneurship, commerce, social sciences, media, literature, fine arts, civil services, armed forces, legal profession and public administration
 - ✓ According to the draft, those with proven expertise in specific profession or role with at least 15 years of service/experience, preferably at a senior level, will be eligible for Professor of Practice
 - ✓ However, this position is not open for those in teaching profession – serving or retired.
 - ✓ According to the guidelines, the chosen experts will be engaged for a fixed term, the maximum tenure being three years and extendable by one year.
 - ✓ Also at any point, the number of 'Professors of Practice' in an institute should not exceed 10% of the sanctioned posts.
- **India - has nominated the dance form 'Garba' to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list.**



- ✓ Last year, 'Durga Puja' was included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list
- ✓ If approved, Garba dance will become the first intangible cultural heritage of Gujarat to be listed by UNESCO.
- ✓ India was elected by UNESCO to serve on the distinguished Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in July 2022.
- ✓ India secured an overwhelming 110 votes from 155 State Parties that finalised its selection.

- ✓ In a landmark achievement, India had ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage back in September 2005 and had demonstrated commitment towards the intangible heritages.
- ✓ Garba is a form of dance, as well as a religious and social event.
- ✓ Traditionally, it is performed during the nine-day Hindu festival Navaratri
- ✓ The word garba comes from the Sanskrit word for ‘womb’ and so implies gestation or pregnancy — life.
- ✓ Garba is performed in a circle reflecting the cycle of life and honours Goddess Durga, the feminine form of divinity
- ✓ Traditionally, the dance is performed around a clay lantern with a light inside, called a Garbha Deep (“womb lamp”).
- ✓ This lantern represents life and the fetus in the womb in particular.

INTERNATIONAL

- **A Belgian-British teenager, Mack Rutherford - became the youngest person to fly around the world solo in a small aircraft after landing on August 24**



- ✓ Mack Rutherford, who turned 17 during the trip, landed near Bulgaria’s capital, Sofia, to complete his task and to claim two Guinness World Records.
- ✓ He now holds the record for being the youngest person to fly around the world and also being the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe in a microlight plane.
- ✓ His sister, Zara, who finished her own trip global flight in January at age 19, previously held the ultralight record.
- ✓ Rutherford surpassed the record of Travis Ludlow of Britain, who was 18 when he made a solo flight around the world last year.
- ✓ Mack kicked off his global journey five months ago from Bulgaria.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Bharat Biotech’s oral rotavirus vaccine, Rotavac - has been introduced by Nigeria for immunising children against the life-threatening diarrhoeal disease.**

- ✓ This was announced by the vaccine maker Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) on August 24
- ✓ Nigeria currently accounts for 14% of all childhood rotavirus deaths globally
- ✓ The country also reports the second-highest number of rotavirus deaths in the world.
- ✓ Rotavirus infection causes about 50,000 child fatalities under the age of five each year in Nigeria
- ✓ Rotavirus is one of the leading causes of diarrhoeal disease in the world and is responsible for over 40% of diarrhoea in children.
- ✓ It accounts for about 215,000 of the 525,000 under-5 mortality worldwide each year that are attributed to diarrhoeal diseases, making it the most common cause of severe diarrhoea
- ✓ Rotavac, which was developed after decades of research and product development efforts, is now available in several countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

