

FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- **Six more ecologically critical waterbodies in Tamil Nadu - have been recognised as Wetlands of International Importance and have got the prestigious Ramsar tag**



- ✓ This takes the total number of Ramsar sites in the state to 10.
- ✓ The six latest additions to the list are Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary.
- ✓ Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary is a man-made wetland covering an area of 72.04 hectares and is located in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ It is the largest reserve for breeding resident and migratory water birds in South India.
- ✓ Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve is situated on the southeastern coastline and is a unique marine environment rich in biodiversity.
 - ✓ This is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and South-East Asia
- ✓ Vembannur Wetland Complex, a man-made inland tank, is located at the southernmost tip of peninsular India.

- ✓ This wetland forms part of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and hence part of the BirdLife International Data Zone
 - ✓ Vellode Bird Sanctuary is situated in the Vadamugam Vellode village in Tamil Nadu's Erode district.
 - ✓ Locally known as Periyakulam Yeri, it is one of the 141 prioritised wetlands in the state.
 - ✓ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is one of the oldest bird-protected areas in Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary is located in the Tiruthuraipoondi taluk of Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Last week, three wetlands in the state including the Pallikaranai Marshlands in Chennai, Karikili Bird Sanctuary in Chengalpattu district and Pichavaram Mangrove in Cuddalore district were declared as Ramsar sites.
 - ✓ Union cabinet minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupender Yadav announced that 10 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition
 - ✓ Apart from the six sites in Tamil Nadu, the remaining four are Satkosia gorge in Odisha, Nanda Lake in Goa, Ranganathittu bird sanctuary in Karnataka and Sirpur wetland in Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ This takes India's tally of Ramsar sites to 64, covering an area of 12,50,361 ha.
 - ✓ With 10 Ramsar sites, Tamil Nadu has reached first position in India alongside Uttar Pradesh
 - ✓ Kodikkarai or Point Calimere was the first Ramsar site in Tamil Nadu recognised in 2002
 - ✓ The state Wetland Mission will now get SACON and Anna University to come up with an integrated management plan and a health card of all these wetlands.
 - ✓ The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
 - ✓ It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands and is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the convention was signed in 1971 and came into force in 1975
 - ✓ India is also one of the signatories of the convention
- **Tamil Nadu government – has banned the age-old practice of traditional 'thandora' to communicate information by the district administrators.**
- ✓ The revenue authorities engage staff to beat the drum-like instrument to evacuate people immediately ahead of natural disasters and other purposes.
 - ✓ In a letter to district collectors, chief secretary V Irai Anbu said that with the advent of science and technology, there is no necessity for a 'thandora' to be used
 - ✓ The letter further said that information can be passed on by fixing speakers in vehicles.
 - ✓ The use of 'thandora' was slammed by several activists as the practice is believed to be linked to the caste system

NATIONAL

- On August 3, the Union Cabinet - approved the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement

A STEP TOWARDS 'NET ZERO' BY 2070

Commitments under updated NDC of 2022:

- Achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- Reduce emissions intensity (emission per unit of GDP) by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels
(citizen-centric approach to combat climate change)
- Propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE'- 'Lifestyle for Environment' - as a key to combat climate change



What does earlier (first) NDC of 2015 say:

It has three quantitative targets up to 2030

- Cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40%
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35% compared to 2005 levels
- Creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover
- It was submitted to the UNFCCC on October 2, 2015

- ✓ The NDC refers to voluntary climate action targets that aim to achieve long-term goal of reaching 'net zero' emission by 2070
- ✓ It has been prepared after incorporating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Panchamrit' strategy announced at the Glasgow COP 26 conference
- ✓ According to the updated NDC, India now stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 level, and achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- ✓ The NDC seeks to meet the goal of maintaining global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, while aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the worst impacts of climate change
- ✓ The updated NDC will be implemented over the 2021-2030 period through programmes and schemes of relevant ministries and departments and with support from states and Union territories.
- ✓ The updated NDC is soon to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ At the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last November, PM Modi had announced that India's non-fossil energy capacity will reach 500 gigawatt by 2030.

- ✓ Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out of it.
 - ✓ India had submitted its NDCs to the UNFCCC on October 2, 2015.
 - ✓ It comprised eight goals, of which three have quantitative targets that run up to 2030
- **On August 3, the government– withdrew the contentious Data Protection Bill from Parliament**
- ✓ It is planning to introduce a new legislation “very soon but without any dilution to broader privacy aspects of the original bill and without any compromise to the Right to Privacy” as provided by the Supreme Court in its historic judgment given in August 2017.
 - ✓ The original Bill, based on the work that began around five years back after the formation of the Justice Srikrishna Committee, had been introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2019
 - ✓ Later, it was referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) which took nearly two years to submit its recommendations and present a draft bill towards the end of last year.
 - ✓ According to the government, the Personal Data Protection Bill has been withdrawn because the JCP recommended 81 amendments in a bill of 99 sections.
 - ✓ The existing bill had been criticised by top internet giants such as Americans Meta (that runs Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp), Google and Amazon
 - ✓ These multinationals objected to provisions that mandated local storage of data as well as processing of certain sensitive information only within India.
 - ✓ Also, the Bill had been criticised for recommending that independent directors and non-executive directors on the board of a top social media, internet or electronics hardware company should face legal and criminal proceedings for wilful offences around data violations and in cases of complicity or negligence
 - ✓ The companies had objected to the element of criminality being added to any proposed data law.
 - ✓ Apart from internet companies, the Bill had also seen objections from privacy advocates as it proposed overriding powers to central law enforcement agencies under certain conditions to freely obtain data.
 - ✓ Also, many objected to elements of nonpersonal data being handled under the data law focused on individual privacy.
- **The government - has identified 29 institutes across 10 states for imparting engineering education in seven regional languages in one or more disciplines**
- ✓ The regional languages include Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu

- ✓ This was announced by Junior education minister Subhas Sarkar in a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha
- ✓ The Minister also said financial assistance will be given to poor students from rural areas.
- ✓ Earlier, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has initiated technical education in Indian Languages in 2021-22
- ✓ This decision was taken in alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to impart education in Indian languages for an improved understanding and improved teaching-learning outcome
- ✓ To provide the engineering course material in Indian Languages, AICTE has introduced 'AICTE Technical Book Writing and Translation' in 12 scheduled Indian languages. ”

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On August 3, the Supreme Court - decided to set up an expert group to study the impact of freebies on taxpayers and economy and recommend measures to regulate it**
- ✓ The independent expert group will have representation from Niti Aayog, Finance Commission, Election Commission, RBI and political parties
- ✓ In this regard, an order was passed by a bench of Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli
- ✓ The expert body will study the pressing issue, interact with stakeholders and the general public and give a report to the apex court containing concrete suggestions

APPOINTMENTS

- **On August 3, Vigilance commissioner Suresh N Patel - was appointed as the central vigilance commissioner, a year after the post fell vacant.**



- ✓ Patel was sworn in as the chief of the Central Vigilance Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ✓ The ceremony was also attended by the Prime Minister and vice president M Venkaiah Naidu.

- ✓ Patel has been working as the acting central vigilance commissioner (CVC) since June
- ✓ Last month, Patel's appointment as the CVC was cleared by a selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Later in the day, CVC Patel administered the oath of office to former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar and ex-IAS officer Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the vigilance commissioners.
- ✓ With these appointments, the Central Vigilance Commission is in its full strength now.
- ✓ The commission is headed by a central vigilance commissioner and it can have two vigilance commissioners.
- ✓ Patel, former managing director and chief executive officer of Andhra Bank, was in April 2020 appointed as the vigilance commissioner.

SPORTS

- **On August 3, Indian judoka Tulika Maan – bagged silver medal after losing against Scotland's Sarah Adlington in the final of women's 78kg division at Birmingham CWG 2022.**



- ✓ Tulika Maan, a four-time national champion, became the third judoka to win a medal for India at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham
- ✓ On August 1, L Shushila Devi and Vijay Kumar won silver and bronze in the women's 48 kg and men's 60 kg events, respectively.
- ✓ The 22-year-old from Delhi, Mann won the Commonwealth Championships in Jaipur in 2018 and Commonwealth title in Walsall in 2019
- ✓ Further, India lost to Malaysia in the finals of the mixed team badminton event and settled for a silver at the CWG 2022
- ✓ PV Sindhu was the only Indian to register a win in the five-match tie.
- ✓ World No. 13 Kidambi Srikanth, and the men's and women's doubles teams lost their contests
- ✓ At the last edition of the Commonwealth Games badminton mixed team final, India had beaten Malaysia in the final to win the gold medal .

- ✓ Later on the day, Saurav Ghoshal has become India's first squash player to win a singles medal in Commonwealth Games
- ✓ World No.15 Ghosal defeated England's James Willstrop in the bronze play-off.
- ✓ It was Ghosal's second CWG medal, having won a mixed doubles silver with Dipika Pallikal in the 2018 Gold Coast edition



- ✓ In weightlifting, Lovepreet Singh won bronze in the Men's 109kg category while Gurdeep Singh also bagged bronze in the Men's 109+kg category
- ✓ Lovepreet effected a total lift of 355kgs including 163kgs in snatch and 192kgs in clean and jerk
 - ✓ In 2017, he won gold in the Commonwealth Junior Championship, and in the same year, bagged a bronze at the Asian Junior Championship
- ✓ Meanwhile, Gurdeep, the-26-year-old debutant, had produced a best effort of 390kg (167kg+223kg) to settle for a podium finish.
- ✓ India produced their best-ever medal tally in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) after bagging three gold, three silver and four bronze
- ✓ India's last medal of the day came in Athletics as Tejaswin Shankar won bronze in the men's high jump final, which is India's first-ever medal in the discipline.
- ✓ At the end of day 6, India is placed at 7th place in the overall medals tally with 5 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze.

