



FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - September**

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority - to spend Rs. 7 crore on various initiatives to restore the 100 wetlands in the state, including the 14 Ramsar sites.**
- ✓ In this regard, it has roped in Anna University and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) to complete studies in the next six months.
- ✓ SACON has been allocated Rs.72 lakh to create integrated management plans for the Ramsar sites and Rs.1 crore for preparing ecosystem health cards of the wetlands.
- ✓ These health cards will evaluate quality of water and soil, biodiversity and air pollution.
- ✓ The management plan for the Ramsar sites will include proposals for their restoration.
- ✓ These will be submitted to the Union environment ministry for further fund approvals.
- ✓ The state hopes to get Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore each, depending on the size of the wetland.
- ✓ The government has also approved the rehabilitation of sea grass in the Gulf of Mannar, which will help in blue carbon sequestration and also in sustaining the Dugong population.
- ✓ Further, the mangroves in Cuddalore and Thiruvarur will also be rejuvenated at a cost of Rs. 2 crore and Rs. 80 lakh will be spent to create an atlas, a photography book and a coffee table book on 75 priority wetlands as part of a central government initiative.

NATIONAL

- **On September 7, the Union Cabinet - approved a Rs.27,360-crore scheme for the development of Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) across the country for the 2022-27 period.**

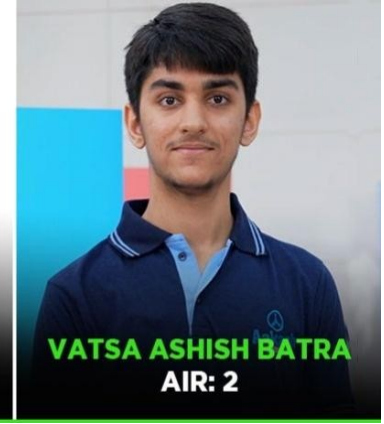
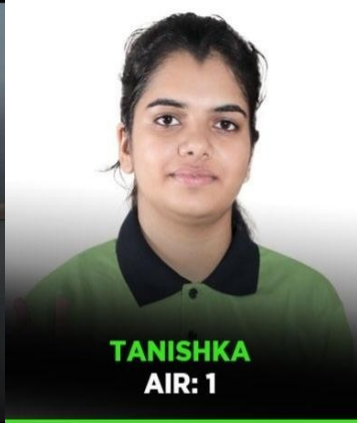
- ✓ The Centre's share in the scheme would be Rs.18,128 crore.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, over 14,500 existing schools, including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas as well as those run by state governments and local bodies, will be upgraded and modernised as PM-SHRI Schools
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the scheme on Teachers Day, September 5
 - ✓ According to the scheme, each block in the country will have two PM-SHRI schools and grants will be directly disbursed to the school managements.
 - ✓ The stakeholders in the schools will have the flexibility to use 60% of the grants as per their customised needs.
 - ✓ The government expects the scheme to benefit 187 lakh students.
 - ✓ PM-SHRI will provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children.
 - ✓ The initiative seeks to make the students active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020
 - ✓ These schools will be developed as 'green schools', incorporating environment-friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management and plastic free
 - ✓ Water conservation and harvesting, the study of traditions and practices related to the protection of the environment, climate-change-related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt a sustainable lifestyle will also be included in these schools
 - ✓ PM-SHRI schools will be selected by an expert committee through a three-stage challenge.
 - ✓ Geo-tagging of schools for the selection and monitoring of PM-SHRI schools will also be done
 - ✓ Vidya Samiksha Kendra, a command and control centre for schools in Gujarat, will be used to track performance of each PM-SHRI school, teacher and student.
- **On September 7, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi -granted ex post facto approval for the MoU between India and the United Kingdom on mutual recognition of academic qualifications signed on April 25, 2022.**
- ✓ As envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020, the MoU also facilitates offering joint/ dual degree courses between higher education institutions (HEIs).
 - ✓ The request from the UK side to grant recognition to their one-year Masters programme was also agreed.
 - ✓ The MoU aims to facilitate the mutual recognition of educational qualifications, periods of study undertaken, documents related to academic degrees/ qualifications and accreditation by educational institutions within the two countries.
 - ✓ Professional degrees like engineering, medicine, nursing and para-medical education, pharmacy, law, and architecture are out of the purview of this MoU.

- ✓ The MoU will promote bilateral exchange of information about educational structure, programmes and standards and increase mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.
- **On September 7, Justice D Y Chandrachud - said that the Constitution bench headed by him will be a “green bench” and asked counsel not to submit any papers or physical documents.**



- ✓ In a historic decision, a bench of Justices Chandrachud, M R Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha barred parties from bringing into the courtroom volumes of paper-books during the hearings
- ✓ The observation of the bench came while hearing a dispute between the Delhi government and the Centre over control of administrative services in the capital.
- ✓ On May 6, a three-judge bench headed by then CJI N V Ramana had referred to a five-judge bench for adjudication of the contentious issue
- ✓ On May 10, 2017, then Chief Justice J S Khehar had set July 3, 2017 deadline for making the Supreme Court paperless by restricting the filing of petitions and appeals to soft copies
- **The National Testing Agency (NTA) - has announced the results of National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET UG 2022) on September 7**
- ✓ This year, Tanishka, a girl from Rajasthan who has scored 715 marks out of 720 has been named the all India topper
- ✓ The other three students who also scored the identical 715 marks or 99.9997733 are Delhi boy Vatsa Ashish Batra, and Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule, Rucha Pawashe from Karnataka.
- ✓ A total 9 positions out of the top 50 were secured by students from Karnataka, which was the maximum by any state, followed by Gujarat and Delhi (NCT) with 5 and by Telangana with 4.
- ✓ State-wise, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of qualifiers, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan

- ✓ In the top 20 this year, there are six candidates from Karnataka, two each from Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, one each from Rajasthan, Telangana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.



- ✓ Thridev Vinayaka S and M Harini from Tamil Nadu have secured ranks within the top 50 in the NEET exam
- ✓ Thridev Vinayaka, who secured 705 out of 720 marks, got all India rank 30, while Harini who scored 702 marks got all India rank 43.
- ✓ Of 1,32,167 students who appeared for the exam from Tamil Nadu, 67,787 students (51.2%) cleared it.
- ✓ Out of the total 18,72,343 students who registered for the exam, 17,64,571 appeared for it and 9,93,069 qualified the exam
- ✓ The NEET UG exam was conducted on July 17 across 3,570 centres in 497 cities in India and in 14 cities in foreign nations.
- ✓ From this year onwards, NTA has introduced the process of assigning fictitious roll numbers to the OMR answer sheets of all candidates who appeared in NEET in order to keep the evaluation process secure and confidential.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On September 7, the Madras High Court – ordered the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) to implement the rule of reservation for the women’s category horizontally only and not vertically in public employment**
- ✓ A Bench of Chief Justice MN Bhandari and Justice N Mala held that the Constitution prohibits discrimination in public employment on the basis of gender as per Article 16(2)
- ✓ The Court held that the policy of the TNPSC to provide 30% reservation for women across all quotas will have to be struck off as unconstitutional, if the authorities do not amend the process
- ✓ According to the verdict, the TNPSC should arrange reservations by filling the open quota first and then the social reservation for BCs, SCs, and STs in a vertical way followed finally by the special reservation for women and disabled

- ✓ The Bench also said that the 30% reservation provided to women in public employment under Section 26 of the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016 will have to be implemented only through horizontal reservation in the future
- ✓ The Court was hearing a batch of writ petitions filed between 2013 and 2022 challenging the “wrong” methodology adopted by TNPSC for providing reservation to women
- ✓ The petitioners had challenged Sections 26 and 27 of the 2016 Act which provide that a minimum 30% of all the vacancies to be filled through direct recruitment in public employment shall be set apart for women candidates
- ✓ The Act also permits women to compete through the remaining open category seats.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Defence minister Rajnath Singh - received a horse as a gift from Mongolia President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh on September 7.**



- ✓ The horse has been named ‘Tejas’ by the Union Defence Minister
- ✓ However, the Mongol breed horse will remain just as a symbolic gift and will not be brought to India.
- ✓ The gift to Singh comes seven years after PM Narendra Modi received a similar present from the leadership of Mongolia.
- ✓ On September 6, Singh called on Khurelsukh and reviewed the strategic ties.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On September 7, PM Narendra Modi - participated virtually in the plenary session of the 7th edition of Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) being held in Vladivostok**
- ✓ The Forum, established in 2015, seeks to promote development in the remote Russian Far East

- ✓ During his address, PM Modi said that India is keen to strengthen its partnership with Russia on Arctic issues and highlighted the “immense potential” for cooperation in the field of energy
- ✓ He further mentioned that India has also made significant investments in the Russian Far East in the areas of pharma and diamonds



- ✓ PM Modi said India’s Act East Policy had become a key pillar of the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia, since 2019
- ✓ Further, he said that Russia can become an important partner for the Indian steel industry through the supply of coking coal
- ✓ The connectivity with Russia through initiatives like the International North-South Corridor, Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor and Northern Sea Route will play an important role, said the PM
- ✓ The PM also said that, this month, thirty years are being completed since the establishment of the Consulate of India in Vladivostok.
- ✓ He further highlighted that India was the first country to open a consulate in Vladivostok city.
- ✓ The forum, held from September 5 to 8, was themed "On the Path to a Multipolar World"
- ✓ It includes key events such as "The Far East Street" exhibition which showcases the economic, investment and tourism opportunities of all the 11 regions of the Russian Far East.
- ✓ It may be recalled that PM Modi was the chief guest for the 5th EEF in 2019, the first by an Indian Prime Minister.
- ✓ The PM also delivered a video-address during the last plenary session of the 6th EEF held on September 3, 2021 in Vladivostok
- ✓ PM Modi will meet Putin and come face to face with Chinese President Xi Jinping next week in Uzbekistan at the SCO summit

PERSONALITIES

- **Vedant Patel, the principal deputy spokesperson for the US department of state - has created history by becoming the first Indian-American to hold the daily state department press briefing**



- ✓ On September 6, Patel appeared at the briefing room to represent the country on foreign policy issues before the media
- ✓ The incumbent state department spokesperson Ned Price is on vacation
- ✓ During his briefing, Patel covered topics ranging from Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine, negotiations around the Iranian nuclear issue and Liz Truss becoming the PM of the UK.
- ✓ Patel, who was born in Gujarat, has previously served as an assistant press secretary and spokesperson for President Joe Biden in the White House.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On September 7, space tech startup Agnikul - has said that it has been awarded the patent for the design and manufacturing of its single-piece 3D printed rocket engine**
- ✓ The 3D printed rocket engine Agnilet, fully designed and manufactured in India, was successfully test-fired in early 2021.
- ✓ Agnikul had recently announced the inauguration of its Rocket Factory1, the country's first rocket facility dedicated to 3D printing rocket engines, at the IIT Madras Research Park.
- ✓ The new production house houses world class machinery, which includes a 400mm x 400mm x 400mm metal 3D printer from EOS
- ✓ Agnikul was the first company to sign an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in December 2020 under the IN-SPACe initiative.
- ✓ It was founded in 2017 by Srinath Ravichandran, Moin SPM and IIT-Madras professor SR Chakravarthy
- ✓ The startup has raised total funding of around Rs.105 crore from Mayfield India, pi Ventures, Speciale Invest, and other angels such as Anand Mahindra and Naval Ravikant since 2019.

AWARDS

- **Six finalists – have been shortlisted for this year's Booker Prize, one of the world's most prestigious literary awards.**

- ✓ This year's shortlisted novels, announced on September 6, included authors from five countries and four continents



- ✓ The shortlisted contenders included the oldest author and the shortest book ever to make the prestigious nominations
- ✓ Octogenarian Englishman Alan Garner, who will turn 88 when the winner is announced on October 17, was shortlisted for "Treacle Walker", which is the shortest finalist novel by word count
- ✓ Zimbabwean novelist NoViolet Bulawayo made it for the second time, for "Glory", while Sri Lanka's Shehan Karunatilaka was the only other writer not from the British Isles or United States, for "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida"
- ✓ Shehan Karunatilaka's book is the only South Asian title to make it to the Booker shortlist this year
- ✓ American Percival Everett was included for "Trees", while fellow US writer Elizabeth Strout featured for "Oh William!" and Irish author Claire Keegan's "Small Things Like These" completed the shortlist.
- ✓ At 116 pages, Keegan's is the shortest finalist by the number of pages in the Booker prize's 53-year history.
- ✓ This year's judges, who included critic Shahidha Bari, historian Helen Castor and writers M. John Harrison and Alain Mabanckou, made their selections from 169 novels that were published between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022
- ✓ The winner, who will get a prize of 50,000 pounds, will be announced at a ceremony in London on October 17.
- ✓ The Booker is Britain's foremost literary award for novels written in English.
- ✓ Its previous recipients include Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul, Kazuo Ishiguro, Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy.

SPORTS

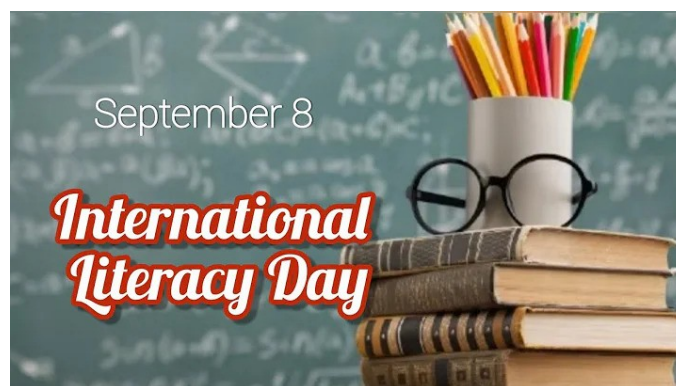
- **Seventeen-year-old Anupama Upadhyaya - became the new world No. 1 in the junior women's category, replacing India's Tasnim Mir at the top.**



- ✓ Anupama is the sixth Indian teen to achieve this feat after Aditya Sharma in 2014, Siril Verma (2016), Lakshya Sen (2017), Tasnim Mir (2022) and Sankar M Subramaniam last month.
- ✓ Anupama is only the second Indian girl after Tasnim to top the rankings.
- ✓ The Panchkula girl, Anupama, is a product of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy.
- ✓ At present, there are four Indians in the top 10 with Tasnim at No. 2, Anvesha Gowda at No. 6 and Unnati Hooda at No. 9.
- ✓ Meanwhile, HS Prannoy became No. 1 in the race to BWF World Tour Finals rankings.
- ✓ With 58,090 points, Prannoy is ahead of Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, while Axelsen has 55,450 points.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Literacy Day - September 8**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces"

- ✓ At the global level, a two-day hybrid international event will be organized on 8 and 9 September 2022, in Côte d'Ivoire
- ✓ The 2022 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes award ceremony will announce the outstanding programmes and literacy practices for this year
- ✓ Even though there have been improvements, there are still 771 million people in the world who can't read or write.
- ✓ The literacy rate of India is 74.04%, 82.14 for males, and 65.46 for females.
- ✓ Kerala retained its position as the topmost state with a 93.91% literacy rate.
- ✓ International Literacy Day was adopted as part of the UN's sustainable development goals program in 2015
- ✓ International Literacy Day was first conceived at the “World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy” which was held in Tehran, Iran in 1965.
- ✓ International Literacy Day was founded by the proclamation of 'The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO,' in 1966.
- ✓ The first International Literacy Day was observed on 8th September, 1967.

