

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 12, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

◆ **The Salem City Municipal Corporation - has bagged the Chief Minister's Award for the best Corporation this year**

- ✓ It will be given a cash prize of ₹25 lakh and a citation
- ✓ In the Municipality category, 3 municipalities - Dharmapuri, Vedaranyam and Aranthangi were selected as the best performers by the Government
- ✓ They will get a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh respectively along with citations.
- ✓ The awards will be presented to the Corporation Commissioner during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15.
- ✓ The awards were selected based on the performance in various areas including revenue collection, petition disposal, sanitation, organisation of medical camps, solid waste management and drinking water supply of the various corporations

### **NATIONAL**

◆ **The water resources (Jal Shakti) ministry - has come up with a draft legislation that seeks to manage all 13 river basins in India by setting up exclusive umbrella authorities for each of them**

- ✓ The proposed law intends to create separate master plan for all river basins.
- ✓ The master plan will help the concerned stakeholders collectively address larger issues of flood management, irrigation, navigation, water conservation and distribution without getting into complexities of multiplicity at different levels
- ✓ The inter-state river basins for which authorities are to be constituted include Ganga, Indus, Godavari, Mahanadi, Mahi, Narmada, Pennar, Cauvery, Krishna, Tapi, Subarnrekha, Brahmani-Baitarini and Brahamaputra-Barak-inter-state rivers of north-east.

## COMMON CODE

> The river basins for which authorities are to be constituted include **Ganga, Indus, Godavari, Mahanadi, Mahi, Narmada, Pennar, Cauvery and Krishna**

> The authority will have a **two-tier structure**

> It will have power to formulate river basin master plan, conduct survey, **maintain database of river basins and lay down operation rules for reservoirs**

- ✓ The River Basin Management Bill, once enacted, would replace the River Board Act, 1956
- ✓ Each of the 13 river basin authorities will have a two-tier system, consisting of a governing council and an executive board.
- ✓ The executive board will comprise of senior officials and several water experts
- ✓ It will seek to address multiple issues scientifically and will have power to formulate river basin master plan, conduct comprehensive scientific survey, maintain relevant databases for managing river basins and provide operation rules for reservoirs
- ✓ The council will, on the other hand, comprise of chief ministers of all states within particular basin.
- ✓ The chairperson of the council will be from amongst the chief ministers of the basin states, by rotation

### ◆ **The Indian Railways - announced the cancellation of its leg of the Samjhauta Express train on August 11**



- ✓ India runs the train on Sundays from Delhi to Attari, while Pakistan used to run the train between Attari and Lahore, with passengers changing train at Attari
- ✓ Earlier on August 8, Pakistan suspended the Samjhauta Express and the Thar Express trains
- ✓ The announcement follows the decision taken on August 5 by the Indian government to scrap Article 35 A and Article 370, which revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and divided the State into two Union territories.
- ✓ Samjhauta Express is a bi-weekly train, which linked Attari in India to Lahore in Pakistan.
- ✓ The train used to run two days a week- Monday and Thursday
- ✓ It was commenced in 1976 following the Shimla Agreement
- ✓ The Samjhauta Express train services were suspended for the first time in January 2002 after the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in December 2001

- ✓ Later it was again discontinued twice in December 2007 following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on December 27 and in February 2019, following Pulwama attack and the Balakot strike.

## APPOINTMENTS

### ◆ Chandrima Shaha - is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) beginning January 2020



- ✓ The 66 year old Shaha was formerly the Director of the National Institute of Immunology, Delhi and graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Calcutta and completed her doctoral research in 1980 from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology.
- ✓ She was also the first woman cricket commentator for All India Radio apart from being the vice-captain of West Bengal's first women's cricket team for 3 years
- ✓ Shaha has extensively worked with 'Leishmania' parasite — which causes Kala Azar — and has authored over 80 research papers.
- ✓ When Shaha became the director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in 2012, she initiated a programme called 'Science Setu', as part of which scientists would go and teach undergraduates.

## AWARDS

### ◆ K Mahaswetha, of Angeripalayam, Tirupur – won the best child actress award for her role in a short film at the Los Angeles Film Awards

- ✓ The Class IV girl won the award for her role in the Malayalam short film titled 'Aaroduparyum' (To whom should I tell?).
- ✓ Directed by Sujith Dass, of Palakkad in Kerala, the short film was produced by child artist's father P U Krishnan

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### ◆ Listening, Learning & Leading – authored by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu



- ✓ The book chronicles the two-year tenure in office of the Vice President
- ✓ It provides an insight into the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country during this period.

- ✓ It was released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Chennai
- ✓ The function was hosted by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar
- ✓ As of now, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has delivered 61 convocation addresses, interacted with students on 35 occasions, delivered 25 special lectures and visited 97 scientific and technological research institutions across the country
- ✓ The book also dwells upon Naidu's important diplomatic engagements, including his visits to 19 countries, in 4 continents
- ✓ It showcases his achievements as Rajya Sabha Chairman and initiatives taken by him in this regard
- ✓ He is the first Indian vice-president to visit Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Malta

## SPORTS

### ◆ **Sourabh Verma - claimed men's singles title at Hyderabad Open BWF Tour Super 100 Badminton tournament held in Hyderabad**



- ✓ In the final, he prevailed over Loh Kean Yew of Singapore
- ✓ Top seeded Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy ended runners-up in the women's doubles final
- ✓ In 2018 Sourabh had won Dutch Open Super 100 and Russian Open Super 100 titles
- ✓ The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India and sanctioned by the BWF (The Badminton World Federation)
- ✓ It was 5th Super 100 tournament of 2019 BWF World Tour

### ◆ **India - finished runners-up in the Asian mens U-23 Volleyball Championship in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

- ✓ In the finals, India lost to Chinese Taipei by 1-3 margin

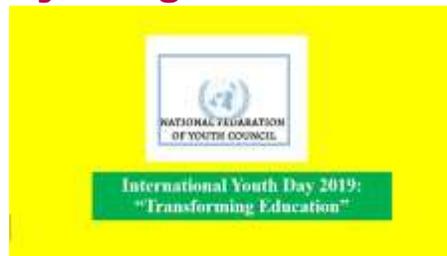
### ◆ **Indian Junior badminton team – won three gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships in Pazardzhik**

- ✓ Chennai girl, Samiya Imad Farooqui won the girls singles gold with a victory against Anastasiia Shapovalova of Russia in the final.
- ✓ Girls doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt and the mixed doubles combine of Edwin Joy and Shruti Mishra have also finished with the Gold medals

- ✓ India's fourth seeded pair Ishan Bhatnagar and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala finished with the silver medal after losing the final against the top-seeded British pair of William Jones and Brandon Zhi Hao
- ✓ In girls' singles, Anastasiia Shapovalova beat India's Malvika Bansod while in boys' singles, India's highly-talented junior World No. 15 Meiraba Luwang succumbed to a defeat to the top seed and eventual champion Georgii Karpov to finish with the Bronze medal each

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ◆ International Youth Day – August 12



- ✓ The day intends to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of the society.
- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Transforming education"
- ✓ The observance of this day aims to promote the engagement of the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions
- ✓ The International Youth Day is being co-organised by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNESCO.
- ✓ According to the United Nations, there are roughly around 1.8 billion young people between the age group of 10 and 24 in the world
- ✓ On this occasion, the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju conferred the National Youth Awards to individuals aged between 15-29 years for their excellent work and contribution in different fields of development and social service.
- ✓ The UN General Assembly first designated August 12 as International Youth Day in 1999

