

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 15, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The central government - has announced President's medals for 23 police officers from Tamil Nadu on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day**
 - ✓ Of the 23 officers, Shankar Jiwal, additional director general of police, Armed Police, Chennai, and K Sabarinathan, sub-inspector of police, Police Recruit School, Coimbatore, have been awarded the medal for distinguished service.
 - ✓ The other 21 officers have been selected for meritorious service
 - ✓ These medals are awarded twice a year on Republic Day and Independence Day
 - ✓ Also, the state government has announced the Tamil Nadu chief minister's police medal for 16 officers for their outstanding commitment shown during the duty
 - ✓ The recipients will receive a grant of ₹25,000, and a gold medal, weighing eight grams each
- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - flagged off 500 new buses purchased at a cost of ₹154 crore for different transport corporations in the state on August 14**



- ✓ Of these, 235 buses will go to Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) in Chennai
- ✓ The State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) got 118 buses, while the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) got 147 buses — 60 for the Salem division, 25 for Kumbakonam, 14 for Tirunelveli, 18 for Villupuram, 16 for Coimbatore and 14 for Madurai.
- ✓ For the easy access of passengers in and out of the buses, the footboard will be at a lower level and the doors will also be automatic
- ✓ Other features include independent seats as in MTC buses, announcement of the various stops, a stick holding rink and a reminder bell when the stops arrive for the differently-abled passengers, an LED route board, fan, reverse horn with sensor for drivers and LED tubelights
- ✓ The new SETC buses, have been provided with sleeper facilities and toilets
- ✓ In the last two and half years, 4381 new buses have been introduced at a cost of ₹1,314 crore
- ✓ Of the 4,381 buses, TNSTC (Villupuram and Kumbakonam) received the maximum number of buses, 823, followed by MTC with 695 buses, TNSTC (Salem) with 652 buses and Coimbatore with 476 buses.
- ✓ Madurai and Tirunelveli have received 219 and 201 buses respectively
- ◆ **The revised fines for traffic offences - is all set to be implemented in Chennai this week, leading to higher penalties for traffic violations**
- ✓ For those riding without helmets, the fine will be ₹1,000 and a three-month suspension of licence



New Traffic Violation Fines

Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2019

Section/Offence	Old Fine	New Fine
General (177)	RS. 100	RS. 500
Road Rules Violation (177A)	RS. 100	RS. 500
Travelling without a Ticket (178)	RS. 200	RS. 500
Disobedience of Authorities (179)	RS. 500	RS. 2,000
Unauthorized Use of Vehicles (180)	RS. 1,000	RS. 5,000
Driving without a Licence (181)	RS. 500	RS. 5,000
Driving without Qualification (182)	RS. 500	RS. 10,000

Oversized Vehicles (182B)	–	RS. 5,000
Over-Speeding (183)	RS. 400	RS. 1,000
Dangerous Driving (184)	RS. 1,000	RS. 5,000
Drunken Driving (185)	RS. 2,000	RS. 10,000
Speeding/Racing (189)	RS. 500	RS. 5,000
Vehicle without a Permit (192A)	RS. 5,000	RS. 10,000
Aggregators (193)	–	RS. 25,000
Overloading (194)	RS. 2,000	RS. 20,000
Overloading of Passengers (194A)	–	RS. 1,000
Seat Belt (194B)	RS. 100	RS. 1,000
Overloading of 2-wheelers (194C)	RS. 100	RS. 2,000
No Helmet (194D)	RS. 100	RS. 1,000
Blocking Emergency Vehicles (194E)	–	RS. 10,000
Driving without Insurance (196)	RS. 1,000	RS. 2,000

- ✓ The revised system will focus on underage motorists.
- ✓ In case of accidents involving such riders or drivers, the guardian or owner of the vehicle will be held responsible
- ✓ They will have to pay ₹25,000 as penalty or undergo three years' imprisonment.
- ✓ Officials who earlier had powers to impound documents can now cancel licences.

STATES

◆ **Uttar Pradesh – bans all prayers and religious gatherings on roads which obstruct smooth flow of traffic**



- ✓ This includes the offering of namaz by the Muslims as well, as per the guidelines issued by the UP police to all its district officials
- ✓ The new rule has already been in place for some weeks in Aligarh and Meerut districts where namaz on roads outside mosques has been discontinued.
- ✓ The administration is also preparing a set of detailed instructions to be followed during various festivals in the state

NATIONAL

◆ **The sanitation department under Jal Shakti ministry - has set the target of achieving 100% toilet coverage in rural areas by August 31**

- ✓ The total coverage as on August 14 was 99.96%, with only two states — Odisha and Goa — need to complete their targets
- ✓ The government has planned a mega event on Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad on October 2 to celebrate the culmination of Swachh Bharat Mission, which was launched five years back
- ✓ Earlier, the deadline of October 2 was set for completing the mission of making the country open defecation free in all its districts

◆ **The Union Textiles Ministry - signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 16 State governments to offer skill training programmes under the Samarth scheme (Scheme for capacity building in the textiles sector)**



- ✓ The agencies nominated by the State Governments will train four lakh people.
- ✓ After the training, the candidates will be placed at the textile units
- ✓ As per the Government's indication, there was a requirement of 16 lakh trained skilled workers in the textile industry

COMMITTEES

◆ **The Inter-State Council - has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Modi as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.**

- ✓ The council is mandated to probe and advise on disputes between states
- ✓ Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajnath Singh, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ✓ Other members are Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Hardeep Singh Puri .
- ✓ CMs of all states and Union territories having legislative assemblies and administrators of the Union territories not having a legislative assembly will also be members of the council

AWARDS

- ◆ **Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman – to be conferred with Vir Chakra, the third highest gallantry medal awarded during war “in the face of the enemy”**



- ✓ The Government announced two Kirti Chakras, one Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 98 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Yudh Seva Medals this year.
- ✓ Indian Army’s Rashtriya Rifles sapper Prakash Jadhav (posthumously) and CRPF’s deputy commandant Harshpal Singh have been given the Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award for “conspicuous bravery beyond the call of duty” during fierce encounters with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ Apart from Wing Commander Varthaman, the IAF gallantry list included Vayu Sena Medals for the 5 Mirage-2000 pilots who successfully hit the JeM facility with Spice-2000 penetration bombs after crossing the LoC in the early hours of February 26
- ✓ They are Wing Commander Pranav Raj, Squadron Leaders Rahul Basoya, Pankaj Arvind Bhujade, B Karthik Narayan Reddy and Shashank Singh.
- ✓ The commanding officer of a Jaguar squadron, Group Captain Saumitra Tamaskar, who was also part of the overall mission, was also awarded Vayu Sena Medal (gallantry).
- ✓ A woman ground-based fighter controller positioned at a radar hub in Barnala, Squadron Leader Minty Aggarwal, who showed exceptional alertness and presence of mind, has been awarded a Yudh Seva Medal for “distinguished services” during wartime



- ✓ The Shaurya Chakras, one below in precedence than the Kirti Chakra, have been awarded posthumously to Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal

(Engineers/RR), Lance Naik Sandeep Singh (Para-Special Forces), Sepoy Brajesh Kumar (Punjab Regiment/RR), Sepoy Hari Singh (Grenadiers/RR), Rifleman Shive Kumar (JAKLI/RR) and Ashiq Hussain Malik (special police officer, J&K)

- ✓ Zaker Hussain (CRPF) was awarded with Shaurya chakra for killing “three dreaded terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammed” in September last year in Jammu
- ✓ Constable Sable Dyaneshwar Shriram of the 53rd battalion of CRPF was also awarded with Shaurya chakra for killing two armed JeM terrorists after taking them on in Baramulla district of Kashmir Valley while he was on a checkpost duty on October 19 last year.
- ✓ There were 14 Shaurya Chakras, eight from Army, one Navy, two CRPF and three from police.
- ✓ The CRPF has topped the honours list, bagging a maximum 75 gallantry medals, including a Kirti Chakra and two Shaurya Chakras.
- ✓ The force also bagged two President’s Police Medal for Gallantry for Assistant Commandant L Ibomcha Singh and Constable Mohd Majahid Khan (posthumous)
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, has approved 132 awards to armed forces personnel and members of paramilitary forces on the Independence day

SPORTS

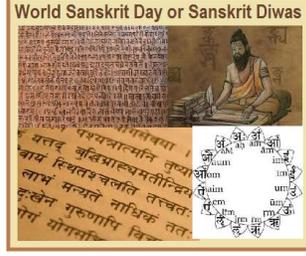
- ◆ **Wrestler Deepak Punia - became India’s first junior World Champion in 18 years, following his gold medal win at the junior worlds with a win over Russia’s Alik Shebzukhov at Tallinn, Estonia**



- ✓ Deepak won the Gold in the 86kg men’s freestyle bout
- ✓ The last Indians to win Gold at the junior world championship were Ramesh Kumar (69 kg) and Palwinder Singh Cheema (130 kg) way back in 2001.
- ✓ Punia will also represent India at the upcoming World Championship.
- ◆ **Chandigarh cricket team - to make its debut in the Ranji Trophy in December 2019**
- ✓ The nod for the debut was given after almost 40 years following the recent approval of affiliation of Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to run the affairs of the sport in the city.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Sanskrit Day 2019 (Sanskrit Diwas) - August 15, 2019



- ✓ The day intends to promote and revive the ancient language of Sanskrit
- ✓ The celebration of Sanskrit Diwas is held on the day of Shraavana poornima, that is the Poornima day of the Hindu calendar month of Shravan
- ✓ The first celebrations of World Sanskrit Day or Sanskrit Diwas were in the year 1969
- ✓ The celebrations of Sanskrit Diwas is promoted by Samskrita Bharati, a non-profit organisation that works to revive the classical language
- ✓ The Sanskrit language has originated 3500 years ago and is also known as Dev Vani (language of the Gods).
- ✓ The written form of the Sanskrit language traces back to 2nd century BC in the form of collection of Vedic hymns, Rig Veda
- ✓ In Karnataka, there is a village, Mattur in Shimoga district, where everyone speaks in Sanskrit language
- ✓ Sanskrit language is declared as an official language of Uttarakhand
- ✓ Sudharma is the only daily newspaper in the world in Sanskrit language, which is published since 1970 from Mysore, Karnataka and is also available online.
- ✓ There is a University in America dedicated to Sanskrit
- ✓ Also, NASA has a department for research on Sanskrit manuscripts.

