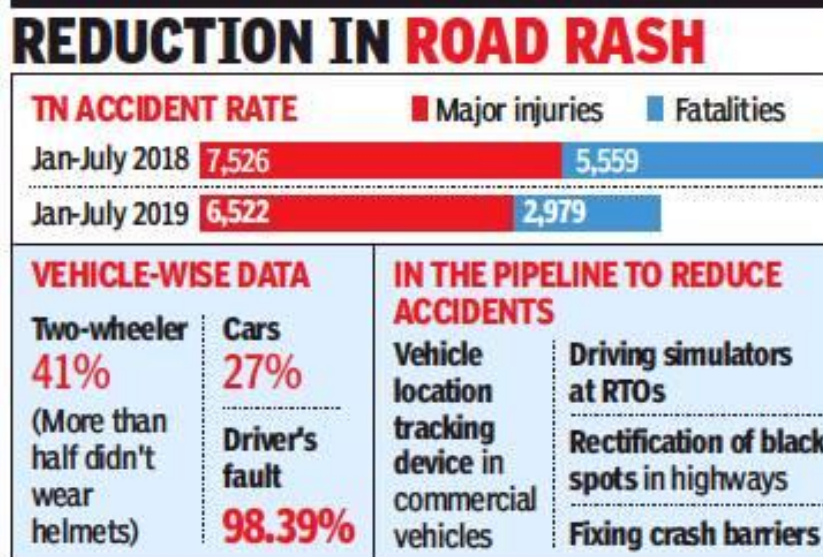


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 28, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu – has shown a remarkable 13% drop in road accident fatalities from January to July 2019 compared to the same period last year**



- ✓ While 7,526 people died in road accidents in the state between January and July 2018, the number during the same period this year was 6,522
- ✓ Of the total fatalities in the first half of 2019, 41% had been travelling on two wheelers and 54% of them were not wearing helmets
- ✓ The overall injury rate in road accidents also fell, from 5,559 in the first half of 2018 to 2,979 this year.
- ✓ This was revealed in the data shown at the state road safety review meeting chaired by transport minister M R Vijayabaskar
- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accident deaths in the country two years ago

NATIONAL

◆ **The ministry of renewable energy - has released guidelines for implementation of the second phase of the grid-connected rooftop solar programme.**

- ✓ The overall aim is to achieve a target of 40,000MW capacity from rooftop solar projects by 2022.
- ✓ The second phase has two main components
- ✓ Under the first component, 4,000 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar (RTS) projects will be installed in the residential sector with central financial assistance.
- ✓ In the second component, incentives will be provided to discoms based on the achievement towards initial 18,000MW of grid-connected rooftop solar plants
- ✓ The central financial assistance (CFA) has been restructured and up to 40 % of the cost will be given for RTS systems up to 3kW capacity
- ✓ For RTS systems of capacity between 3kW and 10kW, the CFA of 40% would be applicable only for the first 3kW capacity and for capacity above 3kW the CFA would be limited to 20%
- ✓ Group housing societies/residential welfare associations etc. for common facilities up to 500 kWp, will be given 20% CFA.
- ✓ In 2015, the Centre had approved the 'Grid Connected Rooftop and Small Solar Power Plants Programme' for installation of 4,200MW rooftop solar plants by 2019-20.
- ✓ Of this, projects of 2,100MW capacity were to receive CFA.
- ✓ CFA will not be available for categories like institutional, educational, social, government, commercial and industrial sectors as they are high tariff paying consumers and adoption of solar would be economically beneficial for them without CFA

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The G7 summit - concluded on August 26, 2019 at Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the summit at the invitation of French President, Emmanuel Macron
- ✓ US President Donald Trump closed this year's G7 summit with a press conference that touched upon issues include trade, Iran, climate change and Russia
- ✓ Highlights
- ✓ US President Donald Trump urged the G7 group to reinstate Russia as a permanent member of the group, but no consensus was reached on the subject



- ✓ Donald Trump announced that he might meet Iran's President under the right circumstances to end the confrontations over the 2015 nuclear deal
 - ✓ Donald Trump hinted about a possible trade deal with China through "calm" negotiations, following days of an intense trade war
 - ✓ Donald Trump notably skipped the climate crisis meeting of the G7, even though the summit emphasized on climate change this year
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that all issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral, doesn't needing any other nation's intervention
 - ✓ The G7 leaders confirmed the existence and importance of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 on Hong Kong's autonomy
 - ✓ US President Donald Trump to work out a very big trade deal, bigger than ever with the United Kingdom after Brexit
 - ✓ US President Donald Trump announced locking of a new trade agreement with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan
- ◆ **India – to host the 14th session of Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from 2-13 September 2019 at New Delhi**



- ✓ About 3,000 representatives from 200 countries are expected to participate in this summit.
- ✓ The conference will discuss on various environmental issues ranging from desertification to land degradation.
- ✓ It assumes significance as about 40,000 Lakh Hectares (1/3rd of total geographical area) of land is undergoing degradation globally
- ✓ At the end of conference, India will resolve to restore 50 lakh hectares of degraded land in 10 years apart from taking steps to establish a Center of Excellence at Forest Research Institute
- ✓ The Provisions of the New Delhi declaration will also be formally adopted at the end of the conference
- ✓ The COP guides the UN convention about global circumstances and changing needs
- ✓ It has 197 member countries

- ✓ COP meeting held biennially since 2001 and the last COP13 session was held at the Ordos, China in September 2017.
- ✓ India will take over COP presidency from China for the next two years (2019-2021).



- ✓ The COP 14 logo was released by India signifying the importance of human involvement for the betterment of life

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **Russia - will select and train 4 Indian astronauts out of the 12 India will send to the country at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Moscow**

- ✓ The 4 astronauts will undergo a 15-month training period in order to prepare them for the country's maiden human spaceflight programme or Gaganyaan mission
- ✓ After the training, the four astronauts will be prepared for the mission back in India in the remaining months before the launch in early 2022.
- ✓ According to the ₹10,000cr mission, India will send at least three Indians to space for 5-7 days, where they will conduct various microgravity tests.
- ✓ The two nations also discussed Indian-crewed flight carrier rocket aerodynamic tests, piloted vehicle and crew rescue system.
- ✓ The two sides are likely to negotiate the contracts for supply of crew seats, windows and spacesuits.
- ✓ Russia is helping India's space mission in three aspects
- ✓ The first area of cooperation is in selection and training of space crew
- ✓ The subsequent areas of cooperation will be the simulation of the mission and selection of a module for it

◆ **A team of researchers of the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) – have spotted a rare 'Tarantula' in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district.**



- ✓ Tarantula, a critically endangered species, was for the first time sighted beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats
- ✓ The spider was belonging to the genus Poecilotheria and commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula
- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised it as critically endangered.
- ✓ This species, endemic to India, has been found at degraded forests between Nandyal and Giddalur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh

DEFENCE

◆ **An Indian Army mountaineering expedition team - successfully scaled Mount Kun in Ladakh on August 16**



- ✓ The 22-member team consisted of 14 officers, including 10 women and the expedition was led by Colonel Mohit Thapa
- ✓ The team was flagged off from Leh on July 30.

◆ **Astra Rafael Communication System (ARC), an Indo-Israel joint venture - to design, develop and manufacture tactical communication systems for the armed forces was inaugurated in Hyderabad**

- ✓ ARC is the country's first private sector firm to manufacture cutting-edge software defined radios in multiple variants apart from other specific supplies to defence forces
- ✓ The 51:49 JV between Astra Microwave and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems intends to develop and manufacture a wide range of advanced equipment for export
- ✓ The 20000-sq ft facility, located at the Hardware Technology Park, is executing a \$30 million order from Rafael, which it received from the IAF.

◆ **American bike-maker Harley-Davidson - introduced its first BS-VI certified two-wheeler — Street 750 — in India with a price tag of** □ **5.47 lakh**



- ✓ The company also showcased its electric vehicle, LiveWire, in India.
- ✓ The firm, which has completed 10 years of operations in India, also launched a limited edition of the Street 750 with India-inspired graphics
- ✓ Only 300 units of this edition will be put up for sale.

AWARDS

- ◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to honour eminent ayurveda physician and Sanskrit scholar, Late Vaidyabhushanam K Raghavan Thirumulpad with a commemorative postage stamp**



- ✓ He will be one among the 12 master healers of alternative medicine systems to be honoured with a postage stamp by the Union ministry of Ayush.
- ✓ Thirumulpad is the only physician from Kerala to feature in the set of 12 stamps
- ✓ He was awarded the Padma bhushan posthumously in 2011

OBITUARY

- ◆ **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya, India's first woman DGP (72 years)**



- ✓ Kanchan served as the DGP of Uttarakhand police from 2004 to 2007
- ✓ The 1973 batch officer was the second woman IPS after Kiran Bedi
- ✓ She took a plunge into politics after retirement by contesting the 2014 Lok Sabha election on an Aam Aadmi Party's ticket from Haridwar constituency.
- ✓ She was awarded with President's Medal for long and meritorious services in 1989 and Rajiv Gandhi Award in 2004 for excellent all round performance and as an outstanding woman achiever.

SPORTS

◆ Archana Suseendran of Tamil Nadu - won the women's 200m title on the opening day of the 59th national inter-state athletics championships in Lucknow

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Revathi V and Dhana Lakshmi claimed the silver and bronze medals, making it 1-2-3 for the state



- ✓ In the men's 5000m event, Tamil Nadu's G Lakshmanan clinched the contest, while Andhra's Srinu and Uttarakhand's Man Singh finished second and third respectively.
- ✓ Parul Chaudhary (UP) emerged on top of the women's 5,000m race, followed by Tamil Nadu's Suriya Loganathan who finished second and Arati Patil of Maharashtra, who won the bronze medal

◆ Bhubaneswar - had become the first venue to get a provisional clearance for the 2020 FIFA U-17 women's World Cup

- ✓ After further inspection and final confirmation by FIFA, the city could become the first host of the FIFA competition for women in the country
- ✓ Besides Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai and Ahmedabad are among the possible venues for the international sporting event
- ✓ A total of 16 teams, including India, will play in the tournament
- ✓ Each selected city will get to host at least six matches
- ✓ Bhubaneswar was the host of the prestigious Men's Hockey World Cup last year
- ✓ In the past, the city has successfully hosted international events such as Asian Athletics Championships 2017 and Men's Hockey World League Final 2017, among others, at Kalinga Stadium.

◆ Sitanshu Kotak and Paras Mhambrey - have been promoted to the top coaching posts with the India A and India Under-19 teams



- ✓ Kotak, the former Saurashtra batsman, will be the head coach and batting coach for India 'A'.
- ✓ Former India off-spinner Ramesh Powar takes over as bowling coach while T Dilip will be the fielding coach.
- ✓ Former India fast bowler Mhambrey, who has worked with the 'A' and Under-19 sides under Rahul Dravid, will be the head coach as well as the bowling coach of the India U-19 side
- ✓ Former India batsman Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Abhay Sharma will be the batting and fielding coaches respectively

◆ **Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla, the second-oldest cricket stadium in India - has been renamed Arun Jaitley Stadium in tribute to the former Union finance minister who passed away recently**

- ✓ The stadium, however, will also continue to be known by its geographical location, the Ferozeshah Kotla, after the 14th century monument which is situated next to it
- ✓ Jaitley was the president of the DDCA from 1999 to 2013
- ✓ He was instrumental in getting the stadium renovated, after getting all the permissions from different departments
- ✓ The renaming will take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on September 12, when a stand will also be named after India captain Virat Kohli
- ✓ The function will be attended by Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

◆ **Sumit Nagal- became the first-ever Indian tennis player to win a set against tennis legend Roger Federer**

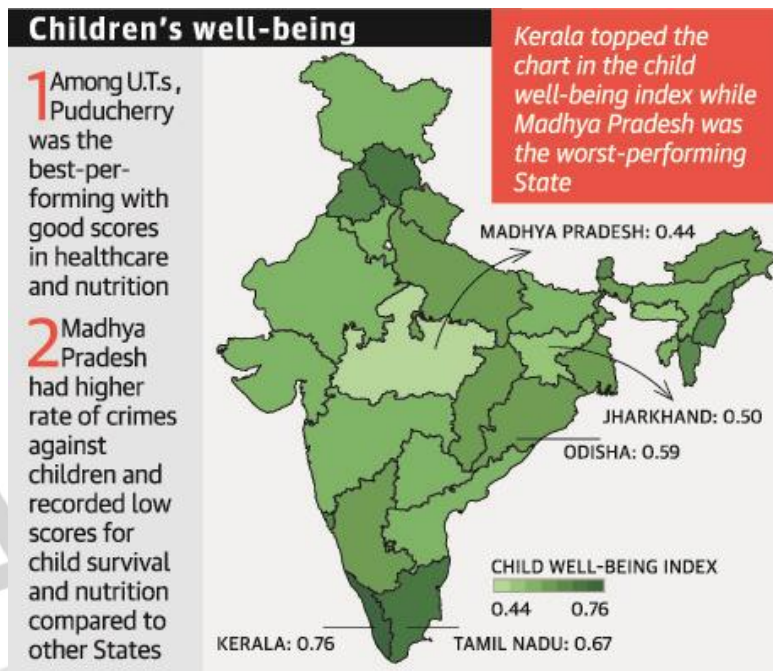


- ✓ He achieved the feat during his first-round match against Federer in the ongoing US Open on August 26
- ✓ In the first set, Sumit defeated Federer 6-4, but later lost three sets continuously 1-6, 2-6, 4-6 to lose the game
- ✓ With the feat, 190th ranked Nagal became the fourth player to win the opening set against Roger Federer at the US Open after Peter Wessels (Netherlands), Jose Acasuso (Argentina) and Frances Tiafoe (America).
- ✓ Earlier, Sumit Nagal of Haryana became the youngest Indian in 25 years to qualify for the main draw of a Grand Slam
- ✓ Sumit Nagal had earlier won the Wimbledon boys' doubles title in 2015 with his Vietnamese partner Ly Hoang Nam
- ✓ He is being supported by the Virat Kohli Foundation's Athlete Development Programme

RANKINGS

◆ Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry - topped the charts in the child well-being index

- ✓ Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh featured at the bottom of the list
- ✓ The index is a tool designed to measure and track children's well-being comprehensively, based on a report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD
- ✓ This report provides insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection



- ✓ The three dimensions of the index include healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.
- ✓ Focusing on the three key dimensions, 24 indicators were selected to develop the computation of the child well-being index

