

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 29, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- Chennai City police commissioner A K Viswanathan – launched the Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPR) camera facility in the city

<p><b>What is ANPR camera  </b> Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR) are smart cameras that can identify vehicles by reading the vehicle number from the registration plates. 63 ANPR cameras have been installed in Anna Nagar</p>	<p><b>TO KEEP CHECK OF ACCIDENTS</b></p> 	<p><b>HOW CAN IT HELP</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Will help police manage manpower better as it will help enforce traffic rules even in the absence of personnel</p>
<p><b>WHAT IT CAN DO  </b> Take photos of vehicles flouting rules (speeding, jumping signals). Photos are later attached to e-challans served to violators</p>		<p><b>2</b> By linking the system with the database of the transport department, police can automate serving of fine challans to the vehicle owner's address, cutting work</p>
<p><b>1</b> Photo of driver, vehicle, date, time and location of the violation will be stored</p>	<p><b>2</b> Equipped to read different fonts on the number plate</p>	<p><b>3</b> Equipped with infrared vision and can function effectively during night</p>
<p><b>3</b> Will help trace stolen vehicles, ones used for crime</p>		

- ✓ Eight 'High resolution' Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPR) cameras were installed at Muttukadu in East Coast Road, the point where city police jurisdiction begins.
- ✓ A peripheral police station was also inaugurated at Muttukadu on the occasion that will also function as the control room for the ANPR cameras
- ✓ ANPR cameras can trace owner details of vehicles that violate traffic rules by reading number plates automatically and help issue e-challans for fines.
- ✓ ANPR system has already been functioning successfully in Anna Nagar and traffic violators are sent automated challans to their doorsteps.
- ✓ As many as 90,000 violators were booked on a single day using this contact-less enforcement system.

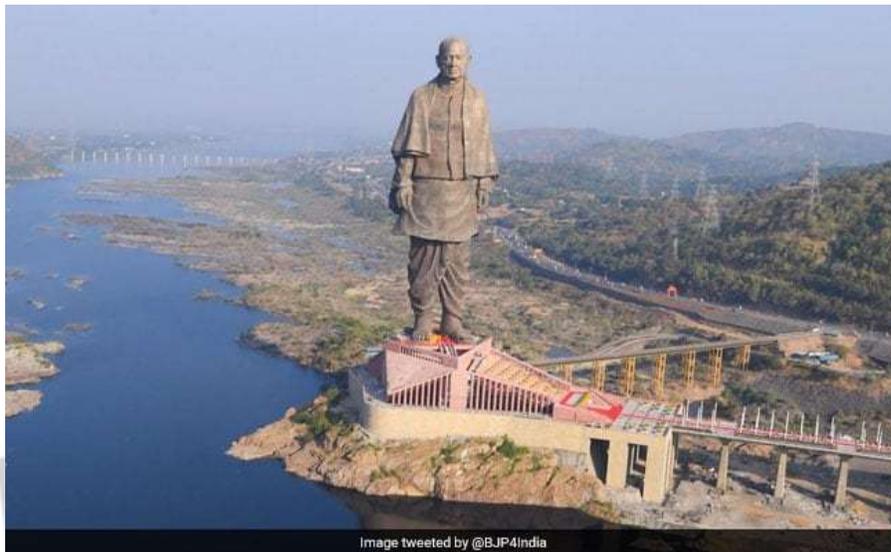
- ✓ The commissioner also launched 209 CCTV cameras in Neelankarai and Kanathur police station jurisdictions as part of the Greater Chennai police's 'third eye' project.
- ✓ These devices are much useful to crack cases of crime against women such as snatching of mobile phones and chains.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has initiated 'Online' sanctioning of planning permission for construction of houses**
  - ✓ Property owners who own plots measuring less than 2,500 sq. ft. and who plan to build less than 1,200 sq. ft. of residential accommodation could get planning permission by submitting their applications online.
  - ✓ The online facility 'https://tnurbanepay.tn.gov.in' is available for residents of 15 corporations, 121 municipalities and 528 town panchayats in the State.
  - ✓ The online facility integrates payment of property tax, commercial tax, water and sewage taxes for the new buildings
  - ✓ The move is aimed at simplifying the planning permission procedures and obviating the need for any inspection, apart from ensuring transparency
- **Puducherry - has decided to enact a legislation to bring 50% of undergraduate and postgraduate seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities in the Union Territory under government quota from academic year 2020-21**
  - ✓ The decision to this effect was announced by the Puducherry chief minister V Narayanasamy in the assembly
- **In a possible first in the country, the Puducherry government - announced ₹5,000 cash reward for 'Good Samaritans' who help road accident victims get admitted to hospitals for immediate medical attention.**
  - ✓ Chief minister V Narayanasamy made the announcement while presenting the 2019-20 budget in the assembly
  - ✓ The government will also introduce First responder vehicles (motorcycles) operated by people with emergency medical training to reach accident victims or people in need of urgent medical care in congested areas in the shortest possible time.
  - ✓ The vehicle will be equipped with mobile data terminal / GPS devices to locate the victims easily
  - ✓ The government has decided to outsource the 108 ambulance service to ensure quick transportation of trauma patients to the nearest referral centre
  - ✓ It was also planning to launch a comprehensive health information management system to extend complete medical care to the people.

- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) - is planning to set up a 9 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) greenfield refinery at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ The expansion will be carried out by its subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) to meet the rising energy demand in the country
- ✓ In a bid to diversify into non-fossil fuel, IOCL is also planning to set up an aluminium-anode battery plant in Chennai

## **NATIONAL**

- **The Supreme Court – agrees to examine the constitutional validity of two recent decisions of Centre on Jammu and Kashmir**
- ✓ It had sought the response of the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir government on various petitions regarding the presidential order scrapping the state's special status under Article 370 and Parliament's approval of a law bifurcating the state into Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- ✓ A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by the CJI Ranjan Gogoi, will hear the matter in the first week of October
- ✓ The SC will now examine the constitutional validity of the August 5 presidential order — the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019 which superseded the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954 — as well as the addition of Clause 4 to Article 367 making the Constitution of India applicable to J&K
- ✓ The petitioners have challenged the J&K (Reorganization) Act, which received the President's assent on August 9, splitting the state into a UT of J&K with a legislative assembly and a UT of Ladakh without one.
- ✓ They have also challenged the validity of a declaration issued by the President on August 6 abrogating all clauses of the Article 370
  
- **The Cabinet committee on economic affairs - approved setting up of 75 government medical colleges attached with existing district or referral hospitals by 2021-22**
- ✓ The establishment of new medical colleges, under the third phase of an ongoing centrally-sponsored scheme, is expected to add at least 15,700 MBBS seats in the country
- ✓ The move would increase the availability of doctors, improved tertiary care in government hospitals, and better utilisation of existing health infrastructure of district hospitals.
- ✓ The new medical colleges would be set up in under-served areas having no medical colleges, with district hospitals having at least 200 beds
- ✓ The Cabinet also sanctioned an expenditure of ₹24,375 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period, up to 2021-22

- ✓ Earlier, the government had approved the establishment of 58 new medical colleges attached to existing district or referral hospitals under Phase-I, and 24 under Phase-II.
  - ✓ Of this, 39 medical colleges under Phase-I have already started functioning, while the remaining 19 would be made functional by 2020-21.
  - ✓ Under Phase-II, 18 new medical colleges have been approved
- **The Statue of Unity (SoU), World's tallest statue at Kevadiya in Narmada district - has been named in the Time magazine's list of World's Greatest Places 2019, a compilation of 100 noteworthy destinations to experience.**



- ✓ The 182-metre statue of India's 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which was inaugurated on October 31 last year, is situated over the Sardar Sarovar dam, overlooking the surrounding Vindhyachal and Satpura hills.
  - ✓ On August 24, SoU saw the highest ever footfall with 34,136 people walking in on a single day
- **The government - has commissioned a ₹9.3 crore study to assess the microbial diversity along the entire length of the Ganga**
- ✓ It will test if stretches of the 2,500 km long river contain microbes that may promote "antibiotic resistance"
  - ✓ The project, expected to last two years, is to be undertaken by scientists at the Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Sardar Patel Institute of Science & Technology, Gorakhpur
  - ✓ It will also have two start-up companies, Phixgen and Xcelris Labs, providing genome sequencing services, which will involve mapping the genomes of the microbes sampled.
  - ✓ The aims of the research project is to indicate the type of "contamination" (sewage and industrial) in the river and "threat to human health (antibiotic resistance

surge)”, identifying sources of Eschericia coli, a type of bacteria that lives in the gut of animals and humans.

- ✓ In 2014, researchers from Newcastle University in the U.K. and IIT-Delhi sampled water and sediments at seven sites along the Ganga in different seasons
- ✓ They found out that levels of resistance genes that lead to “superbugs” were about 60 times greater during the pilgrimage months of May and June than at other times of the year.
  
- **The Indian Railways - announced a scheme under which travellers may get a discount of up to 25% on tickets in AC chair car and executive class sitting.**
- ✓ This scheme would be applicable on AC chair car and executive chair car in Shatabdi, Gatimaan, Tejas, Double Decker and Intercity trains
- ✓ Only those trains with monthly occupancy of less than 50% in the previous year would be eligible for the discount
- ✓ The scheme, which will be implemented from September, is aimed at improving earnings.
- ✓ The Railway Ministry has decided to give the power to the Principal Commercial Managers of the zones to introduce the discounted fare scheme in the identified trains.
- ✓ The move is a result of the stiff competition faced by the Indian railways from low-cost airlines.
  
- **Indian Institute of Petroleum - has set up a plant in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) that can turn plastic waste into diesel**



- ✓ The plant was inaugurated by Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan on August 27, 2019
- ✓ The plant has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.
- ✓ The plastic waste will be collected with the help of NGOs.

- **India - has become the first country in the world to issue a Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) to its seafarers.**



- ✓ The project was launched by Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who handed over the new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers in New Delhi on August 28, 2019
- ✓ The BSID will give a foolproof identification to Indian seafarers that will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
- **The India Navy and India Meteorological Department (IMD) - signed a MoU at Kochi Naval Base to hand over the Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building by IMD to the navy**



- ✓ The CDR building was built between 1983 and 1986 inside the Naval Base at Kochi.
- ✓ The CDR building has an S-band Cyclone Detection Radar installed by Bharat Electronics Limited.
- ✓ The facility was operated by IMD from 1987-2017 in order to provide weather support to civil aviation at the old Kochi Airport, which is currently the Naval Air Station INS Garuda.

- ✓ The IMD began operating a new Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) in 2017 at Mundamveli, Kochi as the S-band radar had become obsolete
- ✓ The CDR building had been lying vacant and unused since then so, it was handed over permanently to the Indian Navy.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Pakistan - has started imposing restrictions for India in its airspace, by closing three routes in Karachi airspace for flights up to 26,000 feet**
- ✓ Earlier, Pakistan has completely shut down its airspace from February 27 to July 16
- ✓ As per Pakistan, this closing down of routes for international Karachi-bound flights will lead to the drop in Indian trade to Afghanistan

## PERSONALITIES

- **Chennai's Neville J Bilimoria – finishes the 1,226km Paris-Brest-Paris Randonneur endurance cycling event.**



- ✓ The 50-year-old immigration consultant was one of more than 7,300 participants from 65 countries in the once-in-four-years event
- ✓ Bilimoria endured eighty-nine hours and one minute of cycling at a temperature of 3°C with sleeping like an elephant in a 'standing-up' position
- ✓ Bilimoria is known for his enduring marathon endeavour of running dawn to dusk to cycling more than 1000 km at a stretch
- ✓ There were 335 randonneurs from India at the Paris-Brest-Paris, of which only 42 completed within the cutoff time of 90 hours.
- ✓ 42 randonneurs participated from Chennai, of which 8 completed the event within the cutoff.
- ✓ To qualify for the event, a randonneur has to have completed the full series of brevets (200, 300, 400 and 600 km rides) within one calendar year.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **SpaceX - test-launched an early prototype of the company's Mars rocket**
- ✓ The prototype, dubbed Starhopper, made its highest and longest flight yet from the firm's Texas launchpad in Texas



- ✓ It had propelled itself some 650 feet (198m) from about 500 feet, by employing SpaceX's next-generation Raptor engine
  - ✓ The Raptor is designed to power Musk's forthcoming heavy-lift Starship rocket, a reusable two-stage booster taller than the Statue of Liberty
  - ✓ It is expected to play a central role in Musk's interplanetary space travel objectives, including missions to Mars.
- **India's proposal to upgrade the protection of star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), the smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinereus*) in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) - have been approved**



- ✓ These species have been listed under Appendix I of CITES and will now enjoy the highest degree of protection as there will be a complete international ban enforced on their trade.
- ✓ The upgradation was approved at the Conference of the Parties (COP18) held at Geneva.
- ✓ Appendix I of CITES lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants
- ✓ The species is categorized as 'vulnerable' by the International Union of Conservation of Nature
- ✓ Small-clawed otter and smooth-coated otter are traded for their fur in the international market, while 90% of trade of star tortoises occurs as part of the international pet market
- ✓ A decline greater than 30% was predicted by 2025 if the exploitation continued or expanded.

## ECONOMY

- **The Union Cabinet – announced norms to ease foreign direct investment (FDI) norms for the single brand retail sector as well as relaxing the sourcing norms for these entities**

### TO BOOST MAKE IN INDIA

<p><b>MOVE</b> Begin online sales before setting up brick-and-mortar stores </p> <p><b>IMPACT</b> Will help foreign players get a strong footprint, can open stores within 2 years</p>	<p><b>MOVE</b> Sourcing from India, even for exports, to be counted towards 30% obligation </p> <p><b>IMPACT</b> Easier for companies to meet the requirement of 30% sourcing from Indian entities</p>	<p><b>MOVE</b> Sourcing can be done directly, by group companies (resident or non-resident), or via third party</p> <p><b>IMPACT</b> Make it attractive for foreign players to invest and yet meet sourcing norms</p>	<p><b>MOVE</b> Total sourcing from India to be counted</p> <p><b>IMPACT</b> Easier to comply with rules now.  Currently, only incremental sourcing, after entering single-brand retail space is counted towards obligation</p>
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- ✓ While the current FDI policy mandates that single brand retail company that has more than 51% FDI in India has to source 30% locally of the total value of goods sold in the country, the changed norms will allow it to include exports as well
- ✓ The new decision also says that this 30% can be calculated over the first five years of operation
- ✓ The move is expected to allow companies such as Ikea, H&M, Uniqlo and Puma and others to expand their India footprint and bolster the Make in India initiative.

## AWARDS

- **IPS officer Aparna Kumar – conferred with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in the land adventure category**



- ✓ Aparna was presented the award by President Ram Nath Kovind along with five other winners.
- ✓ Aparna is from the UP cadre and is currently serving as DIG, Indo-Tibetan border police (ITBP) in Dehradun
- ✓ She becomes the first IPS officer to be honoured with the prestigious award
- ✓ She has already completed the “seven summits challenge”, and also reached the south pole
- ✓ **Winners 2018**
  - ✓ Aparna Kumar - Land Adventure category
  - ✓ Late Shri Dipankar Ghosh- Land Adventure category
  - ✓ Manikandan K - Land Adventure category
  - ✓ Prabhat Raju Koli – Water Adventure category
  - ✓ Rameshwer Jangra - Air Adventure
  - ✓ Wangchuk Sherpa - Life Time Achievement
- ✓ The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.

## SPORTS

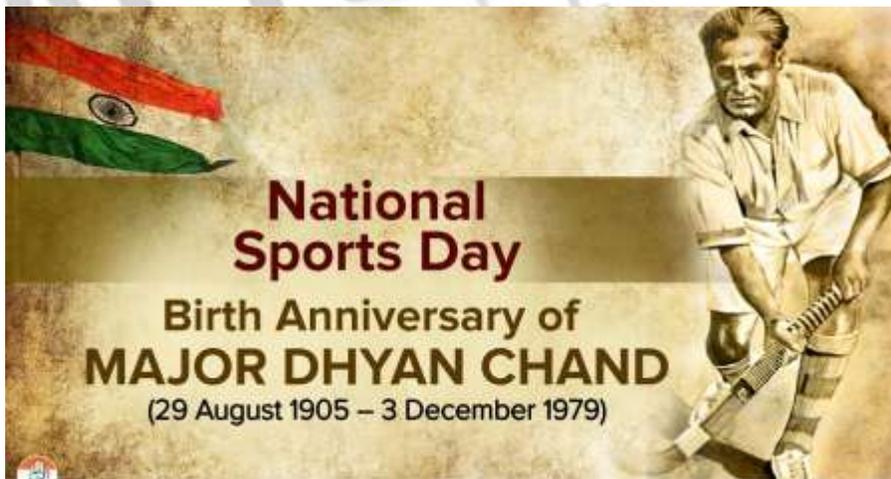
- **Tamil Nadu’s B Nithin won gold in the men’s 200m category of the National inter-state athletics meet in Lucknow**



- ✓ Delhi's Akshay Jain and Abhinav Panwar came second and third respectively
- ✓ Nithin, the third-year student of Vivekanda College started off the year with a sprint double at the Khelo India Games held in Pune in January.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Nayana James reigned supreme in the women's long jump event
- ✓ Priyanka Kerketta from Jharkhand won silver and TN's Harshini Saravanan came third
- ✓ Chandigarh's Gurpreet Singh won gold in the men's decathlon event , while TN's Durai Murugan and Krishna Kumar won silver and bronze respectively

## NATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Sports Day (Rashtriya Khel Divas) – August 29



- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, who was born on August 29, 1905
- ✓ The day intends to spread awareness about the importance of sports and games in the life of every individual
- ✓ The day was proclaimed in the year 2012 to commemorate Major Dhyan Chand and his achievements in the field of sports
- ✓ On this Day, President Ram Nath Kovind confers the National Sports Awards, National Adventure Awards, Arjuna Award, Khel Ratna, Dronacharya Award and

Dhyanchand Award to recognise the exceptional achievements of Indian sportspersons.

- ✓ On the eve of the day, Prime Minister Modi launches 'Fit India Movement' at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.



- ✓ The Fit India Movement aims to encourage Indians to include fitness activities and sports in their daily lives to pave way for a healthy and fit lifestyle.
- ✓ The UGC has asked all higher educational institutions (HEIs) to motivate staff and students to try walking 10,000 steps each day
- ✓ The Prime Minister had made the announcement of Fit India launch on 'Mann Ki Baat' on August 28
- ✓ Famously known as "The Wizard", Major Dhyanchand displayed superb ball control and extraordinary goal-scoring feats in the field of Hockey
- ✓ He won three Olympic gold medals in Hockey field in the years 1928, 1932, and 1936
- ✓ He was conferred with the third-highest civilian honour, Padma Bhushan in 1956
- ✓ The Khelo India Scheme was launched in 2016 to boost mass participation of youth in annual sports games and competitions
- ✓ The Sports Ministry launched the 'Target Olympic Podium (TOP)' Scheme in May 2015 under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to support the potential medal prospects for Olympic Games of 2016 and 2020

