



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 12, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On August 11, Tamil Nadu – reported 118 casualties and 5,834 fresh cases, taking its death toll to 5,159 and caseload to 3,08,649
- ✓ Another 6,005 persons were discharged on the day, taking the total number of persons cured to 2,50,680
- ✓ With this, the total number of persons under treatment has gone up to 52,810
- ✓ In Chennai, 986 persons tested positive for the viral disease, while 23 persons succumbed to the infection.
- ✓ Other districts with surge in cases include Chengalpet 388, Tiruvallur 362, Ranipet 333, Kancheepuram 330, Coimbatore 324, Theni 297, Cuddalore 281 and Salem 205.
- ✓ In the last 24 hours, 67,492 samples were tested, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 33,60,450 across 131 labs in the state (61 in the government sector and 70 in private sector)

SCHEMES

- On August 10, the Gujarat Government - launched a new scheme called the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.



- ✓ The scheme will replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the state for the current year alone.
- ✓ According to the scheme, the state will provide compensation to the farmers if the loss of crop is more than 33% due to excess rain or drought or unseasonal rainfall.
- ✓ Also, the scheme will provide high premium to the insurance firms for the current year alone
- ✓ If approved, the state government will have to pay Rs 4,500 crores as against an average yearly premium of Rs 1,800 crores in the PMFBY

Key points of the Scheme

- ✓ If the crop loss of the farmer is between 33% and 66%, the farmer will get compensation of Rs 20,000 per hectare for a maximum of four hectares of land.
- ✓ If the crop loss is above 60%, the farmer will get compensation of Rs 25,000 per hectare for maximum of four hectares
- ✓ The new scheme is to benefit 56 lakh farmers of the state, including the tribal farmers registered under the Forest Rights Act
- ✓ A dedicated portal will also be launched under the scheme for the farmers to register online
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a centrally sponsored scheme that subsumes National agricultural Insurance Scheme and Modified NAIS
 - ✓ The scheme will provide 2% premium to the farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
 - ✓ For horticultural crops, a premium of 5% will be paid.

NATIONAL

- On August 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - held a video conference with the Chief Ministers of 10 States — West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab — with high Covid-19 levels
- ✓ During the meeting, the PM urged five states Bihar, Gujarat, UP, West Bengal and Telangana to ramp up testing on an urgent basis
- ✓ The PM also asked the chief ministers to work hard on containment and contract-tracing strategies
- ✓ He said that defeating the virus in the 10 states that account for 80% of cases and 82% of fatalities will mean that the entire country would emerge victorious in its fight against the disease.
- ✓ He also called on the CMs to reduce case fatality rate to 1% which would indicate success in detecting infections early and ensuring proper clinical management.
- ✓ The PM emphasised on the need to trace and test all those who come in contact with an infected person within 72 hours.

CM'S DEMANDS TO PM

- Allocate ₹9,000 crore as special grant to make up for revenue shortfall
- Enhance emergency response and health systems preparedness package to ₹3,000 crore
- Ad-hoc grant of ₹1,000 crore from National Disaster Response Fund
- Release CMR subsidy of ₹1,321 crore to facilitate paddy procurement
- Instruct SIDBI to provide ₹1,000 crore as refinance facility to TN Industrial Investment Corporation Limited to revive MSME sector
- Instruct all banks to provide special loan product for Covid-19 for self-help groups, with enhanced loan amount of ₹2 lakh
- All districts should be brought in Category I for enhanced upfront interest subvention
- Implement the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units scheme and extend it to panchayat-level federations



TN'S COVID PREPAREDNESS



➤ TN has **130** labs for Covid testing, **61** government and **69** private, with an average testing capacity of 65,000 tests per day. PCR tests cost nearly ₹5 crore a day

➤ All front-line workers are being given kabasura kudineer, zinc and

multi-vitamin tablets, in addition to prophylactic hydroxychloroquine as per medical advice

4,147 ventilators have been made available, including 630 in the private sector

➤ Bed capacity of Covid hospitals increased to **33,576**, and it is **22,873** in Covid health centres and **72,575** in Covid care centres



2,751 doctors, **6,893** staff nurses, **1,058** lab technicians, **334** health inspectors, **2,751** multipurpose health workers and **2,000** paramedical workers have been drafted

➤ With the help of **10,000** field workers, **93** NGOs and **2,700** volunteers, symptomatic cases are being identified and vulnerable people are being provided necessary support

Orders placed for supply of **4.5** crore free re-usable masks in other corporations, municipalities and town panchayats

Greater Chennai Corporation has distributed free reusable masks to **47** lakh slum dwellers



'TRACE & TEST CONTACTS WITHIN 72 HRS'

<p>► PM Modi says defeating the virus in the 10 states that account for 80% of cases will mean the entire country will emerge victorious</p> <p>► CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Maharashtra included in discussion</p> <p>► Asks states like Bihar, Gujarat, UP, West Bengal, and</p>	 <p>Telangana to urgently ramp up testing for early detection and timely treatment</p> <p>► Stresses need to trace and test all those who come in contact with an infected person within 72 hours</p> <p>► Recounts Amit Shah's roadmap to tackle pandemic in cooperation with Delhi: Focus on segregation of containment zones and screening</p>
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- ✓ This should be followed like a “mantra”, with the same earnestness as washing hands, maintaining social distance and wearing masks, the PM said.
- ✓ Currently, the death rate due to Covid-19 in India stands at 1.99% as against 3.33% in mid-June
- **On August 11, the Union government - told the Supreme Court that 4G internet services would continue to be banned in J&K due to the persisting terror threat in the UT**
- ✓ However, the Centre agreed to provide highspeed internet in one district each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions on a trial basis after August 15
- ✓ The two districts would be chosen based on “low intensity of terrorist activities and with minimal spillover effects on neighbouring areas”
- ✓ Also, the Government said that faster internet services would not be provided even on trial basis in districts adjoining the international border or the LoC.
- ✓ **Initially, 4G internet services would be restored in Kupwara and Jammu districts.**
- ✓ The Centre, in its affidavit, said the restrictions on 4G services neither hampered Covid-19 preventions and treatment nor affected business in the Valley.
 - ✓ Landline and 2G services were still available in the UT.
- ✓ The decision is based on the recommendations made by a Supreme Court-constituted special committee, headed by Union Home Secretary A.K. Bhalla, which met on August 10.
 - ✓ The decision has been taken after considering the views expressed by the security agencies and local agencies in the UT while keeping in mind the security of the nation, border security and public safety.
 - ✓ The panel will review the situation every week and meet again after two months.
- **The Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations (MSAR), 2020 - was released through a webinar by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on August 11**

- ✓ The Regulations are being revised by the Ministry of Education in compliance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- ✓ As per the new standards, an architecture student can now exit at the end of three years with a degree
 - ✓ The universities could choose a new name for a 3-year degree — a Bachelors in Draftsmanship, Building Science, or Architectural Science being some of the options.
- ✓ Also during study an architecture student has to undertake study tours of history, culture, tradition and heritage as a compulsory part of the curriculum.
- ✓ Universities will be allowed to have tie up for exchange programmes with local and global institutions.
- ✓ The council of architecture (CoA) has issued the MSAR (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 after a gap of 37 years and these rules will be effective from the academic session 2020-2021.
- ✓ For admission to the B.Arch programme, a candidate must have secured 50% marks in physics, chemistry and mathematics and have an overall aggregate of 50% in the class XII exams
 - ✓ For admission, 50% weightage would be given to the aptitude test conducted by national aptitude test in architecture (NATA) or joint entrance examination (JEE).
- ✓ The new regulations also focus on hands on and apprenticeship learning, and the training to be conducted in the eighth and ninth semesters.
- ✓ As envisaged in the NEP 2020, the BArch courses will also have a multidisciplinary approach with the electives to be chosen outside the domain of architecture.
- ✓ The Council is also considering the possibility of a professional qualifying exam for architecture to license practitioners.
- ✓ It is also planning to conduct an exit examination, which would be a professional qualification test.

- **The Union Textile Ministry - has abolished five advisory boards, withdrawn officers from industry bodies and is planning to withdraw its representatives from export promotion councils as well as shut down two public sector undertakings (PSUs) as a part of a rationalisation exercise**
- ✓ The Ministry disbanded the All India Handloom Board on July 27, the All India Handicrafts Board and the Cotton Advisory Board on August 3 and the All India Powerloom Board and the Jute Advisory Board on August 4.
- ✓ Two PSUs under the Ministry — the British India Corporation and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. — have been proposed to be shut down.
- **The Union Tribal affairs ministry - is developing nine “Tribal Freedom Fighters’ museums across the country**

- ✓ These museums will be highlighting the contributions of the tribal people to the Indian freedom struggle.
- ✓ Out of the nine museums, two museums are almost nearing completion and the remaining seven are under development.
- ✓ All museums are expected to be inaugurated by the end of 2022.
- ✓ The largest of all the nine museums is to be built in Rajpipla in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 102.55 crores.
- ✓ The remaining museums are built in Ranchi (Jharkhand), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Lambasingi (Andhra Pradesh), Kozhikode (Kerala), Hyderabad (Telangana), Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh), Senapati (Manipur) and Kelsi (Mizoram).
- ✓ The designs of the museums are based on Manav Sangrahalaya Museum in Bhopal and Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced setting up of these tribal freedom fighters' museums during his Independence Day Speech on August 15, 2016.
- ✓ All the museums will have audio/visual shows involving technologies like virtual reality, augmented reality and 3D/7D holographic projections.
- ✓ The museums will demonstrate the struggles faced by the tribals to protect their identity in enriching the biological and cultural diversity of the country.
- ✓ The museums are built in states where the tribals lived and struggled against British.

➤ **Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched Swachh Bharat Mission Academy on August 11 in New Delhi**



- ✓ The Academy has been inaugurated as part of the ongoing week-long behavioural change campaign 'Gandagi Mukt Bharat'.
- ✓ The Minister launched the Academy by dialing the designated IVR toll-free number
- ✓ As per the Minister, the IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will help in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has transformed rural India as a mass movement for sanitation.

- ✓ This had led to the historic achievement of Open Defecation Free declaration by all villages, districts and states on October 2, 2019.
- ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission Academy with its mobile-based technology will significantly contribute to the training of Swachhagrahis as well as community-based organizations and others associated with Phase-2 of the mission.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- On August 11, the Supreme Court - ruled that daughters are entitled to equal property rights even if they were born before the year 2005, when the amendment was made to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956
- ✓ The verdict confers equal coparcenary (equal rights in inheritance) rights to daughters in Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) properties.

'GOAL OF GENDER JUSTICE ACHIEVED'

► SC irons out confusion arising from its own conflicting interpretations of the amended Section 6 (in force since Sept 9, 2005) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956
 ► Spells out daughters' equal coparcenary rights in Hindu Undivided Family properties even if they were born before the 2005 amendment & regardless of whether their father



coparcener died before '05
 ► But the daughters won't get the right to question ancestral properties already disposed or alienated by then existing coparceners prior to December 20, 2004
 ► Rights of other relatives to remain unaffected as prevailed in the proviso to Sec 6 before amendment. It's only a case of enlargement of daughters' rights

Who is a coparcener? A Hindu who inherits property from his/her father, grandfather or great grandfather. Only a coparcener has the right to demand partition of property

66 The classic Shastric Hindu law excluded the daughter from being coparcener... (this) injustice has now been done away with by amending the provisions in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution. The goal of gender justice, as constitutionally envisaged, is achieved, though belatedly

— Supreme Court

- ✓ The bench said whether the father was alive or not, daughters born before September 9, 2005, too could claim equal right in inheritance
- ✓ In a landmark judgement, the SC declared that daughters will have inheritance rights equal to those of sons from properties of fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers right from the codification of the law in 1956.
- ✓ The judgement was delivered by a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah.
- ✓ They were hearing appeals on whether the amendment made in 2005 to the Hindu Succession Act granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect from 1956 when the law came into being
- ✓ A coparcener is a person who acquires equal rights in the ancestral property by birth.
- ✓ Coparcenary means equal inheritance or joint-heirship or parental property, which was earlier restricted only to male members of the Hindu Undivided Family.
- ✓ Coparcenary property is one which is inherited by a Hindu from his/her father, grandfather or great-grandfather.

- ✓ With regard to the interpretation of Section 6 of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, the daughter has equal property rights in the same manner as the son.
 - ✓ It came into force from September 9, 2005
- ✓ In November 2018, a three-Judge SC Bench headed by Justice AK Sikri held that the matter needed to be heard by a three-Judge Bench

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On August 10, India and Maldives - signed an agreement for the development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation**
- ✓ The eco-tourism zones will be set up as part of the High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme that involves total grant assistance of \$5.5 million to the Maldives.
- ✓ Currently, nine such high-impact projects being implemented in the Maldives.
- ✓ The key objectives of the projects include developing high-impact assets, building capacities within the local councils and supporting the local island economy.
- ✓ These projects are expected to bring about a transformation in the economic and employment landscape of Addu.
- **The European Union - has announced €1.65 million humanitarian aid to support those affected by severe flooding in South Asia, especially in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.**
- ✓ The assistance is in addition to the €1.8 million aid announced earlier this year by the EU
- ✓ The earlier support was meant for families affected by a series of disasters, including Cyclone Amphan that had ravaged both India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ With the recent sanction, the total EU aid to support the victims of disasters in the South Asia region has gone up to €3.45 million.
- ✓ This was informed by EU's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).
- ✓ Out of the total €1.65 million approved now, €500,000 will be used in India to provide food and livelihood assistance and emergency relief supplies and water and sanitation services
- ✓ Further, around €1 million will be spent on Bangladesh to address its urgent humanitarian needs, following the recent floods which have displaced over 850,000 people
 - ✓ Bangladesh has been ravaged by floods with over two million people requiring food, water, hygiene, sanitation and emergency shelter.
- ✓ The remaining €150,000 will be used in Nepal to address the urgent requirement of food, water, sanitation, shelter and essential household items for the people, who have been displaced due to floods and landslides.

- ✓ The funding is part of the European Union's Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT) initiative.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- On August 11, President Vladimir Putin - declared Russia as the first country to grant regulatory approval and registered a new coronavirus vaccine 'Gam-COVID-Vac Lyo'
- ✓ However, its clinical trials were not yet complete and final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people was to start only on August 12 in the UAE and the Philippines.
- ✓ So far, the vaccine has achieved only 10% success in the clinical trials in the last two months
- ✓ Russia named the vaccine as "Sputnik V" for foreign-markets, after the Soviet-era satellite that was the first launched into space
- ✓ The vaccine has been developed jointly by the Russian Defence Ministry and the Gamaleya Research Institute in Moscow.

NAMED SPUTNIK V

- Russia's vaccine, named 'Sputnik V' after the Soviet-era satellite that was world's 1st sat to space, registered with health regulator on Tuesday
- Clinical trials not over yet, final stage testing involving over 2,000 people is to start only on Wednesday
- One of Putin's daughters inoculated with vaccine

- ✓ The Russian business conglomerate Sistema is planning to put the vaccine into mass production by the end of the year.
- ✓ The vaccine will be administered to medical personnel, and then to teachers, on a voluntary basis at the end of this month or in early September.
- ✓ The massive, country-wide vaccine drive is planned to start in October.
- ✓ The vaccine is administered in two doses and consists of two serotypes of a human adenovirus, each carrying an S-antigen of the new coronavirus, which enter human cells and produce an immune response.
- ✓ The platform used for the vaccine was developed by Russian scientists over two decades and had formed the basis for several vaccines in the past, including those against Ebola.
- ✓ The vaccine is expected to be produced in Brazil.
- ✓ Russia has already received requests from over 20 countries for 1 billion doses of the new Covid vaccine.

- ✓ The Institute which plans to start the serial production in September has been working on serial production with three enterprises, which are R-Pharm, Generium, and Binnopharm.
- ✓ Currently, Russia has two vaccine candidates of COVID-19
- ✓ Apart from the Gamaleya vaccine, the other one is being developed by the Vektor State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology
- ✓ Six candidates of vaccines around the world have entered phase three of human trials

- **Sinovac Biotech Ltd. of China - has launched a phase 3 human trial of COVID-19 vaccine candidate on August 11, 2020**
- ✓ The clinical trials will involve as many as 1,620 patients in Indonesia.
- ✓ Sinovac has been developing the vaccine with Indonesian state-owned peer Bio-Farma.
- ✓ The vaccine candidate, called as CoronaVac, is among those few potential vaccines that have entered the phase 3 trial for a large-scale study to obtain the regulatory approval.
- ✓ CoronaVac has already been undergoing phase 3 human trial in Brazil and Sinovac has also been expecting to test it in Bangladesh too.
- ✓ The COVID-19 vaccine candidate has appeared to be safe and has induced detectable antibody-based immune responses in the patients in Phase 2 study trials

- **A team from INCOIS, Hyderabad – identified a link between the BSISO wave activity and certain climate variations during the southwest monsoon.**
- ✓ The researchers have found that high waves occur when the movement of convection (heat), or cloudbands, between the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific in the northeast direction occurs during the monsoon.

PROTECTING THE COAST

A team from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services found a link between High wave activity in Northern Indian Ocean and interseasonal variations like Boreal Summer Intra Seasonal Oscillation (BSISO)

This link can help forecast, three months in advance, high wave activity during June-Sept monsoon

HOW BSISO CAN HELP?

➤ BSISO is movement of convection or heat from the Indian Ocean to West Pacific Ocean and lasts for 10 to 15 days during SW monsoon

➤ In its active phase, it causes strong winds at an average 25metre/second

➤ If active phase is identified, researchers can forecast high waves along areas under threat of erosion 3 months in advance. Currently, it is available only 5 to 50 days in advance



- ✓ This BSISO (Boreal Summer Intraseasonal Oscillation) also represents the 'active' and 'break' phase of the monsoon.
- ✓ An active BSISO, occurring every few days in June-September, enhances monsoon winds and transfers energy to surface waves generating continuous high waves that threaten the coast and the coastal community.
- ✓ BSISO is continuously monitored globally for its periodicity
- ✓ With the discovery, Indian researchers may be able to forecast high surface waves and pinpoint coastal areas under threat of erosion due to such waves up to three months in advance
- ✓ It will eventually give a picture of wave activity and coastal erosion for the 2070-2100 period.
- ✓ This season, BSISO's active phase is up to August 14.
- ✓ The findings of the study will further help develop an ocean wave climate services for better coastal and navigational protection plan of the ministry of earth sciences' 'Deep Ocean Mission' project.
- ✓ The researchers have studied 30 years of climate and wave data as part of the research.

DEFENCE

- On August 11, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - approved defence procurements worth ₹8,722.38 crore, which includes basic trainer aircraft, naval guns and specialised anti-tank ammunition
- ✓ The DAC has approved to speed up long-pending project to arm its Israeli 'Heron' drones with deadly weapons under 'Project Cheetah'
- ✓ It has further given its approval to the indigenous manufacture of Russian Kalashnikov assault rifles
- ✓ The 'Project Cheetah' was revived by the DAC at a budget of over Rs 3,500 crore.
 - ✓ It will upgrade the Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with laser-guided bombs, air-to-ground anti-tank missiles and other precision-guided munitions as well as advanced reconnaissance capabilities
 - ✓ Now, it will be sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security for approval
 - ✓ The armed forces have around 90 such medium-altitude, long endurance Heron UAVs, which are currently used for long-range surveillance and precision-targeting missions.
 - ✓ These 'Heron' UAV's are capable of returning back to their places after the completion of missions like fighter aircraft
 - ✓ Moreover, the IAF also has some Israeli Harop 'killer' or kamikaze drones that act as cruise missiles by exploding into targets and radars.
- ✓ India is simultaneously also finalising the plan to acquire the much more advanced Predator-B or weaponised Sea Guardian drones from the US

- ✓ It plans to procure six of the proposed 30 drones through the fast-track procurement route now
- ✓ The DAC also sorted out some “contractual issues” of the stalled Indo-Russia joint venture to make 6.71 lakh AK-203 rifles, a derivative of the famous AK-47 guns, at Korwa ordnance factory in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh
 - ✓ The “unreasonable and unacceptable” costs for manufacturing the 7.62x39 mm caliber rifles, at an initial estimated cost of ₹4,358 crore, had delayed the signing of the final contract.
- ✓ The actual procurements cleared by the DAC included the ₹7,600 crore, HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft (BTA), the prototypes of which are being developed by defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL).
 - ✓ The DAC will buy 106 BTA from HAL to address IAF’s basic training requirements.
 - ✓ The approval from DAC comes now following the reject of IAF’s proposal to acquire 38 more Swiss Pilatus trainers, to add to the 75 already inducted under a ₹2,896 crore deal signed in May 2012.
- ✓ The DAC also approved the procurement of an upgraded version of Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM), which is fitted as the main gun onboard Navy and Coast Guard warships from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- ✓ In addition, the DAC approved procurement of 125 mm APFSDS (Armour Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot) ammunition for the Army as a ‘design and development case’.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- On August 11, the Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh - released a book chronicling Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's third year in office.



- ✓ The book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' was released in Upa-Rashtrapati Niwas in New Delhi.
- ✓ The electronic version of the book (e-book) was also launched by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar.

- ✓ The new book describing the Vice President's three years of holding Vice-Presidential position runs into more than 250 pages.
- ✓ It has been brought out by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ The newly launched book will capture the range of activities of the Vice President, which will include his travels in India as well as abroad.

SPORTS

- **Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, Anshula Rao - has become the first woman cricketer in India to fail a drug test for banned performance enhancing substance**



- ✓ It's also the first time that a cricketer – man or woman, senior or junior – has failed a dope test after the Indian cricket board (BCCI) decided to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) in August last year.
- ✓ Team India opener Prithvi Shaw was the last to have failed the dope test in June 2019 when BCCI hadn't engaged Nada as its dope sample collector
 - ✓ At that time, the board's antidoping activities were carried out by the Sweden-based International Doping Tests & Management (IDTM).
- ✓ Other Indian cricketers who were previously banned for doping include Pradeep Sangwan and Yusuf Pathan
- ✓ Anshula, who is a senior squad member of Madhya Pradesh women's team, tested positive for prohibited substance '19-Norandrosterone', a detectable metabolite of nandrolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid (AAS).
- ✓ The NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) will now decide Anshula's quantum of punishment for her first-time doping offence, which could range from two to four years

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Elephant Day – August 12**

- ✓ The observance of day aims to create awareness about the preservation and protection of ecosystem for Elephants, especially in Asia and Africa.
- ✓ The concept of World Elephant Day was conceived by Canadian film makers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark in Thailand



- ✓ The main objective of celebrating World Elephant Day is to create awareness about the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants
- ✓ The African Elephants are listed as “Vulnerable” and Asian Elephants as “Endangered” in the IUCN Red List of threatened species
- ✓ The first International Elephant Day was celebrated in 2012
- ✓ On the eve of celebrating the World Elephant Day, India launched a National Portal called “SURAKHSYA”.
 - ✓ The portal will collect real time information about human elephant conflicts.
- ✓ The Elephant census in India is conducted once in five years under Project Elephant.
 - ✓ According to the 2017 census, Elephant population in India is estimated to be 29,964.
 - ✓ The South India alone has 14,612 Elephants, while the North East has 10,139 Elephants.
 - ✓ Project Elephant was launched in 1992 to protect elephants and their habitats and corridors.
- ✓ Gajah is the journal of IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group
 - ✓ The Asian Elephant Specialist Group is a network of specialists who are engaged in the study, management, monitoring and conservation of Asian Elephants
 - ✓ It is part of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

➤ **International Youth Day - August 12**

- ✓ The first International youth Day was celebrated in 1999 by the United Nations
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Youth Engagement for Global Action
- ✓ The day is celebrated to highlight the contribution of youth to the global society through their meaningful initiatives



- ✓ The observance of the day is significant as the UN believes it is important to engage the youths to achieve the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals in order to solve the humanitarian crisis in the world.
- ✓ The recommendation to celebrate the International Youth Day was made at the 'World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth' held in 1999
- ✓ The World Programme of Action for Youth was adopted in 1995 by the United Nations.
- ✓ It covers 15 youth priority youth areas and contain proposals of action in each of these areas

