

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 5, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- **On August 4, Tamil Nadu – added 5,063 fresh Covid-19 cases and 108 deaths**
- ✓ This takes the total caseload in the state to 2,68,285 and the toll to 4,349
- ✓ The state has 55,152 active cases as on date, including 11,856 in Chennai
- ✓ The state tested 52,955 people for the infection across 125 authorised testing labs, including 60 in the government sector, taking the total number to 28,92,395.

#### SITUATION SO FAR

THE COVID SITUATION IN VARIOUS ZONES IN TAMIL NADU				
Zone	Active	Deaths	Discharged	Positive cases
Chennai	20,735	2,859	1,21,749	1,45,343
North	9,348	303	23,005	32,656
South	15,841	837	41,306	57,984
Central	4,479	166	10,661	15,306
West	4,431	183	10,479	15,093
Others	318	1	1,584	1,903
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,152</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>2,08,784</b>	<b>2,68,285</b>

- ✓ A total of 6,501 persons were discharged from hospitals, taking the total recovered to 2,08,784
- ✓ Chennai continued to report the maximum number of cases and deaths.
- ✓ The capital city logged 1,023 cases and reported 23 deaths on the day
- ✓ The three adjoining districts – Chengalpet (245), Kancheepuram (220) and Tiruvallur (358) -- together accounted for 823 cases and 20 deaths.
- ✓ Further, Virudhunagar (424), Theni (292), Cuddalore (264) and Coimbatore (228) reported more than 200 cases

- **The state government's ambitious ₹135 crore expansion plan of the Cuddalore port – finally got environment and CRZ clearance from the Union government, after a prolonged delay**
- ✓ The plan aims to improve the Cargo handling capacity of the port with construction of two additional berths with required modifications in the existing breakwaters.
- ✓ An expert appraisal committee of the Union ministry of environment and forests granted 'conditional' clearance to the project
  - ✓ Accordingly, the project will be subjected to an independent monitoring by a government/institute to evaluate impact during dredging
- ✓ The expansion plan has been necessitated for the port, which is in existence since pre-Independence days.
- ✓ It came close to being shut down for the absence of dredging to make the existing wharf operational for multi-cargo handling for 5.68 million tonnes per annum, including coal, fertiliser, cement and containers and clean cargo.
- ✓ The employment potential in the port will be for around 2,500 people, both direct and indirect.
- ✓ The plan is to support and sustain the industrial growth in Cuddalore and adjoining districts, especially the serving mines and thermal power stations in Neyveli
- ✓ Besides, the expansion will also serve the proposed thermal power plants in the coastal stretch and industrial development in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- ✓ The approval process took a long time, due to several reasons.
- ✓ In February, the expert committee announced many discrepancies in the presentation of the consultant and sought point-wise compliance of the terms of reference for the environment impact assessment study.
- ✓ In May, the committee again deferred the proposal after the state representatives failed to attend the meeting.
- ✓ In June, the committee noted that the environmental consultant did not have a valid accreditation certificate since February 2019.
- ✓ On July 2, the maritime board submitted a letter of accreditation issued by QCI-NABET, for the environmental consultant.
- ✓ Apart from the Cuddalore Port, the expert committee granted approval to hold an environment study for Nambiar Nagar mini fishing harbour in Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs 34.30 crore with contribution from the state and the public.
- ✓ The fisheries department has planned to construct a harbour with fish handling capacity of 25,000MTPA and dredging for one lakh cubic metre for safe navigation of boats.
  
- **The Government Museum in Egmore – is all set to go 'virtual' with 360° videos walkthrough along 10 of its galleries**

## STEP INTO FUTURE TO EXPLORE PAST

Users can 'walk' through 10 galleries spread across the Govt Museum at Egmore via an app or the link on the museum's portal

➤ The 360° virtual walkthrough with high definition images will allow users to experience exploring the museum as if in person as fine details of antiquities on display can be read and viewed without any difficulty



➤ Audio guides for 300 select objects automatically kick in when using virtual reality gear. These voiceovers are available in both English & Tamil

- ✓ The museum, which houses more than one lakh antique pieces ranging from prehistoric to British eras, is likely to launch its virtual version in two months
  - ✓ This means, users from across the globe can explore rare artefact collections in India's second-oldest museum, from the comforts of one's home
  - ✓ An app is under construction for those wishing to access the virtual museum.
  - ✓ But, in the meantime, a link will be provided on the museum's official website for the virtual journey.
  - ✓ Those using virtual reality gears can hear automatic voice-overs in English and Tamil describing the significance of select pieces.
  - ✓ More than 300 antique pieces from multiple galleries have been chosen from about 30,000 artefact on display.
  - ✓ Moreover, 3D imaging of rare objects is underway so users can view them online from different angles
  - ✓ The rich collection in the Government Museum includes 3,000 bronze idols from the Chola period and an axe dating back to lower Palaeolithic period discovered by Robert Bruce Foote, known as the father of Indian pre-history.
  - ✓ The initiative will help attract international tourists and researchers
- **A total of 60 candidates from Tamil Nadu - made it to the final merit list released by the Union Public Service Commission on August 4.**
- ✓ Of the 829 successful candidates, at least 7% were from Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ While seven TN candidates made it to top 100, 25 may get into IAS or IPS.
  - ✓ State topper Ganesh Kumar, a graduate from IIT-Kanpur and IIM Ahmedabad, got all-India seventh rank.





- ✓ Baskar hails from Naagamalai Pudukottai near Madurai
  - ✓ Currently residing in Nagercoil, he had his schooling in Kendriya Vidyalaya in Gurugram and then in KV, Madurai.
  - ✓ He did his B. Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in 2015 and MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, in 2017.
- ✓ **Balanagendran D and Puranasunthari M, two visually-challenged candidates, were among the successful ones from the state.**
- ✓ Further, Ishwarya Ramanathan secured all-India rank 47, while Priyanka secured all-India rank 68
  - ✓ Both of them were alumni of College of Engineering, Guindy
- ✓ Last year, around 45 candidates cracked the exam.
- ✓ All three toppers from Tamil Nadu this year were engineering graduates.
- ✓ Son of a farmer and IRS (customs) officer, Pradeep Singh of Haryana ranked first in his fourth attempt
- ✓ UP's Pratibha Verma, an income tax officer, topped among women candidates
- ✓ This year, 829 candidates have been selected for various services by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), including 66 who have been provisionally recommended
- ✓ Jatin Kishore of Delhi, who bagged the second rank, is a 2018 batch officer of Indian Economic Service (IES).
- ✓ Among those who have qualified, at least 12 are from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Sections was implemented for the first time this year, with 78 candidates selected under that category.
- ✓ Apart from 304 successful candidates in the general category, there were 251 from the Other Backward Classes, 129 from the Scheduled Castes and 67 from the Scheduled Tribes.

## NATIONAL

- **PM Narendra Modi - will perform 'bhoomi puja' as part of 15-minute rituals to formally mark the start of Ram temple construction in Ayodhya on August 5**
- ✓ This will be the PM's first visit to Ayodhya in the last six years.



A picture of the proposed structure, released by the architects

### THE PM'S PROGRAMME

**11.30am** | Arrival in Ayodhya from Lucknow

**Noon** | Ram Lalla's darshan

**12.30pm-12.44pm** | Ganesha Vandana, main shilapujan, bhoomi puja, asht upshila puja, main kurma shila puja

**12.45pm** | Rituals to conclude with offering of navratna-studded lotus and flowers on the kurma shila and recitation of 'pratishtayami'

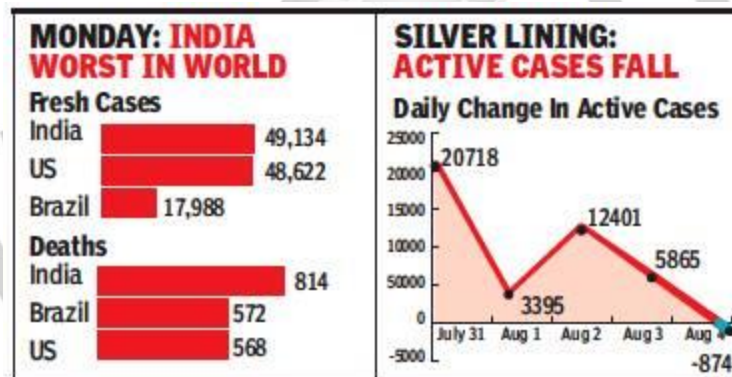
- ✓ His previous visit to the temple town was in 1991, when he had accompanied the then BJP chief Murli Manohar Joshi during his Tiranga Yatra.
  - ✓ The launch of temple construction will be at the site where Babri Masjid had stood before being demolished on December 6, 1992 by a mob of kar sevaks
  - ✓ Ayodhya has been decorated extensively for the ceremony and over 3,500 security personnel have been deployed across the temple town for foolproof security
  - ✓ Borders of Ayodhya district, however, have been sealed
  - ✓ The PM will arrive in Ayodhya via Lucknow around 11.30am and reach the Ram Janmabhoomi makeshift temple after offering prayers at Hanumangarhi, the seat of Lord Hanuman, 3 km away.
  - ✓ The bhoomi puja will last 15 minutes, between 12.30 pm and 12.45 pm, and will be performed in the presence of 175 select guests, including 135 seers.
  - ✓ The PM Narendra Modi, along with UP governor Anandiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and temple trust president Nriya Gopal Das will be on the dais.
  - ✓ The PM will also plant a Parijat tree and release a commemorative postal stamp on the Ram temple.
  - ✓ Two prominent Muslim names, Iqbal Ansari, the former litigant in the Babri Masjid case, and Mohammad Shareef, who was awarded the Padma Shri for years of performing last rites of unclaimed bodies, have also been invited.
  - ✓ The Supreme Court in last November permitted the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the Babri Masjid stood till December 6, 1992.
- **The government - has banned the browser offered on smartphones made by Xiaomi, expanding the action against Chinese companies operating in India.**
- ✓ However, the action against 'Mi Browser Pro - Video Download, Free Fast & Secure' will not impact the performance of the devices, as the users are free to download any other browser

### Adhere To Privacy Norms: Co

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Xiaomi has sold over 10 crore devices in India</li> <li>➤ Apart from Xiaomi browser, govt had banned 'Mi Community' app earlier</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Xiaomi seeking a meeting with officials to make submissions</li> <li>➤ The company says it adheres to all data privacy and security requirements</li> </ul>
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- ✓ The government has also ordered the ban of another Chinese app QQ International
- ✓ Xiaomi has sold over 10 crore smartphones in the country, and is the leading mobile brand.
- ✓ The action against Xiaomi comes along with the wider measures initiated against a variety of Chinese apps operating in India.

- ✓ The steps had been initiated after the growing tensions between India and China over border disputes.
  - ✓ On June 29, the government had decided to ban 59 Chinese apps, including famous Apps like TikTok, UC Browser, Helo, Likee, Shareit, Mi Community, WeChat and CamScanner.
  - ✓ Further, on July 27, the government had blocked another 47 apps and these included Baidu Search and Weibo, dubbed as China's answer to Google search and Twitter respectively, apart from the clones of already banned apps.
  - ✓ The government had decided to block the apps after accusing them of "engaging in activities which are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order"
- **On August 3, India - recorded the highest count of fresh Covid-19 cases in the world for the second day running and also reported the highest daily deaths from the virus**
- ✓ India's death toll, at 814, was way higher than the deaths reported on the day in Brazil (572) and the US (568), the two countries worst hit by the pandemic



- ✓ India had reported 49,134 fresh coronavirus cases on the day, which remained higher than the count in the US (48,622) and Brazil (17,988).
  - ✓ On August 4, the country reported 51,051 fresh infections, taking the total caseload to 19,04,719
  - ✓ The country's toll stood at 842, the second-highest single day casualty reported so far
  - ✓ A total of around 12.8 lakh people have recovered from the infection, while active cases stood at 5,86,348.
  - ✓ The day's count of cases was the highest in Andhra Pradesh at 9,747, which pushed Maharashtra (7,760) to second place.
  - ✓ At least three states reported their highest single-day spike in cases — Karnataka (6,259), Bengal (2,752) and Assam (2,371).
- **Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL) has announced the introduction of new initiative - I-ZEST (IHCL zero-touch service transformation).**

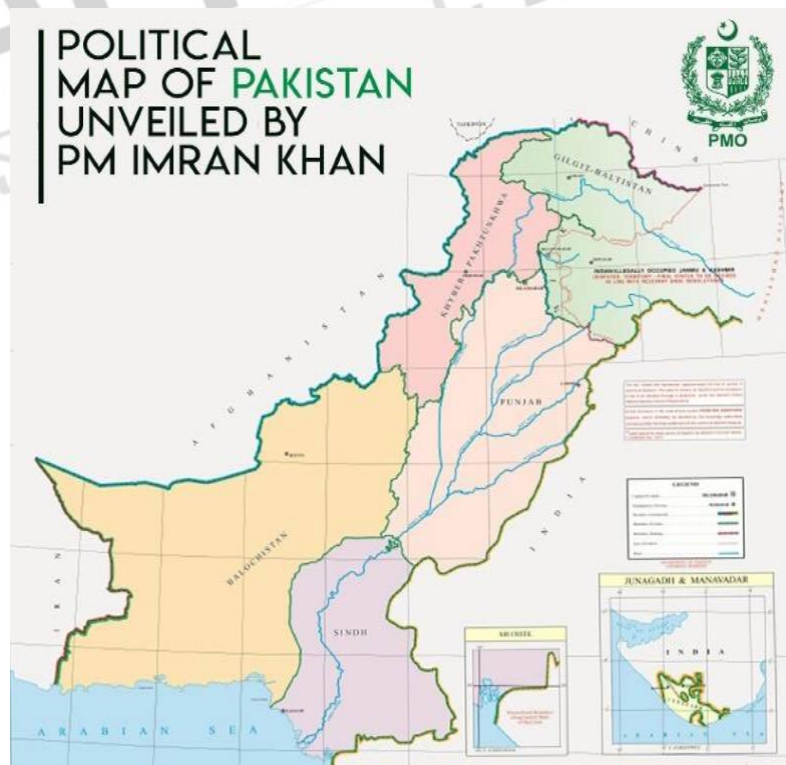
- ✓ It is a suite of digital solutions to be implemented across its Taj, Vivanta and SeleQtions brands of hotels
- ✓ The aim of the initiative to ensure social distancing for guests and associates, while maintaining secure and seamless services through 'digital' mode.
- ✓ These digital measures will include zero-touch check-ins and check-outs, digital invoicing, online payment options and QR codes to digital menus at restaurants.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **US President Donald Trump - has signed an executive order preventing federal agencies from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers — mainly those on H-1B visas.**
- ✓ The move comes over a month after the Trump administration on June 23 suspended the H-1B visas, along with other types of foreign work visas, until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year.
- ✓ The new restrictions took effect from June 24.
- ✓ On August 3, Trump signed an executive order on "Aligning Federal Contracting and Hiring Practices with the Interests of American Workers," that prevents federal agencies from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan- released a new political map of Pakistan on August 4**





- ✓ The new map was released on the first anniversary of the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status
- ✓ The new map showed the entire erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, now organised into two Union Territories, as a part of Pakistan.
- ✓ The new "official map" also included Junagadh, Sir Creek and Manavadar in Western Gujarat
- ✓ Junagadh was a princely state in British India before its integration into the Union of India.
  - ✓ Pakistan's claim to Junagarh completely disregards the February 1948 plebiscite.
  - ✓ Junagadh is now a part of Saurashtra in Gujarat.
- ✓ The LOC had been extended to the Karakoram Pass, clearly depicting Siachen as part of Pakistan territory
- ✓ The new political map has also removed the reference of Federally Administered Tribal Area and has depicted that area as part of the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- ✓ In the early version of the map, the part of Kashmir and Ladakh border with China was not marked and it was described as "Frontier Undecided".
  - ✓ However, the new map clearly shows Pakistan frontier attached with India and the entire Kashmir region as its territory.
- ✓ The J&K had been described as "Disputed Territory" of which final status to be decided in line with relevant "UNSC resolutions"
- ✓ India reacted quickly and called it an "exercise in political absurdity"
- ✓ During the unveiling of the map, Pakistan Prime Minister said that the federal cabinet had approved the map on August 4 and it will be used in schools and colleges henceforth
- ✓ This is the second such map revising territorial claims in the South Asian region.
- ✓ Before this, India's northern neighbor "Nepal" unveiled a political map showing the key Indian territories of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as part of its sovereign territory

## DEFENCE

- **For the first time, the Army - has deployed women soldiers for internal security and combat duties near the line of control with Pakistan.**
- ✓ Around 30 women soldiers were deployed on deputation from paramilitary force Assam Rifles
- ✓ They have been stationed in the Tangdhar sector of north Kashmir
- ✓ The division is led by Captain Gursimran Kaur of the Army Service Corps (ASC), who herself is a third-generation military officer of her family.
- ✓ The women soldiers will be deployed at security checkpoints leading to the LoC
- ✓ They are also being used for crowd control and frisking of women because there are intelligence inputs of weapons and drugs being smuggled across



- ✓ The 13-lakh strong Army has been inducting women in small numbers since the mid-1990s but only as officers.
- ✓ Women are also not allowed to join the “fighting arms” of infantry, armoured corps, mechanised infantry and artillery.
- ✓ It was only last year that the Army began the recruitment of the first lot of around 50 women as jawans or soldiers in the Corps of Military Police (CMP), who are undergoing training at present.
- ✓ The Army plans to induct around 800 women in the military police, with a yearly intake of over 50 personnel
- ✓ They will be used in probing criminal cases like rapes and molestations as well as preserving “good order and discipline” in military formations.
- ✓ On July 23, the Defence Ministry issued the Government Sanction Letter (GSL) specifying grant of PC to women officers in all streams in which they presently serve — Army Air Defence, Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General and Army Educational Corps.
- ✓ The orders follow the Supreme Court verdict in February, in which it directed the government that women officers in the Army be granted PC and command postings in all services other than combat.

## ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India - has cleared the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank, India’s largest private sector bank.**

**NEXT CEO**

**1996** | Sashidhar Jagdishan (Sashi) joins HDFC Bank as manager in finance function

**1999** | Becomes finance business head

**2008** | Appointed CFO

**30 Years** | Overall experience in the banking space



- ✓ He will succeed Aditya Puri, widely credited with building the bank from scratch, who retires in October this year.
- ✓ Jagdishan (55), who has been with the bank since 1996, is a group head for several functions and was appointed ‘change agent’ in 2019.
- ✓ He was the bank’s chief financial officer for over a decade.
- ✓ He will be heading the bank for a period of three years from the date of his taking charge—October 27, 2020.

- **Tata Consultancy Services and two other vendors - have been shortlisted for implementation of Integrated Market Surveillance System (IMSS)**
- ✓ This was announced by the RBI in a report.
- ✓ The RBI has proposed to implement IMSS, which would include capabilities for market surveillance, management information system (MIS) reports, standard and ad hoc reports (through slicing and dicing of data), and compliance monitoring.
- ✓ RBI has proposed to implement a robust IMSS for augmenting its surveillance capacities

## **OBITUARY**

- **Ebrahim Alkazi (Theatre doyen, legendary drama teacher and connoisseur of fine arts) (94 years)**



- ✓ Alkazi was the longest-serving director of National School of Drama (1962-77) and was instrumental in making it as the premier training institute for theatre.
- ✓ He was the first person to bring regional language plays to NSD
- ✓ He trained first-rate actors like Om Puri, Naseeruddin Shah, Rohini Hattangadi, Satyadev Dubey and Surekha Sikri
- ✓ Alkazi produced and directed benchmark plays such as Dharamvir Bharti's Andha Yug, John Osborne's Look Back in Anger, Lorca's Yerma, Mohan Rakesh's Aashadh Ka Ek Din, Girish Karnad's Tughlaq.
- ✓ Alkazi was described variously as "father of modern Indian theatre" and "last of the Romans"
- ✓ He was also a painter, a trained architect, a photographer and art curator.
- ✓ Alkazi founded the Art Heritage Gallery in Delhi with his wife Roshen Alkazi in 1977.
- ✓ He designed the Meghdoot open air theatre in Rabindra Bhavan
- ✓ Alkazi received numerous awards, including the Padma Shri in 1966, the Padma Bhushan in 1991, and India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2010.

## SPORT

- **World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen - won the \$150,000 chess24 'Legends of Chess' tournament beating Russian challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi on August 4.**



- ✓ It was the world champion's third win in four Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour events
  - ✓ Carlsen picks up the \$45,000 first prize while Nepo will be richer by \$30,000.
  - ✓ With this, Carlsen is on an incredible 19-match winning streak in the competition and goes into the tour final, which starts on August 9, as the favourite.
  - ✓ Carlsen's win also helped Ding Liren qualify for the Tour's Grand Final beginning on August 9.
- **Vivo India, the Chinese mobile phone manufacturer's local arm and BCCI - have decided to part ways for the 2020 edition of the IPL**

### MONEY GAME

Ever since the IPL started in 2008, it has always enjoyed big sponsorships and has been largely recession proof. A brief history of all sponsors and the money they have splashed to make the T20 league the money-spinner it became

**2008-2012: DLF: 200 Crore**

**2013 to 2015: Pepsi: 397 Crore**

**2016-2017: Vivo: 200 Crore**

**2018-2022: Vivo: 2,199 Crore**

**Note:** Pepsi had a contract running till 2017, but backed out. Vivo too has reportedly backed out citing political differences between India and China.

- ✓ The move is attributed to the existing border tensions with China, following the violent stand-off at Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh.
- ✓ Further, there were also disagreement between both the parties regarding a discount on the sponsorship fee
- ✓ Vivo India entered into a contract with IPL in 2017 with a winning bid of ₹2,199 crore for a period of five years
- ✓ It was paying the board an approximate ₹440 crore a year for the tournament's title rights.
- ✓ On August 2, IPL's governing council meeting decided to retain all their sponsors for the 13th edition, including the Chinese mobile manufacturing giant
- ✓ This has created a major uproar, considering the recent border standoff with China
- ✓ Out of Vivo's Rs. 440 crore sponsorship fee, BCCI would earn Rs 220 cr from the deal every year while the remaining Rs 220 crore would be divided among the eight franchises.

## NATIONAL DAY

- **On August 5, 2020, the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir - celebrated their first anniversary of formation.**
- ✓ The Government of India revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of the Constitution on this day last year.
- ✓ After the abrogation of the article, two union territories Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir were carved out under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019
- ✓ With the decision, the J&K was bifurcated into a Union Territory with a legislature while Ladakh became a Union Territory without legislature.
- ✓ Both the Union Territories have separate Lieutenant Governors.
- ✓ The Article 370 of the Indian Constitution gave special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir between 1954 and 2019
- ✓ The article conferred the state to have a separate constitution, flag and autonomy over internal administration of the state.
- ✓ An Indian citizen from other states, according to the article, cannot purchase land in the state.
- ✓ The article along with Article 35A of Jammu and Kashmir Constitution defined that the residents of the state shall have separate set of laws, fundamental rights, citizenship status, property ownership as compared to the citizens of other Indian states
- ✓ After the abrogation of Article 370, Right to Information Act, 2005 and Representation of People Act, 1951 were extended to these Union Territories.
- ✓ With the removal of Article 370, Article 35A was also scrapped