

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 9, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On August 8, Tamil Nadu – reported a three-digit death toll of 118 deaths for the sixth day, taking its cumulative death toll to 4,808**
- ✓ The state's caseload went up to 2,90,907 after reporting 5,883 fresh cases on the day
- ✓ A total of 5,043 people were discharged, taking the total number of people cured to 2,32,618.
- ✓ This leaves the number of active cases at 53,481.
- ✓ Chennai reported the maximum number of 986 cases and 20 deaths on the day
- ✓ Chengalpet (425), Kancheepuram (284) and Tiruvallur (391) together recorded 1,100 cases and 18 deaths.
- ✓ Further, Theni recorded the most cases, 452.
- ✓ In the last 24 hours, 67,553 samples were tested, taking the total number of samples tested till date to 31,55,619.
- ✓ As on date, there are 129 testing facilities in the state, after the approval of few more private laboratories.
- ✓ **On August 8, Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the opening up of small temples in corporation areas – that have an annual income of less than ₹10,000 from August 10.**
- ✓ Also, public worship will be allowed in small mosques, darghas, churches and other religious places.
- ✓ He also announced that driving schools in the state shall function from August 10, adhering to the standard operating procedures to be released by the government.
- ✓ The state has already allowed public worship in small temples, mosques, darghas, churches in panchayat, town panchayat and municipality areas.
- ✓ **The Greater Chennai Corporation has introduced two additional categories for issuance of e-passes**

- ✓ This will facilitate 30% more e-pass for entry of persons from other parts of the country
 - ✓ Till now, the civic body had been issuing e-pass only for three categories — marriage, death and medical emergency.
 - ✓ Going forward, anyone who wants to appear for an interview and who want to sign a business agreement will get e-pass for visiting Chennai.
- **On August 8, the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection 2020 – was virtually presented to R.S. Paroda, former Director General, Indian Council for Agricultural Research**
- ✓ The award was presented during an online meeting organised by the Rotary Club of Madras East.
 - ✓ The award was presented for his outstanding contribution in the area of agricultural research, education and extension, especially in the field of conservation and management of agrobiodiversity.
 - ✓ World Health Organization’s Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan was also present during the online event.

STATES

- **On August 7, 2020, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - launched “Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy”.**



- ✓ Under the new policy, the Government of Delhi has proposed a waiver of registration fee and road tax
- ✓ Also, it plans to provide an incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakhs for new electric cars in the NCR region.
- ✓ It aims to have a share of 25% electric vehicles by 2024, as against a mere 0.29% in the capital at present.
- ✓ The policy is designed towards boosting the economy, creating jobs and reducing pollution levels.
- ✓ Under the policy, the state government will give incentives up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, freight vehicles and e-rickshaws

- ✓ It will also give low interest loan for purchasing electric commercial vehicles
 - ✓ The policy intends to increase new electric vehicles in the NCR region to 5 lakh in the next five years.
 - ✓ It also proposes to set up a “State Electric Vehicle Board” along with 200 charging stations within a radius of every 3 km in one year.
 - ✓ For the first time in the country, the State Government announced incentives to those willing to exchange their petrol and diesel-run vehicles.
 - ✓ The policy is to run for three years and if needed, amendments are to be made to the policy.
 - ✓ The policy will be in addition to the centre’s scheme known as “Fame India Phase II”
- **The YSR Cheyutha Scheme, aiming to empower women from minority castes - is to be launched in Andhra Pradesh on August 12, 2020.**



- ✓ The scheme will provide financial benefit of Rs 75,000 to those ‘minority’ women who come under the age of 45 to 60 years.
 - ✓ The amount will be distributed in four equal installments of Rs 18,750 each per year.
 - ✓ It will be transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
 - ✓ The scheme will also be applicable to social security pension beneficiaries under the YSR Pension Kanuka.
 - ✓ The move will benefit more than 8.21 lakh women from SC, ST, BC and minority communities.
 - ✓ The State Government has allocated Rs 4,500 crores to implement the scheme.
 - ✓ The AP Government has also announced the launch of another scheme, the YSR Asara Scheme along with YSR Cheyutha Scheme
 - ✓ YSR Asara Scheme aims to provide benefits to 90 lakh women of self help group.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, Rs 6,700 crores is to be distributed in one year.
- **For the first time in the country, the Uttarakhand State Government - is planning to develop a Snow Leopard Conservation centre.**



- ✓ The centre is to be developed jointly by the Uttarakhand forest department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ✓ The main aim of the centre is to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species, apart from restoring Himalayan ecosystems.
- ✓ The snow leopards were found in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi districts of the state
- ✓ So far, the state government has identified that there are 86 snow leopards in the state.
- ✓ In this context, the centre will identify areas where the snow leopards are being found with the help of forest department and cooperation from local people and military forces.
- ✓ The first National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment was launched on International Snow Leopard Day (October 23, 2019)
 - ✓ The survey was conducted in the states/UTs of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ The launch also marked the inaugural of 4th Steering Committee meeting of GSLEP Programme
- ✓ **GSLEP Programme is Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme**
 - ✓ It is an inter-governmental alliance of all 12 snow leopard range countries - China, Bhutan, Nepal, Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.
 - ✓ The GSLEP programme mainly focuses on the awareness and understanding the value of snow leopard in an ecosystem
 - ✓ It is organised by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ The Snow Leopard region in India contributes to 5% of the global snow leopard region.
- ✓ They are classified as Vulnerable in IUCN list and has been included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- ✓ Secure Himalaya is another project being operated in India to conserve Snow Leopard.
 - ✓ It is funded by the Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Programme

- ✓ The programme is now being operated in four states/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Uttarakhand

➤ **Two coastal villages in Odisha, Venkatraipur and Noliasahi - have been recognised as 'Tsunami ready' by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).**

- ✓ This is the first time that any state in India is getting recognition
- ✓ This was announced by the Information and Public Relations Department of Odisha
- ✓ Also, Odisha is the first state in the country to get two coastal villages Tsunami ready.
- ✓ Further, the announcement makes the country the first in the Indian Ocean region to achieve this honour.
- ✓ The two villages are Venkatraipur (Boxipalli) village of Rangeilunda block of Ganjam district in Odisha and Noliasahi village of Ersama block of Jagatsinghpur district.

NATIONAL

➤ **On August 9, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – will launch the financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' via video conferencing**

- ✓ During the same event, the Prime Minister will also release sixth installment of funds of Rs 17,000 crores under PM-KISAN scheme to benefit more than 8.5 crore farmers
- ✓ To implement the financing facility, around 11 of 12 Public Sector Banks have signed MoUs with DAC and FW (Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).
- ✓ The funding facility will cater to the post-harvest management programmes and infrastructure farming assets such as collection centres, cold storage, processing units, etc
- ✓ The sixth instalment of Rs 2,000 under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi will benefit more than 10 crore beneficiaries
- ✓ Under the PM Kisan scheme, the Central government provides Rs 6,000 every year to the registered farmers.
- ✓ The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi was launched in 2018.
 - ✓ It provides direct cash benefit transfer of Rs 75,000 crores.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet had approved Agriculture Infrastructure Fund in July 2020
 - ✓ It provides medium-long term debt financing facility for investment.
 - ✓ The loans under the funds are to be provided to Marketing cooperative societies, Primary agricultural credit societies, Farmer producer organizations, Joint liability groups, Self help groups and Multipurpose cooperative societies.

- ✓ The loans issued under the funds will have interest subvention of 3% per annum.
- ✓ The repayment under the financing facility is subjected to a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.
- ✓ The subsidised interest of 3% is to be available for a maximum period of seven years.

➤ **On August 10, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is to inaugurate a 2,300 km submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) that will connect Chennai and Port Blair.**

- ✓ The submarine cable will be connecting major islands in Andaman such as Havelock, Car Nicobar, Great Nicobar, Kamorta, Rangat, Little Andaman.
- ✓ The OFC connectivity will provide faster and secure mobile and telecom services to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ The foundation stone for the project was laid by the Prime Minister in 2018.
- ✓ The project aims to deliver bandwidth of 2x200 Giga bits per second between Chennai and Port Blair.
- ✓ Also, it will deliver 2 x100 Giga bits per second bandwidth between Port Blair and other islands
- ✓ The project has been funded by Universal Service Obligation Funds (USOF).
 - ✓ It was created in 2002 by the Department of Telecommunications in 2002.
 - ✓ It is non-lapsable fund and has statutory support under India Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.
- ✓ The project is to be executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Department of Telecommunication operating under Ministry of Communications will be acting as technical consultants.

➤ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) on August 8, 2020 in New Delhi**



- ✓ The Kendra is an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ It was set up as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ The creation of Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) was first announced by the prime minister on April 10, 2017 on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran satyagraha

- ✓ The Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra is situated at Raj Ghat, the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - ✓ The installations at the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra capture the successful journey of the world's largest behaviour change campaign, the Swachh Bharat Mission.
 - ✓ The journey will be presented through assimilative learning, success stories and thematic messages in an interactive format.
- **Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar - launched the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train between Maharashtra and Bihar via video conference on August 7.**



- ✓ The first 'Kisan Rail' introduced by the Ministry of Railways operated from Devlali in Maharashtra's Nashik for Danapur in Bihar's capital, Patna, on August 7, 2020.
 - ✓ The train will also be making stoppages at different stations carrying fruits, vegetables, etc. and it will not be carrying regular passengers.
 - ✓ The parcel train will have a composition of 10+1 coaches.
 - ✓ Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier mentioned the Kisan Rail Project while presenting the Union Budget 2020.
 - ✓ The government had then proposed to build a cold supply chain for perishable products, inclusive meat, milk, and fish
 - ✓ The Kisan Rail was launched in PPP mode and there shall be refrigerated coaches in freight trains and express as well.
 - ✓ The initiative by the Indian Railways has been taken for the development of cold chain for transportation of perishable traffic.
- **The Ministry of Textiles – has closed down the 'All India Powerloom Board', an advisory body under the Ministry.**
- ✓ Earlier, the all India handicrafts and handloom boards, under the Ministry, were also disbanded
 - ✓ Further, the Ministry notified a change in the status of all eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) by cancelling their 'affiliations' with the ministry.

- ✓ The TRAs will now be “approved bodies” for conducting testing, research and developmental activities related to the textiles sector.
- ✓ The decision of the Ministry regarding the closures of handicrafts, handloom and powerloom boards is said to be in line with the Centre’s “minimum government, maximum governance” principle.
- ✓ It is stated that the step reflects a vision for a “leaner government machinery and for systematic rationalisation of government bodies”.
- ✓ The August 6 notification on the Textiles Research Associations states that from now on, “any disposal, sale, transfer of assets created out of central government grant will require prior specific approval of the ministry of textiles.”
- ✓ Also officials of the ministry in the governing bodies of these TRAs have been withdrawn.
- ✓ The move, in principle, reduces government presence though any other changes in membership will need to be awaited.
- ✓ The eight TRAs include Northern India TRA in Ghaziabad, Ahmedabad Textile Industry Research Association, Bombay TRA, Coimbatore-based South India TRA, Synthetic and Art Silk Mills Research Association in Mumbai, Man-made TRA in Surat, World Research Association in Thane and Kolkata-based Indian Jute Industries’ Research Association.
- ✓ Earlier, the notification to abolish the All India Powerloom Board was issued on August 4.
- ✓ As per the ministry of textiles website, the board was first constituted as an advisory board in November, 1981.
- ✓ The AIPB was reconstituted for a period of two years in December 2013.
- **The Centre - has released ₹553 crore to States under a scheme to promote mechanisation in the agriculture sector.**
- ✓ The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) was introduced in April 2014 with an aim to have inclusive growth of farm mechanisation to boost productivity.
- ✓ In the year 2020-21, budget of ₹1,033 crore has been provided for the scheme
- ✓ Out of the allocated amount, ₹553 crore has been released to state governments now
- ✓ Agricultural mechanisation helps in increasing production by performing farm operations ‘in-time’ and reduces unnecessary operations by ensuring better management of inputs.
- ✓ Individual farmers are also provided subsidy for procurement of machinery.
- ✓ Total funds of ₹11,78.47 crore were provided in the years 2018-19 & 2019-20 to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT.
- **The National Statistical Office - recently released the Envistats India 2020 report.**
- ✓ As per the report, the number of heat wave days in 2019 increased over 80%.

- ✓ The report was prepared by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, under which the National Statistical Office (NSO) operates
- ✓ According to the report, the average number of heat wave days increased 82.6% from a mere 157 in 2019.
- ✓ The deaths due to heat wave in 2019 saw a sharp jump from 26 in 2018 to 373 in 2019.
 - ✓ Prior to this, in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017, it stood at a higher range of 2081, 516 and 375 respectively
 - ✓ The highest number of heat wave days was recorded in Rajasthan followed by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The number of average cold wave days had also increased, which stood at 45 in 2018 and 29 in 2017
- ✓ The deaths due to acute respiratory infection in 2018 stood at a six-year high of 3,740.
 - ✓ The highest number of deaths due to respiratory infection was reported in West Bengal.
- ✓ The Particulate Matter size was the highest in Delhi among the metropolitan cities
- ✓ Delhi had the highest number of registered motor vehicles in the country followed by Bengaluru.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh had the highest number of slum population followed by Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh
- **On August 8, India - crossed the 21-lakh mark in Covid cases after reporting the highest single-day surge in fresh infections by crossing the 65,000-mark for the first time**
- ✓ Two more Union ministers, Kailash Choudhary and Arjun Meghwal, tested positive for the virus, taking the total number of central ministers suffering from the disease to four.
- ✓ Union home minister Amit Shah and petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan had earlier tested positive.
- ✓ The country's total caseload now remains at 21,50,431 after reporting 65,410 fresh cases
- ✓ The death toll dropped below 900 to 884 to take the cumulative casualties over 43,000 mark to 43,397
- ✓ Maharashtra recorded its highest single-day surge in fresh cases at 12,822, becoming the only state in the country to cross the 12,000-mark
- ✓ This takes the total caseload in the state over the five-lakh mark to 5,03,084.
- ✓ Like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, too, continued to record more than 10,000 cases with 10,080 patients testing positive for the virus.
- ✓ Further, Karnataka too reported high numbers after crossing the 7,000 mark for the first time with 7,178 cases to register the highest single-day peak in the state.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The United Nations - released \$6 million in response to the recent explosion at Beirut port in Lebanon**
- ✓ With this, the total UN funding towards relief operation following the explosion reached \$15 million
- ✓ A catastrophic blast, driven by tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate, occurred at the Lebanon capital, Beirut on August 4.
- ✓ The \$6 million was released from the Central Emergency Relief Fund
- ✓ Previously, \$9 million was released from UN Lebanon Humanitarian Fund to provide primary health needs and also to offer food assistance.
- ✓ Lebanon is currently the third most indebted country in the world next to Japan and Greece
 - ✓ The post war reconstruction in Lebanon led to the current financial problems of the country.
- ✓ The 2006 Lebanon War, also called the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War, was a military conflict that took place in Northern Israel, Lebanon and Golan Heights.
 - ✓ The principal parties of the war were Israel Defence Forces and Hezbollah paramilitary forces.
 - ✓ The Hezbollah movement in Lebanon is backed by Iran and is seen as one of the most powerful military force
- **On August 8, 2020, Mauritius - declared environmental emergency due to oil spill caused by a Japanese-owned ship that was stranded off the coast**



- ✓ The MV Wakashio of Japanese companies, Nagashiki Shipping Ltd and Okiyo Maritime Corporation was on its way from Brazil to Singapore carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel.
- ✓ The ship ran aground on July 25, 2020 off the coast of island of Mauritius
- ✓ The cracks that appeared on the ship hull caused the oil spill, causing immediate danger to around 1 to 3 million residents in the island nation.
- ✓ The Mauritius Government has appealed to the French Government for help.
- ✓ The help of France has been sought as the French Island of Reunion is the closest to Mauritius.
 - ✓ The Island of Reunion is a major military base of France in the Indian Ocean

- ✓ India conducted joint patrols with the French Navy, CORPAT (Coordinated Patrols) for the first time from the Reunion Island in March 2020.
- ✓ Mauritius is a part of security grid of India including Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR).
 - ✓ Mauritius is one of the top sources of Foreign Direct Investment for India, receiving \$15-16 billion of FDI annually.
 - ✓ India has several Free Trade Agreements with Mauritius, signed for enhanced EEZ surveillance and anti-piracy operations to prevent intrusions by potential economic offenders including illegal poaching, fishing, human trafficking and drugs
 - ✓ The Agalega Islands of Mauritius, located at Northern Mauritius, has been leased to the Indian military for development of strategic assets
 - ✓ The Head of Mauritian National Security Advisor and Mauritius Navy are Indian Officers

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The Government of India - has extended Line of Credit of worth \$18 million to Maldives to expand fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO).**
- ✓ The funds will be used to develop a 50-tonne ice plant in Gemanafushi along with another 100-tonne ice storage facility
 - ✓ The funds will also be used to set up tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant, apart from investing on fish collection
- ✓ The above projects will increase fish collection and storage capacity of Maldives.
- ✓ It will help the country acquire new markets in the fisheries sector
- ✓ India has offered assistance to Maldives whenever required.
 - ✓ India was the first to provide with relief when Maldives was badly hit by Tsunami.
 - ✓ India launched 'Operation Cactus' in 1984 and saved Maldives from a coup
 - ✓ The 'Operation Neer' was launched by the Indian Government to help save Maldives from major fire that broke out in a Male Water and Sewerage company

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **An international team of solar physicists led by those from Peking University, China, and National Center for Atmospheric Research of the U.S - has measured the global magnetic field of the sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, for the very first time.**
- ✓ Though the core of the Sun is at a temperature of about 15 million degrees, its outer layer, the photosphere is a mere 5700 degrees hot.

- ✓ However, its corona or outer atmosphere, which stretches up to several million kilometres beyond its surface, is much, much hotter than the surface.
 - ✓ It is at a temperature of one million degrees or more.
- ✓ The team used a technique known as coronal seismology or magnetoseismology to measure the coronal magnetic field
- ✓ This method requires the measurement of the properties of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) waves and the density of the corona simultaneously.
- ✓ The team used the improved measurements of the Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP) and advanced data analysis to measure the coronal magnetic field.
- ✓ CoMP is an instrument operated by High Altitude Observatory, of the U.S.
 - ✓ It is located at Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, near the summit of that volcano on the big island of Hawaii.

ECONOMY

- **On August 6, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India - launched “Innovation Hub” to promote start-ups in the country**
 - ✓ It will help in the ideation and incubation of new start-ups
 - ✓ This will in turn help to deepen financial inclusion in the country, promote efficient banking services and strengthen consumer protection
 - ✓ The hub will act as a platform to create viable and innovative financial products.
 - ✓ The RBI has recently taken several similar initiatives to encourage responsible innovation, which includes the recently launched “Regulatory Sandbox” initiative
 - ✓ A Regulatory Sandbox refers to live testing of new products and services in a controlled regulatory environment where the regulators may permit regulatory relaxations to limit purpose of testing.
 - ✓ This framework will strengthen the financial technology startups that are looking to innovate
 - ✓ The main aim of the sandbox is to support responsible innovation in financial services, bring benefits to consumer and promote efficiency.
 - ✓ RBI will launch Sandbox for the entities that meet the criteria of minimum net worth of Rs 25 lakh
 - The entity should either be a company registered in the country or banks licensed to operate in India
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India – had amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Regulations recently**
 - ✓ This is the second amendment, which has made major changes to the voluntary liquidation process.

- ✓ The amendment allows the corporate persons to replace the liquidator with another liquidator or insolvency professional to initiate voluntary liquidation process
- ✓ Earlier, the corporate personnel appoint insolvency professional to conduct voluntary liquidation process but not change the liquidator in due process
- ✓ The IBBI oversees insolvency proceedings, insolvency professionals and insolvency professional agencies.
 - ✓ It was established in 2016 by giving statutory powers under Insolvency and Bankruptcy code.
 - ✓ The board handles cases using two tribunals such as Debt Recovery Tribunal and National Company Law Tribunal.
 - ✓ The board has 10 members including Law and Corporate Affairs, Ministries of Finance and Corporate affairs and also members from Reserve Bank of India

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant-Governor (L-G), Girish Chandra Murmu - took charge as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on August 8**



- ✓ Murmu was sworn in by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- ✓ The ceremony was held in the Ashoka Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- ✓ It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, among others.
- ✓ Murmu, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, will serve as the CAG up to November 20, 2024.
- ✓ Appointed as the first L-G of the newly created Union Territory of J&K, Murmu resigned on August 5, the first anniversary of the Centre scrapping special status for J&K under Article 370.
- ✓ He was then appointed the CAG to replace Rajiv Mehrishi, who retired on August 7.

- ✓ After the resignation of Murmu, former Union Minister Manoj Sinha was sworn in as the new LG of J&K.
- ✓ The CAG has a tenure of six years or retirement age of 65 years, whichever is earlier
 - ✓ He is appointed by the President and can be removed from office only by the President, as per the constitutional procedures similar to the removal of a Supreme Court Judge
 - ✓ The CAG audits the accounts related to the expenditure from the consolidated fund of India, and the consolidated fund of every state and Union Territories that have Legislative Assembly.
 - ✓ He also audits contingency fund and also public account of each state.
 - ✓ The CAG audits the accounts of authorities as requested by the President or Governor.
 - ✓ In the Constitution, the Articles 148-151 deals with the aspects of CAG
- **Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi - took oath as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on August 7, 2020.**



- ✓ Dr. Pradeep Kumar will succeed Arvind Saxena who completed his term as UPSC chairman.
- ✓ He was previously serving as the Chairman of both Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commissions.
- ✓ Dr. Pradeep joined the UPSC as a member in May 2015.
- ✓ His tenure as UPSC chairman will continue till May 12, 2021.
- ✓ The UPSC conducts the civil services examination annually in three stages — preliminary, mains and interview — to select Indian bureaucrats and diplomats.

SPORTS

- **The Ranji Trophy and the Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy - are the only two domestic tournaments that will be played in the country at the senior level this coming season considering the Covid-19 pandemic impact.**
- ✓ Normally, the domestic season begins in September.

- ✓ Considering, the rescheduling of IPL from September 19 to November 10, the BCCI has decided to cancel the Duleep Trophy, the Deodhar Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy for this season.
- ✓ In this context, a tentative schedule was drawn up by Rahul Dravid, the National Cricket Academy (NCA) head and interim IPL CEO Hemang Amin
- ✓ Accordingly, the Mushtaq Ali Trophy will begin from November 19, just after the IPL, and end on December 7, while the Ranji Trophy will start from December 13 and end on March 10.
- ✓ It means that last season's Ranji champions Saurashtra will not play the traditional Irani Cup tie against Rest of India this season.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Tribal Day or International Day of the World Indigenous People – August 9**



- ✓ The day aims to promote and protect the rights of world indigenous population
- ✓ It marks the first meet of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva, 1982
- ✓ Theme 2020 - COVID-19 and indigenous people resilience
- ✓ The first World Tribal Day was celebrated by the United nations in 1994
- ✓ The Constitution of India recognizes tribal communities in the country under Schedule 5.
- ✓ They are called the Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ According to Census 2011, the total Scheduled Tribes population in India is 10.43 crores, accounting for 8.6% of total population in the country.

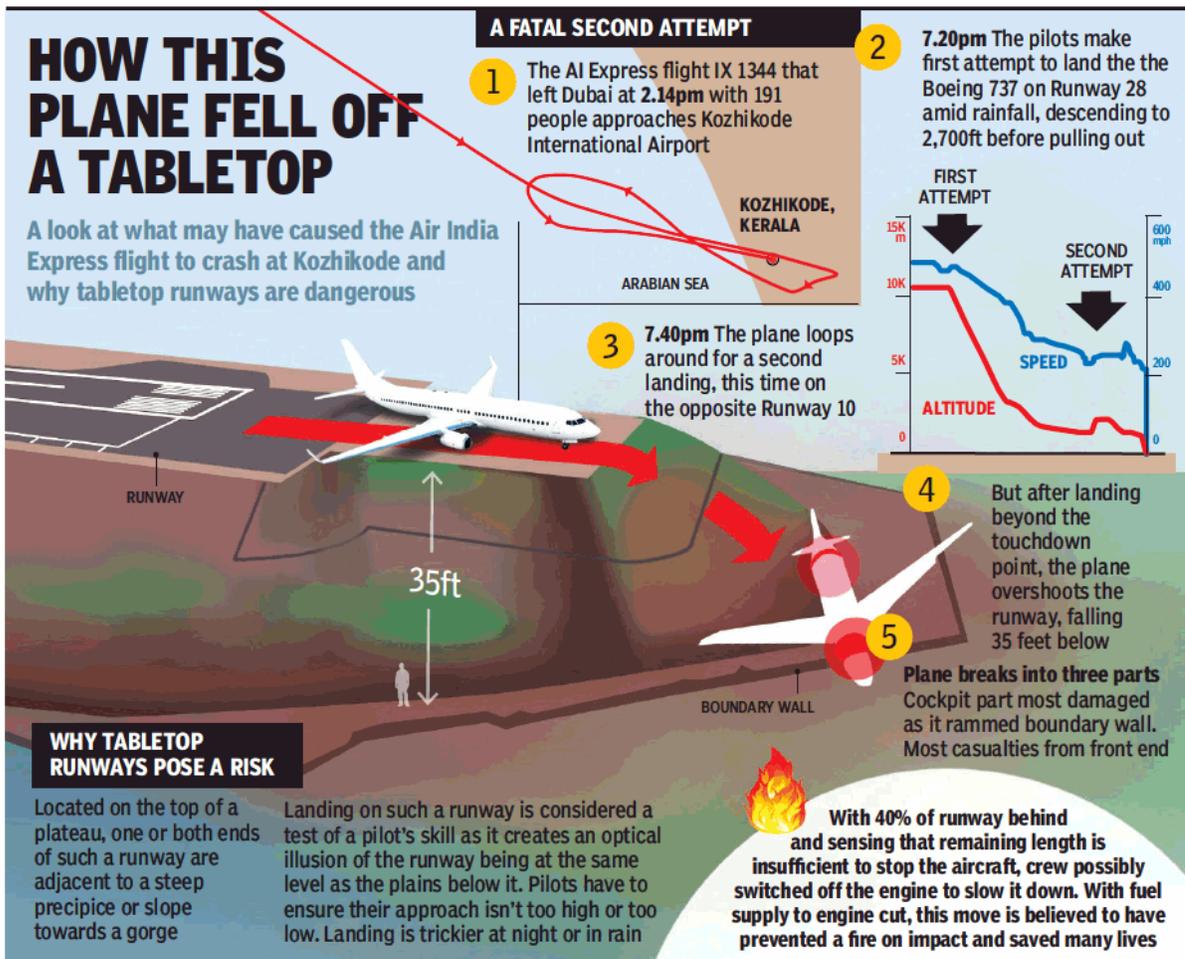
CALICUT PLANE CRASH – A REPORT

- **The toll from the ill-fated Air India Express flight AXB 1344 crash - rose to 18, while another 149 people were injured**
- ✓ The plane crashed after overshooting the runway of Calicut International Airport at Karipur on August 7
- ✓ Union Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan visited the site
- ✓ The Centre and the Kerala government have announced separate interim relief of ₹10 lakh each to the families of those killed in the crash.

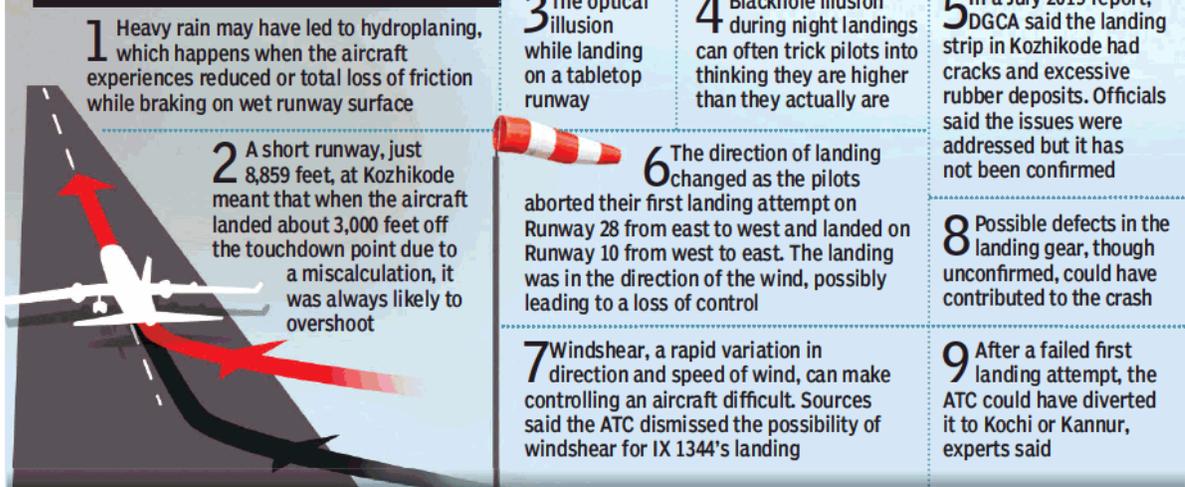
HOW THIS PLANE FELL OFF A TABLETOP

A look at what may have caused the Air India Express flight to crash at Kozhikode and why tabletop runways are dangerous

A FATAL SECOND ATTEMPT



WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE?



MANGALURU, 2010: THE OTHER TABLETOP CRASH

In May 2010, an Air India Express flight IX 812 skidded off the tabletop runway at the Mangaluru International Airport, following errors by the pilots. It caught fire, killing 158 of the 166 onboard

Graphic: Sajeev Kumarapuram

RUNWAY SAFETY STILL AN INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

About half of all accidents reported to International Civil Aviation Organisation have been linked to runway safety

TOP 3 ACCIDENT CAUSES IN 2018

39
Runway safety

28
Injuries/incapacitation of persons

21
Ground safety

SCARE IN THE AIR, AND ON THE GROUND: AIRCRAFT LOSING CONTROL ON RUNWAYS

Nov 2019: A GoAir aircraft from Nagpur veered off the runway at the Bengaluru airport in bad weather conditions

July 2019: A SpiceJet flight overshoot the runway while landing in Surat

May 2019: A major mishap was averted at Mumbai when an IAF aircraft overshoot the main runway

Even the Karipur airport has seen at least four incidents. On **July 2012**, another AI Express Boeing 737-800 skidded during landing amid heavy rain, breaking several runway lights

DELHI EV POLICY, 2020 – A REPORT

Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020

Dec 23, 2019

Delhi cabinet okays the policy

Aug 07, 2020

Policy is notified

- The policy will be valid for 3 years starting from Friday
- It will be revised after three years

GOAL

Electric vehicles to contribute to 25% of all new vehicle registrations by 2024

- Aims to transform national capital to the 'EV capital of India'
- Focus on electric two-wheelers, shared transport vehicles (e.g. three-wheelers/buses) and goods carriers/freight vehicles
- In the next 5 years, target to register 500,000 new EVs in Delhi

HOW WILL IT HELP REDUCE DELHI'S POLLUTION?

Over their lifetime, these EVs are estimated to avoid:

- Approximately ₹6,000 crores in oil and liquid natural gas imports
- 4.8 million tonnes of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions
- 159 tonnes of PM 2.5

AT PRESENT

- 2/3rds new vehicle registrations in Delhi comprise two-wheelers, with the most popular segments being bikes between 110-125 cc and scooters of 90-125 cc

ACROSS ALL VEHICLE CATEGORIES

- All financial incentives will be applicable for both fixed battery models and swappable battery models.
- Road tax and registration fees to be waived for all EVs

Two-wheelers



- Purchase incentive of ₹5k per kWh of battery capacity, maximum

incentive of ₹30k per vehicle.

- Scrapping incentive of up to ₹5,000 to be offered

Four wheelers (e-cars)



- Purchase incentive of ₹10,000 per kWh of battery capacity for

first 1000 cars subject to a cap of ₹1,50,000 per vehicle

Commercial two-wheelers



- Ride-hailing service providers will be allowed to operate electric two-wheeler taxis, subject to operating within the guidelines issued

- All two-wheelers engaged in last-mile deliveries will be expected to shift 50% of their fleet to electric by March 31, 2023, and 100% by March 31, 2025

Electric autos (e-autos)/e-rickshaws/e-carriers



- Purchase Incentive of ₹30,000 per vehicle - e-autos, e-rickshaws & e-carts (NIL at present)

- Interest subvention of 5% on loans and/or hire

purchase scheme for the purchase of an e-auto

- So, a loan of typically 12% interest from DFC will now be made available at 7% - the lowest anywhere in India for EVs

- For e-autos, an open permit system will apply



Buses

- Electric buses shall constitute at least 50% of all new buses to be added to the city bus fleet

- This will start with the induction of 1,000 pure electric buses by 2020.

Private charging infrastructure (at homes/workplaces)

- All new home and workplace parking will need to be 'EV ready'
- Govt to provide a 100% subsidy for the purchase of charging equipment up to ₹6k per charging point for first 30k points at homes/workplaces.

Public charging infrastructure

- Providing accessible public charging/battery swapping facilities within 3km travel
- Delhi govt shall provide capital subsidy for the cost of chargers installation.
- 100% net SGST will be provided as reimbursement to EOs to buy advanced batteries