

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 8, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu state BJP Chief, L Murugan - was inducted into the expanded council of ministers as Union minister of state for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, and information and broadcasting.**



- ✓ Murugan was national SC/ST Commission vice-chairman before becoming the state BJP chief
- ✓ He made his electoral debut in 2006 assembly elections in Sankari constituency.
- ✓ Later, Murugan contested unsuccessfully from Rasipuram assembly segment in 2011.
- ✓ He lost from Dharapuram seat in the recently concluded assembly poll.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu had not had any representation in the Union ministry after minister of state for shipping Pon Radhakrishnan's term ended in 2019.
- ✓ Murugan's roots are deep in the RSS, to which he joined during his school days itself.
- ✓ He joined the ABVP during his law college days in Chennai.
- ✓ He was the state coordinator of the struggle committee against the Ranganath Mishra Commission report.

- ✓ The struggle committee's national coordinator was President Ram Nath Kovind.
 - ✓ Murugan gave an aggressive face to the state BJP and carried out campaigns, which may have helped the party win 4 out of the 20 assembly seats and enter the assembly after 15 years
 - ✓ He will now take the Rajya Sabha route to the Parliament.
- **Three stone inscriptions and two base sculptures belonging to the 10th Century - have been discovered in waterbodies in and around Thesur village in Tiruvannamalai district.**
- ✓ The stone inscriptions emphasize on water management and the base sculpture depicts the ancient water discharging system.
 - ✓ The stone inscriptions highlight the importance of water management and the water irrigation system.
 - ✓ It also emphasises the importance of creating water bodies and maintaining them properly
 - ✓ These inscriptions were discovered during renovation of the waterbodies.



- ✓ The base sculpture and the inscription found in Periya Eri (big tank) in Desur were unique.
- ✓ Its pictorial depiction found in the base sculpture vividly describes the ancient irrigation system and depicts the ancient water discharging system.
- ✓ The stone slab has seven lines in early Tamil letters and it was incomplete.
- ✓ They belonged to 22 year of King Kannara Devan's reign in the 10th century.
- ✓ The second base sculpture found in the vicinity had a sculpture like Ashok Chakra with 24 spokes.
- ✓ The team also discovered a stone inscription in the middle of Gangnam Pundi village, which has been worshipped by the villagers
- ✓ It talks about a person Kalamukthi, who constructed the sluice in the water tank
- ✓ This stone inscription was a rare find as it has a pictorial depiction of the water regulatory system.

NATIONAL

- On July 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - effected sweeping changes to his government after expanding the cabinet with 36 new ministers and elevating 7 other ministers.



- ✓ Out of 43, 15 took oath as Cabinet Ministers while 28 leaders were inducted as Minister of State (MoS)
- ✓ A total of 7 cabinet and 5 junior ministers were dropped from the expanded ministry
- ✓ In his first term, the PM persisted with around 58 ministers in the Council of Ministers (CoM) when the slogan was "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".
- ✓ The Council of Ministers now stands at 77, the highest in this government's tenure.
- ✓ In the new Council of Ministers, there are 4 former Chief Ministers in the Cabinet, 18 former state ministers, 39 former MLAs and 23 MPs who have been elected for three or more terms.
- ✓ **The Cabinet Secretariat had also announced the establishment of the ministry of cooperation.**
- ✓ Home minister Amit Shah has been given charge of the newly created cooperation ministry.
- ✓ Former CMs Narayan Rane and Sarbananda Sonowal, women leaders such as Meenakshi Lekhi, Shobha Karandlaje, Bharati Pawar and Pratima Bhowmik,

politicians with strong grassroots connections like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Bhupender Yadav and Rajiv Chandrashekar were brought into the ministry.

- ✓ The portfolio allocations provided important roles for Dharmendra Pradhan who moved to education, Mansukh Mandavia who has been given charge of health and chemicals and fertilisers, Kiren Rijju, the new law minister, and Giriraj Singh, who got the politically significant rural development portfolio.
- ✓ Ashwini Vaishnaw is one of the biggest gainers from the Cabinet reshuffle, bagging two major ministries in IT, communication and railways.
- ✓ The 50-year-old Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha served in the bureaucracy for almost 15 years before joining the corporate sector and working in multinationals like GE and Siemens.
- ✓ Ashwini Vaishnaw, a former IAS officer of the 1994 batch, is an MTech from IIT-Kanpur as well as an MBA from Wharton
- ✓ Virender Kumar, a low-key Dalit leader from MP, is named as the social justice and empowerment minister replacing Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- ✓ The ministers who were replaced includes IT and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and I&B minister Prakash Javadekar, health minister Harsh Vardhan, HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and chemicals and fertilisers minister Sadanand Gowda.

MODI 2.0 REBOOT

EXITS | 6 Cabinet ministers, 1 MoS (ind) & 5 MoS out

Harsh Vardhan | Ravi Shankar Prasad | D V Sadananda Gowda | Thaawarchand Gehlot | Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank | Prakash Javadekar | Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Babul Supriyo | Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao | Rattan Lal Kataria | Pratap Chandra Sarangi | Debasree Chaudhuri

PROMOTIONS | 7 MoS elevated to Cabinet rank

Kiren Rijju: Good work as junior sports minister, seen as effective

Raj Kumar Singh: Handled power portfolio well. Also did well on renewable energy, a key project for govt

Hardeep Singh Puri: Viewed as efficient. Steered key projects (central vista) & ministry (civil aviation)

Mansukh Mandaviya: Seen as a young go-getter

Parshottam Rupala: Former party chief in Gujarat, which is heading for polls next yr

G Kishan Reddy: Impressed in speaking on issues such as CAA, was part of MHA Covid management team. Seen as a good future prospect in Telangana

Anurag Singh Thakur: Rewarded for work as junior finance minister, clear communication. Seen as having a bright future

INDUCTEES FROM ALLIES

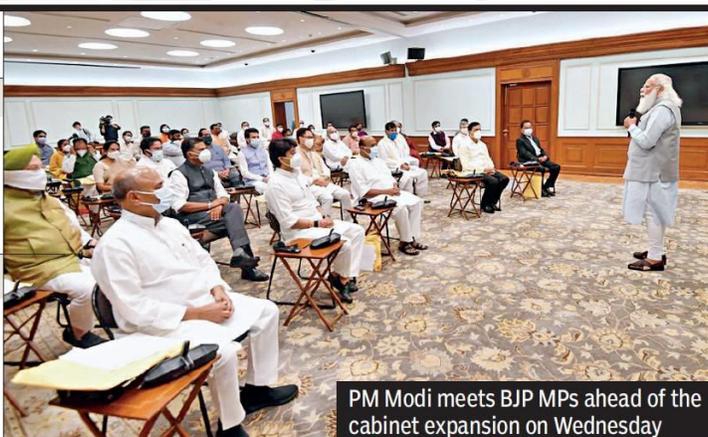
Ram Chandra Pratap Singh
JD(U)

Pashupati Kumar Paras
LJP

Anupriya Patel
Apna Dal

41 PROFESSIONALS IN TEAM NOW

- Lawyers **13**
- Doctors **6**
- Engineers **5**
- Civil Servants **7**
- PhDs **7**
- MBAs **3**



PM Modi meets BJP MPs ahead of the cabinet expansion on Wednesday

NEW CABINET MINISTERS

Narayan Tatu Rane (RS MP, Maha) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

Sarbananda Sonowal (Assam) Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Ayush

Virendra Kumar (LS, MP) Social Justice & Empowerment

Jyotiraditya Scindia (RS, MP) Civil Aviation, once held by his father

Ramchandra Prasad Singh (RS, Bihar) Steel

Ashwini Vaishnaw (RS, Odisha) Railways; Communications; Electronics & IT

Pashupati Kumar Paras (LS, Bihar) Food Processing Industries

Kiren Rijju (LS, Arunachal) Law & Justice

Raj Kumar Singh (LS, Bihar) Power; New & Renewable Energy

Hardeep S Puri (RS, UP) Petroleum & Natural Gas; Housing & Urban Affairs

Mansukh Mandaviya (RS, Guj) Health & Family Welfare; Chemicals & Fertilisers

Bhupender Yadav (RS, Raj) Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Labour & Employment

Parshottam Rupala (RS, Guj) Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

G Kishan Reddy (LS, Telangana) Culture; Tourism; Development of NE Region

Anurag Thakur (LS, Himachal) I&B; Youth Affairs & Sports

- ✓ Social justice and empowerment minister Thaawarchand Gehlot quit a day earlier and was appointed Karnataka governor.
- ✓ Anurag Singh Thakur, a MP from Himachal's Hamirpur, was elevated in the mega reshuffle of the council of ministers.
- ✓ Thakur became Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs in 2019
- ✓ In 2016, he became the first serving BJP Member of Parliament to become a regular commissioned officer in the Territorial Army.
- ✓ He was the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from May 2016 to February 2017.

CHALLENGES BEFORE MINISTERS

Dharmendra Pradhan, EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- Putting in place the National Curriculum Framework, steps to bridge the digital divide in schools with Covid putting focus on virtual classes
- Common entrance test for undergraduate admissions, Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) are some of the big plans of NEP2020 yet to hit the ground



and implement the widening of the gas network

Jyotiraditya Scindia: CIVIL AVIATION

- Ensure survival of airlines and airport operators facing strain, while protecting the interest of consumers
- Implement uniform travel rules across country, resumption of scheduled international flight remains uncertain



pandemic

- Revival of flagship schemes like PMGSY (rural roads) and rural livelihoods mission

Anurag Singh Thakur, I&B AND SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS

- Tackling the new and controversial digital media rules under the Information Technology Act, 2000, for overseeing all digital content
- Handling govt publicity amid the pandemic, especially with the second wave impacting lakhs



Mansukh Mandaviya, HEALTH, FERTILIZER & CHEMICALS

- To build a robust mechanism to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic through supply of vaccines, critical drugs, oxygen and hospital beds
- Focus on better use of fertilisers, targeting subsidy flow to farmers

Kiran Rijju, LAW & JUSTICE

- To fill up huge vacancies in SC, HCs and subordinate courts in consultation with the apex court
- Immediate challenge is to move all courts to digital format given the rise in pendency to 4.5 crore cases from 3.1 crore in Dec 2018 due to Covid-19



Virendra Kumar, SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

- Restoring power of states to identify the OBCs for the state lists, which the Supreme Court judgment on 102nd constitutional amendment has taken away
- Beyond the technical mandate, providing leadership on Dalit issues amid rising cases of SC atrocities

Ashwini Vaishnav, RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

- Bidding out private operation of passenger trains, monetisation of railway assets & Concor disinvestment, expedite the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project
- Improving relations with social-media giants, putting in place data protection law
- Tackling declining health of telecom industry, boosting BharatNet broadband project

Bhupender Yadav, ENVIRONMENT & LABOUR

- Tackling of air pollution in cities, while balancing the interests of environment and economy
- Implementation of the four labour codes and launching the national database for unorganised sector workers

Sarbananda Sonowal, SPORTS, SHIPPING & AYUSH

- Focus on Sagar Mala and inland waterways

Narayan Rane, MSME

- Tackling the stress among small businesses

Pashu Pati Paras, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Speed up food park scheme, reduce wastage by stepping up processing and value addition

Hardeep Puri, PETROLEUM & URBAN AFFAIRS

- Managing fuel prices which are at record levels due to high taxes
- Step up domestic production of oil



Giriraj Singh, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Ensuring adequate budget and proper implementation & monitoring of MGNAREGS that has proved crucial during



RCP Singh, STEEL

- Boosting production of specialised steel in the country

- ✓ Former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal also took oath as Union minister for his second tenure in the Centre
- ✓ He was inducted in Modi's first cabinet as northeast's sole representative as a minister of state with independent charge.
- ✓ Jyotiraditya Scindia, a five-time MP and a key leader of Congress before leaving it to join BJP in March, took oath as a union minister
- ✓ He was the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in the Congress-led UPA-II government between 2009 and 2012 and also served as Union Minister of State of Power between 2012 and 2014.
- ✓ Kiren Rijiju, who took oath as Cabinet minister, has been made the new Union Minister of Law and Justice
- ✓ The scope of the reshuffle can be judged by the fact that only two of the current ministers — defence minister Rajnath Singh and minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi — were in the Vajpayee ministry.
- ✓ After the reshuffle, there are only two MoS (independent charge) Rao Inderjit and Jitendra Singh.
- ✓ Prahlad Patel, who held independent charge of culture, is also not included in the new ministry change.
- ✓ Other MoS who are removed includes Santosh Gangwar, who held independent charge as labour minister, alongwith Babul Supriyo, Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao, Rattan Lal Kataria, Pratap Sarangi and Debasree Chaudhari
- ✓ Health and pharma have been allocated to the same cabinet minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, to bring critically needed coordination between the two wings during the pandemic.
- ✓ The rejig also saw major technology departments being brought together under a single minister (Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Space and Atomic Energy) to ensure coordination and convergence
- ✓ **On July 6, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) was made part of the finance ministry**
- ✓ The move is intended to speed up the privatisation process and gain more control over state-run-enterprises.
- ✓ The DPE was earlier part of the heavy industry ministry with a separate department created out for public enterprises.

THE NEW STRUCTURE

Finmin had 3 departments	Subsequently more were added
➤ Expenditure	➤ Financial services
➤ Revenue	➤ Dipam
➤ Economic affairs	➤ Public enterprises
➤ Department of public enterprises has come under the direct control of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman	
➤ This is seen as a move to exercise greater financial control over state-run enterprises	



- ✓ The Cabinet Secretariat moved DPE under the direct control of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who also has the department of investments and public asset management (Dipam) under her charge.
 - ✓ The department will oversee the functioning of 36 PSUs, apart from issues such as heavy engineering and automobiles.
 - ✓ The change comes at a time when the Centre's privatisation programme is moving slower than expected, partly due to the second wave of Covid.
 - ✓ Earlier, in 2014, PM Modi had added corporate affairs ministry to the FM's portfolio, which originally comprised the departments of revenue, expenditure and economic affairs.
 - ✓ Now, the FM will have six secretaries reporting to her, apart from the chief economic adviser.
 - ✓ The average age of the new CoM now stands at 58 years compared to 61 years of the earlier council.
 - ✓ The average age of 36 new ministers who took oath on July 7 is 55.8 years.
 - ✓ Among all the ministers, Nisith Pramanik, a Lok Sabha MP from West Bengal is the youngest at 35 while the oldest member in the council of ministers is Som Parkash, who is 72.
- **Capital city, Delhi – saw the most dramatic increase of 125% in the level of the key pollutant, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), during the same period between April 2020 and April 2021**
- ✓ This was revealed in a new report by Greenpeace India based on satellite observation data
 - ✓ According to the report, India's eight highly-populated cities — Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur and Lucknow — saw substantial increase in the level of NO₂ in the past one year
 - ✓ The report attributed the hike to cities' reliance on fossil fuels, including coal, oil and gas, due to increased economic activity once the lockdown was lifted last year.
 - ✓ NO₂ is a dangerous air pollutant that is released when fuel is burned, as in most motor vehicles, power generation, and industrial processes.
 - ✓ Exposure to NO₂ can severely impact people's health at all ages, including the respiratory and circulatory systems and the brain
 - ✓ Chennai recorded the second highest increase of 94% in level of NO₂ in April this year compared to the level in April last year
 - ✓ It is followed by Bengaluru (90%), Hyderabad (69%), Mumbai (52%), Jaipur (47%), Lucknow (32%) and Kolkata (11%).
- **The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) – has prepared a new report on the latest assessment of 'dynamic groundwater resources' in the country**

- ✓ As per the report, about one-sixth of India's 6,965 groundwater assessment units (block/tehsil/taluka) are 'over-exploited' due to indiscriminate extraction in several states
 - ✓ This category along with two other categories of concern — 'critical' and 'semi-critical' — account for 35% of total assessed units
 - ✓ The yet-to-be-released report indicates signs of improvement due to increased recharge and water use efficiency in 2020 compared to 2017.
 - ✓ As a result, the numbers of 'over-exploited' and 'critical' assessment units have declined while the number of 'safe' units has increased now compared to the previous assessment done in 2017.
 - ✓ 'Over-exploited' units are those where groundwater extraction substantially exceeds the annually replenishable groundwater recharge.
 - ✓ The improvement in groundwater situation is due to increase in natural and artificial (rainwater harvesting) recharge and decrease in extraction.
 - ✓ The decrease in extraction was mainly due to increased availability of surface water resources due to three consecutive years of normal monsoon rainfall and improved water use efficiency in different sectors.
 - ✓ The report shows that 1,114 out of 6,965 assessment units in the country are overexploited, 270 are critical, 1,057 are semi-critical, 4,427 are safe and 97 are saline.
- **The National Institute of Traditional Medicine of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR-NITM), Belagavi - is working on herbal solutions for Covid-19.**
- ✓ In the bioinformatic study, scientists found that three formulations consisting of eight plants prevented the virus from entering humans.
 - ✓ The formulations are named NITM-41, 42 and 43
 - ✓ The results were published in journals like Frontiers in Medicine, Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, Phytotherapy Research and Phytomedicine.
 - ✓ Now, the scientists are working on to produce a pseudo non-infectious virus to carry out further research.
 - ✓ They're also studying these formulations on hamsters with the help of Delhi-based scientist Amit Awasthi.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Haitian President Jovenel Moise - was shot dead by gunmen with heavy-caliber weapons at his private residence overnight on July 7**
- ✓ The assassination drew condemnation from US and neighbouring Latin American countries
 - ✓ It coincided with a spate of gang violence in the capital city, Port-au-Prince in recent months.



- ✓ Interim PM Claude Joseph said that the government had declared a state of emergency amid confusion over who would take over the reins of the country.
- ✓ The 53-year-old president's wife, Martine Moise, was also shot in the attack and is in hospital.
- ✓ The international airport of Port-au-Prince was closed following the incident
- ✓ In unverified reports, the gunmen claimed to be members of the US drug enforcement administration (DEA) as they entered Moise's guarded residence.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Dominican Republic closed the border it shares with Haiti.
- ✓ A Caribbean nation, Haiti has struggled to achieve stability since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986, and has faced a series of coups.
- ✓ After taking office as president in 2017, Moise, a banana exporter-turned-politician, faced protests over corruption allegations, accusations of authoritarian and dictatorship and his management of the economy.

OBITUARY

- **Legendary actor Dilip Kumar (98 years) - died after a prolonged illness in Mumbai's Khar Hinduja Hospital on July 7**
- ✓ Dilip Kumar had been in and out of hospital over the last few years with illnesses ranging from a kidney ailment to pneumonia

BOLLYWOOD LEGEND LIVES ON

➤ Born Yusuf Khan in Peshawar on December 11, 1922

➤ Father was a fruit merchant. Family shifted to Deolali, a hill station near what was then Bombay, in late 1920s

➤ A chance meeting in Nainital with Devika Rani, who co-owned Bombay Talkies, led to his debut in 'Jwar Bhata' in 1944

➤ Milestone movies: Shaheed (1948), Andaaz (1949), Aan (1952), Devdas (1955), Azaad (1955), Naya Daur (1957), Madhumati (1958), Mughal-e-Azam (1960), Ganga Jumna (1961), Ram Aur Shyam (1967), Kranti (1981), Shakti (1982)



➤ Won 8 Filmfare best actor awards. Received Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994. In 1998, received Pakistan's highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz. Got Padma Vibhushan in 2015

- ✓ Popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood, the veteran actor was laid to rest with full state honours at Juhu Qabarstan in Mumbai's Santacruz on the same day
- ✓ The legendary actor played prominent roles in several classic Hindi language films in the 1950s and 1960s.
- ✓ Some of these films include Mughal-E-Azam, Devdas, Andaz, Madhumati, Naya Daur, Ganga Jamuna, Ram aur Shyam, and others.
- ✓ He rejected the role of Sherif Ali in David Lean's Lawrence of Arabia, eventually played by Omar Sharif.
- ✓ Dilip Kumar was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1991, Padma Vibhushan in 2015 and the Dada Saheb Phalke award in 1994
- ✓ He also received Pakistan's highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz.
- ✓ Dilip Kumar won several cinematic awards and was the first ever winner of the Filmfare Best Actor prize in 1954
- ✓ He won eight Filmfare Best Actor awards, a record he shares with Shah Rukh Khan.
- ✓ Dilip Kumar is listed in the Guinness World Records for winning the maximum number of awards by an Indian actor.
- ✓ He is also credited as the first method actor in India
- ✓ Born Mohammed Yusuf Khan in Peshawar (present day Pakistan), Dilip Kumar debuted as an actor in the film Jwar Bhata (1944).
- ✓ Qila (1998) is the last movie starring the veteran actor.

