



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST

11 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On August 10, Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed R Velraj as vice-chancellor of Anna University.



- ✓ He will hold the post for three years from the date of assuming office.
- ✓ Prof R Velraj is an expert in the field of thermal energy who has worked extensively in areas of building cooling applications, micro grid, solar applications and electronic cooling.
- ✓ He has published 193 research papers in indexed journals with H-index 52 and citations more than 10,000.
- ✓ He also guided 33 PhD scholars and has two patents to his credit.
- ✓ Velraj, who has 33 years of teaching experience, is presently working as a professor at the Institute of Energy Studies, Anna University.
- ✓ He has also worked as director of the Institute of Energy Studies and director of Anna University-FRG Institute for CAD/CAM.
- ✓ Born in Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district in 1965, he completed his BE (mechanical engineering), ME (energy engineering) and PhD at Anna University.
- ✓ He has executed several projects at university including erecting solar lamps at the College of Engineering, Guindy campus.

- ✓ He was also involved in a project converting the waste from hostels into bioenergy.
- **On August 10, the business advisory committee of the Tamil Nadu assembly - decided to hold the upcoming budget session from August 13 to September 21.**
- ✓ The demand for grants for various departments will be taken up for discussion for 23 days.
- ✓ The M K Stalin-led DMK government's first budget will be presented on August 13, followed by the agriculture budget the next day.
- ✓ The debate on both budgets will take place together for four days beginning August 16 and the ministers for finance and agriculture will reply on the last day
- ✓ The assembly will again meet on August 23 to debate on the demand for grants for various government departments.
- ✓ Chief minister Stalin will reply to the demand for grants of the home department.
- ✓ **This year, Tamil Nadu government will present a paperless budget after Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.**
- ✓ All-in-one personal computers had been placed on the desks for each member in the multi-purpose hall of Kalaivanar Arangam.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - to revamp its three shelters for dogs at Lloyd's colony, Kannamapettai, and Pulianthope at a cost of Rs.10 crore**
- ✓ The designs have been finalised and work will begin in a month.
- ✓ All the shelters will have a small space for a crematorium and incinerators are also being planned.
- ✓ At Kannamapettai and Pulianthope, the civic body plans to revamp the buildings to handle 100 sterilization surgeries a day.

ENSURING PROPER CARE

Pic: B A Raju

AS ON JUNE 2021, NO. OF STRAYS (corp'n estimate)
1.5 lakh

CARE FOR ANIMALS PROJECT
Cost | **₹10 crore**

GCC-run shelters | **Lloyd's Colony, Kannamapettai and Pullainthope**

STRAY DOGS STERILISED/ YEAR UNDER ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) PROGRAMME

2018-19	14,025
2019 -20	11,500
2020-21	10,200
Till date	3,100

IMMUNISED | 68,577
Between Nov, 2019 to Jan 2020



DOGGONE IT: Corporation-run pound at Loyd's Road

PLAN

<p>➤ Demolish & reconstruct Lloyd's Colony</p> <p>➤ Container-based kennels</p> <p>➤ Improve surgery rooms</p>	<p>➤ Capacity building at Kannamapettai and Pullianthope shelters</p> <p>➤ Separate space for rabies-infected dogs</p> <p>➤ Permanent roofing</p>	<p>➤ Increase shelters' capacity to meet current need for ABC programme</p> <p>➤ Crematorium at all shelters</p> <p>➤ Cooling system to avoid death by heatstroke</p>
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- ✓ Corporation plans to achieve sterilisation of 70% strays in the next two and a half years, with the current figures well below 20%.
 - ✓ Chennai was the first city in the country to have a crematorium for stray dogs at Kannamapettai.
 - ✓ The project was being monitored by DMK youth wing leader Udhayanidhi Stalin and his wife Kirutiga Udhayanidhi and would be completed in eight months.
- **Madurai Corporation – is planning to make it compulsory to register the domestic animals by their owners**
- ✓ In this regard, it has decided to obtain public opinion before making it mandatory for owners of cattle, buffaloes, dogs and horses to register their animals with the civic body for a payment of Rs 10 each.
 - ✓ The move is aimed at controlling menace of stray cattle and other animals and also put an end to illegal slaughtering of goats in the city limits
 - ✓ The registration of animals would be done through the corporation's online taxation system or manually, after public opinion is obtained.
 - ✓ Members of the public have been asked to give their opinion on the matter by writing to the corporation's city health offices by the end of the month.
 - ✓ At present, animals impounded by the corporation for roaming on public roads are kept in the corporation yard and then handed over to the owners after slapping a fine.

NATIONAL

- **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar - launched 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App in Delhi recently**



- ✓ They were developed in by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with National e-governance division (NeGD).
- ✓ The online portal and App were designed to make skill development training programmes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and sanitation workers.

- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana' is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the eligible target groups are provided skill development training programmes on upskilling or reskilling, short-term training programme, long-term training programme and entrepreneurship development programme.
- ✓ These training programs are being implemented through government training institutes, sector skill councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions
- ✓ Now, any person can get all the information related to skill development training in one place by visiting the 'PM-DAKSH' portal
- ✓ During the year 2021-22, a target has been set to provide skill development training to 50,000 persons from target groups

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar – represented the country in the G20 Research Ministers’ meeting, hosted in blended mode by Italy recently**



- ✓ During the meeting, the education ministers of G20 countries exchanged views on enhancing research collaborations and sharing digital space
- ✓ India's Education Minister reiterated the country's commitment to promote research and to skill, reskill and upskill the youth and collaborating with other G-20 countries to achieve this objective
- ✓ The Minister mentioned about PM eVidya programme launched with a mix of online, television and radio modes through various initiatives SWAYAM, DIKSHA, SWAYAM PRABHA etc.,
- ✓ He also informed that the Government of India supports diverse schemes like SPARC and GIAN to promote academic and research collaboration between India and other countries.
- ✓ Speaking on National Education Policy, 2020, the Minister said India's National Education Policy launched in 2020 under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi,

seeks to strengthen the research ecosystem of the country by establishing a National Research Foundation.

- ✓ Later, a Declaration of G20 Ministers on Leveraging Research, Higher Education and Digitalisation for a Strong, Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Recovery was adopted at the end of the meeting
- ✓ G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers – have successfully isolated a genome (a sequence of genes) in mangrove species, Avicennia marina, which is highly salt-tolerant.**
- ✓ The isolation of the genome will play a key role in developing drought and salt-tolerant food crops along the 7,500km coastline in the country.
- ✓ A team of researchers at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Porto Nova, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai and the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha achieved this feat.

DIGGING DEEP <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Isolation of the genome will play a key role in developing drought and salt-tolerant food crops along the 7,500km coastline in the country➤ 614 genes in Avicennia	marina identified with immense salt-tolerant properties <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Reserach provides a strong foundation to understand the molecular mechanisms of salinity tolerance in plants and to breed crops suitable for seawater farming
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- ✓ The Department of Biotechnology funded the research.
- ✓ The study identified 614 genes in Avicennia marina with immense salt-tolerant properties.
- ✓ The genes isolated from Avicennia marina were like the genes isolated earlier by different researchers from other species that exhibited salt-tolerant properties.
- ✓ Avicennia marina constitutes a major part of the mangrove forests.
- ✓ It is a salt-secreting and extraordinarily salt-tolerant mangrove species that can grow in 75% seawater and tolerates more than 250% seawater.

SPORTS

- **The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) - decides to mark August 7 every year as National Javelin Day to honour Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra**
- ✓ The 23-year-old Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold in Tokyo on August 7 when he clinched the gold in javelin throw with a best effort of 87.58m.



- ✓ Chopra's gold on the final day took India's medal tally to seven, their best-ever Olympic showing.
- ✓ The best athletics showings before Chopra's triumph in the modern Games was two silver medals won in Paris in 1900 when India was a British colony.
- ✓ The AFI started National Open Javelin Throw Championships in 2018 and its third edition is scheduled in October this year.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – has invited the entire Indian Olympic contingent as special guests at the Red Fort on August 15**
- ✓ During the occasion, he will personally meet with the athletes and interact with all of them
- ✓ The PM will also invite all the athletes who are part of the contingent over to his residence for an interaction
- ✓ On his last 'Maan ki Baat' programme on July 25, PM Modi had urged the country to support the athletes at Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ A day earlier, the President of India will host the Indian Contingent of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 over a 'High Tea' on August 14, 2021 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre
- ✓ India has been represented by a 228-strong contingent, including 127 participants across 18 sports disciplines, at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics
- ✓ India recorded their best-ever medal haul at Tokyo 2020, with seven medals - one gold, two silvers and three bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

