

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST

10 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department - announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.**



- ✓ The state government has informed that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I observed annually will be celebrated at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram from the next year.
- ✓ One of the greatest emperors of the Chola dynasty, Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary is celebrated on the Thiruvathirai star in the Tamil month of Aadi. (July-August)
- ✓ Since Aadi Thiruvathirai is already over, the birth anniversary would be celebrated by the government from the next year
- ✓ Rajendra Chola is known for his contribution in building temples, naval warfare and establishing maritime trade with present-day Southeast Asia.
- ✓ After his successful Gangetic expedition, Rajendra Chola I had established his capital at Gangaikonda Cholapuram, shifting from Thanjavur.
- ✓ Gangaikonda Cholapuram had been Chola's capital for more than two centuries

- ✓ Rajendra Chola I had built the monumental Peruvudaiyar temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram similar to the Thanjavur Big temple.
- ✓ The temple was recognised as one of the world heritage sites by UNESCO.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Tourism - has asked states and Union Territories to exempt fully vaccinated people from the mandatory RT-PCR tests during inter-state travel**
 - ✓ As per the uniform travel protocol announced by the Union government, the states are mandated to accept the final vaccination certificates upon arrival.
 - ✓ This follows Union tourism minister G Kishan Reddy's reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 9 in this regard
 - ✓ As of now, some states allow fully vaccinated travellers to enter without negative RT-PCR reports.
 - ✓ But states such as Bengal (for travellers from Chennai, Mumbai and Pune), Karnataka, Goa, Chhattisgarh insist on mandatory RT-PCR negative reports even for fully vaccinated.
- **The Lok Sabha - was adjourned sine die two days ahead of schedule on August 11.**
 - ✓ The monsoon session witnessed the lowest productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha so far
 - ✓ The lower house could function only 21 hours and 14 minutes against the stipulated time of 96 hours.
 - ✓ The previous sessions of the current Lok Sabha have had record productivity, exceeding 100%, as House sittings took place till late hours to compensate for disruptions.
 - ✓ The Rajya Sabha had 17 sittings of the House with barely 28% productivity
 - ✓ According to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, 13 bills were introduced and 20, including those from the Rajya Sabha, were passed during the session.
 - ✓ Some of the important bills which were passed are the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and Appropriation Bills relating to Supplementary Grants for 2017-18 and 2020-21.
- **On August 11, the Ministry of Home - told the Rajya Sabha that non-agricultural land in Jammu & Kashmir can be transferred to "outsiders" or people who are not permanent residents or having J&K domicile**
 - ✓ However, the transfer can be effected by the UT government only for educational, charitable and medical ventures, as per the adapted land laws of Jammu & Kashmir

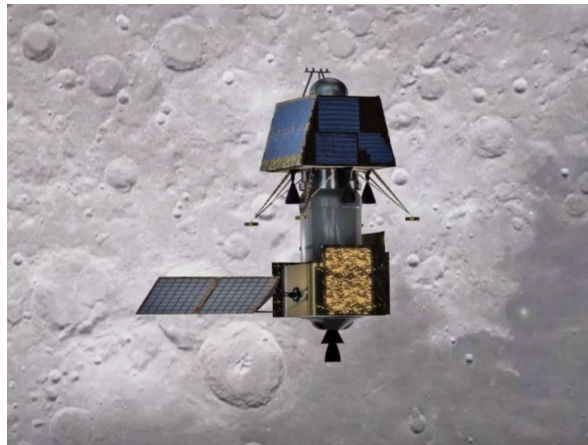
- ✓ A day earlier, the government had informed the Lok Sabha that two 'outsiders' had purchased two properties in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.
- ✓ After August 5, 2019, all provisions of the Constitution of India were made applicable to J&K
- ✓ This necessitated changes in existing laws in the UT by Adaptation Orders, so as to conform to the provisions of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ Apart from adapting the land laws, the Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950 was repealed
- ✓ This Act transferred land to the tillers and prescribed a limit to right of ownership of 182 standard kanals (22.75 acres)

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - will hold a series of high-level 2+2 bilateral talks with Australia next month**
- ✓ Australia's foreign minister Marise Payne and new defense minister Peter Dutton visit India for the 2+2 dialogue with their counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh.
- ✓ The two countries, which are close partners now, are working on the dates for the meeting.
- ✓ The decision to hold the 2+2 dialogue follows a standalone visit to India last week by former Australian PM Tony Abbott, who is now the special envoy for trade and investment.
- ✓ The two countries are working on signing a trade and investment deal
- ✓ India has signed an agreement with Japan and Australia to build resilient supply chains.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison at the first in-person Quad summit in Washington, scheduled tentatively in September this year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Chandrayaan-2 mission's orbiter - has detected the "unambiguous presence of hydroxyl and water molecules" on the Moon's surface**
- ✓ Indian researchers used the data obtained by the orbiter's imaging infrared spectrometer (IIRS) to understand the lunar mineral composition
- ✓ IIRS is meant to collect information from the Moon's electromagnetic spectrum.
- ✓ Three strips on the Moon's surface were analysed by IIRS sensor for hydration presence.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Chandrayaan-2 mission lander crash-landed on the lunar surface in 2019



- ✓ The findings by one of its eight key scientific instruments will certainly give a big boost to ISRO, which has scheduled the launch of its next lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, in 2022.
- **Researchers of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - have developed a method to block bacteria from flushing out antibiotics.**
- ✓ This will greatly support the process of making existing drugs more effective against drug-resistant bacteria or superbugs.
- ✓ The researchers used a specific antibody found in Indian camels (at the National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner) to block the transporter.
- ✓ Bacteria are generally killed by antibiotics.
- ✓ Bacteria uses a method called as 'efflux' to gain resistance and transporters enabling the pathogen
- ✓ Efflux is the process in which bacteria transport compounds such as drugs outside the cell.
- ✓ Transporters are among major components in multidrug resistance armoury of bacteria.

DEFENCE

- **Another flight-test of the indigenous 'Nirbhay' land-attack cruise missile – was unsuccessful on August 11 due to a technical snag**



- ✓ After being launched off the Odisha coast, the subsonic missile flew for just about 10 minutes to cover slightly over 100km before it plunged into the sea
- ✓ The DRDO will conduct a detailed analysis to ascertain the exact reason for the failure.
- ✓ Designed to have a strike range of 1,000km, Nirbhay is being developed for over a decade
- ✓ The previous flight-test of Nirbhay had also failed after it developed “engine trouble” within eight minutes of being launched in October last year.
- ✓ The failed test will further delay the induction of Nirbhay cruise missiles into the armed forces.
- ✓ The 290km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, jointly developed with Russia, has already been inducted in large numbers, with its range now being extended to over 400km.
- ✓ The defence acquisitions council, headed by defence minister Rajnath Singh, had approved eventual procurement and induction of over 300 advanced versions of the Nirbhay missiles in July last year.
- ✓ This cruise missile was designed to fly at low altitudes to evade enemy radars and missile defence systems
- ✓ Nirbhay will be the longest range conventional missile in the arsenal of the armed forces, once it is inducted.

