



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST

10 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **A self-help group in Dindigul - was among the five SHGs chosen to participate in an interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Naari Shakti Se Samvad' programme.**
- ✓ S Jayanthi, leader of Indusiwa SHG and member of the Nalla Panjampatti Plastic Recycling Centre (shredder), Dindigul, was among the five SHGs selected from across the country to interact with the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The panchayat level federation was constituted in 2010 during the previous DMK regime to bring all the SHGs in a village under a single umbrella.
- ✓ This also improved social inclusion, as women from all castes and communities came together and benefited from financial inclusion.
- ✓ Quite significantly, the SHG at Panjampatti has been recycling plastic they collect from the village and the shredded plastic is used for laying roads.
- ✓ In 2010, chief minister M K Stalin, who was then minister for local body administration, handed over a cheque of Rs.50,000 to Jayanthi as revolving funds to the SHGs in a welfare distribution function.
  
- **The Union home minister's medal for excellence in the investigation award for 2021 - was given to eight inspectors of police in the state.**
- ✓ Of them, four were women inspectors from Chennai city police.
- ✓ The inspectors of police across the state were chosen based on more than 30 parameters of their investigations, maintaining records and court trial procedures.
- ✓ Chennai city police inspector P R Chidambara Murugesan was identified as a best inspector for solving a murder case in 2019.
- ✓ The other inspector of police G Manivannan has solved an attempted murder case.
- ✓ The women inspectors of police A Anbarasi, of all-women police inspector at Tiruvannamalai, P Kavitha, of Puduchathiram police station in Cuddalore, K Kalaiselvi, of allwomen inspector at Thiruporur in Chengalpet district, and C

Kanmani, special branch inspector of police had solved the cases under the POCSO Act.

- ✓ R Jayapaul of Vengal police station in Tiruvallur and M Saravanan, CB-CID police inspector at Nagapatinam were also given the award.
- **The project cost of the Chennai Port-Maduravoyal double-decker expressway project - has been revised by the NHAI from Rs.3,100 crore to more than Rs.5,000 crore**
- ✓ The final estimate of the six-lane flyover is estimated to be between Rs.5,000 crore and Rs.5,500 crore

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Started in September 2010 by the then DMK regime at a cost of <b>₹1,815 crore</b></li><li>➤ Stalled in March 2012 by the then AIADMK government citing environmental issues regarding construction of pillars on Cooum river</li><li>➤ TN government signs state support agreement (SSA) in December, 2016 and urged Centre to carry out a feasibility</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>study for realignment study</li><li>➤ TN govt suggested the NHAI to avoid twin columns on Cooum river to minimise the environmental impact. It suggested single pier columns</li><li>➤ L&amp;T submitted a revised project report to NHAI on October 13</li><li>➤ <b>14,000 sq metre</b> of army and defence land will be acquired for the project</li></ul> |
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- ✓ The revised plan has seven entries and six exits, as against the earlier design with three entries and three exits
- ✓ Of the 20.6 km stretch, 14 km (Napier bridge to Koyambedu) will be two tiers.
- ✓ The lower tier is for local traffic, while the upper one is for vehicles travelling straight to Chennai port.
- ✓ The NHAI would enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu government in the coming weeks to commence the project
- ✓ The NHAI would commence the construction work by the beginning of next year and the tender would be floated by September end.

## STATES

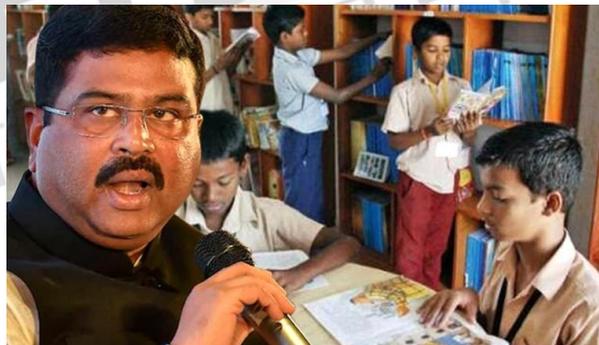
- **In a first in India, Lakshadweep - will soon have water villas similar to those in the Maldives.**



- ✓ This was announced recently by Praful Khoda Patel, Administrator of Lakshadweep
- ✓ The solar-powered, eco-friendly water villas will be set up in the islands at the cost of Rs.800 crore to attract tourists to the scenic beauty of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ These villas would be set up in Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat islands in Lakshadweep.
- ✓ In all, 370 rooms will be offered across the three islands.
- ✓ Villas would be constructed under public-private partnership model.
- ✓ Water villas and beach villas will be given to selected bidders for a period of 75 years in order to develop, operate and maintain them.
- ✓ The eco-tourism projects launched in Lakshadweep are being backed by Niti Aayog and Union home ministry in order to develop these remote islands.
- ✓ Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands in Arabian sea which are located 200 to 440 km off the mainland's southwestern coast.
- ✓ Malayalam is official and widely spoken native language on the Islands.
- ✓ It is the smallest union territory of India with total surface area of 32 km<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ Kavaratti is the capital of Lakshadweep and is having jurisdiction under the Kerala High Court.

## NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet – has recently approved the continuation of the Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education till March 31, 2026.**



- ✓ The government's flagship scheme for school education has been extended for five more years from April 1, 2021
- ✓ This was announced by education minister, Dharmendra Pradhan
- ✓ The total financial outlay for the scheme will be Rs 2,94,283.04 crore, out of which Rs. 1,85,398.32 crore will be the share of the union government
- ✓ Samagra Shiksha scheme 2.0 aims to cover 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million teachers of government and aided schools from pre-primary to senior secondary level
- ✓ The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education from pre-school to Class 12 in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).

- ✓ It provides support for the implementation of the RTE Act and has also aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy, 2020
- ✓ This scheme was launched by subsuming three schemes 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- ✓ Under the scheme, the funds are shared between Centre and State in the ratio of 90:10 for the North-Eastern States & Himalayan States and 60:40 for other States & Union Territories with Legislature.
- ✓ Centre provides 100% of the fund in Union Territories without Legislature.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Russian single-dose vaccine Sputnik Light – to be locally manufactured and launched in September 2021**



- ✓ Panacea Biotech, which had earlier partnered Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), has submitted the application for emergency-use authorisation to the Drugs Controller General of India recently
- ✓ Panacea Biotech announced last month that it had received the manufacturing license to produce Sputnik V at its plant in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi.
- ✓ The company is expected to annually produce 100 million doses and they will be distributed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories, RDIF's sole distribution partner in India.
- ✓ The vaccine is expected to cost approximately Rs 750 per vial and will be available in limited quantities initially
- ✓ Around five lakh doses of Sputnik V's component 2 vaccine, which have been imported, could be rolled out in India soon.
- ✓ Sputnik Light, developed by Russia's Gamaleya Institute and backed by RDIF, received emergency use authorisation in Russia in May.
- ✓ The Sputnik Light jab has demonstrated nearly 80% efficacy, according to analysed data taken 28 days after the injection was administered in a trial in Russia

## DEFENCE

- **India - kicked off its first-ever naval exercise with Saudi Arabia called 'Al Mohed Al Hind' on August 13.**



- ✓ Ahead of the two-day exercise, Indian guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi, with its two integral Sea King-42B helicopters, arrived at Port Al Jubai during its ongoing Persian Gulf deployment.
- ✓ Apart from strengthening bilateral military ties, the exercise will help the two navies understand each other's operational practices
- ✓ INS Kochi last week had conducted an exercise with the UAE Navy, 'Zayed Talwar', off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

## SPORTS

- **Javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra - has gained 14 places to become world number two in the latest World Athletics rankings**

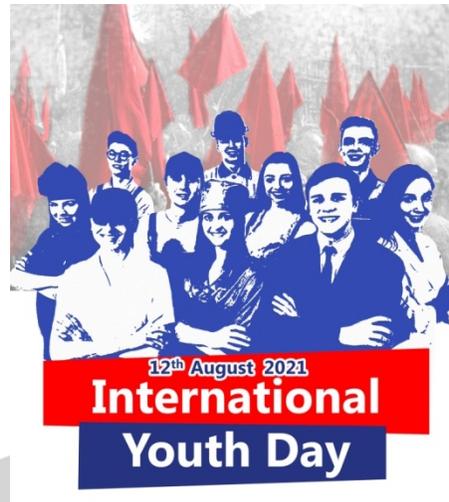


- ✓ Neeraj Chopra has been ranked second in the world with his score of 1315.
- ✓ He is only behind German athlete Johannes Vetter who is having the score of 1396.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra created history on August 7, 2021 by winning Gold Medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics
- ✓ He has become India's first athlete to win gold in track and field at Olympics after throwing the javelin to a distance of 87.58m.
- ✓ World Athletics has listed his throw at the Olympics has now been listed as one among 10 magical moments of athletics (track and field) in the Tokyo Olympics.

- ✓ Neeraj is also the first Indian track and field athlete who won IAAF World U20 Championships.
- ✓ In 2016, he achieved under-20 world record of 86.48 m.
- ✓ He has also become the youngest-ever Indian gold medalist in the individual event and the first to win gold in his Olympic debut.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ International Youth Day - August 12



- ✓ The day seeks to create awareness about the contribution of youth to the modern society and the difficulties faced by them
- ✓ On 17 December 1999, the United Nations decided to commemorate International Youth Day every year through a resolution
- ✓ It was based on a recommendation made by the 'World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth' in Lisbon to the UN General Assembly
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health"
- ✓ Last year, the theme of International Youth Day 2020 was "Youth Engagement for Global Action".

