



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST

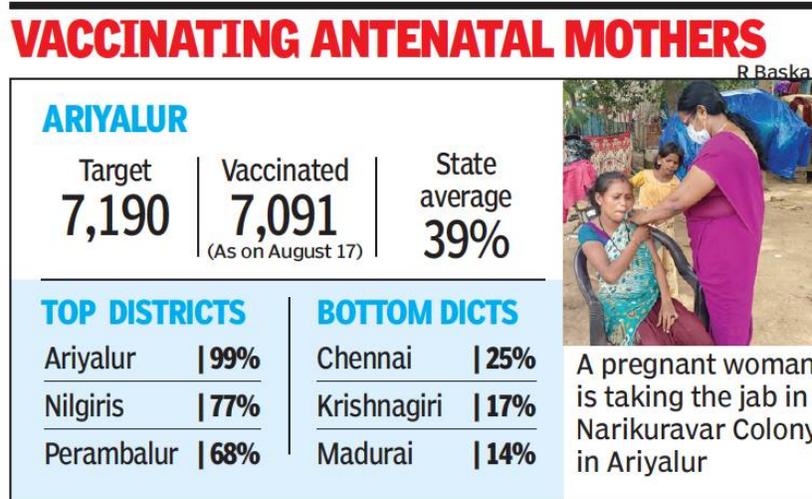
10 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - has reconstituted the high-level expert technical committee for studying the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbon projects**
- ✓ The committee will focus in areas other than the protected special agriculture zone like Cauvery delta zone
- ✓ It comprises of seven members and is headed by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, part-time member of the state development policy council
- ✓ The committee has been asked to submit its report within four months.
- ✓ The study will include assessment of the impact of drilling technologies like hydrofracturing for exploring and extracting hydrocarbons on the groundwater level.
- ✓ The committee will also assess the impact on the quality of surface water, flowing water, ground water, soil and fertility of the land, irrigation sources and cultivation of crops.
- ✓ The impact on air quality, sea water intrusion and flora and fauna due to the usage of chemicals on the areas away from the protected agricultural zone will also be assessed.
- ✓ Assessment of the quantity of groundwater to be drawn out for exploration of coal bed methane, shale gas, petroleum and natural gas will also be part of the study.
- ✓ The committee will also check whether largescale pumping of groundwater will lead to depletion of groundwater
- ✓ It will also assess if the explorations will lead to any subsidence of land and destabilise the tectonic plates below the area of exploration.
- ✓ The study will further assess the impact of the projects on the livelihood of people and food security of the region.
- ✓ The other members of the committee are
 - ✓ Professor, IIT Madras Indumathi M Nambi,
 - ✓ Professor, TNAU, M Maheswari,

- ✓ Former senior director, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) V Selvam,
- ✓ Chief engineer, Water Resources Department S Ramamoorthy,
- ✓ Executive engineer, Groundwater Resources, PWD S Raja and
- ✓ General Manager, TIDCO R. Karthikeyan.

- **Ariyalur district administration - has covered 99% of the targeted antenatal mothers' population under the Covid-19 vaccination drive.**
- ✓ As of August 17, Ariyalur has vaccinated 7,091 of a total of 7,190 antenatal mothers, registering 99% coverage.



- ✓ Under the scheme, the health department covers expecting mothers with a contraindication to the vaccination, mothers who recently recovered from the infection and also those anticipating childbirth.
- ✓ Nilgiris with 77% and Perambalur with 68% have achieved second and third places respectively in the coverage.
- ✓ Chennai, Krishnagiri and Madurai were bottom-placed districts.

NATIONAL

- **The railway ministry - has decided to put on hold the tender for running 151 private trains along 109 major routes with an estimated investment of Rs. 30,000 crore**
- ✓ Indian Railways has started reworking the contract document for the ambitious project due to lower participation from private firms
- ✓ Of the 12 clusters put up for bidding, only three – Delhi 1, 2 and Mumbai 2 - received bids
- ✓ Only two bidders, the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Megha Engineering & Infrastructures, have expressed their interest
- ✓ During July 2020, Indian Railways had planned to introduce private trains on its network in phases

- ✓ The first train is due to start running in the 2023-24 financial year and all 151 by 2027
- ✓ Totally there were 12 clusters - two clusters each in Delhi and Mumbai, and one cluster each in Secunderabad, Chennai, Howrah, Jaipur, Prayagraj, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, and Patna.
- ✓ Under this PPP mode scheme, the private players will procure their trains for a contract period of 35 years and will be free to fix the fare for these trains.
- **On August 18, the Cabinet - approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm with a financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore to promote domestic cultivation of oil palm in the next five years**
- ✓ The move is aimed at reducing the country's dependence on edible oil imports.
- ✓ Of the total outlay, Rs.8,844 crore would be the Centre's share, while Rs.2,196 crore will be the share of states'

DEFENCE

- **India and Vietnam - carried out a naval exercise in the South China Sea on August 18**
- ✓ The Indian Navy deployed its guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay and guided-missile corvette INS Kora for the exercise
- ✓ Frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) took part in the exercise representing Vietnam
- ✓ The exercise consists of both sea phase and harbour phase
- ✓ Indian Naval ships arrived at Cam Ranh, Vietnam for harbour phase
- ✓ Sea phase comprised of surface warfare exercises, helicopter operations, and weapon firing drills.



- ✓ Both India and Vietnam have common concerns over China's military expansionism in South China Sea.
- ✓ The exercise was aimed at consolidating the strong bond of cooperation between the two navies.
- ✓ Vietnam, an important country of the ASEAN, has territorial disputes with China in the SCS region

APPOINTMENTS

- The five-member SC Collegium – recommended nine judges for appointment to the Supreme Court



- ✓ With the retirement of Justice Navin Sinha on August 18, the SC has a working strength of 24 judges
- ✓ The Collegium—headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has recommended three sitting women judges of different high courts and four chief justices of different high courts for elevation
- ✓ The four chief justices are — Justices Abhay Shreeniwas Oka (Chief Justice of Karnataka high court), Vikram Nath (Chief Justice of Gujarat high court), Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari (Chief Justice of Sikkim high court) and Justice Hima Kohli (Chief Justice of Telengana high court).

INDIA MAY GET 1ST WOMAN CJI IN '27

➤ Collegium **decides to select 3 women, among nine, for appointment as SC judge.** They are

Justices Hima Kohli (CJ of Telangana HC), Justice B V Nagarathna (Karnataka HC), Bela M Trivedi (Gujarat HC)

➤ **Justice B V Nagarathna** could become India's first woman CJI in Feb 2027. If she gets to head SC, it will be second instance of two generations of a family heading the judiciary after the Chandrachuds



➤ **Other selected** are A S Oka (K'taka CJ), Vikram Nath (Gujarat HC CJ), J K Maheshwari (Sikkim HC CJ), C T Ravikumar (Kerala HC), M M Sundaresh (Madras HC) and only one from bar—ex-ASG P S Narasimha

➤ If Centre appoints all names, SC would have a **working strength of 33 judges** against a sanctioned strength of 34

➤ **Nine choices finalised do not include 2 names** stoutly insisted upon by Justice R F Nariman

- ✓ Justice B.V. Nagarathna from Karnataka high court, Justice C.T. Ravikumar of Kerala high court, Justice M.M. Sundresh of Madras high court and Justice Bela

Trivedi from the Gujarat high court have also been recommended for elevation as Supreme Court judges

- ✓ Among the recommended names, Justice B V Nagarathna could become the first woman Chief Justice of India in February 2027
- ✓ Prior to this, only Justice Ruma Pal had come close to becoming CJI as Justice Pal had retired in 2006 as the number 2 judge in SC.
- ✓ The top court Collegium has also recommended the name of Senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General P S Narasimha
- ✓ If cleared by the Union Government, he would become the sixth lawyer to be elevated to the apex court bench directly from the Bar.
- ✓ The five-member Supreme Court Collegium comprising of Chief Justice NV Ramana, Justices U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud, and L Nageswara Rao.

SPORTS

- **India's track and field athletes - won a relatively rare medal in the U-20 Athletics World Championships — a bronze in the 400m mixed race — in Nairobi on August 18.**
- ✓ This was only the fifth medal won by the Indians in the history of the championships
- ✓ The earlier winners include - Seema Antil's bronze in discus throw in 2002, another discus bronze by Navjeet Kaur Dhillon in 2014, Neeraj Chopra's javelin gold in 2016 and Hima Das's 400m gold two years later.
- ✓ Indian quartet comprised of Barath Sridhar, Priya Mohan, Summy and Kapil finished with their season's best timing of 3 min 20.60 seconds.
- ✓ The gold was taken by Nigeria at 3:19.70 following a see-saw battle with Poland (3:19.80).
- **Princepal Singh – has become the first Indian ever to lift an NBA trophy in Las Vegas on August 18**

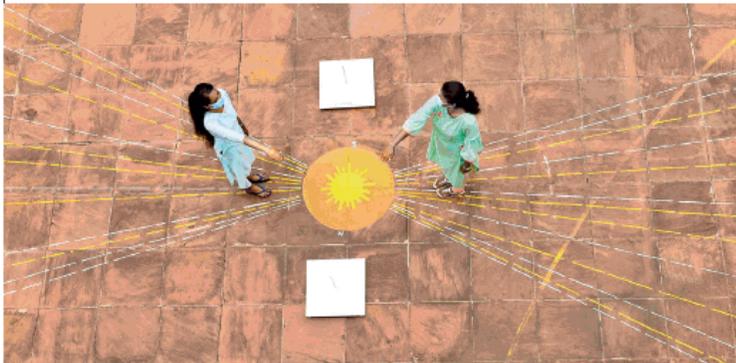


- ✓ Singh was the member of the Sacramento Kings team, which won their second Summer League title this year

- ✓ Singh was India's second hoopster to debut in the 2021 Summer League, after Satnam Singh
- ✓ Satnam, the six-foot-nine forward, became the first Indian to be part of a championship-winning team at any level of the NBA.
- ✓ In the Championship game, the Kings defeated Boston Celtics by 33 points (100-67) to win their second title after 2014.

INTERNATIONAL DAY – ZERO SHADOW DAY

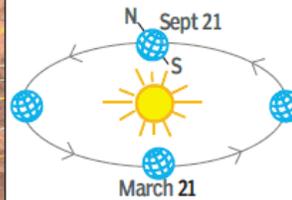
Around 12.13pm on Wednesday, **your shadow was to be right under you.** This is because **August 18 was Zero Shadow Day**



SCIENCE MADE SIMPLE: Ariviyal Palagai, Vigyan Prasara and Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre organized a demonstration at Birla Planetarium, but zero shadow could not be observed clearly due an overcast sky

WHAT IS ZERO SHADOW DAY | Twice a year in the tropics, the Sun is exactly overhead and hence the shadow is cast under the object, giving an illusion of no shadow

CONCEPT | On March 21 and on September 21, the Sun will be right on top of



the equator

➤ In this period, the Sun will travel to the Northern Hemisphere and return

➤ During this journey, the Sun will be at zenith, when its declination equals the latitude of the place, because of the tilt of the earth's axis

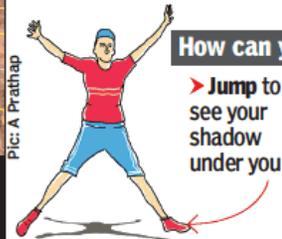
➤ For Chennai, which is around 10 degree N, the Sun will be at zenith on April 24 and August 18

➤ It can be observed only between 23.5 degree north latitude and 23.5 degree south latitude

How can you observe zero shadow?

➤ Jump to see your shadow under you

Pic: A Prathap



➤ Pipe perpendicular to the ground won't cast proper shadow

➤ Nor will a ball hung at the tip of an overhang bar

