



## **FIVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu government - extended the Covid-induced lockdown in the state till September 6, with additional restrictions effect from August 23**
- ✓ The state will reopen schools for students of Classes 9 to 12 from September 1, with 50% capacity on a rotation basis, strictly adhering to standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- ✓ A decision on re-opening the school for classes 1 to 8 will be decided after September 15
- ✓ Anganwadis will be opened to provide mid-day meals from September 1 and creches will be permitted and the staff should be vaccinated.
- ✓ Diploma and polytechnic colleges will be allowed to conduct classes from September 1, while following the SOPs.
- ✓ All medical and nursing colleges in the state have already started functioning since August 16
- ✓ Cinema theaters will be allowed to function with 50% occupancy, provided that all its employees are fully vaccinated.
- ✓ Shops will be permitted to remain open until 10 pm and IT companies will be allowed to function with full 100% workforce.
- ✓ Swimming pools can open only for practice sessions with 50% occupancy after making sure that trainers and trainees above 18 years old are vaccinated
- ✓ The employment training programmes of Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation and Women Development Corporation will be allowed.
- ✓ Other relaxations allowed include permission for people to visit beaches, zoological parks, botanical gardens and boat houses and interstate public bus services to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ✓ All places of worship will continue to remain closed to the public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Government – has renamed ‘Amma Salt’ into its original name ‘Arasu Salt’**

- ✓ The name Arasu salt was mentioned until the previous AIADMK government led by J Jayalalithaa launched the subsidized salt scheme in June 2014.
- ✓ Arasu salt is being supplied through the public distribution system.



- ✓ The salt corporation that comes under the industries department has been producing fortified edible salts
- ✓ The agency produces crystal iodised salt, refined free flow iodised salt and double fortified salt, and supplies them at affordable prices of Rs.8 per kg, Rs.10 per kg and Rs.14 per kg respectively through the PDS.
- ✓ The crystal iodised salt tops in sales with 2,500 tonnes per month, followed by 600 tonnes of refined free flow iodised salt.
- ✓ Around 50 tonnes of double fortified salt is sold through PDS every month, which is predominantly used in the noon-meal scheme for students in government schools across the state.
- ✓ Low sodium salt launched by the AIADMK regime at Rs.21 per kg was stopped due to lack of demand.
- ✓ Open market sale of Amma salt was stopped too from 2016.

➤ **A Chola era stone oil press (Kal Sekku) in Vengalam village in Perambalur district – has been discovered by a team of researchers**

- ✓ Based on the pattern of the Tamil script engraved on the press, the object is estimated to belong to the 11th century.
- ✓ The stone oil press is still being used by the villagers to grind flour while celebrating festivals in a temple nearby.



- ✓ It measures 33cm in height and 71cm in diameter with the well of the press being 30cm deep and 20cm in diameter.
- ✓ The side portion of the press was engraved with a few lines in Tamil.
- ✓ There are similar stone oil press identified in Perambalur district but the one found in Vengalam village is the oldest one identified so far
- ✓ Vengalam village could have served as a mercantile town during Chola kingdom.
- ✓ Senjeri and Chandramanai Velur in the Perambalur district have such similar stone oil press but their period was classified as the 18th century.

## STATES

- **Hyderabad - is set to become the first city in the country to establish an International Arbitration and Mediation Centre.**



- ✓ The trust deed of the International Center for Commercial Arbitration and Mediation in Hyderabad was executed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on August 20
  - ✓ Justice Lavu Nageswara Rao of the Supreme Court and Justice R V Raveendran, former Supreme Court judge, were made lifetime trustees of the arbitration centre.
  - ✓ The centre seeks to resolve disputes between both foreign and local investors, and not just international arbitrations.
  - ✓ The centre, a brainchild of CJI Ramana, aims to provide assurance for international investors who had apprehensions about India's expensive and time-consuming litigation process
  - ✓ In Asia, Singapore and Hong Kong are having the international arbitration centres
- **The Assam Assembly - passed the "Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021" recently, to regulate slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle in the State**
  - ✓ The bill seeks to replace the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 1950
  - ✓ The new law, when enacted, will prohibit a person from slaughtering cattle unless he has obtained the necessary certificate issued by the registered veterinary officer of a particular area

## ASSAM CATTLE BILL PASSED



- ✓ The new law was aimed at regulating the sale and purchase of beef in places other than the ones permitted by competent authorities.
- ✓ The trade will be prohibited in areas that have a large population of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and other non-beef-eating communities or within a radius of 5 km of any temple or other such institutions.
- ✓ The Bill also prohibits the inter-state transport of cattle to and from, as well as through Assam without valid documents
- ✓ The legislation shall extend to the whole of Assam and the term "cattle" shall apply to bulls, bullocks, cows, heifer and calves
- ✓ Anybody found guilty of violation can be jailed for a minimum term of three years (extendable up to eight years) and fined Rs 3 lakh (with the upper limit Rs 5 lakh), or both.
- ✓ For repeat offenders, the punishment will be doubled
- ✓ However, the Bill allows for certain exemptions and won't apply to "religious occasions" when "slaughter of cattle, not being a cow or heifer or calf" is allowed.
- ✓ The Bill also proposes the establishment of an institution including Gaushalas for taking care of cows.
- ✓ Further, the Assam government will start artificial insemination in cattle using sex-sorted semen from next year, so that after a few years, only superior breeds of cows, and no bulls, are born.

## NATIONAL

- **State-run electricity producer NTPC Limited - began commercial operations at India's largest floating solar PV project at its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on August 21**
- ✓ The project was declared open after commissioning a 15 MW floating solar project, taking the total installed capacity at the facility to 25 MW.
- ✓ With this the standalone installed capacity of NTPC now stands at 53,475MW, whereas its commercial capacity is now 52,425 MW.
- ✓ The total installed capacity of the NTPC group is now 66,900 MW, while the commercial capacity is 65,850 MW.



- ✓ The floating solar project is to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- ✓ Spread over 75 acres in an RW reservoir, the project has the potential to generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules.
- ✓ This would not only help to light around 7,000 households and will annually save 46,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emission and 1,364 million litres of water
- ✓ Floating solar reduces temperature-related losses due to the cooling effect of water they float on, reduce evaporation rate of water bodies and have lower maintenance costs
- ✓ The Simhadri Station will be the first-of-its-kind, equipped with an open-sea intake from the Bay of Bengal, which has been functional for more than 20 years
- ✓ NTPC is also India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE)
- ✓ The public sector power company has set a target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court - has issued an interim order allowing women to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam scheduled on September 5, 2021**
- ✓ A bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Hrishikesh Roy also slammed the Indian Army for the decisions that are based on 'gender discrimination'.
- ✓ There are three modes of entry in the Army - NDA, Indian Military Academy (IMA) and Officers' Training Academy (OTA) and women are permitted entry through OTA and IMA
- ✓ Under the current eligibility criteria, only male candidates who have cleared class 12 or its equivalent education and were in the age group of 16-and-a-half and 19 were eligible to apply.
- ✓ The National Defence Academy (NDA) is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.

- ✓ The Academy was commissioned on December 7, 1954, with an inauguration ceremony that was held on January 16, 1955.
- ✓ NDA has been recognized by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi since 1973 for the award of B.A./B.Sc./B.Sc (Computer Science) for Army Cadets and B Tech degree for Navy and Air Force Cadets.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India – has launched a new technology platform named ‘UNITE Aware’ in collaboration with the United Nations to help protect UN peacekeepers**



- ✓ UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers
- ✓ It is aimed at ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environments across the world.
- ✓ Earlier, India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August
- ✓ The project, for which India has contributed \$1.64 million, was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters.
- ✓ The programme has access to live video and satellite imagery, can deliver early warnings to peacekeepers, record data on critical incidents and events and follow daily operational activities.
- ✓ Using the platform, the entire peacekeeping operation can be visualised, coordinated, and monitored on a real time basis.
- ✓ India has developed the technology platform in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- ✓ The UNITE Aware platform will initially be rolled out in four UN Peacekeeping Missions - MINUSMA (Mali), UNMISS (South Sudan), UNFICYP (Cyprus) and AMISOM (Somalia).
- ✓ At present, around 5 thousand Indian personnel are deployed for nine missions under the aegis of United Nations

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- Under India's BRICS Chairship, the BRICS Space Agencies Heads - have signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing



- ✓ This Agreement enables building a virtual network of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies, so that their respective ground stations will receive the data.
- ✓ This will contribute in strengthening multilateral cooperation among BRICS space agencies in meeting the climate challenges such as global climate change, major disasters and environmental protection.
- ✓ Dr K. Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation and secretary, department of space signed the pact on behalf of the country
- ✓ The agreement was signed in the presence of Sanjay Bhattacharyya, secretary (CPV&OIA), India's BRICS Sherpa, of the ministry of external affairs and other officials.
- ✓ Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the member nations in the BRICS forum of grouping.
- ✓ The 12<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit was last hosted by Russia on November 17, 2020 virtually amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

## PERSONALITIES

- A 14-year-old girl from Aurangabad, Maharashtra Diksha Shinde - was selected as a panellist in a NASA event.
- ✓ Diksha Shinde, a class 10 student, was selected in NASA's Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Fellowship Virtual panel.
- ✓ Shinde's research paper on 'We Live in Black Hole?' was accepted by International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research in May 2021.



- ✓ She won the research competition that was organised by International Astronomical Search Collaboration.
- ✓ Shinde will get training at NASA when she will turn 18 and will also attend a conference which will be held in October 2021, with NASA bearing all her expenses.
- ✓ She will review proposals submitted by researchers and describing a collaborating approach for conducting research at NASA.

## ECONOMY

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) - became the second listed company and the first information technology (IT) firm to cross the Rs 13 lakh crore market capitalisation in the country**



- ✓ The IT major became the second Indian company after Reliance Industries to cross the Rs 13 lakh crore (trillion) market capitalisation
- ✓ This mark was achieved by the company after seventeen years it had started selling its stock for the first time in public
- ✓ TCS had had announced a 28.5% increase in net profit to Rs.9,008 crore during the first quarter of this fiscal, compared to Rs.7,008 crore in the same period last year
- ✓ The company's consolidated revenue from operations jumped to Rs.46,132 crore in the first quarter from Rs.38,920 crore in the same period last year

- ✓ TCS has been ranked among the top four providers in the HFS Top 10 for Supply Chain Services.
- ✓ The IT major has also been named the MongoDB Global System Integrator Partner of the Year for its bold, innovative solutions for businesses across industries.
- ✓ It was also recognised as a leader in the NelsonHall NEAT for CX Services in BSFI.
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries with market cap of Rs 13.71 lakh crore was the top ranked firm in terms of market cap in trade as on August 17, 2021

## OBITUARY

- **Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, who formed the Bharatiya Janata Party's first government in the state in 1991 - died at Lucknow on August 21**



- ✓ PM Modi paid his last respects to the veteran BJP leader and was accompanied by BJP chief JP Nadda, UP Governor Anandiben Patel, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid tributes to the former UP chief minister.
- ✓ 89-year old Kalyan Singh, who also served as the Rajasthan governor between 2014 and 2015, died due to sepsis and multi-organ failure
- ✓ Singh was elected to the UP Assembly as a Jan Sangh member for the first time in 1967 by winning the Atrauli Vidhan Sabha seat in Aligarh as a Bharatiya Jan Sangh candidate
- ✓ He won the seat nine times till 2002, losing just once, in 1980
- ✓ He was made BJP state president in 1984 and was elected leader of BJP legislature party after the 1989 Assembly elections during the first stint of Mulayam as CM.
- ✓ Kalyan Singh was the Uttar Pradesh chief minister when the 16<sup>th</sup> century Babri mosque was demolished by a mob of "karsevaks" in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992
- ✓ Along with BJP veterans LK Advani and MM Joshi, he was among the 32 people acquitted in the demolition case in September last year.

# SPORTS

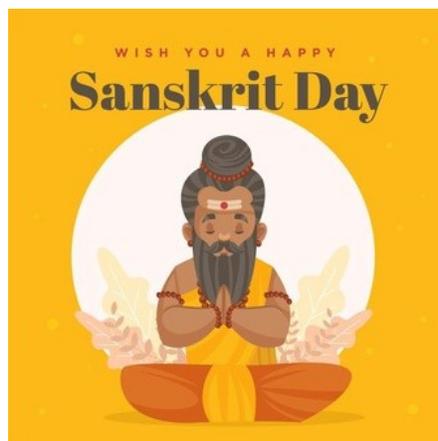
- **Amit Khatri - wins a silver medal on the penultimate day of the World Athletics U-20 Championships in Nairobi on August 21.**



- ✓ The 17-year-old from Rohtak made his international debut a memorable one by winning India's first medal in 10,000m race walk on the world stage.
- ✓ Kenyan Heristone Wanyonyi reached the finish line first to win the gold in a personal best time
- ✓ Wanyonyi is the first Kenyan to win a race walk gold.
- ✓ Spain's Paul McGrath took the bronze in a personal best time
- ✓ The previous best by an Indian in the event in U-20 Worlds was the 22nd spot bagged by Neeraj Rathi in 2012, Barcelona.
- ✓ Amit is only the third Indian after Neeraj Chopra and Hima Das to win a U-20 Worlds medal.

# NATIONAL DAY

- **India - is observing the Sanskrit Week from August 19 to August 25, 2021, to promote, popularise and cherish the importance of ancient language, Sanskrit**



- ✓ The Sanskrit Day is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shravan, which also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year
- ✓ This year, the Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 22, 2021
- ✓ World Sanskrit Day was first declared in 1969, by the Indian Government on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan
- ✓ Sanskrit organisation, Samskrita Bharati has been tasked with promoting the day.
- ✓ Sanskrit is the official language in Uttarakhand

