



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST

2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Six municipalities in Tamil Nadu — Tambaram, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi — would soon be upgraded into corporations by merging adjoining areas with them**
- ✓ This was announced by the Minister for municipal administration K N Nehru in the assembly on August 24.
- ✓ The move would increase the number of municipal corporations in the state from 15 to 21
- ✓ It is intended to help address infrastructure imbalance in areas adjoining urban local bodies along with improving the living condition of people.
- ✓ Tambaram would be upgraded into a corporation by merging Pallavaram, Sembakkam, Pammal and Anakaputhur municipalities and nearby areas, as per the Minister
- ✓ The Minister also announced that Trichy, Nagercoil, Thanjavur and Hosur corporations and Chengalpet, Poonamallee and Mannarkudi municipalities would be expanded by merging nearby developed areas with them.
- ✓ Further, the Minister announced upgradation of Pallapatti, Thittakudi, Mangadu, Kundrathur, Nandhivaram, Guduvanchery, Ponneri, Thiruninravur, Sholingar, Edanganasalai, Taramangalam, Thirumuruganpoondi, Gudalur, Karamadai, Karumathampatti, Madukkarai, Vadalur, Kottakuppam, Thirukovilur, Ulundurpet, Adirampattinam, Manamadurai, Surandai, Kalakadu, Thiruchendur, Kollankode, Mursiri and Lalgudi town panchayats into municipalities.
- ✓ Pugalur municipality would be created by merging Punjaipugalur and TNPL Pugalur town panchayats.
- ✓ The government's decision to upgrade and expand the urban local bodies would improve the basic amenities and infrastructure in the region by better mobilisation of land resources and finance.

- **The government – has decided to roll out the wage employment programme for urban poor at a cost of Rs.100 crore.**
- ✓ The urban employment guarantee scheme, on the lines of MGNREGA, would be launched in two zones in Chennai and one zone each in 14 other corporations on a pilot basis this fiscal.
- ✓ It would be implemented in seven municipalities and 37 town panchayats also, ensuring that at least one place is covered in every district
- ✓ This was announced by minister for municipal administration K N Nehru in the assembly on August 24.
- ✓ The scheme, announced in the state budget recently, is aimed at helping the urban poor by providing minimum employment guarantee.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - announced a plan to construct a memorial for former chief minister and DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi in the Anna memorial complex on the Marina beachfront.**



- ✓ The structure is to be designed by the in-house architects of the state public works department
- ✓ It will display a high fountain pen and three rings, implying Muthamizharignar, as Dr. Kalaignar has been fondly addressed by his supporters.
- ✓ The height of the pen will be equivalent to the famous stupa of Anna memorial.
- ✓ Making his first suo motu statement under Rule 110, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the mausoleum with photographs depicting the life of Dr. Kalaignar will come up in 2.21 acres at a cost of Rs 39 crore
- ✓ The memorial will exhibit the achievements of the five-time chief minister, and his thoughts, for the future generations.
- ✓ During his speech, the CM said that the late leader spent 80 years of his life for the public, 70 years in the cine field and journalism, 60 years as a member of the Assembly, and 50 years as the DMK president
- ✓ The veteran DMK stalwart, Dr. Kalaignar, who was elected to the Assembly 13 times, passed away on August 7, 2018

➤ **A smart IoT irrigation project – has been launched in a tea plantation near Ooty on August 24**



- ✓ This is the first of its kind project launched for the tea plantation in the entire country
 - ✓ It was launched by the Consulate General of Israel to South India in collaboration with United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI), Jain Irrigation Systems and Naan Dan Jain Irrigation (Israel)
 - ✓ Smart IoT irrigation is an innovative Israeli technique that uses water judiciously and helps farmers achieve higher levels of crop yield with minimal requirement of water resources
 - ✓ The system involves a combination of drip technology, automation and fertigation
 - ✓ The irrigation system has been installed on a 5-acre tea garden in the United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company Pvt. Ltd. (Chamraj group) in Allada Valley near Ooty.
 - ✓ Micro irrigation has been in practice for tea plantations over the decades.
 - ✓ India is the second-largest tea producer in the world
- **The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission - has issued new guidelines and released a consultative paper on 'Generic Tariff order for Grid Interactive Solar Photovoltaic Energy Generating Systems'**
- ✓ The new guidelines propose a gross metering system to allow consumers to sell power generated through solar plants
 - ✓ The proposed tariffs range between Rs. 3.99 per kWh for solar system capacities up to 10 kW and Rs 3.12 per kWh for solar system capacities from 501kW to 999 kW.
 - ✓ The tariff determined will apply to grid connected solar energy systems for all consumer categories.
 - ✓ It proposed generic tariffs for rooftop solar systems in the state with net metering and gross metering facilities
 - ✓ The agency has invited submissions and objections from the stakeholders by September 1 in its website.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019 set a rooftop solar target of 3,600 MW by 2023.

- ✓ As of March 31, this year, the State's installed rooftop solar plant capacity stood at 325 MW, which means only 9.03 % of the target has been achieved.

PROPOSED TARIFFS	
How solar energy tariffs computed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ₹3.99/ kWh for system with capacity upto 10kw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> system with 501kW-999kW capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ₹3.70/ kWh for system with 11-100kW capacity 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tariff determined herein will apply to grid connected solar energy systems for all consumer categories of all voltage levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ₹3.51/ kWh for system with 101-500kW capacity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ₹3.12/ kWh for 	

- ✓ With the proposed revision of norms of gross metering, net metering has been delinked from consumer tariffs.
- ✓ In net metering, the exported solar power is adjusted in the electricity bill against the energy consumed.
- ✓ The TNERC also proposes a time-of-day premium tariff during high demand periods, to promote and incentivise investments in solar energy storage systems.

STATES

- **Karnataka - became the first state in the country to implement the National Education Policy 2020 from the current academic year 2021-22**
- ✓ Union minister for education Dharmendra Pradhan and chief minister Basavaraja Bommai virtually launched the university and college admission module as per the new policy on August 23.
- ✓ To mark this occasion, the CM announced that a new digitalisation and research and development policy focusing on students will be rolled out
- ✓ A primary and secondary education council will also be established with the objective of transforming and empowering the knowledge landscape of Karnataka.
- ✓ Implementation of NEP 2020 will include some landmark initiatives like the revision of the entire course structure and curriculum in the colleges and multiple programmes will be offered to the students
- ✓ Earlier on July 29, on the first anniversary of NEP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched SAFAL (STRUCTURED Assessment For Analysing Learning), a competency-based assessment for grades 3,5 and 8 introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- **On August 24, the Uttarakhand high court - became the first high court in the country to completely do away with virtual hearings**
- ✓ The court had resumed in-person hearings earlier this month and has now stopped all virtual proceedings.

- ✓ High courts in most other states have continued with a hybrid model of functioning.
- ✓ Local courts in the hill state are also holding both online and in-person proceedings.
- ✓ The Uttarakhand high court had issued an administrative order saying that it will abandon virtual hearing from August 24 and function only through physical mode.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of education, skill development and social justice and empowerment - jointly launched the booklet on One-year New Education Policy (NEP) - 2020 Achievement**



- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar jointly launched the book
- ✓ During the event, other key initiatives such as NIPUN Bharat Foundational Literacy and Numeracy tools and resources on DIKSHA, Virtual School of NIOS and alternate academic calendar of NCERT were also launched
- ✓ The Virtual School of NIOS is the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country that will provide advanced digital learning platforms through Virtual Live Classrooms and Virtual Labs.
- ✓ Another important initiative launched was an accessibility booklet developed by the NCERT titled "Priya -The Accessibility Warrior"
- ✓ It is the outcome of collaborative efforts of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- ✓ The government's commitment to promoting accessibility led to the development of the E-Comic cum Activity Book, titled - 'Priya- The Accessibility Warrior'.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On August 24, the Supreme Court – held that the ‘creamy layer’ among the backward communities has to be decided on the basis of a mix of social, economic and other relevant factors and not the economic criteria alone.**
- ✓ A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose maintained that annual earnings cannot be the sole criterion for identifying the ‘creamy layer’ among the backward communities to deny reservation
- ✓ The bench had quashed 2016 notification issued by the Haryana government by which sections of backward classes earning above Rs.6 lakh per annum were to be considered as ‘creamy layer’.
- ✓ According to the bench, the decision of the state government was in violation of the principles laid down by the apex court in Indra Sawhney case.
- ✓ The court said the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Act, 2016 makes it mandatory for identification and exclusion of ‘creamy layer’ to be on the basis of social, economic and other relevant factors

ECONOMY

- **Infosys - has joined the elite club of companies with \$100 billion or more in market capitalisation.**



- ✓ The only others are Reliance Industries, TCS and HDFC Bank, with mcaps of \$186 billion, \$180 billion and \$116 billion respectively.
- ✓ Infosys’s m-cap reached \$100.7 billion on August 25, after its shares touched a year high on the day.
- ✓ On the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) too, Infosys’s m-cap was close to \$100 billion.
- ✓ While Infosys took 20 years to reach \$50-billion in mcap, the next \$50 billion took just over a year
- ✓ The Bengaluru-based company, Infosys was started by N R Narayana (NRN) Murthy along with six others in 1981.
- ✓ It was listed on the Indian stock market in 1993 and became the first Indian registered company to list on a US stock exchange, Nasdaq, in 1999.

SPORTS

- **Shotputter Tek Chand, an Asian Para Games medallist – was the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the Paralympics on August 24**



- ✓ The original choice, Mariyappan Thangavelu was replaced as the flag-bearer for the opening ceremony at the last minute
- ✓ Mariyappan Thangavelu, the Rio Games gold medallist and five others were placed under quarantine for coming in close contact with a Covid-19 positive person during their flight to Tokyo
- ✓ High jumper Mariyappan was one of the two athletes among the six in quarantine, the other athlete being discus thrower Vinod Kumar.
- ✓ The six, who arrived in Tokyo on August 18, will be in quarantine for 14 days – till September 1.
- ✓ Mariyappan qualified for the Paralympics Games in Tokyo by finishing third in the 2019 World Para Athletics Championships
- ✓ Tek Chand has won the bronze medal in the Asian Para Games held in Jakarta in 2018 and also won the silver medal in the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in the same year
- ✓ India will be represented by 54 para athletes -- the biggest ever contingent in the history of the Games.

