

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 29,2021

TAMIL NADU

- On August 28, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a resolution urging the Union government to repeal the three contentious farm laws that are not suitable for the country's agricultural growth and the farmers' welfare
- ✓ The resolution moved by Chief Minister M K Stalin was passed 'unanimously' in the House by voice vote
- ✓ According to the CM, the three farm laws were enacted by the Centre arbitrarily without consulting the state governments though the sector comes under the control of states
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin also announced that cases filed against the farmers and political party leaders who had protested democratically against the farm laws will be withdrawn.



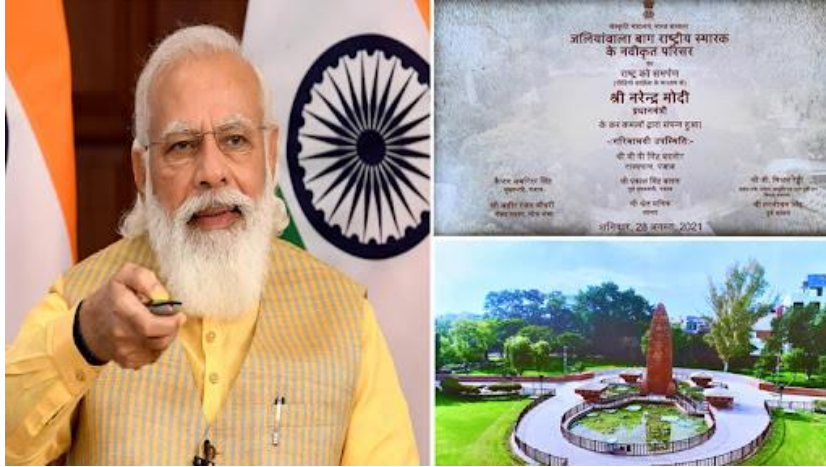
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu becomes the seventh state to oppose the farm laws enacted by the union government last year, after Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Kerala and West Bengal.
- ✓ The main opposition AIADMK and its ally BJP staged a walkout over the laws, against which farmers have been holding protests for months in Delhi.

- ✓ The farmer demonstrations began on August 9, 2020 and August 28, 2021 marked the 385th day of protests
- ✓ The three contentious farm laws are - Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2000, Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020
- **On August 28, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that the Sri Lankan Refugee Camp will henceforth be known as Sri Lankan Rehabilitation Camp.**
- ✓ A total of 3.04 lakh refugees had come to Tamil Nadu after the ethnic violence started in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Of them, 18,944 families are staying in the camps, while 13,540 families are staying outside the camps
- ✓ The state government runs 108 camps in 29 districts, including two special camps.
- ✓ Earlier, the CM announced Rs.317.4 crore worth schemes for the welfare of refugees from Sri Lanka on August 26
- **On August 28, Agriculture Minister M R K Panneer Selvam - introduced a Bill in the Assembly to repeal the TN Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2019, enacted during the previous AIADMK regime.**
- ✓ As per the Bill, the yet-to-be-enforced law was enacted to provide for improved production and marketing of agricultural produce, livestock and its products through contract farming
- ✓ Contract farming was a marketing approach wherein the farmer and purchaser mutually agreed upon the price, quantity and quality of produce to be cultivated by the farmers and purchased by the companies signing the contracts
- ✓ The agreement between the farmers, either individually or collectively and sponsor or sponsors transfers the part of risk of post-harvest market unpredictability from the farmers to the sponsors.
- ✓ According to the statement of Objects and Reasons for the Bill, the TN Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987 (TNAPMA) provided for regulation of buying and selling of farm produce.
- ✓ The AIADMK government had enacted the law on the lines of the model bill suggested by the Centre in 2019
- **Tamil Nadu – to get a genome sequencing lab at the state public health laboratory in a week**
- ✓ This was announced by state health secretary J Radhakrishnan
- ✓ The lab will help the state keep track of the common variant of SARS Cov 2 and mutations, if any.

- ✓ Besides Covid-19, the facility will help them track the variants of vector-borne diseases and superbugs that are resistant to antibiotics.
 - ✓ Until now, Tamil Nadu has sent more than 3,417 samples to the Bengaluru-based 'Instem' as per recommendations from the centre.
 - ✓ Instem is a part of INSACOG, a consortium of 10 labs that track the presence of variants in Covid samples
 - ✓ The results of more than 2693 samples from the state returned by the lab showed that 80% of samples drawn were Delta.
 - ✓ The remaining samples contained four other variants including Alpha, Beta, Eta and Kappa variants.
 - ✓ So far, the state has found 12 Delta plus variants – but they are being grouped as delta as per WHO recommendation
 - ✓ The state categorised samples from across the state in categories – family clusters, community clusters, Covid in children, young adults with severe lung infection, breakthrough infections (infected 14 days after two vaccinations), samples from deceased and travellers.
- **On August 28, Minister for fisheries, fishermen welfare and animal husbandry, Anitha R Radhakrishnan - said in the assembly that the government would construct 31 new fish landing centres across the coastal districts at a cost of Rs. 359 crore.**
- ✓ Of these, 11 fish landing centres would come up in Tuticorin district at Rs. 109 crore cost.
 - ✓ Further, the remaining fish landing centres would be constructed in Cuddalore (6), Chengalpet (7), Kanyakumari (3) Mayiladuthurai (2), Thanjavur (1) and Villupuram (1) districts
 - ✓ To prevent sea erosion in Puthenthurai village in Kanyakumari district, the department would construct a wall at a cost of Rs.22 crore.
 - ✓ An integrated fisheries college-cum-research centre would be established in Tuticorin spending Rs.3.2 crore to offer training to fishermen to improve their skill sets and enhance their revenue.
 - ✓ Further, the government would establish an advanced multispeciality hospital and research centre for pets at Nandanam at Rs.7.99 crore.
 - ✓ The government is also planning to establish an international standard ornamental fish trade centre at Kolathur in Chennai at Rs.50 crore cost
 - ✓ The trade centre would be established with contribution from government and private players.

NATIONAL

- **On August 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh memorial in Punjab's Amritsar via video conference**



- ✓ Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh also joined the event through video link
- ✓ A wreath-laying ceremony was held and a two-minute silence observed in the memory of martyrs of the Jallianwala massacre
- ✓ PM Modi, who is also the chairperson of the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust, dedicated the memorial to the public in the presence of other trust members
- ✓ In 2019, approximately Rs 20 crore was set aside by the Centre for the commemoration of 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- ✓ The memorial has been shut for the public since February 2019 for the makeover, implemented by the government-owned NBCC Ltd.
- ✓ Museum galleries have been developed at the memorial and a sound and light show has been set up to display the events that happened on April 13, 1919
- ✓ Over 1,000 people were killed and hundreds wounded on the tragic day when British troops fired on an unarmed gathering of thousands who had assembled in Jallianwala Bagh in Punjab amid nationwide protests against the Rowlatt Act
- ✓ A large crowd had gathered at the Bagh to protest the arrest of nationalist leaders Saifuddin Kitchlu and Satya Pal
- ✓ In response to the massive gathering, British officer Col. Reginald Edward Harry Dyer ordered his troops to fire indiscriminately into the crowd
- ✓ The site was first opened by then President Dr Rajendra Prasad on April 13, 1961, as a grateful nation's tribute to the victims of the massacre
- **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways - has introduced a new vehicle registration series called Bharat series (BH-Series) to ensure seamless transfer of vehicles across states**
- ✓ With the new BH-series mark, vehicles will not require a re-registration when owners shift from one state to another.
- ✓ The Central Motor Vehicles (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 2021, will come into force with effect from September 15, 2021



- ✓ This new vehicle registration facility will be available to people in transferable jobs such as in defence, central and state governments, PSUs and also in private sector companies which have offices in four or more states and UTs.
- ✓ The new facility, notified by the road transport ministry, will be a voluntary scheme for the specific categories of vehicle owners.
- ✓ In the long run, the government aims to bring all vehicles under this series for uniformity and quick transfer from one state to another while ensuring that no state loses its revenue.
- ✓ The registration mark for BH-series vehicle will be generated randomly through the portal.
- ✓ The registration number of such vehicles will mention the year of registration, BH mark, numerical numbers and alphabets - 21BH1234A and 21BH9999AB.
- ✓ Presently, a person is allowed to keep a vehicle for a maximum of 12 months in any state other than the state where it is registered.
- ✓ The owner has to get such vehicles re-registered within this deadline.
- ✓ The vehicle owners who opt for this scheme will have to pay road tax for two years or in multiples of two.
- ✓ After completion of the fourteenth year, the motor vehicle tax or road tax shall be levied annually and it will be half of the amount which was charged earlier for that vehicle
- ✓ The entire process will be made online to ensure there is no need to go to the RTOs.
- ✓ Last year, the Centre had mandated all vehicles sold in India before April 2019 to have high security registration plates (HSRP).

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras high court - has set a three-month deadline for the state government to constitute a 'Press Council of Tamil Nadu'**

- ✓ The court held that it is necessary to remove fake journalists, mushrooming journalists' associations/unions and to regulate distribution of identity cards, passes and other state doles.
- ✓ The council is to be headed by a former judge of the Supreme Court or a high court
- ✓ It shall comprise experienced journalists and retired civil servants,
- ✓ A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran (since retired) and Justice P Velmurugan held that the council shall have sole authority to recognise press clubs and journalists' associations or unions in the state
- ✓ This apart, the court made it clear that only the council should conduct and approve elections to journalists' clubs, unions and associations.
- ✓ Further, the court said the council should have power to identify fake journalists and lodge complaints against them to jurisdictional police.
- ✓ The court has also prohibited the state from issuing identity cards and media stickers to organisations that have circulation of less than 10,000 copies.

DEFENCE

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - dedicated to the nation the indigenously-built Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' in Chennai on August 28**

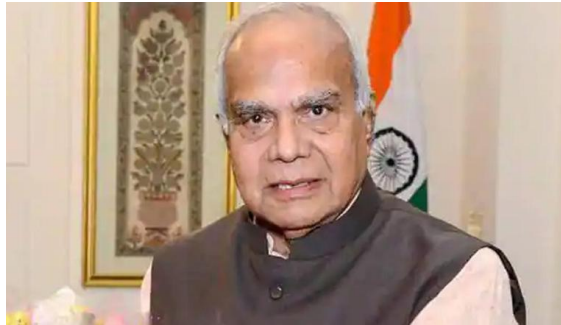


- ✓ The 98-meter Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) has been designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Limited
- ✓ It will be based in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and will be operated by a company of 11 officers and 110 sailors.
- ✓ Vigraha is seventh in the series of OPVs, starting from 'Vikram', 'Vijay', 'Veer', 'Varaha', 'Varad' and 'Vajra'.
- ✓ It is fitted with advanced technology radars, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions.
- ✓ The vessel is armed with a 40/60 Bofors gun and fitted with two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun with fire control system.
- ✓ The Vigraha indigenous vessel has also been designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats for the purpose of boarding operation, search and rescue, law enforcement, and maritime patrol.

- ✓ The ship is capable of carrying "pollution response equipment" to contain oil spills at sea
- ✓ The Vigraha offshore patrol vessel will be operated on the eastern seaboard under the operational and administrative control of the Commander of the Coast Guard Region (East)
- ✓ With the addition of this vessel to its arsenal, the Indian Coast Guard will now have 157 ships and 66 aircraft in its inventory

APPOINTMENTS

- **Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit - has been given the additional charge of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh**



- ✓ Earlier, Vijayender Pal Singh Badnore was the governor of Punjab and the administrator of Chandigarh.
- ✓ Governor Purohit's induction to the posts will come into force from the date he takes charge of the office and will continue till regular settlements are made.
- ✓ The development comes ahead of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Elections scheduled to be held in 2022.
- ✓ Banwarilal Purohit, aged 81, had been appointed as the 14th Governor of Tamil Nadu on October 6, 2017, succeeding C. Vidyasagar Rao
- ✓ He was also appointed as the Governor of Assam by the President of India on August 17 2016.
- ✓ Purohit had been an active Member of Parliament from the Nagpur (Lok Sabha constituency) three times, twice as an Indian National Congress member, once as a BJP member.
- ✓ Badnore had been serving as the 28th Governor of Punjab.
- ✓ He represented the Bhilwara constituency of Rajasthan and was also a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 1999–2009.