



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –AUGUST 4,

2021

STATES

- **Chandel district in Manipur - has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think tank Niti Aayog for the month of June.**
 - ✓ Chandel district is situated in the eastern-most part of the country and shares more than 100 km of open, porous international border with Myanmar.
 - ✓ Sahibganj (Jharkhand) and Firozpur (Punjab) have been ranked at the second and third positions, respectively
 - ✓ Dhubri (Assam) and Kiphire (Nagaland) are ranked at the fourth and fifth places, respectively.
 - ✓ The delta rankings considers the incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas in June 2021
 - ✓ Aspirational districts programme, launched in January 2018, aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas
 - ✓ Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure were the key development areas that were taken into consideration for the ranking
 - ✓ The ranking of aspirational districts is done every month by the Niti Aayog.

- **On August 3, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet - approved amendments to the state Excise Act prescribing death penalty and life imprisonment in the cases related to deaths caused by the consumption of spurious liquor.**
 - ✓ The amendment proposal, which also imposes a Rs 20 lakh fine, will become a law once approved by the state Legislative Assembly and by the Governor
 - ✓ The Madhya Pradesh Excise Act (Madhya Pradesh Excise Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 will be introduced in the coming monsoon session of the Assembly.
 - ✓ Till now there was a maximum punishment of 10 years for those convicted of selling and making spurious liquor that leads to death

- ✓ To stop smuggling and illegal trade of liquor, the Madhya Pradesh government on Monday decided to fix QR-coded holograms with over 20 security features on booze bottles.
- ✓ Over the last nine months, more than 70 people have died after consuming illicit liquor in various parts of the state
- ✓ MP will be the first State which is formulating a law which could bring life sentence and the death penalty for hooch trade

NATIONAL

- **Lok Sabha – passes two legislations namely The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 and The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 without any debate on August 3**
- ✓ The Essential Defence Services Bill seeks to prohibit any agitation and strike by anyone engaged in essential defence services.
- ✓ Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt introduced the bill, after adding a ‘sunset’ clause providing expiry date to the law
- ✓ The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 seeks to abolish nine appellate tribunals or authorities set up under various laws
- ✓ It seeks to replace the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021
- ✓ These include the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Customs Act, 1962, the Patents Act, 1970, the Airport Authority of India Act, 1994, the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002,
- ✓ The Bill was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 2
- ✓ All cases pending before such tribunals or authorities will be transferred to the Commercial Court or High Court
- ✓ The bill also provides for uniform terms and conditions of service for chairperson and members of various tribunals.
- ✓ The government began the process of rationalisation of tribunals in 2015.
- ✓ By the Finance Act, 2017, seven tribunals were abolished or merged based on functional similarity and their total number was reduced from 26 to 19.
- ✓ The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021, was first introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13, 2021
- ✓ Later, President promulgated the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021 on April 4, 2021, as the bill could not be passed in the Budget Session of Parliament
- **India’s first earthquake warning system – is ready for launch in Uttarakhand on August 4, 2021**

- ✓ A new app, the Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app, has been developed by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee
- ✓ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will launch the Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app.
- ✓ In the event of an earthquake, an alert will be sent out over the phones in the areas that are expected to experience seismic waves, giving people time to seek out safe spots.
- ✓ It will resemble the early warning systems followed in Japan, Mexico, and the United States
- ✓ The alert is sent out within a few seconds by an early warning system, as the slowest seismic waves travel at over 11,100 kmph, which gives people in areas far from the epicentre just seconds to react
- ✓ Whenever there is a quake of 5.5 magnitude or greater, the system will generate an alert immediately and send it through the app
- ✓ Initially, the initiative was kick-started as a pilot project for the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand with support from the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ As part of the project, sensors had been installed in the high terrains of the Garhwal and Kumaun regions of the state.
- ✓ Furthermore, the Uttarakhand government is putting in sirens to alert the public, especially in urban areas.
- ✓ An earthquake of 6.8 magnitude ravaged Uttarkashi in 1991, killing over one thousand people.
- ✓ In 1999, another 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Chamoli, killing more than 100 people

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras High Court - has struck down the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act of 2021, which bans playing of online betting games including online rummy and online poker with stakes**
- ✓ The bench comprising chief justice Sanjib Banerjee and justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy held that the amendment first inserted in the law by the previous AIADMK government via an ordinance in November 2020, was unconstitutional.
- ✓ The verdict came on a batch of petitions by online gaming companies challenging the blanket ban.
- ✓ The court also called the game a legitimate business, adding that the ban was only in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The previous AIADMK government brought in the amendment on the basis that teenagers and young adults were losing money in online betting games and cited instances where some of them died by suicide.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister of Law & Justice, Kiren Rijju - will be participating in the 8th Justice Ministers Meet of SCO on 6th August 2021 through video conference**



- ✓ He will be joined by Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Law & Justice
- ✓ The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials / experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be participating in the Meeting
- ✓ The meet will be preceded by the second meeting of the Experts Working Group on 4th and 5th of August, 2021
- ✓ The first Expert Group Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Eighth Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Countries was hosted on 10th -11th June, 2021
- ✓ Tajikistan is the host country for these meetings and the SCO Secretariat will be providing necessary assistance during the three days' deliberations.

