



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 5, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On August 4, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet meeting - decided to extend 7.5% reservation to government school students in all professional courses, including engineering, law and agriculture colleges**
 - ✓ A legislation to this effect would be introduced during the ensuing budget session.
 - ✓ The decision was based on the recommendation of the commission headed by retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice D Murugesan, which was constituted by the DMK soon after it formed the government
 - ✓ The previous AIADMK government had already extended 7.5% reservation to government school students in medical courses last year
 - ✓ The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin, also approved presenting a separate budget for the agriculture department from this year
 - ✓ It also decided that a white paper on the state's financial situation will be released on August 9, which will show details of revenue, debt, etc of the last ten years of the AIADMK regime from 2011 to 2021
 - ✓ The MK Stalin-led government will present its first budget on August 13, followed by a separate agriculture budget which is scheduled for August 14.
 - ✓ The government is also planning to go digital and make this a paperless budget.
 - ✓ Former finance minister O Panneerselvam presented an interim budget earlier in February ahead of the assembly elections

- **The Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Konakkarai in Thiruchirapalli district - has become operational.**
 - ✓ The unit, which was opened in 2018, remained inoperative for several months.
 - ✓ The ABC centre has five pre-operative and five post-operative wards.
 - ✓ It can sterilise about 30 dogs a day.
 - ✓ Instructions have been given to health officials to take steps to capture stray dogs in Tiruverumbur in the first phase for sterilization process
 - ✓ The drive is aimed at checking the exponential growth in the stray dog population.

- ✓ All areas where dog menace is reported in the city will be covered in the drive
- ✓ Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 seeks to regulate stray dog population by sterilization
- ✓ These rules were enacted under Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

NATIONAL

- **On August 4, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 with a voice vote**
 - ✓ The bill seeks to encourage smaller airports to expand air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas
 - ✓ The bill will amend the definition of 'major airport' under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008
 - ✓ It was moved on the floor of the house for passage and consideration by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia
 - ✓ First introduced in March 2021, the Bill was subsequently referred to a parliamentary standing committee on transport, tourism and culture, which had approved it without any changes.
 - ✓ The Lok Sabha had passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on July 29.
 - ✓ It will now be sent to the President Ram Nath Kovind for his assent.
 - ✓ Under the Act, “major airport” has been defined to mean any airport which has, or is designated to have, annual passenger throughput in excess of three-and-a-half million.
 - ✓ Earlier, the House passed two other bills — the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 — after short debates

- **The Rajya Sabha - passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021, on August 3, 2021 after a brief discussion during the ongoing monsoon session**
 - ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill which is targeted towards simplification of insolvency procedure for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
 - ✓ This follows the repeal of the same ordinance which was promulgated on April 4, 2021.
 - ✓ The bill seeks to replace the IBC Amendment Ordinance, 2021, which introduced pre-packs as an insolvency resolution mechanism for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with defaults up to Rs 1 crore.
 - ✓ The Lok Sabha had earlier passed the bill on July 28.

- ✓ The proposed amendments will enable the government to notify the threshold of a default not exceeding Rs 1 crore for initiation of the pre-packaged resolution process.
 - ✓ The government has already prescribed the threshold of Rs 10 lakh for this purpose.
 - ✓ The bill also fixes 120 days for the completion of the entire process
 - ✓ Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt
- **The Border Roads Organisation - has constructed the world's highest road in eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300 feet**



- ✓ The road has been constructed at an altitude higher than the Mount Everest base camps
- ✓ The world's highest motorable road at Umlingla Pass is constructed at an altitude of 19,300 ft, bettering previous record of a road near volcano Uturuncu in Bolivia at 18,953 ft
- ✓ The 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh
- ✓ The road has been constructed much above the altitude of Siachen Glacier which is at 17,700 ft.
- ✓ Khardung La Pass in Ladakh is also one of the world's highest roads at nearly 17,600 feet.

COMMITTEES

- **Lok Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu Dayanidhi Maran - has been appointed as a member to the joint committee for data protection bill.**



- ✓ Earlier, DMK leader Kanimozhi had resigned from the committee
- ✓ Replacements for vacant positions in the joint committee for data protection were announced in the Lok Sabha by newly-appointed chairperson of the committee, PP Chaudhary.
- ✓ Five Bharatiya Janata Party MPs and one each from the Samajwadi Party and DMK have occupied seven vacant positions in the Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019
- ✓ BJP MPs Satyapal Singh, Rakesh Sinha, Vinay Sahastrabuddhe, Sudhanshu Trivedi and Aparajita Sarangi have been appointed to the committee, along with Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav
- ✓ The draft data protection bill proposes to put restrictions on the use of personal information of people without their explicit consent.
- ✓ The items covered by the draft bill include consent, personal data, exemptions that can be granted, storage restrictions for personal data and individual rights.
- ✓ The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by then Electronics and Information Technology Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad in December 2019
- ✓ This committee under the chairmanship of Meenakshi Lekhi, has held a mammoth 66 meetings since its appointment in December 2019
- ✓ BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, who was the former chairperson of the committee, became the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture.
- ✓ The Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill comprises 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The report is now likely to be submitted in the Monsoon Session.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Navy - has announced that India's first indigenously aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant – India's largest warship – is set to begin sea trials on August 4 off the coast of Kochi**



- ✓ India currently operates a solitary aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, bought second-hand from Russia for \$2.33 billion and entered service in 2013

- ✓ INS Vikrant is 262 metres long, 62 metres width and 59 metres high, including the superstructure.
- ✓ The ship has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1,700 people, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers.
- ✓ INS Vikrant has a top speed of around 28 knots and cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles
- ✓ The warship, with a displacement of 37,500 tonnes, will operate Russian-built MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 air early-warning helicopters, Lockheed Martin's MH-60R multi-role helicopters and the indigenous advanced light helicopters.
- ✓ It has been named after aircraft carrier INS Vikrant operated by the Indian Navy from 1961 to 1997.
- ✓ Designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), the Rs-23,000-crore carrier has been built at the state-owned Cochin Shipyard Limited, a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.
- ✓ The construction of the aircraft carrier began in 2009 and is called IAC-1 until its commissioning
- ✓ Containing more than 76% indigenous content, the ship has been designed with a high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability
- ✓ After Vikrant is commissioned into the navy, India will have two aircraft carriers --- one each for the western and eastern seaboard
- ✓ Vikrant will be the fourth aircraft carrier to be operated by the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The first was Vikrant (British origin) from 1961 to 1997, INS Viraat (British origin) from 1987 to 2016 and INS Vikramaditya (Russian origin) 2013 onwards.
- ✓ Apart from India, the US, the UK, Russia, France and China are the other countries having the capability to build aircraft carriers.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Dhriti Banerjee - has become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**



- ✓ The 51-year-old scientist has conducted extensive research in taxonomy, zoology, morphology and molecular methods.

- ✓ She has been the co-ordinator of ZSI's Digital Sequence Information Project since 2012.
- ✓ Banerjee was the co-author of a document entitled "The Glorious 100 Women's Scientific Contribution in ZSI" on the contribution of women scientists in research on various animal groups.
- ✓ Banerjee was also part of a team in June 2015 that found the grave of Thomas Nelson Anandale, the first director general of ZSI, who was buried in April, 1924 in a Scottish cemetery.
- ✓ ZSI 1 is headquartered in Calcutta with a regional hub under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

AWARDS

- **The Allahabad Central University - has announced its decision to give an honorary degree of D.Litt to eminent Bollywood lyricist, Gulzar**



- ✓ Gulzar will be conferred with the degree for his contribution to poetry, film and culture.
- ✓ This degree will be awarded to the eminent poet at the convocation of AU on September 23 this year.
- ✓ Famous lyricist, poet, writer, screenwriter and film director Gulzar has been conferred with the Padma Bhushan (2004) and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards (2013).
- ✓ He also received five national film awards, 22 filmfare awards, one Academy Award for Best Original Song (2008), one Grammy Award (2010), Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu (2002) among many others.

SPORTS

- **India's Lovlina Borgohain - won bronze in the women's welterweight after losing to reigning World Champion Turkey's Busenaz Surmeneli 0-5 in the semifinal at the Tokyo Olympics**
- ✓ Lovlina becomes the third Indian boxer to win an Olympic medal, after Vijender Singh (men's middleweight bronze, Beijing 2008) and MC Mary Kom (women's flyweight bronze, London 2012)



- ✓ This is India's second bronze at this Olympics after PV Sindhu also won a bronze in badminton.
 - ✓ India's only other medal at this Olympics came in the form of weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's silver in the 49kg division
 - ✓ Lovlina, currently the World No. 3, had earlier beaten World No. 2 Chen Nien-Chin of Chinese Taipei 4-1 in the quarterfinals to ensure herself of a medal.
 - ✓ Hailing from the Golaghat district of Assam, Lovlina switched from kickboxing to boxing in 2012.
 - ✓ She burst into the spotlight after winning bronze at the 2017 Asian Championships and gold at the 2018 India Open.
 - ✓ Lovlina backed up her bronze at the 2018 World Championships with another bronze at the 2019 edition of the World Championships.
 - ✓ Lovlina secured her Olympic quota, becoming the first woman from Assam to qualify for the Olympics, by entering the semifinals of the Asia & Oceania Boxing Olympic Qualification Tournament in March 2020.
 - ✓ She won bronze after losing in the semifinals to 2018 World silver medallist Gu Hong of China
 - ✓ At this year's Asian Boxing Championships, shifted from New Delhi to Dubai due to the pandemic, from May 24-31, Lovlina won bronze.
 - ✓ Borgohain tested positive for Covid-19 in October 2020, and missed the Indian contingent's boxing trip to Italy in November.
- **Harshit Raja - became India's 69th Grandmaster after securing his third and final norm at the Biel Masters Open 2021**



- ✓ Harshit crossed the 2500 ELO rating during the Masters event with one round to spare.

- ✓ The 20-year-old youngster from Pune Maharashtra scored 5 points in the tournament and finished 23rd.
- ✓ Harshit is currently pursuing his dual degree in finance and economics from the University of Mizzou, USA.
- ✓ Woman Grandmaster R Vaishali, elder sister of GM Praggnandhaa, secured 4.5 points and finished 31st spot
- ✓ She secured her third IM norm in the tournament and became an International Master.

