



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –AUGUST 7,

2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **On August 6, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin – announced that the state government is planning to reopen schools for Classes IX, X, XI and XII from September 1**
  - ✓ Medical colleges and institutes for nursing, paramedical and allied health sciences will be allowed to reopen from August 16.
  - ✓ Schools must follow Covid-19 protocol measures and should not have more than 50% students in a class at a time, as per the government statement.
  - ✓ The CM arrived at the decision after reviewing the Covid-19 situation along with health experts and government officials at a meeting.
  - ✓ The present lockdown which would end on August 9 has been extended till 6am on August 23, the CM said.
  - ✓ To control the spread of infection, the government has decided to prohibit public worship at all places of worship on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from August 9.
  
- **Tamil Nadu weavers - received more loans under the Mudra scheme than all other states put together in the last three years**
  - ✓ This was announced by the Union textile minister Piyush Goyal in a statement made in Rajya Sabha on August 5
  - ✓ According to the Minister, 41,568 Tamil Nadu weavers were provided loans under the Mudra scheme in 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21.
  - ✓ This was way higher than 25,193 loans sanctioned for weavers from all the other states put together during the same period.
  - ✓ The loan amount given to weavers from Tamil Nadu accounted for Rs 207 crore, whereas the loan given to all other states was Rs 159 crore, as per the statement made in the parliament by the Minister

# NATIONAL

- **On August 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that India's highest sporting award, Khel Ratna, will be renamed after hockey wizard Major Dhyhan Chand**



- ✓ The change means the removal of “Rajiv Gandhi” prefix to the Khel Ratna.
  - ✓ The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, launched in 1991-92, comprising a medallion, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs.25 lakh, will now be known as the Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
  - ✓ Chess legend Viswanathan Anand was its first recipient.
  - ✓ The award is given annually by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
  - ✓ Some previous winners of the award are Leander Paes, Sachin Tendulkar, Dhanraj Pillay, Abhinav Bindra, Pullela Gopichand, Mary Kom, Anju Bobby George, and Rani Rampal in 2020
  - ✓ Dhyhan Chand is regarded as one of the greatest in the history of Indian hockey
  - ✓ He earned three Olympic gold medals in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936.
  - ✓ His birthday, August 29, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India every year.
- **Lok Sabha - passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for setting up a central university in the name of ‘Sindhu Central University’ in Ladakh.**
  - ✓ Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the Bill, which will cater to all areas of Ladakh that include Leh and Kargil.
  - ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009
  - ✓ At present, there is no central university in Ladakh
  - ✓ Hence, the government has decided to establish a new central university in Ladakh to ensure increase in accessibility and quality of higher education
  - ✓ The new central varsity also seeks to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research for the people of the Union territory.

- ✓ Last month, the Union Cabinet had approved the establishment of a central university at a cost of Rs 750 crore and an integrated multi-purpose infrastructure development corporation for Ladakh with a fund of Rs 25 crore.
- ✓ **On the day, the Lok Sabha also cleared the bill to drop the controversial clause allowing retrospective levy of capital gains tax on transactions involving underlying assets in India.**
- ✓ 'The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021', proposed amendments to the Income Tax and Finance Act, 2012
- ✓ As per the Bill, no tax demand will be raised for any indirect transfer of Indian assets, if the transaction was undertaken prior to May 28, 2012
- ✓ After a brief statement by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and clause-wise consideration of the bill, it was passed by voice vote.
- ✓ The Taxation Laws Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced on August 6
  
- **On August 5, Rajya Sabha - passed three bills — the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order (Amendment) Bill, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill and the Essential Defence Services Bill.**
- ✓ The Constitution (Schedule Tribes) Order Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda
- ✓ It seeks to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 was moved by Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav
- ✓ The Bill seeks to set up a commission for air quality management in the National Capital Region and its adjoining areas for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems
- ✓ The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 was moved by Minister of State, Defence, Ajay Bhatt
- ✓ It seeks to prohibit any agitation and strike by anyone engaged in essential defence services
- ✓ It was cleared by Lok Sabha on August 3
  
- **US firm Johnson & Johnson - has sought emergency use authorization (EUA) for its single-dose Covid-19 vaccine in India.**
- ✓ Once approved, it will be the fourth vaccine to get EUA after Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Dr Reddy's SputnikV.
- ✓ Earlier this week, the company had withdrawn its application for conducting local studies.
- ✓ J&J will be collaborating with Hyderabad-based Biological E for rolling out the vaccine in India
- ✓ The EUA submission is based on top-line efficacy and safety data from the Phase 3 ENSEMBLE clinical trial of the vaccine

- ✓ According to the trials, the single-shot vaccine was found to be 85% effective in preventing severe disease across all regions studied
- ✓ It had also showed protection against Covid-19 related hospitalization and death, after 28 days of vaccination.
- ✓ This vaccine, also called as Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, has been developed by Janssen Vaccines in Leiden, Netherlands.
- ✓ It is basically a viral vector vaccine which has been developed on the basis of human adenovirus and need not be stored in refrigerator

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Venezuela – announced its decision to eliminate six zeroes from the local currency, bolivar, to simplify transactions amidst hyperinflation**
- ✓ The change to the bolivar, making a million-to-1, will come into effect on October 1, as per Venezuela’s central bank announcement on August 5
- ✓ Venezuela has been trying to bring normalcy to the situation through a cryptocurrency revolution based on the digital coin ‘Reserve’, in circulation since March 2020
- ✓ A new 100 bolivar, which will be the highest denomination, is equivalent to 100,000,000 bolivares after the change.
- ✓ South American nation, Venezuela has entered its sixth year of recession, with millions of people pushed into poverty due to inflated food prices rated in US dollars
- ✓ Venezuelan consumer prices rose by 28.5% in May this year, and the annual inflation rate crossed 2,719%
- ✓ This is the third adjustment since socialist leaders began governing Venezuela.
- ✓ In 2008, former President Hugo Chavez had eliminated three zeros from the bolivar, while his successor, Nicolas Maduro, eliminated five zeros in 2018

## PERSONALITIES

- **LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton chairman, Bernard Arnault - has surpassed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become the world’s richest person**



- ✓ This was revealed in the latest Forbes real-time billionaires list.

- ✓ With a net worth of nearly \$200 billion, Arnault now tops the billionaires list ahead of Bezos whose net worth stood at about \$195 billion.
- ✓ Tesla and SpaceX chief Elon Musk is placed third with a net worth of \$185 billion.
- ✓ Last week, Bezos's net worth dropped by about \$14 billion in a single day as Amazon's stock crashed 8% after weaker-than-expected results for the previous quarter.
- ✓ At the same time, Arnault has seen his wealth rise by over \$60 billion in 2021, riding LVMH's stock's rally
- ✓ The Louis Vuitton chief had earlier become the world's richest person in December 2019, January 2020 and May 2021.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The four astronaut-eleets of the Gaganyaan programme - will begin their India training from September first week.**
  - ✓ The National Medical Advisory Council, constituted specifically to monitor the training under this programme, has announced protocols to be followed during the pandemic.
  - ✓ The first leg would be two-week flight training when they will work with the Indian Air Force, followed by theory courses.
  - ✓ Fitness and other related activities will be a continuous process.
  - ✓ The committee headed by the principal scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, K Vijay Raghavan, has members from all three services of the armed forces and directors of Nimhans and Jipmer, Puducherry.
- **Centre for Battery Engineering and Electric Vehicles Research (C BEEV) in IIT, Madras - has developed a range of motors and sub assemblies for e-rickshaws**
  - ✓ The first of the motors for electric vehicles with design details will be delivered on August 15.
  - ✓ The C BEEV has started signing agreements with manufacturers for commercial usage
  - ✓ All e-vehicle makers now import motors and assemble them.
  - ✓ Contracts have been signed with two manufacturers Amber and Alpha Sine for supply of motor designs and sub assemblies, which will be used in e-rickshaws, e-autos and e-2wheelers.
  - ✓ The EV eco system needs five broad ranges of products - Motors and sub assemblies, batteries, chargers, converters and monitoring and tracking devices - that are made indigenously.
  - ✓ The missing part is cell manufacturing, which has been included by the government now as part of the PLI Scheme
  - ✓ Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme is an incentive package where a manufacturer gets fiscal incentives upon achieving targets

# SPORTS

- **Indian women's hockey team – loses to Great Britain in field hockey bronze medal play-off match at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 6**



- ✓ World no.4 Great Britain, who were gold-winners in the 2016 Rio Games, prevailed over Indian team by 4-3 goal margin at the Oi Hockey Stadium in Tokyo
  - ✓ For India, Gurjit Kaur scored a brace and Vandana Kataria scored a goal
  - ✓ The Indian women's team, led by Rani Rampal, became the first women's hockey team from the country to make it to the semi-final.
  - ✓ At the group stage India was beaten 1-4 by Great Britain, who were the defending champions
  - ✓ India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams.
  - ✓ In 1980 Olympics, women's hockey made its debut and the sport was played in a round-robin format with top two teams qualifying for the final.
  - ✓ Earlier on the day, the men's hockey team rewrote history after claiming an Olympic medal after 41 years, defeating Germany 5-4 to win the bronze play-off match.
- **India – sets a new Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay at the Tokyo Olympics**



- ✓ The quartet of Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas and Noah Nirmal Tom bettered Qatar's 3:00.56 set at the 2018 Asian Games.
- ✓ The Indian team finished fourth in Heat 2 of the relay with 3:00.25 seconds

- ✓ However, the Indian team failed to enter the final, which had the top three from each of the two heats and the two fastest losers.
- ✓ The eighth and last spot went to The Netherlands, which finished at 2:59.06 seconds

## RANKINGS

- **Kerala - has the maximum proportion (16.5%) of elderly people in its population, as per 2021 data**
- ✓ It is followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6%), Himachal Pradesh (13.1%), Punjab (12.6%) and Andhra Pradesh (12.4%)
- ✓ The proportion is the least in Bihar (7.7%) followed by Uttar Pradesh (8.1%) and Assam (8.2%)
- ✓ This was revealed in the report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States for 2011-2036, whose findings have been cited in the 'Elderly in India 2021' document
- ✓ The report was released on August 5 by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MOSPI).
- ✓ The projections for 2031 show that Kerala will have the maximum proportion (20.9%) of elderly people in its population, followed by Tamil Nadu (18.2%), Himachal Pradesh (17.1%), Andhra Pradesh (16.4%) and Punjab (16.2%), according to the report.
- ✓ MOSPI has been publishing the 'Elderly in India' report since 2000 and this is the fifth in the series.
- ✓ It incorporates latest data collated from various sources to give a status report on the elderly across the country and future population projections.
- ✓ As per the report, general population has grown by 12.4% during 2011-2021, in comparison to around 18% in the earlier decade
- ✓ The elderly population grew by 36% in each of the last two decades (2001-2011 and 2011-2021)
- ✓ High growth rate in elderly population compared to general population was also observed earlier in the two decades between 1961 and 1981, the report said.
- ✓ The report cited an increasing trend in the old age dependency ratio — it has risen from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011 and is further projected to increase to 15.7% and 20.1% in 2021 and 2031, respectively.

