



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 8, 2021

STATES

- **On August 6, Ladakh Administration - has issued a notification to remove the inner line permit (ILP) restrictions for Indian tourists and local residents, who seeks to visit the protected areas in the region.**
- ✓ However, foreigners intending to visit these protected areas still need to apply for a permit called as 'Protected Area Permit'
- ✓ But the validity of the permit for foreign tourists has now been extended from seven days to 15 days.
- ✓ Earlier, it was mandatory for the Indian tourists also to apply for an ILP from the district administration to travel to notified protected areas of Ladakh, which include Nubra Valley, Pangong Lake, Tsumoriri Lake and the Aryan villages.
- ✓ The protected areas are located near the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- ✓ The move helps Indian nationals to move to Ladakh and the extension of foreigners will boost rural tourism in the region.
- ✓ ILP is a document required by non- residents to visit or stay in states which are protected under ILP system.
- ✓ Presently, four North-eastern states Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland are covered under this system.

NATIONAL

- **Global pharma major, Johnson & Johnson's single-dose Covid-19 vaccine - has received emergency use approval in India**
- ✓ With this, Janssen Covid-19 vaccine becomes the fifth jab against the coronavirus to get emergency use approval in the country
- ✓ Indian health authorities have so far approved the use of vaccines developed by Astra-Zeneca (Covishield), Bharat Biotech (Covaxin), Russia's Gamaleya Institute (Sputnik V) and Moderna.

- ✓ The shot will be brought to India through a supply agreement with homegrown vaccine maker Biological E Limited.
- ✓ The healthcare major got India's approval of its vaccine a day after it applied for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA).
- ✓ Johnson & Johnson vaccine is 66% effective in preventing cases of moderate to severe illness and 85% effective against severe cases of Covid-19, as per the studies
- ✓ It completely prevented hospitalizations and death four weeks after inoculation
- ✓ The vaccine also showed protection against the Delta variant and other emerging strains.

SUPPLY MAY START IN SEPT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With Johnson and Johnson's shot for 18+ getting approval, India now has 5 emergency use authorisation vaccines ➤ Supply remains uncertain as issues around indemnity against legal liabilities in case of severe adverse events are yet to be resolved ➤ Govt expects supplies to start from September if talks go through with the company ➤ Initial supplies could be 	<p>3-5 crore doses a month, according to a senior official</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ J&J will supply jabs through an agreement with Indian vaccine maker Biological E ➤ J&J says it is too early to indicate a timeline for supplies to start ➤ Other jabs approved so far as AstraZeneca (Covishield), Bharat Biotech (Covaxin), Russia's Gamaleya Institute (Sputnik V) & Moderna
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- ✓ In February 2021, the US FDA authorised Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use
- ✓ While Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V are currently available in India, the government expects Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D and Biological E's Corbevax to be approved soon.
- ✓ Apart from these, Gennova Pharma's vaccine candidate, Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine and Novavax and SII's Covovax are also in the pipeline.
- **On August 7, the Government – had announced that approximately 5 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled and more than 4 crore have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan Scheme till 2nd August, 2021**
- ✓ In Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani has said that over 2 crore women beneficiaries are registered in the scheme.
- ✓ Out of this, more than one crore women beneficiaries are certified under the scheme, which is 54% of the total certified beneficiaries under the Scheme
- ✓ The Minister added that the Government had a target of reaching six crore households by March next year.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on October 7, 2017



- ✓ It is a government initiative launched with an objective to impart digital literacy among the people residing in rural areas
 - ✓ Under the PMGDISHA scheme, people in the rural area will be trained to operate a computer, tablet, smartphones, etc.
 - ✓ They will be provided training on how to access the Internet, government services, undertake digital payment, compose e-mails, etc.
 - ✓ The marginalised sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), differently-abled will be covered exclusively under the scheme.
 - ✓ Illiterate people between the age group 14-60 years, nominated from every eligible rural household, are qualified to be included the scheme.
- **The Ministry of Ayush - is to conduct clinical trials of “Ashwagandha” in collaboration with UK’s London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).**
- ✓ As per the agreement signed between both the agencies, clinical trials would be conducted on 2,000 people in three UK cities namely Leicester, Birmingham and London.
 - ✓ This is the first time Ministry of Ayush has collaborated with foreign institution to check its efficacy on Covid-19 patients.
 - ✓ Ashwagandha, scientifically called as withania somnifera, boosts energy, reduces stress and makes immune system stronger
 - ✓ It is an easily accessible, over-the-counter nutritional supplement in United Kingdom.
- **The Government – has approved two more new strategic oil reserves of capacity 6.5 MMT recently**

- ✓ These two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities with a total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT underground storage were set up at Chandikhol (4 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) in July 2021, on PPP Mode
 - ✓ They were set up under the second phase of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) programme of the government implemented through its special purpose vehicle, the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL)
 - ✓ Under the first phase of the SPR programme, petroleum storage facilities were set up with a total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) Visakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), (ii) Mangaluru (1.5 MMT) and (iii) Padur (2.5 MMT)
 - ✓ In 1998, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed the creation of petroleum reserves as a long-term solution for managing the oil market.
- **India - has generated a total of 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste in 2020, which is an increase of 31.6% when compared to the previous year.**



- ✓ This was announced by Ashwini Kumar Choubey , Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change in the Rajya Sabha.
 - ✓ India has been maintaining the data regarding e-waste only from 2017-18 onwards, that too, only in the national level
 - ✓ The e-Waste (Management) Rules were first notified in 2016 and got amended from time to time.
 - ✓ So far, the Environment Ministry has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) as e-waste.
 - ✓ In 2017-18, India generated 7,08,445 tonnes of e-waste and 7,71,215 tonnes in 2018-19 – an increase of 8.86%.
 - ✓ At present, around 400 recyclers or dismantlers of e-waste are functioning in 20 States of the country.
- **The Union Government - has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics**
- ✓ It will be set up in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
 - ✓ Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur announced this in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

- ✓ In order to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX.
- ✓ For attracting foreign investment in the film industry, National Film Development Corporation organizes Film Bazaar at the International Film Festival of India held at Goa every year
- ✓ India has also audio-visual co-production treaties with 15 countries.
- **Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ) - has become the first Green SEZ in the country after receiving the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities**
- ✓ IGBC Platinum rating has been awarded for 'Green master planning, policy initiatives and implementation of green infrastructure' by CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)



- ✓ KASEZ is the oldest export zone in the country and consists of 3.5 lakh trees in 1000-odd acres, mostly planted using the Miyawaki forestation method.
- ✓ The SEZ's initiatives with solar energy and LED lighting were also among the factors that contributed to the IGBC rating.
- ✓ KASEZ has received a platinum rating after a series of audit and inspections conducted by the IGBC

INTERNATIONAL

- **Thailand - has banned sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral reefs from all of its marine national parks.**



- ✓ The sunscreen lotions used by tourists are harming delicate, slow-growing corals.
 - ✓ Following this, the Kingdom has announced a ban on lotions containing oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben from marine national parks.
 - ✓ These chemicals deteriorate coral reefs, destroy coral larvae, obstruct their reproductive system and cause coral reef bleaching, as per the studies
 - ✓ The Pacific island of Palau and the US state of Hawaii have already imposed similar bans.
 - ✓ Violators face a fine of up to 100,000 baht, as per the government
 - ✓ Corals are called as rainforests of the sea and comprise of less than 0.1% of world's ocean area
 - ✓ Great Barrier reefs of Australia is the largest reef in the World.
- **Myanmar military – has extended state of emergency in the nation for two more years till August 2023**
- ✓ Min Aung Hlaing, the general who took power in a coup in Myanmar in February, pledged to hold a "free and fair multi-party election" after two years
 - ✓ Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing named himself as the Prime Minister of the nation
 - ✓ The state of emergency was declared when troops toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in a coup on February 1
 - ✓ The military claimed her landslide victory in last year's national elections was achieved through massive voter fraud without any credible evidence.
 - ✓ The military government officially annulled the election results and appointed a new election commission to take charge of the polls.
 - ✓ ASEAN foreign ministers were expected to discuss Myanmar in virtual meetings this week hosted by Brunei, the current chair of the 10-nation bloc
- **Google's parent-company Alphabet – has announced the launch of a new company 'Intrinsic', which will focus on developing software for robots**
- ✓ Intrinsic will develop software tools to make industrial robots easier to use, cheaper and more flexible, so they can expand the reach of consumers using them
 - ✓ Intrinsic, the new robotic firm has been announced after years of work within "X", the subsidiary of Alphabet
 - ✓ 'X' mainly functions as an incubator for all entrepreneurial and innovative ideas.
 - ✓ Wing, Waymo, Google Watch and Google Glass are some other companies that came out of X

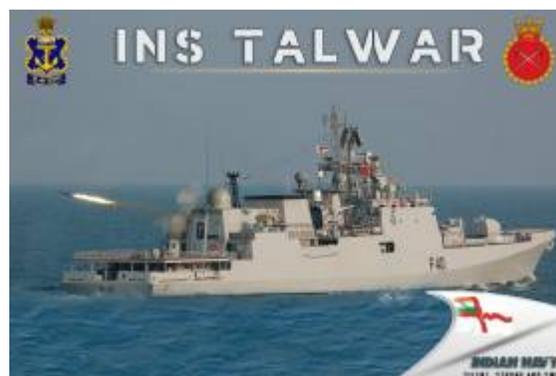
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India - will be launching Gisat-1, its most advanced geo-imaging satellite, on 12th August at 5:43 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.**

- ✓ Gisat-1 will allow better monitoring of the subcontinent, including its borders with Pakistan and China, by imaging the country 4-5 times a day.
- ✓ The launch of this satellite, which has civilian and strategic importance, has been postponed at least thrice this year due to the pandemic situation
- ✓ Isro's GSLV-F10 rocket will finally put the 2,268-kg Gisat-1, codenamed EOS-3, into the geo-orbit.
- ✓ This will be India's first launch of a primary satellite this year.
- ✓ Gisat-1 will be placed 36,000 km above the Earth in the geostationary orbit and will provide real-time information about the large areas of interest.
- ✓ The satellite will move in sync with the rotation of the Earth and hence would look stationary
- ✓ It will give real-time information about a large area unlike other remote sensing satellites placed in lower orbits that come to a spot only at regular intervals.
- ✓ EOS-3 will also enable quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic and short-term events.
- ✓ The satellite, capable of near real-time monitoring of floods and cyclones, will also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions and forest cover changes
- ✓ The satellite will have payload imaging sensors of six-band multispectral visible and near infra-red with 42 metres resolution, 158 bands hyperspectral visible and near infrared with 318-metre resolution and 256 bands hyper-spectral short wave infra-red with 191-metre resolution.
- ✓ A 4-metre diameter heat shield has been used in the rocket for the first time
- ✓ Radar imaging Risat-1A satellite that captures pictures during both day and night and even sees through the clouds will be launched after Gisat-1 in September this year

DEFENCE

- **INS Talwar – has recently participated in the annual maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2021' in Mombassa, Kenya**



- ✓ This naval exercise is being conducted from 26th July 2021 to 6th August 2021 along the Eastern Coast of Africa.

- ✓ The exercise is conducted to promote regional and national maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and East Africa.
- ✓ The 2021 edition involves the participation of 12 East African countries, India, UK and the US
- ✓ It includes international organisations such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), Interpol, EUCAP Somalia and Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO).
- ✓ The Indian Navy is participating in the exercise in a trainer role along with other partners
- ✓ The visit of INS Talwar is in line with India's policy towards vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

SPORTS

- **On August 7, Neeraj Chopra - won the men's javelin event with a best throw of 87.58 metres, claiming a historic first Olympic gold in athletics for India.**

THE PATH TO GOLD | Neeraj in big meets since 2016

2016	World Junior Championships	86.48 metres
2017	Asian Championships	85.23 (1st)
2017	World Athletics Championships	82.26 (QR)
2018	Commonwealth Games	86.47 (1st)
2018	Asian Games	88.06 (1st)
2021	Tokyo Olympics	87.58 (1st)

RAISING HIS GAME | Neeraj's best through the years

17 Aug, 2014	70.19 metres (Patiala)
31 Dec, 2015	81.04 (Patiala)
23 July, 2016	86.48 (Bydgoszcz) (World junior record)
2 June, 2017	85.63 (Patiala)
27 Aug, 2018	88.06 (Jakarta)
28 Jan, 2020	87.86 (Potchefstroom)
05 Mar, 2021	88.07 (Patiala)

- ✓ With this win, the 23-year old Chopra became the first Indian track and field and second Indian athlete to win an Olympic gold after Abhinav Bindra's heroics in Beijing 2008
- ✓ With the historic effort, Chopra also took India's medal haul to seven (1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze) in the ongoing Games - the country's highest ever, overtaking the tally of six medals won at the London Games in 2012.



- ✓ The Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch won silver with a best attempt of 86.67 metres and his compatriot Vitezslav Vesely claimed the bronze with 85.44 metres

KNOW BAJRANG

Born: February 26, 1994.

Home: Khudan Village, Haryana's Jhajjar.

Training Base: SAI's Sonapat centre.

World Ranked: 2.

Personal Coach: Shako Emzarios Bentinidis

National Coach: Jagminder Singh

Spouse: Sangeeta Phogat

- Picked wrestling as career option

at the age of seven

- Only Indian wrestler to win three World Championships medals
- First Indian to be invited to play a bout at the iconic Madison Square



Bajrang's family watches his bout

Garden Arena in New York

- Honoured with Arjuna award in 2015, Padma Shri and Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2019

ACHIEVEMENTS

- World Championship: **1 SILVER AND 2 BRONZE**
- Asian Championship: **2 GOLD, 3 SILVER, 2 BRONZE**
- Asian Games: **1 GOLD AND 1 SILVER**
- Commonwealth Games: **1 GOLD AND 1 SILVER**

- ✓ In 2018, Chopra bagged gold at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ Earlier, he won gold at both the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati and the 2017 Asian Athletics Championship in Bhubaneshwar.
- ✓ In the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaying, China, Neeraj also bagged the silver medal
- ✓ Neeraj is a Subedar in the Rajputana Rifles.
- ✓ Neeraj is the first javelin thrower to win gold at Olympics, Asiad (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018), and the only Asian to get an Olympic medal.
- ✓ Neeraj's ex-coach, Uwe Hohn, is the only man to throw a javelin above 100m.
- ✓ The javelin was redesigned after his "eternal world record" of 104.8m.
- **Ace wrestler Bajrang Punia - became the sixth wrestler to clinch a medal for India at the Olympics on August 7**
- ✓ The 27-year old Bajrang defeated Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan to win bronze medal in the men's 65kg category at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ✓ Bajrang's bronze is the 7th medal in wrestling at the Olympics for India.
- ✓ He is the second Indian to bag a medal in this Olympics after Ravi Kumar Dahiya.



- ✓ Former Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang dominated the bout from start to finish and won by 8-0 margin
- ✓ KD Jadhav was the first Indian wrestler to win an Olympic medal at the 1952 Helsinki Games
- ✓ He was followed by a bronze and silver by Sushil Kumar in the 2008 and 2012 Games in Beijing and Rio, respectively
- ✓ Sushil was the first Indian athlete to win 2 individual Olympic medals.
- ✓ Yogeshwar Dutt clinched the bronze in London after winning three bouts in a row in repechage.
- ✓ In 2016, Sakshi Malik became India's first female wrestler to bag a medal when she clinched the bronze in Rio Olympics
- ✓ Ravi Kumar Dahiya became the first Indian wrestler to clinch a medal at the ongoing Games
- ✓ Bajrang won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and then won silver at the 2019 World Championships

