

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 7, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- **President Droupadi Murmu - addressed the 165th convocation of the University of Madras held at Anna University on August 6**
- ✓ Gold medallists, PhD scholars, top-ranking graduates and best faculties received degrees from the chief guest Murmu.
- ✓ Former chief secretary K Shanmugam, VIT vice-president G V Selvam were among the prominent persons to receive the PhD from the President.
- ✓ The ceremony witnessed the conferral of more than one lakh degrees in absentia to deserving graduates.



- ✓ The President in her speech expressed happiness that 70% of gold medalists and more than 50% of the 1.85 lakh students currently studying at the university and affiliated colleges are girls and said that the university is a fine example of gender equality
- ✓ Speaking further about the role of the university, she took names of all the eminent scientists, politicians and scholars, including six Presidents - S

Radhakrishnan, VV Giri, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, R Venkataraman, KR Narayanan and APJ Abdul Kalam - who were once students of the university founded in 1857.

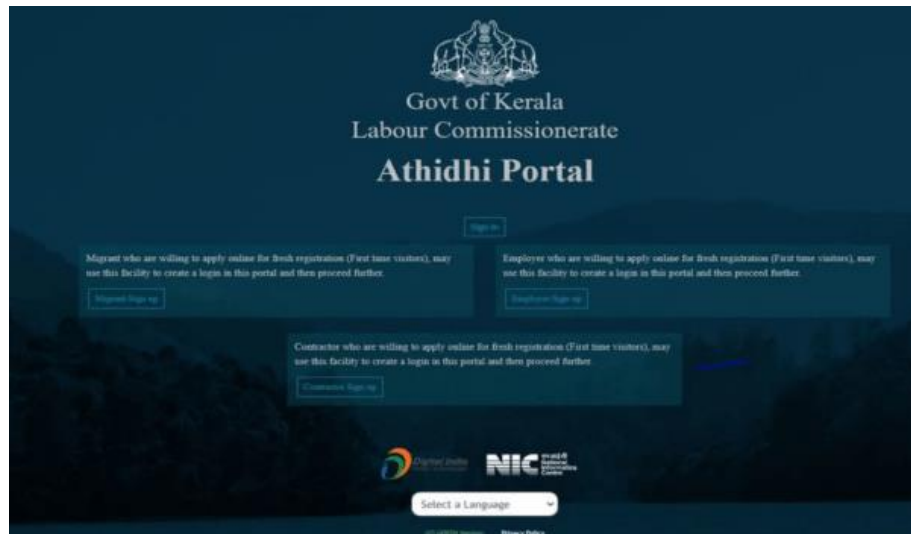
- ✓ The illustrious freedom fighter who also served as the country's first Indian Governor General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, iconic women personalities of the freedom movement Sarojini Naidu and Durgabai Deshmukh, Nobel laureates Sir C V Raman and S Chandrasekhar, former Chief Justices of India Justice M Patanjali Shastri and Justice K Subbarao all were once students of Madras University.
- ✓ She urged the institution to invest more in cutting-edge research, encourage interdisciplinary studies, and promote international collaborations.
- ✓ Subsequently, Chief Minister MK Stalin in his speech highlighted formulating the State's own education policy, in tune with the state's culture, history and goals for the future.
- ✓ Of the top 100 higher educational institutions in the country, 18 are in Tamil Nadu, he said
- ✓ The CM recalled that celebrated medical doctor Muthulakshmi Reddy and Dravidian stalwart Perarignar Anna (former Chief Minister CN Annadurai), alongwith himself, graduated from the varsity.
- ✓ The convocation ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin, TN Higher Education Minister Ponmudi, and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras, S. Gowri.
- ✓ Prior to her address at the convocation, President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with a guard of honour at the Raj Bhavan.
- ✓ Later, the President unveiled the portrait of the great poet and freedom fighter Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiyar at Raj Bhavan



- ✓ The president also unveiled a stone tablet, marking the renaming of Durbar hall of Raj Bhavan as 'Bharathiar Mandapam'.
- ✓ After unveiling the portrait, Murmu, governor R N Ravi and chief minister M K Stalin paid floral tributes to the poet.
- ✓ Bharathiar (1882 – 1921) is a revolutionary poet, celebrated for his poems on social reforms and women's right, and nationalism

# STATES

- **The Kerala government – to launch 'Athidhi portal' for registration of migrant workers on August 7**



- ✓ Athidhi is a user-friendly web portal which aims at streamlining the registration process for migrant workers in Kerala by introducing a unique identification system
  - ✓ The primary objective of the Athidhi portal is to fast-track the registration of 'guest workers' according to provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act of 1979.
  - ✓ The portal offers a comprehensive and inclusive solution, allowing contractors, employers, and individual workers to register easily.
  - ✓ Moreover, the portal will serve as a centralised platform to collect and manage information about workers, ensuring access to essential social security benefits.
- **On August 5, the Karnataka government - launched the Gruha Jyothi free power scheme in Kalaburagi city.**



- ✓ It is one of the five prominent guarantee schemes promised by the congress party during elections



- ✓ The scheme promises to provide up to 200 units of free power to households in the state.
- ✓ According to the Energy Minister KJ George, about 1.42 crore consumers are eligible for the scheme and will not pay power bills.
- ✓ The scheme was implemented on July 1.
- ✓ With the launch of 'Gruha Jyothi', the state government has implemented three of the five poll guarantees so far
  - ✓ The other two being, 'Shakti', by providing free services for women in public transport buses, and 'Anna Bhagya' scheme — by payment of cash against an additional 5 kg rice to beneficiaries.

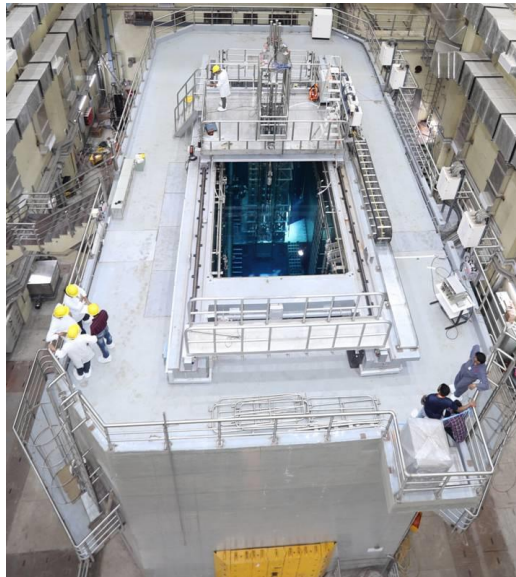
## NATIONAL

- **On August 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country via video conferencing**



- ✓ These 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories, including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana and 13 in Karnataka
- ✓ These stations -- which are covered under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme -- will be redeveloped at a cost of Rs 24,470 crore, entirely funded by the central government, in two years
- ✓ The redevelopment will provide modern amenities to passengers and also showcase the architecture, heritage, culture and iconic structure of the cities.

- ✓ It will improve the amenities at the railway stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift and escalators
  - ✓ Further, the scheme will provide free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.
  - ✓ The scheme was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations, mostly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, which will emerge as the 'City Centres' and hub of activities in the near future.
  - ✓ Launched in December 2022, the Amrit Bharat station scheme aims to prepare a master plan for railway stations and implement it in a phased manner to enhance facilities.
- **The Apsara reactor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay - is undergoing a transformation into a public museum.**



- ✓ The reactor was inaugurated 67 years ago at 3.45 PM on August 4, 1956, by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ The Apsara reactor marked the genesis of the nuclear era not only in India, but Asia as well
- ✓ Rechristened as Apsara U, the one-megawatt reactor played a vital role in diverse scientific disciplines including nuclear physics, medical applications, material science, and radiation shielding.
- ✓ In 2009, it was temporarily halted for a comprehensive refurbishment, later resuming its activities on September 10, 2018.
- ✓ Apsara U was decommissioned a few years later.
- ✓ A milestone in this evolution was unveiled recently, when memoirs of former Indian nuclear chief R Chidambaram were released, aptly titled 'India Rising: Memoirs of a Scientist'.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **National security adviser Ajit Doval – has arrived in Jeddah to participate in the peace talks being hosted by the Saudi Arabian government to end the war in Ukraine.**



- ✓ About 40 countries, including China, the US and the European countries, are participating in the meeting of top security officials.
  - ✓ Russia has not been invited for the meeting.
  - ✓ During the meeting, Doval reiterated India's support for the UN Charter and international law and called for upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
  - ✓ Several participating countries were reported to have supported Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's 10-point peace plan to end the conflict.
  - ✓ India had earlier participated in a similar exercise in Copenhagen, Denmark meant to peacefully resolve the conflict.
  - ✓ US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is also participating in the meeting
  - ✓ The meeting will look to reinforce dialogue and cooperation through deliberations at the international level to ensure a solution for the Ukraine crisis.
- **The construction of the Indian International Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre - has begun in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha.**





- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, had jointly laid a foundation stone during PM's Lumbini visit in the year 2022
- ✓ The heritage centre is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology and may be completed in one and a half years.
- ✓ The construction of the Rs 1.60 billion heritage building began after Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special Buddhist worship and recitation by Buddhist monks.

## MICRO MSME CLUSTERS IN TAMILNADU - REPORT

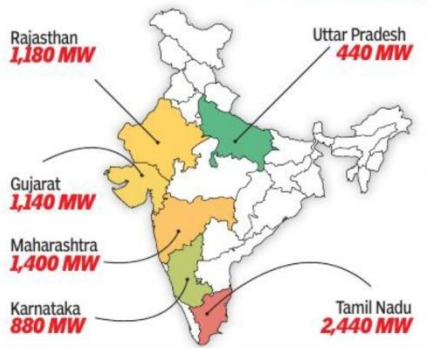
MICRO CLUSTERS IN TAMIL NADU WITH PROJECT COST HIGHER THAN ₹4 CR		
	District	Cost (₹ crore)
Nellai cookware cluster	Tirunelveli	6.04
Thammampatty wood carving cluster	Salem	4.10
Bhavani Jamakkalam cluster	Erode	6.93
MODERN MULTIPRINTING CLUSTER		
Modern photography cluster	Chengalpet	6.29
Ramanathapuram jewellery cluster	Ramanathapuram	6.7
Turmeric processing cluster	Erode	7.39
Salt cluster	Tuticorin	4.26
Pollachi coir cluster	Coimbatore	8.8
Udumalpet Coir cluster	Tirupur	6.91
Vilachery toys cluster	Madurai	4.02
Offset printing cluster	Madurai	6.5
Women multifoed products cluster	Kanyakumari	6.6
Aluminium diecasting cluster	Coimbatore	5.7
Agarbatti cluster	Tirupattur	7.4
Coir cluster	Thanjavur	7.29
Paperboard cluster	Karur	7.03
Salem micro nutrient cluster	Salem	7.13
Food processing cluster	Namakkal	8.2

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu

## STATES WITH HIGH INSTALLED NUCLEAR POWER CAPACITY - REPORT

- **Tamil Nadu - has the highest installed nuclear power capacity in the country.**
- ✓ The state has 2,440 MW of installed nuclear power capacity and accounts for nearly 33% of the total installed nuclear power capacity in India, which is 7,480 MW, spread over six states
- ✓ The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 2.8% in the year 2022-23
- ✓ These details are furnished by Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh in Rajya Sabha recently.

**THE FOLLOWING IS THE INSTALLED NUCLEAR  
POWER CAPACITY IN DIFFERENT STATES**



SOURCE: Vestian Research

APPLO  
STUDY CENTRE