EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST 10,2023

TAMIL NADU

➢ **Archaeological Survey of India – has discovered a rare finding in the Vadakkupattu archaeological site, near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district**

✓ A potsherd with a Tamil Brahmi script, 'Mththi', in three letters, was found in the excavations conducted in the site

✓ The ASI has taken up excavations in the Vadakkupattu site for the second consecutive year

✓ According to ASI, 42 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi scripts on them had been discovered in Tamil Nadu so far from the various archaeological excavation sites.

✓ While most of them pertained to southern Tamil Nadu, finding potsherds with scripts was rare in northern Tamil Nadu.

✓ The ongoing second phase of the excavation in Vadakkupattu has been carried out by the ASI from May 19 this year and so far, six trenches have been dug.

✓ About 800 artefacts, including glass beads, glass bangles, terracotta figurines, have been discovered at the site so far.

✓ The potsherds with scripts on them had been discovered only in Kancheepuram and Pattaraiperumpudur till date.

✓ Tamil Brahmi was used to write Tamil from the 3rd century BCE to the first century BCE.

➢ **The state archaeological department – has discovered a fragmented terracotta snake figurine and a crystal stone at Keeladi in Sivaganga district**

✓ These artefacts were found during the ninth phase of excavation carried out at Keeladi
✓ The fragmented snake head was unearthed from a depth of 90cm, while the crystal stone was found at a depth of 175 cm
✓ The eyes and mouth of the snake are intricately carved.
✓ The quartz crystal stone, polished and glittering, is spherical in shape with the top and base sliced off to create a flat surface, like that of a weighing stone
✓ It is smooth and transparent in nature and measures 2cm in diameter and 1.5cm in height besides weighing 8g.
✓ This is the first such find since the start of the Keeladi excavations in 2014.

NATIONAL

➢ **Apex auditor, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India – has tabled its audit report on the performance of AB-PMJAY in Parliament on August 8**
✓ The CAG findings were based on PMJAY's performance from September 2018 to March 2021.
✓ The CAG's Performance Audit Report raised concerns over the quality of data available in the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS) under the central government's flagship free healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
  ✓ The BIS is the key IT module that helps verify beneficiaries from the database and create beneficiary registries
✓ The report noted registration of multiple beneficiaries against the same or invalid mobile number in the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS).
✓ The audit report points out that over 7.49 lakh beneficiaries were registered against one (invalid) mobile number 9999999999, while another 1.39 lakh persons had '8888888888' as their mobile number and 96,046 others are linked to the number 9000000000..
✓ The report also revealed that in 43,197 households, the size of the family was mentioned unrealistic, ranging from 11 to 201 members.
✓ Similarly, it was found that PMJAY ID was not unique in 1,57,176 cases.

- ✓ Other errors included invalid or blank entries in the fields for name, year of birth and gender of beneficiary

REGISTRATION OF BENEFICIARIES AGAINST SAME OR INVALID MOBILE NUMBERS

Number of mobile numbers in system	Mobile number	Number of people registered against them
3		9,85,166
	9999999999	7,49,820
	8888888888	1,39,300
	9000000000	96,046
20		10001 to 50,000
1435		1001 to 10,000
185397		11 to 1,000

Source: CAG report

- ✓ In six states and Union territories, ineligible households were found registered as PMJAY beneficiaries and had availed the benefits of the health scheme.
  - ✓ The expenditure on these ineligible beneficiaries ranged from Rs.0.12 lakh in Chandigarh to Rs.22.44 crore in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ As of November 2022, Bihar had 1.8 hospitals per lakh such patients – the lowest in India
  - ✓ The other states with low coverage include Uttar Pradesh (5), Maharashtra (3), Madhya Pradesh (2.7), Rajasthan (3.8), Jharkhand (6) and Assam (3.4).
  - ✓ Some of the better performing states on the other hand are Goa (26.8), Himachal Pradesh (23.7) and Karnataka (21.5).
- ✓ AB-PMJAY aims to provide health cover of Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to the poor and vulnerable section of the population
  - ✓ The central government's flagship public insurance scheme was launched on September 23, 2018, to achieve universal health coverage, as recommended in the National Health Policy of 2017.
  - ✓ As of November 2022, 7.87 crore beneficiary households were registered, constituting 73% of the targeted households of 10.74 crore families
  - ✓ Besides, as many as 26,209 hospitals – 11,930 private and 14,279 public – have been empanelled under the scheme.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ➢ **Russia - is set to launch its first lunar landing mission on August 11 after nearly five decades.**
- ✓ Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft will be lifted off using a Soyuz-2 Fregat booster from the Vostochny cosmodrome

- ✓ The Russian probe is set to touch down the south pole region of the Moon around the same time as of Chandrayaan-3, on August 23.

- ✓ Luna-25 will take five days to fly to the Moon and then spend 5-7 days in the lunar orbit before descending on one of three possible landing sites
- ✓ According to Russian space agency Roscosmos, there will be no interference between the two landing missions as they have different landing areas planned.
- ✓ In comparison to the 1,752kg Chandrayaan-3 lander, the Russian lander weighs 800kg.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover will run their experiments for 14 Earth days while Luna-25 will work on the Moon for a year.
- ✓ Luna-25 will use a scoop to take rock samples from a depth of up to 15cm to test for the presence of frozen water.
- ✓ The Luna 25 mission aims to study the composition of the lunar polar regolith (surface material) and the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere
- ✓ Luna 25 carries eight science instruments, including gamma-ray and neutron spectrometers, infrared spectrometers, mass spectrometers, and imaging systems.
- ✓ Originally scheduled for October 2021, the launch of Luna-25 was delayed by almost two years

DEFENCE

- ➤ **India's Defence Ministry - will install an indigenously developed operating system called Maya OS, replacing Microsoft's Windows, on all its computers by the end of this year.**
- ✓ Maya OS is a new operating system developed by the Union Ministry of Defence to protect its computer systems from cyberattacks.
- ✓ It is based on the open-source Ubuntu platform, which means it uses free and publicly available software.

- ✓ Maya OS also comes with a feature called Chakravyuh, which is an end-point anti-malware and antivirus software that creates a virtual layer between the user and the internet, preventing hackers from accessing sensitive data.

- ✓ The development of Maya OS started in 2021 after India faced several cyberattacks from foreign actors that targeted its critical infrastructure and defence systems.
- ✓ The Defence Ministry has developed Maya OS with the help of various government agencies, including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), and the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ✓ Ubuntu is a popular operating system that is based on Linux, which is free and open-source that anyone can use and modify.
- ✓ Maya OS is named after the ancient Indian concept of illusion, which refers to the deceptive appearance of reality.
  - ✓ The name reflects the idea that hackers will be faced with maya or illusion when they try to hack into Defence Ministry computer systems.
- ✓ Maya OS also draws inspiration from the ancient Indian art of warfare, as it uses a feature called Chakravyuh, which is a multi-layered defensive formation that was used in the epic Mahabharata.
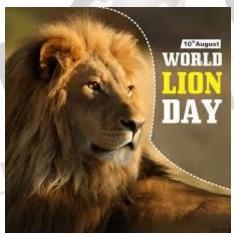
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➢ **World Biofuel Day – August 10**

- ✓ World Biofuel Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of non-conventional fossil fuels as a replacement for conventional fossil fuels
- ✓ Bio-fuels are produced from animal waste, algae, crops, trees and industrial and agricultural waste.
- ✓ They emit low carbon monoxide and toxic emissions compared with conventional fossil fuels.
- ✓ The day is celebrated on August 10 in memory of Sir Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine
- ✓ On August 10, 1893, Sir Rudolf Diesel for the first time operated a mechanical engine with peanut oil and predicted the chances of vegetable oil being replaced by fossil fuels.
- ✓ In India, The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been celebrating World Biofuel Day since 2015
- ✓ The National Policy of Biofuels in 2018 additionally highlights a target of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030

➢ **World Lion Day – August 10**

- ✓ World Lion Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness of the sharp decline in lion populations due to threats ranging from habitat loss to illegal hunting.
- ✓ The day was established in 2013 by environmentalists Dereck and Beverly Joubert
- ✓ These conservation enthusiasts collaborated with National Geographic and initiated the Big Cat Initiative (BCI) in 2009 to safeguard and preserve the world's remaining lion species.
- ✓ Gujarat is the only place outside of Africa where it is possible to witness lions in their natural habitat.
- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has designated the Asiatic Lion as an endangered species because of its limited population and constrained habitat.
- ✓ The history of World Lion Day can be traced back to the decline of lion populations by approximately 80% in the past century.

- ✓ The Asiatic Lion, sometimes known as the Persian or Indian Lion, was once common throughout parts of Asia.
- ✓ Gujarat is now the sole remaining habitat for Asiatic Lions.

ICC WORLD CUP 2023 – THE SCHEDULE

ICC WORLD CUP 2023
THE REVISED SCHEDULE

Total venues | 10
Match days | 42
Total number of matches | 48

AHMEDABAD
5 October | England vs New Zealand
14 October | India vs Pakistan
4 November | England vs Australia
10 November | South Africa vs Afghanistan
19 November | Final

HYDERABAD
6 October | Pakistan vs Q1 (The Netherlands)
9 October | New Zealand vs Q1 (The Netherlands)
10 October | Pakistan vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)

DHARAMSALA
7 October | Bangladesh vs Afghanistan (Day Game)
10 October | England vs Bangladesh (Day Game)
17 October | South Africa vs Q1 (The Netherlands)
22 October | India vs New Zealand
28 October | Australia vs New Zealand

DELHI
7 October | South Africa vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
11 October | India vs Afghanistan
15 October | England vs Afghanistan
25 October | Australia vs Q1 (The Netherlands)
6 November | Bangladesh vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)

CHENNAI
8 October | India vs Australia
13 October | New Zealand vs Bangladesh
18 October | New Zealand vs Afghanistan
23 October | Pakistan vs Afghanistan
27 October | Pakistan vs SA

PUNE
19 October | India vs Bangladesh
30 October | Afghanistan vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
1 November | New Zealand vs South Africa
8 November | England vs Q1 (The Netherlands)
11 November | Australia vs Bangladesh (Day Game)

BENGALURU
20 October | Australia vs Pakistan
26 October | England vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
4 November | New Zealand vs Pakistan (Day Game)
9 November | New Zealand vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
12 November | India vs Q1 (The Netherlands)

MUMBAI
21 October | England vs South Africa
24 October | South Africa vs Bangladesh
2 November | India vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
7 November | Australia vs Afghanistan
15 November | Semifinal 1

LUCKNOW
12 October | Australia vs South Africa
16 October | Australia vs Q2 (Sri Lanka)
21 October | Q1 (The Netherlands) vs Q2 (Sri Lanka) (Day Game)
29 October | India vs England
3 November | Q1 (The Netherlands) vs Afghanistan

KOLKATA
28 October | Q1 (The Netherlands) vs Bangladesh
31 October | Pakistan vs Bangladesh
5 November | India vs South Africa
11 November | England vs Pakistan
16 November | Semifinal 2

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE FROM AUGUST 25. FANS CAN REGISTER THEIR INTEREST VIA HTTPS://WWW.CRICKET-WORLDCUP.COM/REGISTER FROM AUGUST 15

IF PAKISTAN QUALIFY FOR THE SEMIS, THEY WILL PLAY IN KOLKATA

IF INDIA QUALIFY FOR THE SEMIFINALS, THEY WILL PLAY IN MUMBAI UNLESS PLAYING AGAINST PAKISTAN, IN WHICH CASE THEY WILL PLAY IN KOLKATA