

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 13,2023

TAMIL NADU

- On August 12, Chief Minister M K Stalin - honoured six village panchayats with model village awards for best sanitation practices in Tamil Nadu.



- ✓ The award carried a shield and Rs.15 lakh prize money.
- ✓ During the event, the CM presented the shield to three villages, Kuloor village panchayat in Modakurichi union in Erode district, N Panchampatti in Aathur union in Dindigul district and Nattathi village in Thiruvaikundam union in Tuticorin district, for the year 2021-2022.
- ✓ For the year 2022-2023, the CM gave away the shield to Nayakkanpalayam village in Pollachi (south) union in Coimbatore, Melmaruvathur village in Chithamur union in Chengalpat and Ariyanendhal village in Paramakudi union in Ramanathapuram district.
- ✓ The awards were received by the presidents of the village panchayats at the function organised by the rural development and panchayat raj department.
- ✓ Minister for rural development I Periyasamy, chief secretary Shiv Das Meena and other officials took part.

- **CM M K Stalin - has announced that the proposed 5,000-seater international convention centre will be set up on East Coast Road, Chennai**
- ✓ According to the CM, the proposed Kalaingar Convention Centre will be a world class facility that can host large format concerts, performances, events, exhibitions and conventions.
- ✓ In June, CM Stalin had announced that a convention centre was being planned in the Chennai city on 25 acres, as the existing one at Nandambakkam was found to be inadequate for future needs.
- **On August 12, chief minister M K Stalin - announced a one-member committee of retired high court judge K Chandru to suggest ways to prevent caste and ethnic divisions among school and college students**
- ✓ According to the CM, the prevalence of caste and ethnic sentiments among youth was unsuitable for the state's future.



- ✓ The Chandru committee would seek the views of academicians, students, parents, social activists and the media among others and would then submit a report to the government.
- ✓ The development comes days after the 17-year-old boy and his teenage sister belonging to Scheduled Caste were brutally assaulted by three teenage schoolmates from an intermediate caste inside their home.
- ✓ Minister of School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi will bear the complete medical and educational expenses of the Dalit victims, 17-year-old Chinnadurai and his 13-year-old sister Chandraselvi, who were attacked violently by students belonging to the Maravar community.
- ✓ Children of daily wage labourers, M Chinnadurai and M Chandraselvi are studying at a government-aided school in Valliyoor in Tirunelveli district
- **Eight major water bodies across Chennai – are planned for restoration in order to improve their catchment and for flood mitigation.**
- ✓ These include Manali Eri, Sathangadu Lake, Madhavaram Eri, and Sadayan Kuppam lake in North Chennai, and smaller water bodies in South Chennai.

- ✓ All these water bodies are plagued by encroachments, sewage menace and washing activities.

LAKE	SIZE (acres)	COST (₹/crores)
Sathangadu	77	15
Manali Eri	11	13
Sadayan Kuppam	140	16
Madhavaram	139	17
Anna Nedunsalai	39	5
Vanna Keni Kulam	5	2
Perumal Kovil Kulam	3	2
Valveti Thangal Eri	71	4

- ✓ The project covers around 484 acres at a cost of Rs.73 crore under the Union government's national disaster mitigation fund.
 - ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation will be marking bunds, setting up walking tracks, greenery and boating in these lakes.
 - ✓ The corporation has also planned an eco-park in Sathangadu Lake besides increasing water holding capacity of the lake by 1 million cubic meters.
- **The second edition of the Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival (TNIKF) - commenced on August 12 at the TTDC Ocean View, Mahabalipuram near Chennai**



- ✓ The two-day festival is organised by Global Media Box in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The theme for this year's event is 'Save Marine Life, Save Mother Earth'.
- ✓ International kite teams, with over 200 kites, from eight countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, France, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and India are participating in the festival.
- ✓ The kites conform to the theme and have aquatic and sea creatures colourfully decorated.

NATIONAL

- **On August 12, PM Narendra Modi - laid the foundation stone for the construction of a temple-cum-memorial for social reformer and mystic poet Sant Ravidas at Badtuma village of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh**



- ✓ During the event, PM Modi said the soil of more than 20000 villages and 300 rivers will be used for the memorial and the temple will be completed in one and a half years
 - ✓ Born in the present-day Varanasi, Sant Ravidas was one of the prominent figures of the Bhakti Movement
 - ✓ He highlighted the struggles of Dalits and championed the causes of the oppressed using poetry and spirituality.
 - ✓ The Saint Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial will be constructed at a cost of over Rs.100 crore in Badtuma village.
 - ✓ The temple will be built in Nagar style in 10,000 square feet and a museum will also be built to display the work and personality of Sant Ravidas.
 - ✓ Four galleries, a library, Sangat Hall, Jal Kund and a Bhakt Niwas will also be part of the memorial.
 - ✓ Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, among others, were also present on the occasion.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a day-long state visit to poll-bound Madhya Pradesh
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- **The Centre - has invited nearly 1,800 special guests from different fields to take part in the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort on August 15**
 - ✓ They have been invited as part of the government's initiative to invite people from all walks of life.
 - ✓ According to an official release, around 1,800 people from different vocations, with their spouse, have been invited from across the country to be a part of the celebrations at Red Fort as 'Special Guests'
 - ✓ The initiative has been taken in line with the Government's vision of 'Jan Bhagidari'.

- ✓ The special guests include Sarpanches, teachers, nurses, fishermen, Khadi workers, and construction workers of Central Vista among others.
 - ✓ According to the government, the 'special guests' invitees include 400 Sarpanches of 660 vibrant villages, 250 representatives from the Farmer Producer Organisations scheme, 50 beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Shram Yogis (construction workers) of the Central Vista Project, 50 Khadi workers, those involved in construction of border roads, making of Amrit Sarovar and Har Ghar Jal Yojana as well as 50 primary school teachers, nurses, and fishermen.
 - ✓ Some of the invitees will also visit the National War Memorial and call on MoS Defence Ajay Bhatt as part of their stay in Delhi.
 - ✓ Apart from them, an invitation has also been sent to 75 couples from each State/Union Territory, in their traditional attire, to witness the ceremony at Red Fort.
 - ✓ In a boost to Prime Minister Modi's idea of a digital India, all official invites have been sent online as e-invitation cards, through aamantran portal (www.aamantran.mod.gov.in).
 - ✓ As part of the celebrations, an online selfie contest will be conducted by Ministry of Defence on MyGov portal from August 15-20.
 - ✓ PM Modi will unfurl the National Flag and deliver the customary address to the nation from the ramparts of the historic monument on August 15
 - ✓ The unfurling of the national flag will be synchronised with the 21-Gun Salute by the valiant gunners of the elite 8,711 Field Battery (Ceremonial)
 - ✓ The National Flag Guard comprising five officers and 128 other ranks from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police will present 'Rashtriya Salute' at the time of unfurling of the national flag by the prime minister
 - ✓ Soon after the unfurling of the national flag, flower petals will be showered at the venue by two Advanced Light Helicopters Mark-III Dhruv of the Indian Air Force in the Line Astern Formation
 - ✓ This year's Independence Day will culminate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, which PM Modi launched from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on March 12, 2021
- **Seven new laws passed by Parliament this week - came into force on August 12 after they received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu.**
- ✓ The legislations that become operational are –
 - ✓ The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023
 - ✓ The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - ✓ The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
 - ✓ The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - ✓ The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2023
 - ✓ The National Dental Commission Act, 2023 and

- ✓ The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023.

- **The Ministry of Railways - will establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at select railway stations across the country.**



- ✓ The initiative aims to make available quality medicines to all at an affordable price.
- ✓ The Ministry has identified the list of fifty stations for the pilot project.
- ✓ According to the Railways, this will enable passengers and visitors at railway stations to easily access Janaushadhi products.
- ✓ It will also create employment opportunities and generate avenues for entrepreneurs for opening Janaushadhi Kendras.
- ✓ These Kendra's will be set up and operated by Licensees at locations identified by Railway Divisions.
- ✓ These stalls will be designed by National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

COMMITTEES

- **NCERT - has notified two committees to design and develop school syllabus and new textbooks under the National Education Policy 2020.**
- ✓ The core group tasked with designing new school textbooks under the NEP has members coming from several fields — philanthropy, sports, music, corporate world, bureaucracy, school and higher education, and policymaking.
- ✓ The 19-member National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), chaired by NIEPA chancellor MC Pant, has been entrusted with the task of developing school syllabus, textbooks and learning materials for Classes III-XII.
- ✓ Sudha Murty, chairperson, Infosys Foundation, Bibek Debroy, chairman of the economic advisory council to the prime minister, Shankar Mahadevan, music maestro, U Vimal Kumar, former Indian badminton player, Sujatha Ramdorai, professor at Canada's University of British Columbia, and Surina Rajan (retired IAS), former director general, Haryana Institute of Public Administration are named members of NSTC.



- ✓ The committee will be supported by the National Curriculum Frameworks Oversight Committee (NOC), whose members include professor Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University, Anurag Behar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, and Indian billionaire business magnate Sridhar Vembu.
- ✓ The National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of K Kasturirangan had on July 28 this year handed over the national curriculum framework (NCF) for school education to education minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ✓ The committee has been empowered with the task to develop the school syllabus, textbooks, and teaching learning materials for Classes III-XII and to appropriately revise the existing textbooks of Classes I and II to ensure smooth transition from Classes II to III).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Navigation with Indian Constellation or (NavIC) - will soon be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices, according to Department of Space**
- ✓ Currently the Aadhaar enrolment kits that are used to collect and verify personal details are linked to GPS.
- ✓ NavIC consists of seven satellites and India's version of the American GPS (global positioning system)
 - ✓ NavIC offers two services - Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users.
 - ✓ These two services are provided in both L5 (1176.45 MHz) and S band (2498.028 MHz).
 - ✓ NavIC coverage area includes India and a region up to 1,500 km beyond the Indian boundary.
 - ✓ Newer satellites will have an additional band called L1 that will be compatible with civilian use.
- ✓ The Centre has been pushing cell phone makers in India to make their instruments compatible with NavIC, a process that will involve hardware alterations.
- ✓ The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) was already utilising NavIC as an alert dissemination system for major natural disasters like landslips, earthquakes, floods, and avalanches.

- ✓ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS) relies on it to broadcast cyclones, high waves, and tsunamis alert messages to fishermen venturing into the deep sea.
- ✓ Some of the bodies that set interoperability standards, actively working on NavIC standards includes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Telecom Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) and International Standards Organisation (ISO).

DEFENCE

- **The multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 - began on August 11 at Sydney in Australia.**



- ✓ It will witness the participation of the Quad navies (India, Australia, Japan, USA) in the multinational mega drill.
- ✓ Indian Navy's indigenous frontline warships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata will participate in the 11-day event.
- ✓ Ships and aircraft from the US Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force and the Royal Australian Navy will also participate in the exercise.
- ✓ Malabar 2023 is scheduled to be conducted in two phases – the Harbour phase and sea phase
 - ✓ The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures, and several interactions for the planning and conduct of the Sea Phase.
 - ✓ The Sea Phase will include various complex and high intensity exercises in all three domains of warfare, encompassing anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine exercises, including live weapon firing drills.
- ✓ The Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and US Navy and currently includes four navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.

- ✓ The 2020 edition witnessed the maiden participation of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
 - ✓ The exercise provides an opportunity to the Indian Navy to enhance and demonstrate interoperability and also gain from the best practices in maritime security operations from its partner nations.
 - ✓ According to the Indian Navy, INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multi-role stealth frigates
 - ✓ INS Kolkata is the first ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-15A class destroyers.
 - ✓ Both the ships have been built at Mazagon Dock Limited and are fitted with a state-of-the-art array of weapons and sensors to detect and neutralise threats in surface, air and underwater domains
- **The navies of India and the United Arab Emirates - carried out a military exercise as part of efforts to boost maritime security cooperation.**



- ✓ Indian naval ships INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand were part of the exercise.
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam is one of the largest operational destroyers in the Indian Navy and is a completely indigenous warship made by the Mazagon Docks Limited.
- ✓ INS Trikand is an advanced stealth frigate commissioned in 2013.

AWARDS

- **Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya – has been named the winner of Swedish rights prize, the Anna Lindh Prize, for her "tireless" fight for democracy**
- ✓ The award, worth 100,000 Swedish kronor (\$9,400), has been conferred in memory of Sweden's assassinated foreign minister Anna Lindh.
 - ✓ The Anna Lindh Prize is given "to encourage primarily women and youth who show the courage to work against indifference, prejudice, oppression and injustice", according to the Anna Lindh Memorial Fund that awards the honour.



- ✓ Tikhanovskaya, who claimed victory against Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko in 2020 presidential elections, has been in exile since the aftermath of the disputed vote, and lives in Lithuania.
- ✓ Belarus is an authoritarian state in which opposition voices and independent media have been silenced during Lukashenko's nearly three decades in power.
- ✓ Anna Lindh was murdered on September 11, 2003 by a mentally ill young Swedish man, Mijailo Mijailovic, who was of Serbian origin.
- ✓ The prize will be officially awarded to Tikhanovskaya on September 11 in a ceremony in Stockholm marking the 20th anniversary of Lindh's death.

SPORTS

- **On August 12, the Indian hockey team - defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.**
- ✓ With this win, India clinched the title for a record 4th time.



- ✓ With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament, followed by Pakistan with three titles.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government announced a cash award of Rs.5 lakh for each member of the Indian team.
- ✓ Hockey India announced a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh for players and Rs 1.50 lakh for each support staff.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the Indian men's hockey team on its spectacular win in the Asian Championship.
- ✓ Indian team captain, Harmanpreet Singh emerged as top scorer in the tournament with 8 goals
- ✓ Earlier, reigning Asian Games champion Japan defeated defending champion Korea 5-3 to clinch bronze in a repeat of the 2021 final.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Organ Donation Day – August 13



- ✓ The Day is observed annually to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to adopt the practice of organ donation.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- ✓ India celebrates the National Donation Day on November 27
- ✓ An individual's contribution after death can save up to 8 lives, including donating heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver, intestines, hands, face, tissues, bone marrow, and stem cells
- ✓ Individuals can register themselves for organ donation once they reach the age of 18 years.
- ✓ The first donor in the world was Ronald Lee Herrick, who donated a kidney to his twin brother in 1954 in the US
- ✓ In the year 1990, Noble prize was given to Dr. Joseph Murray in the field of physiology and medicine for his contribution to the first ever organ transplantation.
- ✓ In India, the organs can be pledged for donation to the nodal body, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), an organisation under the union health ministry.
- ✓ The organisation is headquartered at the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.
- ✓ According to the World Health Organization, only around 0.01% of people in India donate their organs after death.
- ✓ India has enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act to regulate organ donation in the country