

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 15,2023

### TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - has awarded Teynampet for being the best performing Greater Chennai Corporation zone among the 15 zones.
- ✓ It will receive Rs.30 lakh as award followed by Rs.20 lakh for Royapuram zone which came second.
- ✓ The government used various criteria to award the zones such as clean roads, proper waste management, speedy work progress, lack of potholes, jobs generated among other civic and social aspects.
- ✓ The inspections and meetings would involve multi-department officials so that all sorts of grievances could be addressed.
- ✓ All the zones were rated on a point-based system of 800 marks.

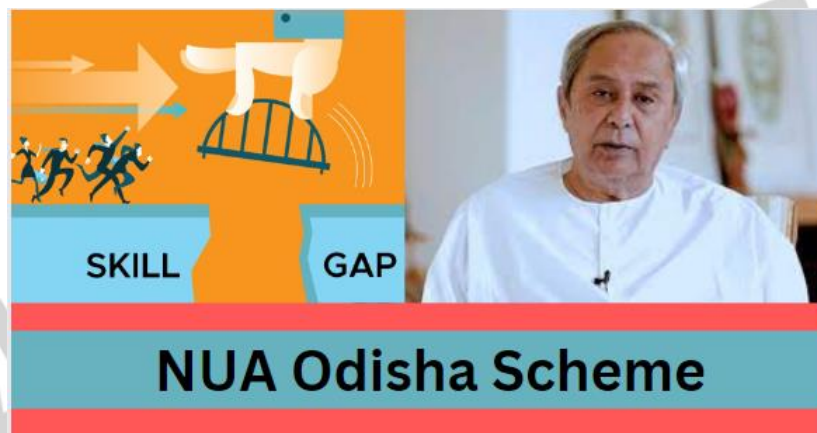
### STATES

- Goa - will become the first State in the country to provide In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment facility free of cost from September 1 this year.



- ✓ This facility will be operational in the super-specialty block of Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, for childless couples.

- ✓ On August 14, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)/In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Centre.
  - ✓ The government will pay on an average Rs 5 to Rs 7 lakh for the IVF treatment.
  - ✓ It aims to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to procure equipment and strengthen operations of the initiative
  - ✓ Depending on the hospital and the kind of IVF treatment, the cost of IVF in India comes between Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle.
  - ✓ The country presently sees between 250,000 to 300,000 IVF treatments each year.
- **The Odisha state cabinet - gave its nod to Nutana Unnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha scheme with an outlay of Rs 385 crore to skill 1,00,000 youths every year in the state during the next three years.**



- ✓ The Odisha government approved 19 key proposals during the state cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently on August 11
  - ✓ The scheme, to be implemented in all 30 districts, will provide skilling, re-skilling and upskilling opportunities through skilling institutions of skill development and technical education department (ITI, polytechnic), government skilling and educational institutions and MSME, agriculture and craft clusters.
  - ✓ The scheme will offer fresh skilling for youths, add-on courses for existing students, digital and e-courses for youths in higher educational institutions and employability in various institutions.
  - ✓ The Cabinet also gave its nod to the scheme to open 'CSP Plus' banking outlets in tie-up with six public sector banks of India in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats of the state with a budgetary support of around Rs 500 crore.
- **Karnataka - will scrap the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) from the next academic year**
- ✓ This was announced by chief minister Siddaramaiah on August 14.



- ✓ During the recent budget session of the state legislature, the CM had said that it will be replaced by a state education policy (SEP).
- ✓ Karnataka became the first to adopt NEP in higher education, in August 2021.
- ✓ The NEP was launched by the Union government on July 29, 2020 with an aim to transform the country's education system
- ✓ The NEP replaced an education policy that was in place since 1986, and recommended a major overhaul in India's education system at all levels from school to higher education.

## NATIONAL

- **President Droupadi Murmu - will launch Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A frigate, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, on August 17**



- ✓ Named after a mountain range in Karnataka, Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A frigates.
- ✓ Under the Project 17A programme, four ships by Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) are under construction
- ✓ The project's first five ships - INS Nilgiri, Himgiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, and Taragiri - have been launched between 2019 & 2022 and this is the last of the three ships being built by GRSE

- ✓ The successor warships of Project 17A have improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors, and platform management systems.
- ✓ Project 17A ships, based on the Shivalik class, have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, the pioneer organisation for all warship design activities.
- ✓ 'Vindhyagiri' is a technologically advanced Frigate and pays a fitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS Vindhyagiri, the Leander Class ASW Frigate.
  - ✓ The old Vindhyagiri in its nearly 31 years of service from July 8, 1981 to June 11, 2012 and had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises.
  - ✓ In January 2011, one of Indian Navy's front-line warships, the Nilgiri-class frigate INS Vindhyagiri, collided in Mumbai harbour with a German merchant and sank after a fire on-board.
  
- **Fourteen States and Union Territories, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal - have not yet signed a crucial MoU with the Union Education Ministry on PM-USHA scheme**
  - ✓ This MoU is necessary for the implementation of the National Education Policy and to receive funds of nearly Rs.13,000 crore over the next three years through the Centre's flagship scheme 'PM-USHA' for State-run higher education.
  - ✓ Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) is the new name for the Ministry's scheme to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities
  - ✓ It provides an outlay of Rs.12,926.10 crore between 2023-24 and 2025-26.
  - ✓ The MoU is being signed to show the willingness of States and UTs to participate in the PM-USHA scheme and it will help in the better implementation of the scheme
  - ✓ As per the terms of the MoU, 40% of the PM-USHA budget must be borne by the States themselves, and no extra funds have been earmarked for NEP reforms
  - ✓ As on date, 22 States/UTs have signed the MoUs
  - ✓ The PM-USHA carries forward the vision of the earlier Rashtriya Uchstar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), to improve the access, equity and quality of higher education in States.
  
- **The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) - launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village in Kochi, Kerala.**
  - ✓ The program shall be implemented by Digital University Kerala with joint funding from MeitY, Government of India and Government of Kerala along with Industry partners
  - ✓ Carborundum Pvt Limited has joined the initiative as one of the main industry partners.

- ✓ Under the program, a graphene-manufacturing unit of excellence will shortly open at Maker Village in Kalamassery as a Rs 94.85-crore joint venture of the Central and Kerala governments.
- ✓ Maker Village is the country's largest electronic hardware incubator and ESDM (Electronics System Design & Manufacturing) facility
  - ✓ It is a pioneering startup initiative of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
  - ✓ Indian Institute of Information Technology-Trivandrum is the implementation agency and the Kerala Startup Mission is the supporting partner of the Maker Village initiative
  - ✓ The Maker Village, founded in 2016, initially envisaged the incubation of 40 startups but overshoot the target by taking the total to 140
- ✓ In 2022, a MoU was signed between the Digital University of Kerala, the Centre for Materials and Electronic Technology (C-MET) and Tata Steel to set up 'India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre' (I-GEIC) in Kochi.
  - ✓ I-GEIC, a not-for-profit company, will act as a bridge between research and commercialization in the development of Graphene
- ✓ Graphene is often referred to as a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties
  - ✓ It was discovered in 2004 by Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, who received the Nobel Prize in Physics for this in 2010.
  - ✓ It is stronger than steel, very stretchable and can be used as a flexible conductor.
  - ✓ Graphene is used in electronics for creating faster and more efficient devices, in materials science for reinforcing composites, in energy storage for enhancing battery performance, and in medical fields for drug delivery and biosensors, among other uses.
  - ✓ It can also be used in applications such as touch screens, light panels and solar cells.

## DEFENCE

- **India's first long-range revolver Prabal - will be launched on August 18**



- ✓ This lightweight .32 bore revolver can meet its target up to 50 metres, more than double the range of the other revolvers being manufactured.
- ✓ It was manufactured by state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Besides, Prabal happens to be the first revolver being manufactured in India which has a side swing cylinder.
- ✓ Further, the capacity of all the revolvers available in the market is only up to 20 metres, but Prabal's range is up to 50 metres.
  - ✓ It's only 700grams (without cartridges) in weight and its barrel length is 76mm, while its overall length is 177.6mm.
  - ✓ This makes it an easy choice for women who can also carry it easily in their handbags and use it for their safety
  - ✓ Prabal, whose features are akin to Webley Scott revolver, could be purchased by civilians with licence.
  - ✓ AWEIL is a state-owned company manufacturing defence products in Kanpur's Armapur.
    - ✓ It comprises eight factories of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and primarily manufactures small arms and artillery guns for the use of the Indian Armed Forces, foreign militaries and domestic civilian use.
    - ✓ The firm was established in 2021 as part of the restructuring and corporatisation of the OFB into seven different PSUs.

## AWARDS

- **On August 14, the Union home ministry - announced the names of 954 police personnel who will be awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG), President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM), and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) on Independence Day.**



- ✓ The Central Reserve Force (CRPF), the largest Para Military Force, got 33 Gallantry Medals on Independence Day.

- ✓ It includes 20 Medals for gallantry in five operations conducted in Jammu and Kashmir while 13 Medals were conferred on the personnel who displayed gallant action in four operations in left-wing extremism-infested areas
- ✓ The President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to the Central Reserve Police Force's Assistant Commandant Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh
- ✓ The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229 police personnel, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 642.
- ✓ According to the Home Ministry, 125 personnel from Left Wing Extremism affected areas, 71 personnel from Jammu and Kashmir region and 11 personnel from North East region are being awarded for their gallant action.
- ✓ The President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) and Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) is awarded on the ground of conspicuous gallantry in saving life and property, or in preventing crime or arresting criminals.
- ✓ The President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) is awarded for a special distinguished record in Police Service and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) is awarded for valuable service characterised by resource and devotion to duty.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Police has the highest number of 55 personnel who won the gallantry medal followed by Maharashtra 33, CRPF 28, Chhattisgarh 24, Telangana 22 and Andhra Pradesh 18

## SPORTS

- **Anirban Lahiri - secured a second-place finish at LIV Golf Bedminster.**



- ✓ Lahiri, the only Indian playing in the Liv Series, finished behind Australia's Cameron Smith, who won \$4 million for his title triumph.
- ✓ Smith's team Rippers also won the team title while Lahiri's side, led by Bryson DeChambeau, stood at second place.
- ✓ It was the third runner-up finish for Lahiri on the LIV Golf Tour.

- ✓ He finished second at the Boston Invitational in 2022 and again finished runners-up in Adelaide.
  - ✓ He earned \$2.25 million for his second place, which also included \$375,000 as his share of the prize money in the team event.
  - ✓ This was the second runners-up finish for Lahiri this season.
  - ✓ He has had four more top-20 finishes and is currently 15th in the player standings.
- **Diksha Dagar - produced the best-ever show by an Indian woman golfer at a Major as she ended the Women's Open at tied-21st.**
- ✓ Compatriot Aditi Ashok, playing her seventh Women's Open, signed off at T-40 position.
  - ✓ Diksha, a two-time LET winner, displayed another superb back-nine show.



- ✓ Lilia Vu of the US outplayed the field by six shots to win her second Major of the year.
- ✓ Diksha's result of T-21 was the best-ever by an Indian woman at a Major, bettering T-22 by Aditi at the 2018 Women's Open.
- ✓ Smriti Mehra finished tied-sixth at the 1998 Women's British Open at Royal Lytham, but at that time the Women's British Open was not a Major, as it became a Major only in 2001.

