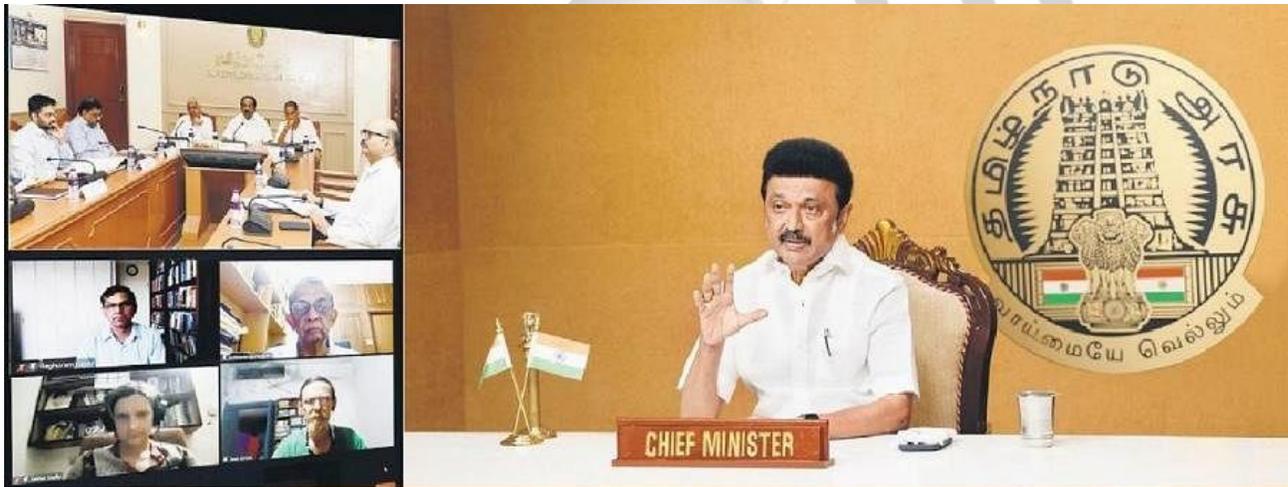


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 24,2023

TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the CM breakfast scheme will be expanded from August 25, benefitting several lakh more students.



- ✓ The inauguration is scheduled to take place in the Nagapattinam district of the Cauvery Delta region.
- ✓ Speaking during the meeting of the Economic Advisory Committee, the CM announced the intention to expand the programme to 18.53 lakh school students studying in 31,000 schools at a cost of Rs 404 crore
- ✓ At present, the scheme covers 1,14,095 primary school children studying in 1545 Government schools.
- ✓ Earlier, CM Stalin extended an invitation to MLAs and MPs belonging to all political parties urging them to participate in the launch of breakfast scheme expansion at government primary schools.
- ✓ Introduced on September 15, 2022, the ambitious Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme garnered praise from diverse sectors of society
- ✓ The pilot phase of the initiative saw improved attendance rates upto 90% of the 1,545 participating schools

STATES

- On August 23, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar - inaugurated a state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind exclusive examination complex in Patna.



- ✓ Equipped with CCTV cameras, cell phone jammers and webcasting facility to check use of unfair means, the complex cost over Rs.260 crore.
- ✓ Spread over six acres, it can host over 25,000 examinees when fully ready.
- ✓ The complex is named 'Bapu Pariksha Parisar' (Ba- pu Examination Complex) after Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The complex has 44 halls with a current seating capacity of 20,680 examinees for offline examination.
- ✓ The premise can host another 4,400 students for online examination in 20 halls which will be ready in the next phase.

NATIONAL

- **Isro's Chandrayaan-3 - made a perfect touchdown in Moon's south polar region at 6.03pm on August 23**
- ✓ With this, the Indian Space Research Organisation became the first to soft-land a spacecraft on the south pole of Moon and fourth to land on Moon after the US, Soviet Union and China.
- ✓ The lander, Vikram, made its final descent from a height of 70km and has established communication links with the Missions Operations Complex (MOX) in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The lander and rover will look for traces of water/ice, which may help support long-term lunar and space missions.
- ✓ The lander carries within it the rover, Pragyan, which has rolled out on to the lunar surface.
 - ✓ Pragyan's rolling down was designed to leave an imprint of the national emblem and Isro's logo on the lunar surface.

- ✓ Elements known to be present on the lunar surface include hydrogen, oxygen, silicon, iron, magnesium, calcium, aluminium, manganese and titanium.

ACE OF SPACE: OUR MOONMENT IN THE SUN

OVER THE MOON

THE LANDING AS IT HAPPENED

5.43pm | Power descent begins with **rough braking phase**. Vikram lander's velocity at 1,680m/s

Next 11.5 mins | Lander velocity reduced to 358m/sec. Altitude down from 25km to 7.4km

➤ In next 10secs, it descends to 6.4km

Next 3 mins | Altitude reduced to 800m

➤ **Vertical descent begins**. Vikram hovers at 149.8m for around 22 seconds. In next 38 seconds, it descends to 10m above lunar surface

➤ Vikram takes 9 seconds for final descent of 10m

6.03pm | **Touchdown!**



Start of a golden era... No one in the world can do it like we do
ISRO CHAIRPERSON S SOMANATH

AFTER LANDING

Vikram lander deploys its solar panels

After midnight, rover rolled on to Moon

Health of instruments on the lander and rover to be checked

Rover's movement on Moon surface to begin

Lander and rover to start sending data



CHANDRAYAAN-1

Launch Date | October 2008

Payload | An orbiter and a Moon impact probe
Result | Successful

CHANDRAYAAN-2

Launch Date | July 22, 2019

Landing Date | September 6, 2019

Payloads | Orbiter, lander, rover

Result | Orbiter in Moon's orbit, lander crashed minutes before touchdown

CHANDRAYAAN-3

Launch Date | July 14, 2023

Landing Date | August 23, 2023

Payloads | Propulsion module, lander, rover

Status | Lander soft-lands on Moon, Pragyan rover deployed



- ✓ About 60% of all lunar landing missions so far have been a failure.
 - ✓ Russia's Luna-25 crashed while attempting to land in the south pole region.
 - ✓ Chandrayaan-3, which was conceived almost immediately after its predecessor failed to soft-land in September 2019, was launched on July 14
 - ✓ The project team comprised P Veeramuthuvel (project director), Kalpana K (associate project director), mission director Srikanth and URSC director M Sankaran.
 - ✓ The live streaming of Chandrayaan-3's landing on the Moon's South Pole broke Spanish streamer Ibai's "world record" of 3.4 million viewers.
 - ✓ According to Ibai, at 5:53 PM IST, more than 5.6 million viewers were watching its soft landing live-streamed on Isro's official YouTube channel.
 - ✓ In the pipeline for India is the solar observatory mission — Aditya-L1 — whose integration with the Chandrayaan-3 launch vehicle is expected to be completed in a couple of days.
 - ✓ According to Isro chief, Somanath, the launch of Aditya-L1 is scheduled for the first week of September.
- **On August 23, Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan - released the new National Curriculum Framework**



- ✓ The proposed changes include two Board exams in an academic year besides 'on-demand exam' for any subject and making three and two languages mandatory in Class X and XII respectively.
- ✓ Based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisaged education in Indian languages, the new curriculum for Classes III to XII has made study of native Indian languages mandatory.
- ✓ Accordingly, there will be three languages (including two native languages) from Classes VI to X, while in Class XI and XII, there will be two languages, including one native Indian language.
- ✓ Now, Class X board would have seven subjects instead of the current five while Class XII will have six subjects as against the present five.
- ✓ Pradhan released the document during a joint meeting of National Oversight Committee (NOC) and National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Committee (NSTC) of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the plenary Session I of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa on August 23**



- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi proposed five suggestions to further intensify cooperation between BRICS countries
 - ✓ The five areas include – cooperation in space, education, skill development, big cats and traditional medicine
 - ✓ The PM proposed a BRICS space exploration consortium , apart from the setting up of BRICS satellite constellation, which is currently under progress.
- ✓ Further, BRICS leaders announced the "historic" admission of six new countries from next year
 - ✓ The BRICS grouping agreed to make Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates full members from 1 January.

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi will also participate in BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue event that will be held as part of the BRICS Summit activities in Johannesburg.
- ✓ The theme of BRICS Summit is BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.
 - ✓ The event is also attended by President Xi Jinping of China, President Lula da Silva of Brazil and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.
 - ✓ Russia is represented by foreign minister Sergei Lavrov.
- ✓ PM Modi arrived in South Africa on August 22 on a three-day visit to South Africa and Greece.
 - ✓ In South Africa, he will attend the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg from August 22-24 at the invitation of the country's President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.
 - ✓ South Africa is the current chair of the BRICS forum.
- ✓ This is the first in-person BRICS Summit after three consecutive years of virtual meetings owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ BRICS represent over 42% of the global population, 23% of world GDP, and 18% of global trade.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Thiruvananthapuram-based Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) - has developed 'e-Crop' (electronic crop) to assist farm sector**
- ✓ The e-Crop is an Internet of Things (IoT) device that aims to provide crop-specific agro-advisories to farmers through text messages.
- ✓ The device calculates nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and water requirements of field crops with an aim of minimising the yield gap
- ✓ The e-Crop based smart farming is highly advantageous than traditional farming because of the precise application of fertiliser and water via fertigation based on the climate and real-time plant growth.
- ✓ The technology has been applied to cassava, sweet potato, elephant foot yam and banana, reducing yield gap to 5% from 50% in traditional farming
- ✓ Additionally, there is a saving of nutrients and water by 25-50% if farmers go by the e-Crop-based advisories.
- ✓ The technology was last month recognised as one of five best technologies developed for the horticultural sector in 2022-23 at the 95th foundation day ceremony of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ Currently, hundreds of farmers in Kerala are being trained on how to use the e-Crop based smart farming facility.

ECONOMY

- **On August 23, Qatar's sovereign wealth fund - announced an investment of Rs 8,278 crore for nearly a 1% stake in Reliance Retail Ventures.**

- ✓ The Qatar fund will be the ninth foreign investor in Reliance Retail, which has raised Rs 55,543 crore by offloading around 11% stake since September 2020.
- ✓ The investment by Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), which has routed the deal through a wholly-owned subsidiary, values Reliance Retail at nearly Rs 8.3 lakh crore.
- ✓ India's largest company in terms of market value, Reliance Industries (RIL) owns 88.9% of Reliance Retail, with the remaining 11.08% held by overseas investors such as Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi's Mubadala, US's Silver Lake, KKR and General Atlantic.
- ✓ Reliance Retail, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, is the country's top retailer that spans from luxury fashion to groceries.
- ✓ With a turnover of Rs 2.6 lakh crore and a profit of Rs 9,181 crore in fiscal 2023, it operates over 18,500 stores.
- ✓ The Reliance Retail investment comes a little over two weeks after the wealth fund invested Rs 3,920 crore (\$474 million) for a nearly 3% stake in Adani Green Energy.

OBITUARY

- **Renowned Indian-American mathematician and statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, 102, popularly known as C R Rao - passed away on August 23.**

REMEMBERING THE LEGEND

- CR Rao born in a Telugu family in Hadagali, Karnataka, in 1920
- Completed MSc in maths from Andhra University and MA in statistics from Calcutta University in 1943
- Obtained PhD from UK, held top positions in premier institutions in India & abroad



- Awarded Padma Bhushan in 1968 & Padma Vibhushan in 2001
- Bagged National Medal of Science presented by ex-US President George Bush in 2002
- Authored several books in diverse fields such as estimation theory, multivariate analysis, matrix algebra

- ✓ He was recently awarded the 2023 international prize in statistics, which is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field.
- ✓ Rao was born in Hadagali, Karnataka and done his schooling in various places of Andhra Pradesh, including Gudur, Nuzvid, Nandigama, and Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ He completed MSc in mathematics from Andhra University, pursued MA in statistics from Calcutta University in 1943 and obtained PhD from the UK
- ✓ He held several top positions in various premier research institutions and universities in India and abroad.
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1968 and Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

- ✓ He was further awarded the National Medal of Science by the then US President George Bush in 2002.
- ✓ The department of science and technology felicitated Radhakrishna Rao for his contributions on his 100th birthday in 2020.
- ✓ The doyen of statistics whose work influenced not just statistics but has had far-reaching implications for fields as varied as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry, and medicine.

