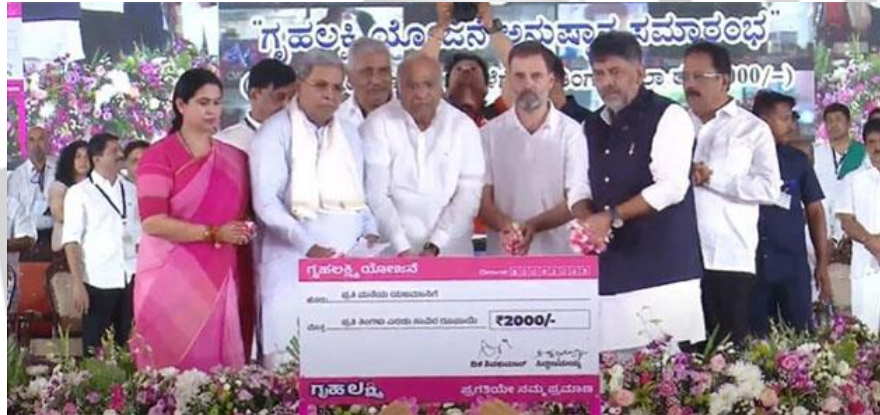


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-AUGUST 31,2023

STATES

- The Karnataka government - rolled out a new social welfare scheme for women - 'Gruha Lakshmi' – in Mysuru on August 30, 2023



- ✓ According to the scheme, the women heads of a family will receive Rs 2,000 per month from the government.
- ✓ This scheme is part of one among the five poll promises made by the Congress party during its election campaign
- ✓ Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and national president of Congress, Mallikarjun Kharge, were the chief guests at the event.
- ✓ The Karnataka government has set aside Rs 17,500 crore for 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.
- ✓ The Karnataka government has already implemented three of the five pre-poll promises -- 'Shakti', 'Gruha Jyothi' and 'Anna Bhagya'
- ✓ The fifth one is the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme which proposes to give financial assistance to unemployed degree and diploma graduates.
- ✓ Women listed as family heads on Antyodaya, Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards are eligible for the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme.

- ✓ Women government employees, taxpayers and families whose husbands pay income tax or file GST returns are not eligible for the scheme.
- ✓ The registration for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme began on July 19

NATIONAL

- **On August 29, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari - launched a 100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's Innova car.**



- ✓ The launched car is World's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle, developed by Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
 - ✓ Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) have an internal combustion engine and are capable of operating on petrol and any blend of petrol and ethanol.
- ✓ The car, which runs on 100% ethanol (E100), is based on the Toyota Innova HyCross
- ✓ It can cover 40% of its distance on ethanol and the remaining 60% on electric, with the petrol engine shut off.
- ✓ Last year, a hydrogen-powered car, the Toyota Mirai EV was launched by the union minister to promote alternative and green fuel energy.
- ✓ The government has launched the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme to mix Ethanol biofuel with petrol to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels.
- ✓ The aim is to reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainable mobility and decrease the country's dependency on traditional fuel sources.
- ✓ India's current ethanol blending with petrol is 11.75%, while the country has set a target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2025.
- ✓ Ethanol supports complete combustion and hence higher reductions in carbon monoxide emissions were observed with E20 fuel—50% lower in two-wheelers and 30% lower in four-wheelers.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Federal Bureau of Investigation - announced it has successfully dismantled the notorious QakBot botnet and removed the malware from 7,00,000 machines worldwide.**



- ✓ According to the US government's domestic intelligence and security agency, the action was part of a multinational operation dubbed 'Duck Hunt' and took place in countries like France, Germany, Netherlands, Latvia, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ✓ Between October 2021 and April 2023, the botnet procured approximately \$58 million from ransomware payments.
- ✓ Qakbot is controlled by a cybercriminal organisation and used to target critical industries worldwide.
- ✓ The Qakbot malware primarily infects victim computers through spam email messages containing malicious attachments or hyperlinks.
- ✓ These ransomware groups caused significant harm to businesses, healthcare providers, and government agencies all over the world, since first appearing in 2008 as an information-stealing bank Trojan
- **England - is going to launch the world's first seven-minute cancer treatment injection of the life-extending immunotherapy atezolizumab (Tencentriq)**
- ✓ Britain's National Health Service (NHS) will become the world's first health body to provide this medical breakthrough that can reduce the time of treatment by up to 75%.
- ✓ The program, which could turn into a worldwide benchmark, can revolutionise the way doctors treat cancer around the world.
- ✓ The job has been approved by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- ✓ Currently, patients get the immunotherapy in hospitals directly into their veins through drug transfusion via a drip.
- ✓ Usually, the process to administer intravenous atezolizumab takes around 30 minutes to an hour.
- ✓ The drug 'atezolizumab' is a monoclonal antibody that enables one's immune system to trace and destroy the cancerous cells.
- ✓ It is made by Genentech, a Roche (ROG.S) company.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India – witnessed a rare Super Blue Moon across the country on August 30**



- ✓ This is the second and final moon of the northern hemisphere this year, when the moon appears brighter than usual.
 - ✓ The Super Blue Moon appeared about 14% larger and 30% brighter than a typical full moon, since the moon will be closer to Earth than usual.
- ✓ The last time there were two super moon occurred in 2018
- ✓ This phenomenon is a rare astronomical event that occurs when a full moon coincides with both a blue moon and a perigee moon
 - ✓ A perigee moon is a full moon that occurs when the moon is at its closest point to Earth in its orbit.
- ✓ The celestial event will mark the second full moon of August, earning it the title of a blue moon.
- ✓ This happens about once every two and a half years
- ✓ The term 'Super Blue Moon' was originally coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1946.
- ✓ Although the blue moon is not literally blue, the term can be misleading and in fact, the moon will appear orange in colour.
- ✓ The next super blue moons will take place in pairs in 2037, in January and March.

DEFENCE

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh – held discussions with Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of Defence Aden Bare Duale, who is on a three-day visit to India**



- ✓ The meeting that took place on August 29 led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Goa Shipyard Limited and Kenya Shipyard Limited for cooperation in ship-design and construction
- ✓ Further, Singh gifted 15 pairs of high-quality parachutes, manufactured by Gliders India Limited, to Kenya
- ✓ India has also extended its support towards the establishment of an advanced CT scan facility in Kenya.
- ✓ During the meeting, Duale proposed a "training of trainers" program, wherein Kenyan military instructors would receive training from Indian Armed Forces instructors.
- ✓ This visit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consideration of the African Union's participation in the G20.

SPORTS

- **The 50th anniversary of the U.S. Open becoming the first sporting event to offer equal prize money to female and male competitors – was celebrated on August 29 in New York**



- ✓ Former first lady Michelle Obama introduced the 79-year-old tennis legend Billie Jean King and led the tributes in honouring the veteran tennis great
- ✓ King, as the defending U.S. Open champion in 1973, sought the support of her fellow women players to threaten a boycott of that year's tournament unless women got the same pay as men.
- ✓ When she won her third U.S. Open title in 1972 she earned \$10,000, compared with \$25,000 for the men's winner.
- ✓ The next year the U.S. Open became the first sporting event to offer equal prize money of \$25,000 to men and women.
- ✓ It would take 34 years before all the other Grand Slam events followed suit.
- ✓ This year, the U.S. Open winners will each receive \$3 million, with total player compensation rising to \$65 million.