



FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august**

TAMIL NADU

- On August 12, the Centre - has announced the establishment of another elephant reserve at Agasthiyamalai in Tirunelveli District, on the occasion of World Elephant Day



- ✓ It will be the 32nd elephant reserve in the country and the fifth in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The new facility covering 1,197 sq km of area dedicated to conservation of jumbos at Agasthiyamalai includes reserve forests and patta lands in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Tenkasi districts.
- ✓ This takes the number of elephant reserves in the country to 32 including at Nilgiris, Nilambur, Srivilliputhur and Anamalai in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The new reserve will cover Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks in Tirunelveli district and Kalkulam, Vilavancode, Thiruvattur and Thovalai in Kanyakumari district.
- ✓ The new elephant reserve will now help the state seek funds under central schemes such as 'project elephant' that provide Rs.1crore per year for conservation measures.

- ✓ The funds are to be used for setting up anti-poaching units, employing more watchers, setting up solar fences, digging up trenches and other mitigation measures to reduce man-animal conflicts.
- **The Union government - has allotted Rs.5,990 crore as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for Tamil Nadu for reducing post-harvest losses**
- ✓ This was announced by agriculture and farmers' welfare minister M R K Panneerselvam.
- ✓ The Minister was addressing a conclave organized by the department of agriculture marketing and agri-business at Trichy on August 12
- ✓ During his address, the minister urged the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO), entrepreneurs and individuals to come forward to make the best use of the fund.
- ✓ The AIF is a medium-to long-term debt financing facility for investment in post-harvest management infrastructure and projects for community agricultural assets.

NATIONAL

- **The final piece of the overarch deck at the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over Chenab – was unveiled with a 'golden joint' on August 13.**



- ✓ The achievement is viewed as yet another milestone in the construction of the iconic railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ With this, the project to provide rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley, will be 98% complete.
- ✓ The railway ministry had set the target to complete the rail link to the Valley by 2023.
- ✓ The 'golden joint' is the last joint of the 785-metre length bridge deck, which connects both sides to make it into one continuous deck.
- ✓ Chenab Bridge is part of the rail link project across Chenab river in Reasi district of J&K.
- ✓ The arch bridge has a length of 1.31 km and it is 359-metre high from the river bed, making it the world's highest railway bridge.

- ✓ At present, the highest rail bridge is located in Guizhou province of China and is 275 meters above the water level
 - ✓ There are plenty of firsts in the construction of the world's highest railway bridge, and once completed, it will stand 35m higher than the Eiffel Tower.
 - ✓ For the first time in India, a fully equipped NABL laboratory was set up to ensure that quality was being monitored at every stage of the project.
 - ✓ Both Northern Railways (NR) and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) had played a huge role in finalising the design of the iconic Chenab Bridge
 - ✓ The bridge is being constructed by Mumbai-based infrastructure major Afcons
 - ✓ Afcons also holds the distinction of refurbishing Bihar's iconic Mahatma Gandhi Setu and converting it into India's longest steel bridge.
- **On August 12, the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry - launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities**




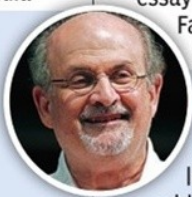
- ✓ This initiative has been launched as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating 75 years of Independence
- ✓ The initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing SMILE project (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) for which Rs.100 crore has been allocated till 2025-2026
- ✓ The initiative, which was launched by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar, aims to make the 75 municipalities "begging-free".
- ✓ Under the initiative, 75 municipal corporations will tie-up with NGOs and other stakeholders
- ✓ The focus of the scheme will be on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other government welfare programmes etc.
- ✓ Earlier, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'SMILE' scheme on 12th February, 2022

- ✓ The scheme includes two sub-schemes – ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’.
- ✓ Under the initiative, pilot projects have been initiated on comprehensive rehabilitation of beggars in ten cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad

INTERNATIONAL

- **Mumbai-born author Salman Rushdie - was stabbed in the neck onstage during a lecture in New York on August 12, 2022**
- ✓ The 75-year-old novelist was attacked as he was about to give a lecture in western New York and suffered stab wounds to his neck in on-stage attack before being airlifted to a hospital
- ✓ Rushdie was attending the CHQ 2022 literary event in Chautauqua and was about to give a talk on artistic freedom to an audience of hundreds.
- ✓ The Chautauqua Institution, where the attack took place, is located in a rural part of New York and is known for its summertime lecture series

RUSHDIE IN DATES

<p>June 19, 1947 He is born in Bombay, now Mumbai</p> <p>1981 His second novel, 'Midnight's Children', wins the Booker. In 2008 it is named 'Booker of Bookers' after winning a public vote for the best Booker-winning novel in 40 years of the award</p> <p>1988 'The Satanic Verses' is released and swiftly banned in Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Africa and other countries. It is banned for import to India</p> <p>1989 Iran issues a fatwa, or religious decree, that calls for Rushdie to be killed for insulting Islam in the book. He is driven underground and for over a decade lives between safe houses and under the pseudonym Joseph Anton</p>	 <p>Iranian women are seen holding banners which read 'Holy Quran' and 'Kill Salman Rushdie' during a demonstration in Tehran in 1989</p>
 <p>1990 Newsweek publishes an essay by Rushdie, 'In Good Faith', in which he seeks to defend the novel</p> <p>2007 He is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to literature, prompting widespread Muslim protests, notably in Pakistan</p> <p>2009 Iran says the fatwa is</p>	<p>'still valid'</p> <p>2012 Publication of his memoir 'Joseph Anton', looking back at his years underground</p> <p>2016 Having lived in New York for around 20 years he becomes a US citizen</p> <p>2020 He is shortlisted for the Booker Prize for 'Quichotte', a modern version of the Cervantes classic</p>

- ✓ A prominent spokesman for free expression, Rushdie's writings led to death threats from Iran.
- ✓ His 1988 book "The Satanic Verses" was viewed as blasphemous by many Muslims
- ✓ The novel was banned in Iran, where the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a 1989 fatwa, or edict, calling for Rushdie's death.

- ✓ A prize money of over \$3 million has also been offered for anyone who kills Rushdie.
 - ✓ The death threats and bounty led Rushdie to go into hiding under a British government protection program, including a 24x7 armed guard
 - ✓ Rushdie emerged after nine years of isolation and cautiously resumed more public appearances
 - ✓ Born into a Muslim Kashmiri family in Bombay, Rushdie moved to the UK
 - ✓ His first novel came out in 1975, but one of his best works is about modern India, Midnight's Children (1981), for which he won the Booker Prize and, later, the Best of the Booker.
 - ✓ Rushdie's other literary works include Luka and the Fire of Life; Grimus; Shame; Haroun and the Sea of Stories; The Moor's Last Sigh; The Ground Beneath Her Feet; Fury; Shalimar the Clown among others.
 - ✓ In 2007, he was knighted — given the ceremonial title of 'Sir' — by Queen Elizabeth II for services to literature.
 - ✓ His memoir is titled Joseph Anton —named after the pseudonym he used while in hiding following the fatwa that had been issued by Khomeini
 - ✓ Rushdie served as founding president of the International Parliament of Writers (now the International Network of Cities of Asylum) in 1994
- **On August 12, Estonia and Latvia - announced simultaneously their intention of leaving the China-backed East Europe Forum**
- ✓ The Beijing-led East Europe Forum brings together China and 16 countries in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe to boost trade and relations
 - ✓ The decision by Estonia and Latvia follows after China's growing military pressure on Taiwan and its support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
 - ✓ The move also comes after China launched economic and diplomatic retaliation against another Baltic state, Lithuania in retaliation for its expanded ties with the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan
 - ✓ Last year, Lithuania left the 16+1 informal group, following the break in relations between China and Lithuania due to the Taiwan issue
 - ✓ In November 2021, the Taiwanese government opened a mission in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius under the name "Taiwanese"
 - ✓ According to China, failure to use the name "Taipei" is a violation of the "One China policy"
 - ✓ Since then, China has virtually cut off trade relations with Lithuania, a coercive action criticized by the European Union at the World Trade Organisation.
 - ✓ China set up the East Europe forum to strengthen relations with members of the European Union as well as Serbia and others
 - ✓ This forum is launched in addition to Chinese President Xi's signature Belt and Road campaign to build bridges, railways, power plants and other infrastructure across the Eurasian continent.

- ✓ China originally styled the forum as a “17 plus one” arrangement — with Greece having joined the grouping briefly — but the number of European partners has now fallen to 14.
- ✓ Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are among countries that remain in the cooperation format.

INDIA AND OTHERS

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD), the government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - have announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.**
 - ✓ The project will be rolled out in the states and Union Territories of Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh during 2022-23.
 - ✓ Japan has extended \$5.16 million in climate grant to UNDP India for the project.
 - ✓ This is part of Japan’s global support to 23 countries through UNDP’s ‘Climate Promise — From Pledge to Impact’ programme, which aims to provide assistance to turn NDCs into actual actions.
 - ✓ The joint initiative will support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.
 - ✓ The launch comes just a week after the Cabinet approved India’s amended NDCs for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - ✓ The new initiative will be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - ✓ The utilization of solar energy for 150 healthcare institutions, 20 micro-enterprises, and establishing 85 electric vehicles (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems throughout ten states are all part of the plan.
 - ✓ Further, clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technology will be deployed in critical sectors such as transportation, health, small and medium-sized businesses, and agriculture.
 - ✓ Under the initiative, climate information flow systems for 30 Gram Panchayats will demonstrate resilient climate planning at the grassroots level.
 - ✓ By offering skilling and training to over 2,000 people, the program hopes to create green jobs and green entrepreneurship in industries such as renewable energy.
 - ✓ India pledged at the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021 to reduce the country’s total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030; install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030; reduce carbon intensity by less than 45 percent by the end of the decade, and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070

DEFENCE

- On August 12, Indian Air Force - left for Malaysia to participate in a bilateral air combat exercise named 'Udarashakti' to be held at Kuantan airbase



- ✓ This is the first bilateral exercise being conducted between Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force RMAF.
 - ✓ Indian Air Force is participating in the air exercise with four Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, a C-17 Globemaster-III strategic-lift aircraft and an IL-78 mid-air refueller while the RMAF will be flying Russian-origin Sukhoi-30MKM aircraft.
 - ✓ Both countries are flying Su-30 fighter jets and the exercise will give a chance to both sides to share and learn best practices and will be an opportunity for both to discuss mutual combat capabilities.
 - ✓ The four days of exercise will witness the conduct of various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces
 - ✓ The first bilateral Air Force exercise staging the frontline Sukhoi-30 combat aircraft was conducted in 2018.
 - ✓ The Indian Air Force Training Team was deployed in Malaysia to train Malaysian pilots on the SU-30SKM aircraft from 2008 to 2010.
- The 16th edition of annual joint combat exercise 'Super Garuda Shield' - is being held for two weeks from August 1 to August 14 at Sumatra Islands and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo Island.



- ✓ Garuda Shield is an annual combined and joint exercise between the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)
- ✓ Further, Japan, Australia, and Singapore are taking part in this year's edition as active partners
- ✓ A total of more than 5,000 personnel from the US, Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore are participating in this year's Super Garuda Shield exercise
- ✓ The exercise strengthens the U.S.-Indonesia Strategic Partnership and advances regional cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ The Garuda Shield exercise, launched in 2009, is significantly larger in scope and scale this year than previous exercises, with many nations participating or observing for the first time.
- ✓ Canada, France, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and the United Kingdom, are participating in the exercise as observer nations.
- ✓ The exercise seeks to advance cooperation and interoperability, enhance military responsiveness and effectiveness, and promote community wellness and infrastructure.
- ✓ Garuda Shield 2022 featured training for amphibious operations, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterterrorism.
- ✓ The exercise complements the Garuda Shakti exercise, which India and Indonesia also hold annually.

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.
- ✓ This year, through its National Blood Centre, Mexico will host World Blood Donor Day
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Interestingly, the oldest known donor was a 107-year-old woman donor in Scotland who donated her cornea after her demise in 2016.
- ✓ The oldest known organ donor for an internal organ was a 95-year-old West Virginia man, who donated his liver after he died.
- ✓ In India, one can pledge to donate their organs 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

➤ **World Elephant Day – August 12**



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to acknowledge the significance and importance of Elephants in our ecosystem
- ✓ The World Elephant Day was initiated in 2012 to raise awareness to the disturbing situations of African and Asian elephants, which are subjected to poaching, mistreatment in captivity and habitat loss
- ✓ The day underlines the awareness of the threats that elephants face in their daily lives.
- ✓ The first ever World Elephant Day was observed by Canadian filmmakers Michael Clark and Patricia Sims with the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.

- ✓ In 2012, Patricia Sims founded an organization called the World Elephant Society to create awareness about the dangers faced by the elephants and the urgency needed to protect them globally
- ✓ According to National Geographic, the elephant population has reduced by 50% over the past 75 years with an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants left
- ✓ African elephants are listed as 'vulnerable' and Asian elephants as 'endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.
- ✓ In India, Union minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the World Elephant Day observation at Periyar Tiger Reserve in Thekkady, Kerala
- ✓ Minister of state for environment and climate change Ashwini Kumar Choubey was the chief guest at the function.

➤ **International Youth Day - August 12**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness on various issues faced by the world's youth and the role of youth in important topics in the world
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages'
- ✓ The young delegates, who attended the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, in 1991, suggested that an International Youth Day be declared to help raise money for the United Nations Youth Fund.
- ✓ At the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon in August 1998, August 12 was declared International Youth Day.
- ✓ The International Youth Day was recognised by the United Nations when they passed a resolution towards creating it in 1999 at the United Nations General Assembly
- ✓ The first International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12, 2000.
- ✓ According to estimates in the 2020 United Nations World Youth Report, 1.21 billion - 15.5% of the global population – consisting of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 inhabit the earth.
- ✓ According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), youth make up 66% of India's total population.
- ✓ With more than 808 million of the total population below the age of 35, India has the largest number of youths in the world.

- ✓ In India, National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, since 1984

CELEBRATING 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHRI AUROBINDO - A REPORT

- **The Centre - will host spiritual programmes at 75 prisons across the country from August 12 to 15 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of spiritual icon Shri Aurobindo Ghosh**



- ✓ The purpose of these programmes is to transform the lives of prison inmates through inculcation of the philosophy of Shri Aurobindo and by the practice of Yoga and Meditation
- ✓ Five organisations — Ramakrishna Mission, Patanjali, Art of Living, Isha Foundation and Satsang Foundation — have been roped in for conducting these programmes in 23 states across the country
- ✓ Last year, the Central government formed a 53-member committee to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.
- ✓ Shri Aurobindo was born on August 15, 1872 in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and died in Pondicherry (now Puducherry) where his historic 'ashram', considered a pilgrimage place by his followers, is located
- ✓ Shri Aurobindo (born Aurobindo Ghosh) was a philosopher, poet, journalist, yogi, jailed revolutionary, nationalist, educationist, radical mystic and much more
- ✓ When he was seven years old, Aurobindo was sent to England with his brothers for education, where he studied under the tutelage of Reverend W H Drewett in Manchester learning Latin, Greek, German, Italian, French, Arithmetic and Geography
- ✓ Aurobindo Ghosh studied for the Indian Civil Service at King's College, Cambridge, England

- ✓ In England, he participated in an Indian students' organisation called the Cambridge Majlis.
- ✓ After returning to India he took up various civil service works under the Maharaja of the Princely state of Baroda
- ✓ He took the administrative service competition exam to fulfil his father's wishes and became a state service officer in 1893
- ✓ Later, he worked as a teacher, Baroda College's vice principal, and also as a secretary to Maharaja of Gaekwad
- ✓ He also got in touch with Sister Nivedita and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and actively participated in building the revolutionary atmosphere in the country
- ✓ In 1908, he along with few other members of the Anushilan Samiti were arrested in the Alipore bomb case.
- ✓ While he was in Alipur Jail from 1908 to 1909, he spent his time on meditation, perception and yoga.
- ✓ He also studied Indian philosophy and vedas and became a yogi.
- ✓ After coming out of jail, he left Kolkata and moved to Pondicherry, where he stayed from 1910 to 1950 and dedicated himself in pursuits of spirituality and philosophy.
- ✓ In Pondicherry, he established Shri Aurobindo Ashram and developed a spiritual practice called Integral Yoga
- ✓ Aurobindo was also a journalist and his first philosophical magazine called Arya was published in 1914
- ✓ His writings comprise his commentary on spiritual texts such as the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita; epic poem "Savitri"; philosophical work "The Life Divine" and thousands of letters to guide his disciples, among others.
- ✓ Other important books written by him include 'The synthesis of yoga', 'Essays on the Gita', 'The secret of the Vedas' and 'The ideal of human unity'
- ✓ The philosopher-sage's work spanning across 36 volumes, titled "Reading Sri Aurobindo", is scheduled to be released on August 22.
- ✓ He was the first proponent of 'Purna Swaraj' more than 20 years before the Indian National Congress' declaration in 1930
- ✓ He was one of the first nationalist leaders to put forth in his newspaper, Bande Mataram, the idea of complete independence of India and developed a radical approach to achieve that goal that included non-cooperation, passive resistance, use of swadeshi among others
- ✓ His work got him nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1943, while he was also nominated in 1950 for the Nobel Prize for Peace.
- ✓ Shri Aurobindo passed away in 1950, leaving behind a rich legacy.

