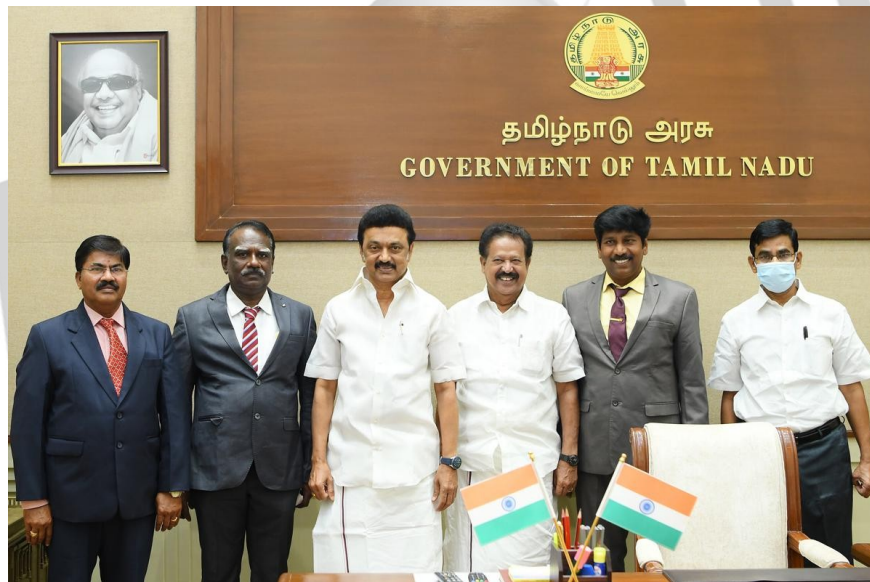




FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august**

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi, who is also the Chancellor of state-run varsities - has appointed vice-chancellors to three state-owned universities

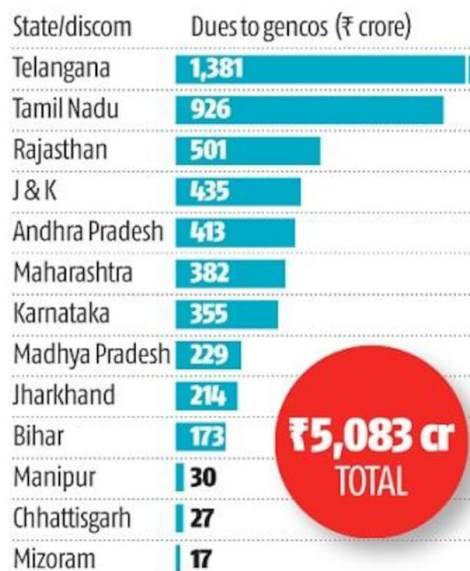


- ✓ Accordingly, Dr N Chandrasekar will act as vice-chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Dr T Arumugam, as vice-chancellor of Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore, and Dr G Ravi as vice-chancellor of Alagappa University, Karaikudi.
- ✓ The appointments are for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of office by the appointees.
- ✓ The new vice-chancellors called on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in the Secretariat in the presence of Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy and Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu.
- ✓ N Chandrasekar has teaching and research experience of more than 35 years and has 17 years of administrative experience, including as dean of research at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University

- ✓ T Arumugam has served as faculty dean, Horticulture College and Research Institute, Periyakulam.
 - ✓ He has rich teaching and research experience of about 32 years and has 11 years of administrative experience.
- ✓ G Ravi has teaching and research experience of more than 27 years and has also 7 years of administrative experience.
 - ✓ He held several administrative positions in Alagappa University.
- ✓ The new appointments are announced even as the Bills passed by the state government seeking to empower itself to appoint vice-chancellors to 13 State varsities, including these three, are awaiting the Governor's assent.
- ✓ In April, the Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed in the TN Assembly seeking to replace the Governor as Chancellor of State-run universities with the Chief Minister
- ✓ This Bill tabled by Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy empowers the state government to appoint Vice-Chancellors to the 13 state-run universities.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin met with the Governor in June and urged him to give early assent to the 21 Bills passed by the state Assembly

- **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (Pocoso) - has barred 13 discoms, including Tangedco, from participating in power exchange market owing to huge companies.**

CRACKING THE WHIP



Source: PRAAPTI portal

- ✓ Among them are power distribution companies (discoms) in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Manipur, and Mizoram.

- ✓ The defaulting discoms cumulatively owe Rs 5,000 crore to gencos, the highest being in Telangana with Rs 1,380 crore.
 - ✓ This is the first time the grid operator has invoked the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, to penalise discoms by disallowing them to buy electricity from alternative short-term sources.
 - ✓ As per the latest announcement, Tangedco would not be able to buy or sell power, posing an imminent threat of power shortage in the state
 - ✓ According to the data from the Union Ministry of Power, Tangedco and TNEB together have pending dues of Rs.926.11 crore till August 17.
 - ✓ Power exchange is a real time electronic market platform to buy and sell power in 96 blocks of 15 minutes throughout the day at the right market price involving the best consumer/seller.
 - ✓ Pocoso is the national grid operator coming under the power ministry
- **US navy's dry cargo ship USNS Charles Drew - completed its repairs at Kattupalli shipyard on August 17.**
- ✓ The routine maintenance conducted aboard the vessel included repairs and crew habitability systems and equipment.



- ✓ The maintenance work began on August 7 at the L&T's Kattupalli shipyard.
- ✓ Charles Drew is one of the many ships that are part of the US Navy's MSC's Combat Logistics Force (CLF), which refers to the supply lines to US navy ships while at sea.
- ✓ These ships provide virtually everything needed including fuel, food, fleet ordnance, dry cargo, spare parts, mail, and other supplies.
- ✓ CLF ships enable the navy fleet to remain at sea and combat ready for extended periods of time.
- ✓ In addition to US navy ships, CLF ships also resupply international partners and allies operating in the Indo-Pacific Region.

NATIONAL

- **India - has rejected some of the cheetahs that were captured and quarantined in Namibia for translocation to Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh**



- ✓ These cheetahs have turned out to be captive-bred and incapable of hunting.
 - ✓ Those three cheetahs would be replaced by wild-caught cheetahs.
 - ✓ The wild-caught cheetahs will now have to complete a month of quarantine in Namibia, causing a further delay in the 'Project Cheetah'
 - ✓ Also, translocation will be possible only after approval from Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
 - ✓ All import, export, re-export and introduction of threatened species of animals has to be authorized through a licensing system of CITES
 - ✓ The species covered by CITES are listed according to the degree of protection they need.
 - ✓ Cheetahs are in appendix I — species threatened with extinction — where trade is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- **The Vande Bharat train that was commissioned at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) recently - will undergo speed trials at Chandigarh.**



- ✓ The 16-coach train is a modern and lighter version of the two trains that are already in service
- ✓ The new train will have to complete around 15,000km of running test after which it will be deployed in Western Railway.
- ✓ This is an upgraded version of the existing ones and needed trials before using it for passenger service.

- ✓ Three types of tests will be carried out — static test, dynamic test and oscillation test - when the train runs at high speed.
 - ✓ The train will be run along a stretch of free track for at least 200km at different speeds.
 - ✓ The performance of the train and its systems when idling and when running will be checked.
 - ✓ Further, vibration, oscillation and performance of the systems when idling will also be tested.
 - ✓ Later, it will be shuttled on tracks till it clocks 15,000km under the testing cycle
 - ✓ Research Design and Standards Organisation is conducting the trials.
 - ✓ ICF will soon start manufacturing Vande Bharat coaches as it got an order to make 75 rakes in 2022-23.
- **Goa and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) - have become the country's first 'Har Ghar Jal' (water to every household) certified state and UT respectively**



- ✓ In Goa and the UT, people from all the villages declared their households as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by gram sabhas.
- ✓ The resolution certified that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps, ensuring that 'No One is Left Out', under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- ✓ All 2.63 lakh rural households of Goa and 85,156 of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have access to potable water through tap connection

- ✓ JJM aims to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household of the country by 2024.
- ✓ The programme is implemented by the central government in partnership with states/UTs.
- ✓ So far, more than 52% rural households in the country are now connected with tap water.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court – has delivered the final verdict on the medical seat matrix of the Vellore-based Christian Medical College (CMC), treating it as a unique case**



- ✓ The SC's order has apportioned CMC's MBBS as well as post-graduate medical seats on a 50-50 basis between the institution's management and the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ Of the 50% of management quota seats, 10% are to be allotted to the children of the staff members of CMC as per their NEET ranks
- ✓ As for the 50% of total seats surrendered to the state government, 30% of the seats shall be filled by the state government following its policy of reservation strictly in accordance with the NEET merit list.
- ✓ The remaining 20% of the seats shall be filled by the state government candidates belonging to Christian minority from the state.
- ✓ Post-graduate medical seats too will be filled by the state government and the management on 50-50 basis as per PG-NEET merit list.
- ✓ While the state government will fill 30% of the seats based on NEET marks and by following the rule of reservation, 20% will be given to candidates belonging to Christian minority community from the state.

- ✓ Until 2020, seats from the Christian Medical College did not figure in the seat matrix although all other self-financing colleges affiliated to the state medical university shared 50-65% of their seats for admission through the government quota.
- ✓ At least 84 of the 100 seats in the college were reserved for students who were referred by churches from across the country.
- ✓ On January 3, the state government moved to the Supreme Court to find a lasting solution to the seat-sharing issue with the CMC.
- ✓ In 2021, Tamil Nadu, for the first time, released a religious minority rank list for MBBS admissions to three Christian minority self-financing colleges CMC, Madha Medical College and Panimalar Medical College.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Britain - has clinched a new agreement with Pakistan to speedily remove Pakistani nationals with no legal right to remain in the UK.**



- ✓ The Returns Agreement was signed by home secretary Priti Patel and Pakistan interior secretary Yousaf Naseem Khokhar and the country's high commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan in London on August 18.
- ✓ The agreement will target Pakistan criminals, failed asylum seekers, visa overstayers and immigration offenders to facilitate their return to their home nation.
- ✓ According to the UK Home Office data, Pakistan nationals make up the seventh largest number of foreign criminals in prisons in England and Wales
- ✓ They account for nearly 3% of the foreign national offender population, with around 2,500 prisoners.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Punjabi - has become the fourth most spoken language in Canada, registering a 49% growth in the last five years.**

- ✓ According to the census data of 2021 released by Statistics Canada, Mandarin and Punjabi are the most spoken languages in the country after Canada's two official languages — English and French.
- ✓ Mandarin speakers number at around 5.3 lakh and Punjabi speakers have been recorded at 5.2 lakh.
- ✓ But, Punjabi's growth has been faster as Mandarin speakers grew by 15% from 2016 to 2021, while the growth of Punjabi speakers was 49% during the same period.
- ✓ The report noted that while the Canadian population increased by 5.2% during this period, driven mainly by immigration, the number of Canadians who mostly spoke a South Asian language at home grew faster
- ✓ This includes speakers of Malayalam (+129% to 35,000 people), Hindi (+66% to 92,000 people), Punjabi (+49% to 520,000 people) and Gujarati (+43% to 92,000 people).
- ✓ The growth rate of the number of speakers of these languages was eight times more than that of the entire Canadian population

PERSONALITIES

- **On August 18, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - announced the appointment of Indian philanthropist Ashish Dhawan, founder and CEO of Convergence Foundation, to its board of trustees.**



- ✓ Dr Helene D Gayle, president of Spelman College, US, has also been appointed to the foundation's board of trustees.
 - ✓ Prior to becoming president of Spelman College, Gayle was president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the United States' oldest and largest community foundations.
 - ✓ Gayle has experience with the foundation, where she oversaw its grant making on HIV, tuberculosis, and reproductive health.
 - ✓ She began her career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she spent 20 years focusing primarily on HIV/AIDS prevention and global health.

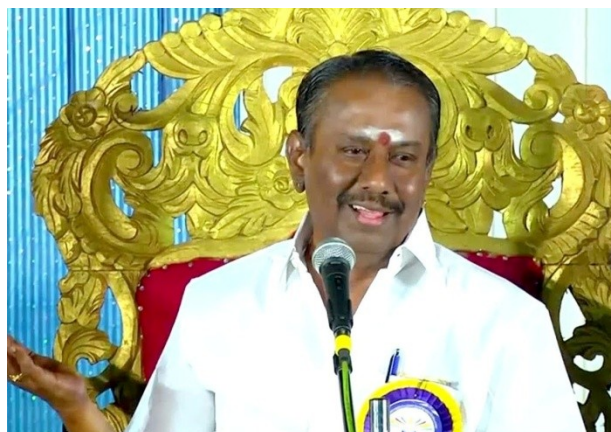
- ✓ The new board members will serve alongside Strive Masiyiwa, Baroness Nemat (Minouche) Shafik, Thomas J Tierney, Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman, and co-chairs Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates
- ✓ Based out of New Delhi, Dhawan is the CEO of the Convergence Foundation, which is focused on accelerating India's economic growth and development
- ✓ Besides, he is also the chairperson of Ashoka University and Central Square Foundation, a nonprofit organisation working to improve the quality of education for children in India
- ✓ The Gates Foundation has been working in collaboration with the Indian government and other partners since 2003 on various issues, including health care, sanitation, gender equality, agricultural development, and financial empowerment.

ECONOMY

- **On August 18, the government - hiked the windfall profit tax on the export of diesel and reintroduced a levy on jet fuel exports.**
- ✓ However, the government reduced the tax on domestically produced crude oil in line with softening global rates.
- ✓ At the third fortnightly review, the government raised the windfall profit tax on the export of diesel to Rs 7 per litre from Rs 5 a litre and brought in a Rs 2 a litre tax on exports of aviation turbine fuel (ATF)
- ✓ Earlier this month, the government had removed the windfall profit tax on ATF exports.
- ✓ Alongside, the tax on domestically produced crude oil has been cut to Rs 13,000 per tonne from Rs 17,750.
- ✓ India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1.

OBITUARY

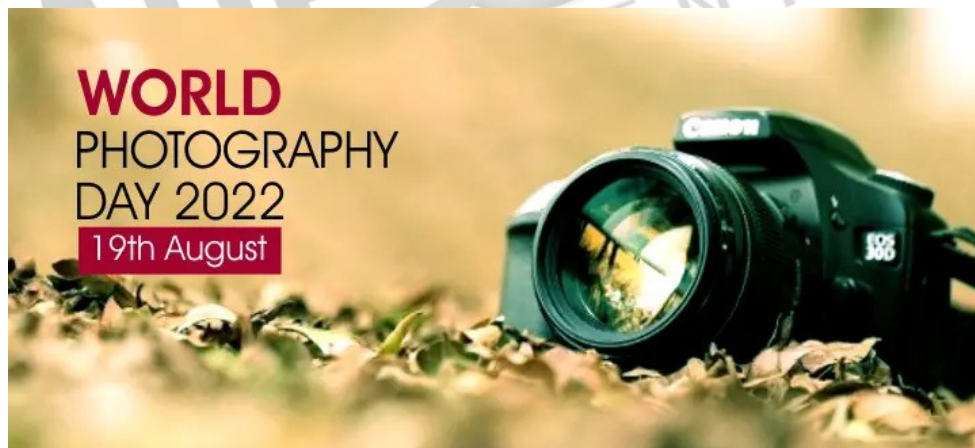
- **Tamil scholar and orator Nellai Kannan - died at 77 in Tirunelveli on August 18 due to age-related ailments.**



- ✓ Born in 1945 and hailing from an agriculture family, Kannan has written books like Kurukkuthurai Ragasiyangal Part 1 and 2, Pazham Padal Puthukavithai and a good number of poems both classic and modern poetry,
 - ✓ His reputed poems includes Vadivudai Kanthimathiye, Kaathal seyyathavargal kalleriyungal and Thikkanaiththum sadai veesi
- ✓ Kannan was a member of the Indian National Congress party and appeared as a moderator in many public debate shows
- ✓ He was famous for contesting unsuccessfully against former chief minister M Karunanidhi at Chepauk in 1996 assembly elections
- ✓ He was into public speaking from 1970 and was one of the starspeakers of Congress party on a par with fiery speakers of Dravidian parties of that time.
- ✓ Kannan was called “Tamil Kadal” (Tamil ocean) in literary circles alluding to his wide range of knowledge in Tamil language.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government had honoured him recently with the Ilango Adigal award.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin and other leaders condoled his death.
- ✓ The CM recalled his interaction with him last year when Kannan was honoured with the Kamarajar Kathir award by Viduthalai Siruthaigal Katchi.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Photography Day - August 19



- ✓ The day is observed every year to pay tribute to the art of photography and encourage people to pursue photography as a hobby or career.
- ✓ The day is also celebrated to honour photographers who have the talent of capturing moments and producing amazing pictures.
- ✓ World Photography Day originated after the invention of a photographic process called 'daguerreotype', by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in 1837
- ✓ Two years later, on January 9, 1839, the French Academy of Sciences officially endorsed the daguerreotype.
- ✓ On August 19, 1839, the French government bought the patent for this device

- ✓ Interestingly, the first durable colour photograph was captured in 1861 and the first digital photograph was created in 1957
- ✓ However, the celebration of World Photography Day began in 1991 with the efforts of an Indian photographer, OP Sharma, who managed to bring the renowned photographers across the globe on a single platform.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Pandemic Lockdown through the lens"

➤ **World Humanitarian Day – August 19**



- ✓ The day is observed annually to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to provide support for people affected by crises around the world.
- ✓ The history of World Humanitarian Day (WHD) dates back to 2003, when 22 humanitarian aid workers were killed on 19 August 2003 in a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq.
- ✓ The lives taken away included the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.
- ✓ Ironically, Sergio Vieira de Mello laid the groundwork for the piecing together of the Draft for the official designation of World Humanitarian Day
- ✓ In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly announced the day as World Humanitarian Day.
- ✓ According to UN estimates, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022.
- ✓ WHD is a campaign by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- ✓ The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN aims to help 183 million people in 63 nations this year.
- ✓ Theme 2022 – 'It takes a village', based on the famous saying, "It takes a village to raise a child."