

FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august** **SCHEMES**

- **The Government - has rolled out a 'National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem - NAMASTE scheme' for cleaning of sewers and septic tank from August 17.**



- ✓ The scheme is a joint venture of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ It aims to achieve outcomes like zero fatalities in sanitation work, no sanitation workers (SafaiMitras) come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.
- ✓ The new scheme seeks to enhance occupational safety, provide improved access to safety gears and machines, provide skilled wage opportunities, and focus on continuous capacity building while breaking the inter-generationality of sanitation work
- ✓ The skill development and trainings of SafaiMitras is being taken up with the support of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through the National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation.
- ✓ National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) would be implementing agency for NAMASTE scheme.
- ✓ The NAMASTE Scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 360 crore for four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

- ✓ In the first phase of NAMASTE scheme, 500 cities (converging with Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation – AMRUT - cities) will be covered
- ✓ Out of this, 128 have declared themselves as 'SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehar', while all the 500 AMRUT cities declared to employ 'mechanical sanitation'
- ✓ In becoming 'SafaiMitra Surakshit', these cities are able to achieve adequacy in terms of institutional capacity, manpower and equipment norms as stipulated by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and are providing safe working conditions for SafaiMitras
- ✓ Under this central sector scheme, all Indian cities are to be declared 'SafaiMitra Surakshit' by March 2024
- ✓ The NAMASTE scheme replaces the Self-Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), which was started in 2007
- ✓ The standing finance committee (SFC) led by secretary, social justice and empowerment, R Subrahmanyam has given the approval to "NAMASTE" roadmap in cities and townships already notified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- ✓ Further to the launch of Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge in 2020, 100 cities that were in the advanced stages of mechanisation and sanitation delivery, were designated as 'Lighthouse Cities'.
- ✓ Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge on the occasion of World Toilet Day on November 19, 2020.
- ✓ It was launched across 243 cities of India, with the objective of mechanizing all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.
- ✓ The campaign was implemented from November 19, 2020 to August 2021.
- ✓ The practice of Manual scavenging is already banned in the country under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

NATIONAL

- On August 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that India had reached a landmark of connecting a total of 10 crore rural households to piped clean water facility under Jal Jeevan Abhiyan

Jal Jeevan Mission milestone

The Jal Jeevan Mission, a scheme to link every rural household with a functional tap by 2024, will cover 100 million households by August.

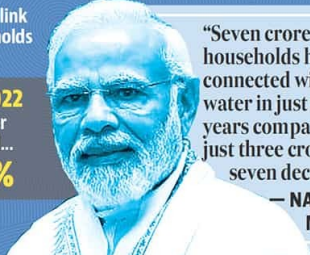

Fewer than 14% of rural households had access to 'on premise' tap drinking water supply, according to Census 2011

The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to link all of India's 192 million households with tap water

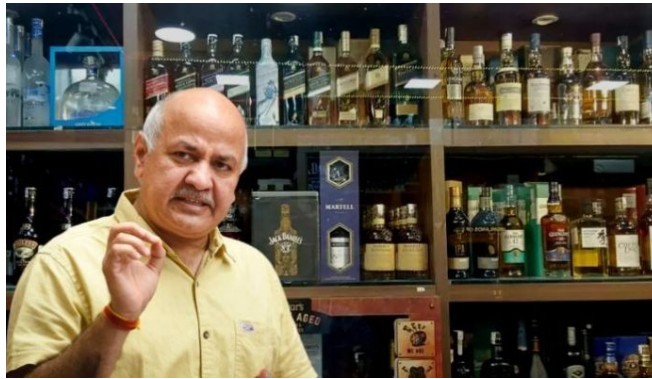
Achieved till Aug 19, 2022
Since 2009, tap water access for rural households has improved...
FROM 17% ➡ TO 52%

70 mn were provided piped water connections in the last 3 years

"Seven crore rural households have been connected with piped water in just three years compared to just three crore in seven decades."
— NARENDRA MODI, PM

- ✓ He was addressing via video link a programme 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' organised by the Goa government to mark 100% piped water supply coverage in rural households of the state
 - ✓ The 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' under the Jal Jeevan Mission was held in Panaji and attended by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
 - ✓ Further, the PM also announced that over one lakh villages have achieved the 'open defecation free plus' (ODF) status across the country
 - ✓ According to the PM, the government provided piped water connection to 7 crore rural families in the last three years under the Jal Jeevan Mission
 - ✓ The mission, launched on August 15, 2019, aims to provide potable tap water supply to all 19 crore rural households by 2024.
 - ✓ When the Mission was announced, only 3.23 crore (16.90%) of the households in villages had access to piped water connections.
 - ✓ PM Modi listed people's participation, partnership of stakeholders, political will and optimum utilisation of resources as four pillars of strength for the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and ODF Plus plan.
 - ✓ An ODF plus village is one which sustains its ODF status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean
 - ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), another flagship programme of the central government, recorded a milestone of 1.01 lakh villages declaring themselves as ODF Plus.
 - ✓ On August 17, Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu became the first 'Har ghar jal' (water to every household) certified state and UT respectively, where people in all villages confirmed availability of adequate, safe and regular supply of water for all households, through resolutions in Gram Sabhas.
 - ✓ As on date, 3 States (Goa, Telangana and Haryana) and 3 UTs (Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands), have reported 100% piped water coverage.
 - ✓ They were followed by Punjab at 99.93%, Gujarat at 97.03%, Bihar at 95.51% and Himachal Pradesh at 94.88%, which are also set to achieve the 100% mark soon.
 - ✓ In the 117 Aspirational districts of the country, at the time of launch of the Mission, only 24.32 lakh (7.57%) household had access to tap water which has now increased to 1.54 Crore (48.00%).
 - ✓ Three Aspirational districts from Telangana (Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli and Bhadrabri Kothagudem) and 1 district each in Punjab (Moga), Haryana (Mewat) and Himachal Pradesh (Chamba) have reported 100% tap water coverage
- **On August 19, CBI - has booked Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and conducted searches at his office and residence**
- ✓ The searches were conducted in connection with its probe into alleged irregularities in framing and implementing the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.



- ✓ The FIR names Sisodia as the top accused in the case, while 14 others — including former excise commissioner Arva Gopi Krishna and 10 liquor licencees and middlemen — have also been named as accused.
 - ✓ The FIR was filed after receiving sanction from the ministry of home affairs on August 17.
 - ✓ On August 19, CBI teams raided 31 places in Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Bengaluru and claimed to have recovered “incriminating” documents, articles and digital records.
 - ✓ The irregularities also include extension of undue favours to the licensees, waiver of or reduction in licence fee, extension of L-1 licence without approval, profit margin on foreign liquor and reduction in number of dry days etc.
 - ✓ It has been alleged that the illegal gains on account of these acts were diverted to public servants by private parties by making false entries in their books of accounts.
 - ✓ The agency will soon send out summons asking the accused to join the investigation.
- **The Ministry of health - has categorically stated that donor human milk cannot be used for commercial purpose in the country**
- ✓ The Ayush ministry has directed the Karnataka state licencing authority to withdraw the licence given to the Bengaluru-based company Neolacta Lifesciences Pvt Ltd “with immediate effect”
 - ✓ The health ministry gave this information in response to a question in Lok Sabha from Congress MP Manish Tewari
 - ✓ Earlier, Neolacta became the first company in Asia selling breastmilk for profit
 - ✓ The company got the AYUSH license for its product ‘Narikshara’ (mother’s milk) in November 2021
 - ✓ Neolacta, which was established in 2016, had obtained a licence from the Karnataka office of FSSAI in the category of dairy products
 - ✓ Food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has canceled the license of the company after several activists raised objections saying that the sale of mother’s milk is not allowed under the rules.

- ✓ After FSSAI cancelled Neolacta's licence, the company continued to sell mother's milk by obtaining an Ayush licence in November 2021 for its product dubbed 'Nariksheera' (breastmilk).
- ✓ Neolacta also sells human milk powder, which is available on the company's platform apart from e-commerce websites.
- ✓ As per the national guidelines on Lactation Management Centre (LMC) in public facilities, donor human milk cannot be used for any commercial purpose.
- ✓ It is to be provided to the newborns/infants admitted in the health facility where Comprehensive Lactation Management Centre (CLMC) is situated, after all the procedures in the guidelines are followed.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Solomon Islands - has secured a \$66 million loan from China to fund tech giant Huawei building 161 telecoms towers across the Pacific nation**
- ✓ It is the first large-scale financing the island nation has received from China since they signed a secretive security pact in April.
- ✓ The Solomons will receive a 20-year concessional loan from state-linked Export-Import Bank of China that will fully fund Huawei's construction of the towers
- ✓ As per the plan, almost half of the towers will be built before the country hosts the Pacific Island Games in November 2023
- ✓ The towers would allow Solomon Islanders, especially those in rural areas, to watch the games even if they cannot travel to capital Honiara.
- ✓ The country switched diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing in 2019.
- ✓ The island nation's growing financial and security links to China have raised concern from the US and its allies, including Australia, which had agreed to build six telecoms towers in the country.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On August 19, museums in the Scottish city of Glasgow - signed an agreement with the Indian government to return seven stolen cultural artefacts to India**



- ✓ Glasgow Life, a charitable organisation which runs the city's museums, had confirmed the handover earlier this year
- ✓ In this regard, the transfer of ownership ceremony was held at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in the presence of Acting Indian High Commissioner to the UK Sujit Ghosh.
- ✓ All seven artefacts were earlier gifted to Glasgow's collections, according to Glasgow Life.
- ✓ The seven antiquities include a ceremonial Indo-Persian talwar or sword, believed to date back to the 14th century, and an 11th century carved stone door jamb taken from a temple in Kanpur.
- ✓ Most of the objects were looted from temples and shrines in different states in northern India during the 19th century, while one was illegally purchased after being stolen from its original owners
- ✓ In all, Glasgow is set to return 51 items to the descendants of their rightful owners from India and Nigeria as well as the Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux tribes in the US state of South Dakota
- ✓ Earlier this year, two British universities returned two Benin bronzes looted by British colonialists in the 19th century to Nigeria

DEFENCE

- **On August 19, an Indian Air Force contingent - reached Australia's Darwin to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2022, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).**



- ✓ The IAF contingent, led by Group Captain YPS Negi, comprises over 100 air warriors, deployed with four Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter and two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic aircraft
- ✓ On way to the Darwin base in Australia, the Sukhois were refuelled mid-air by tankers of the French Air & Space Force
- ✓ The exercise will see participation of around 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations

- ✓ The exercise will witness participation of air forces from the US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and UAE
- ✓ Significantly, Germany, Japan, and the Republic of Korea will be participating fully for the first time.
- ✓ The exercise will focus on “large force employment warfare” from August 19 to September 8.
- ✓ The exercise is a biennial three-week multi-national exercise conducted primarily from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory and Queensland in Australia.
- ✓ The IAF contingent will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices with the participating air forces.
- ✓ The last ‘Pitch Black’ was conducted in 2018 and the 2020 edition of the exercise was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Earlier, the IAF also sent Sukhoi fighters and C-17 aircraft for the “tactical leadership programme” to the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Weapon School at Cairo West Airbase, wherein IAF’s aircrew took part as instructors, in June-July.

ECONOMY

- **Billionaire industrialist and Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani - will buy DB Power for more than Rs 7,000 crore.**
- ✓ This would be his second biggest acquisition in the electricity sector after SB Energy India, which has been bought at around Rs 26,000 crore last year.
- ✓ Adani is buying DB’s 1,200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ DB has power purchase agreements for 923.5 MW of its capacity, backed by fuel supply agreements with Coal India, and has been operating its facilities profitably.

MAKING GREY & GREEN CONNECTIONS

2015 Adani Power buys Lanco Infratech’s 1,200MW Udupi power plant for ₹6,300cr 2019 Acquires GMR Chhattisgarh Energy’s 1,370MW plant for ₹3,530cr ➤ Buys Korba West Power Co’s 600MW unit in Chhattisgarh ➤ Adani Green Energy buys 205MW solar assets from Essel Group for ₹1,300cr ➤ Qatar Investment Authority invests ₹3,200cr in Adani Electricity Mumbai	2020 Adani Green Energy consummates 2.1GW joint venture with Total , gets ₹3,707cr 2021 Adani Green acquires 50MW solar asset from SkyPower Global, 75MW from Sterling & Wilson ➤ Buys SB Energy’s 5GW renewable power portfolio for \$3.5bn (India’s largest renewables M&A transaction) 2022 International Holding Company invests \$2bn in Adani Group’s green portfolio
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- ✓ The deal requires the approvals of the country's anti-trust agency and other regulators & stakeholders before coming into effect
 - ✓ The proposed DB deal seeks to expand Adani's thermal power operations in Chhattisgarh.
 - ✓ In 2019, Adani Power had acquired GMR Group's 1,370MW plant in Chhattisgarh for Rs 3,530 crore.
 - ✓ In the same year, it had also bought Avantha Group's 600MW unit in Chhattisgarh.
 - ✓ The DB deal will further reinforce Adani's position as India's largest private sector thermal power producer with an aggregate operating capacity of over 12,450MW.
 - ✓ DB, incorporated on October 12, 2006, posted a profit of Rs 580 crore on a turnover of Rs 3,488 crore in fiscal 2022.
 - ✓ It is majorly (about 84%) owned by Diligent Power (an arm of Dainik Bhaskar Group) and the balance (16%) is held by infrastructure-focused private equity fund Global Infrastructure Partners.
 - ✓ In the past, the promoters of DB Power had held discussions with Resurgent Power —a fund sponsored by Tata Power, Canada's CDPQ and other prominent names — to sell the Chhattisgarh unit but no deal was inked.
- **Nandan Nilekani's venture fund Fundamentum Partnership - has launched its second fund with a corpus of \$227 million**



- ✓ The second fund will invest in growth-stage startups that have attained product-market fit and are in a scale-up phase.
- ✓ Fundamentum plans to lead or co-lead funding rounds, and invest \$25-40 million each in four-five startups every year.
- ✓ The second fund is little over twice the size of its maiden \$100-million fund that was launched by Nilekani along with Helion co-founder Sanjeev Aggarwal in 2017.
- ✓ The first fund was deployed across six firms including Spinny and Pharmeasy that have turned unicorns.
- ✓ Canadian pension fund CDPQ invested in the first fund as a limited partner (LP) in 2018.

- ✓ About 25% of the corpus of the new fund will come from Fundmentum's core team.
- ✓ Besides Nilekani and Aggarwal, the team comprises co-founder & general partner Ashish Kumar, principal Pratik Jain, and CFO Sanjay Chaturvedi.
- ✓ The fund is looking to invest in consumer, digital, Bharat apps and agri tech.

SPORTS

- **Haryana's Manisha Kalyan - became the first Indian footballer to play in the UEFA Champions League**



- ✓ The 20-year old striker made her debut for Apollon Ladies FC replacing Cyprus' Marilena Georgiou as a substitute in the 60th minute at the Makareio Stadium in Engomi, Cyprus.
- ✓ Apollon Ladies FC beat Latvian top flight club SFK Riga 3-0 in their UEFA Women's Champions League opener on August 18.
- ✓ With this, Manisha became the first Indian footballer — among both men and women — to play in the topmost European club competition, the UEFA Champions League
- ✓ The closest that Indian football had come to such a feat was when Gurpreet Singh Sandhu represented Norwegian club Stabaek in the Europa League qualifying in 2016.
- ✓ Manisha had emerged as the fourth Indian women's international footballer to sign for an overseas club when she landed a multi-year contract with Cypriot top division winners Apollon Ladies
- ✓ She is the second player from Gokulam Kerala to sign for an overseas club after Dangmei Grace joined Uzbek outfit FC Nasaf.
- ✓ They joined a group of elite footballers after Aditi Chauhan and Bala Devi, who have played their games abroad
- ✓ Kalyan had produced impressive performances for India and Gokulam Kerala in the Indian Women's League (IWL).

- ✓ She was recently awarded the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year for the 2021-22 season.
 - ✓ Manisha was drafted into the Indian U-17 team that played the BRICS Cup in South Africa in July 2018
 - ✓ Manisha was the first Indian footballer, male or female, to score a goal against Brazil in a 6-1 loss for India in November 2021
 - ✓ Further, Manisha is the first Indian woman to score in the Asian Women's Championship.
 - ✓ She scored for Gokulam in a game against Bunyodkor, the champions of Uzbekistan's top tier Women's Football league competition.
 - ✓ Apollon Ladies are Women's Club champions of Cyprus, based out of Limassol, the capital city of the island nation
- **Antim Panghal - became the first-ever Indian woman wrestler to win a gold at the U-20 world championships**



- ✓ On August 19, Antim defeated Kazakhstan's Atlyn Shagayeva 8-0 in the 53kg category final in Sofia, Bulgaria.
 - ✓ It was for the first time in the competition's 34-year long history that an Indian girl has finished on top of the podium.
 - ✓ Belonging to Bhagana village in Hisar district of Haryana, the 17-year-old won all her bouts by huge margins
 - ✓ Earlier, Antim had defeated European champion Olivia Andrich, by technical superiority (11-0).
- **Tokyo Paralympics champion Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and silver medallist discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya - created new world records at the ongoing fourth Indian Open National Para Athletics Championships at the Sri Kanteerava stadium in Bengaluru on August 19.**
- ✓ Sumit created a new world record after hurling the spear to a record distance of 68.62m in the event.
 - ✓ The 24-year-old para athlete's previous world record throw of 68.55m in the F64 category came at the Tokyo Games last year.
 - ✓ He also broke the world record thrice during his six attempts.



- ✓ Sumit was first noticed during the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Italy in 2019 when he broke the world record in the F64 category enroute to winning the Silver medal in the Combined Event.
- ✓ Sumit Subsequently bagged silver medal at World Para athletics championships in Dubai that year by breaking his own world record in the F64 category.
- ✓ On the same day, Yogesh also created a new world record in the F56 discus throw category event with a throw of 48.34m.

