



FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- The single-member commission of retired Justice A Arumugasamy - submitted its report to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin at the Secretariat on August 27.



REPORT IN BOTH TAMIL, ENGLISH

Sept 22, 2016 | J Jayalalithaa rushed to Apollo Hospitals from her Poes Garden residence in an unconscious condition

Dec 5 | Jaya's death announced, after 75 days of hospitalisation

Sept 25, 2017 | TN govt forms Justice A Arumugaswamy commission of inquiry

Nov 22 | Commission begins inquiry

April 26, 2019 | SC stays proceedings on a petition by Apollo seeking a medical expert committee to assist commission

March 7, 2022 | After SC lifts stay and forms panel of AIIMS

doctors, **commission resumes hearing**

April 27 | After recording depositions and examination of nearly 150 witnesses, **commission winds up hearing**

Aug 20 | Experts committee comprising AIIMS-Delhi doctors submits a report to Justice Arumugaswamy saying there was **no error in treatment of Jayalalithaa** by Apollo Hospitals

Aug 24 | Arumugaswamy commission's **final extended tenure comes to an end**

Aug 27 | Justice Arumugaswamy **submits his report to CM M K Stalin**

- ✓ The Commission was formed to enquire into the circumstances, health condition and situation leading to the hospitalisation of the late Chief Minister J Jayalalitha on 22 September 2016 and subsequent treatment provided till her demise on 5 December 2016
- ✓ Justice Arumugasamy has filed his 608 pages final report in Tamil and 500 pages report in English
- ✓ The Arumugaswamy Commission of Inquiry, constituted by the previous AIADMK government, commenced its hearing on November 22, 2017.
- ✓ A total of 154 witnesses in connection to Jayalalithaa have appeared before Arumugaswamy Commission and have put forward their points of view.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu State cabinet meeting is likely to be conducted on August 29 at TN Secretariat and the report is likely to be placed before the cabinet

- On August 27, Chief Minister M K Stalin – inaugurated a new six-storey building at the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital in Chennai



- ✓ The facility was inaugurated by the chief minister as a part of the bicentenary celebrations of the state-run institution, which is one of the oldest eye hospitals in Asia
 - ✓ The new building constructed at a cost of Rs 65.60 crore houses state-of-the-art equipment and a theatre for ophthalmic surgeries
 - ✓ This building with 150 beds has special eye treatment rooms including outpatient, emergency, eye care, cataract care and retinal care
 - ✓ Among the other equipment inaugurated is a Telecobalt machine worth Rs 1.77 crore at the Arignar Anna Cancer Hospital in Kancheepuram.
 - ✓ A laboratory for testing Acute Encephalitis, built at a cost of Rs 5.73 crore, at the King Institute was also inaugurated
 - ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian was present during the occasion
- **Chola-era inscriptions – were identified during an exploratory study at Thirumangalam Samavedisvara temple near Lalgudi in Trichy.**



- ✓ The inscriptions documented the endowments made to the temple and maintenance work carried out by individuals
- ✓ Twelve Chola inscriptions and one of a Nayak chief were already identified in the temple in 1930 while five more were discovered in 1993 and recently two more were identified.

- ✓ The inscription found on the stone that forms the floor near the Amman shrine has lost the king's name but mentions his 33rd regnal (ruling) year.
- ✓ The epigraphists identified the king as Rajaraja III, whose 22nd year record was also found in the temple.

STATES

- **The central government - has given its nod to the Uttar Pradesh government's Family ID plan — the Parivar Kalyan Card**
 - ✓ The new scheme has been added to the list of state-specific unique ID schemes in the country.
 - ✓ The UP Parivar Kalyan Card (PKC) Scheme was announced recently by the Yogi Adityanath-government
 - ✓ It seeks to establish a comprehensive database of the state's family units and identify beneficiaries for its various schemes including employment, pensions, and housing benefits.
 - ✓ The PKC will provide a unique 12-digit ID number for each family, and the initial collection of data for families will be conducted through ration cards.
 - ✓ The UP government recently launched a pilot programme of PKC scheme in Prayagraj
 - ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has allowed the UP government to link Aadhaar data with the PKC.
 - ✓ Other similar initiatives for identifying potential scheme beneficiaries implemented by other states include Haryana's Parivar Pehchan Patra, Karnataka's Kutumba family ID, Rajasthan's Bhamashah scheme, and Madhya Pradesh's Samagra ID
- **The Anang Tal lake in South Delhi - has been declared a monument of national importance through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Culture recently**



- ✓ Located near the Qutub Minar complex and Sanjay Van, the protected area would be 42,894 square metres
- ✓ The mini lake was created in 1060 AD by Raja Anang Pal Tomar, the founder of Delhi.

- ✓ It is said Alauddin Khalji, in 1296-1316 AD, utilised the water of this tank when he built Qutub minar and extended the Qutub-ul-Islam mosque

NATIONAL

- On August 27, Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya – said that ‘One Nation, One Fertiliser’ (ONOF) scheme will be implemented across the country from October 2, 2022



- ✓ As part of the initiative, crop nutrients will be sold under a single brand name, ‘Bharat’ irrespective of the manufacturing companies under the Centre’s fertilizer subsidy scheme, ‘Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Janurvarak Pariyojana’ (PM-BJP).
- ✓ The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer has instructed all companies to use the new brand name — Bharat — and the ‘PMBJP’ logo on the bags in order to convey the government's decision
- ✓ Accordingly, the single brand name for urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), Muriate of potash (MOP) and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPKs) would be Bharat Urea, Bharat DAP, Bharat MOP and Bharat NPK for all fertilizers companies
- ✓ The new brand name, along with ‘PMBJP’ logo of the renamed scheme will cover two-thirds of the front of new fertiliser bags.
- ✓ The remaining space on the front will display information about the manufacturer, including name, logo, address and other statutory information.
- ✓ According to the Government, a single brand name will help in the reduction of freight charges due to the stopping of frequent movement of fertilizers, reducing the transit time, and ensure the availability of fertilizers throughout the year irrespective of brand preferences
- ✓ The fertiliser companies will not be allowed to procure old designed bags from September 15 and have been given time till December 12 to exhaust all their old designed bags from the market.

- **On August 27, the government - banned the export of wheat or meslin flour (atta) and other processed items made from wheat such as maida, samolina (rava/ sirgi), wholemeal atta and resultant atta.**
- ✓ According to a notification by the director general of foreign trade (DGFT), these have been put in the “prohibited category”.
- ✓ Their export will be allowed only after the government gives permission.
- ✓ The notification was issued two days after the Union Cabinet approved change to a decision made in 2013 to enable the DGFT to put the ban on processed food items made from wheat.
- ✓ The retail prices of atta have gone up to Rs 35.6 per kg compared to Rs 30.3 per kg a year back, which is a 17% increase.
- ✓ This is primarily attributed to the spike in export of wheat flour since the government banned the export on wheat due to fall in domestic production.
- **Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur - launched 'Azadi Quest', a series of online educational mobile games based on India's freedom struggle, on August 24**



- ✓ Azadi Quest is a set of online games designed for players of all ages for interactive learning with fun gameplay.
- ✓ The Initiative is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to 'Engage, Entertain and Educate' the people through toys and games
- ✓ On the occasion, Publications Division and Zynga India have signed an MoU to mark year-long partnership to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' through series of mobile games.
- ✓ The Azadi Quest games are available for Android and iOS devices in English and Hindi

INTERNATIONAL

- **Germany - has launched the world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains in the state of Lower Saxony.**



- ✓ Accordingly, 14 trains with hydrogen fuel cell drive - produced by French manufacturer Alstom - are to replace diesel trains.
 - ✓ The total cost of the project is around \$92 million
 - ✓ According to Alstom, the Coradia iLint trains have a range of up to 1,000 kilometres and a maximum speed of 140 kmph
 - ✓ These trains are emission-free, only emit steam and condensed water, and operate with a low level of noise
 - ✓ By using hydrogen produced with renewable energy, the trains will save 1.6 million litres of diesel fuel a year and thus reduce CO₂ emissions by 4,400 tonnes per year
 - ✓ Germany currently has around 4,000 diesel trains on its non-electrified tracks.
 - ✓ The German government has supported the expansion of hydrogen usage as a clean substitute for fossil fuels
 - ✓ Germany aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
- **Africa - has adopted a new strategy to boost access to the diagnosis, treatment and care of severe non-communicable diseases (NCD).**
- ✓ The new strategy is called 'PEN-PLUS, A Regional Strategy to Address Severe Non-communicable Diseases at First-Level Referral Health Facilities'
 - ✓ It is aimed at bridging the access gap in treatment and care of patients with chronic and severe NCDs
 - ✓ The new strategy urges countries to put in place standardised programmes to tackle chronic and serious non-communicable diseases by ensuring that essential medicines, technologies and diagnostics are available and accessible in district hospitals
 - ✓ The PEN-PLUS strategy has been successfully implemented in Liberia, Malawi and Rwanda, with evidence of significant improvement in the number of patients accessing services in these countries
 - ✓ Health ministers of African countries recently endorsed the PEN-PLUS plan at the 72nd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Lome, Togo on August 23 to reduce premature mortality from NCDs.

- ✓ NCDs include heart diseases, cancers, diabetes, asthma among others.
- ✓ Globally, NCDs are the main cause of morbidity and mortality, accounting for 71% of global mortality
- ✓ In the African Region, the proportion of mortality due to NCDs ranges from 27-88%.
- ✓ In Africa, the most prevalent, severe non-communicable diseases include sickle-cell disease, type 1 and insulin-dependent type 2 diabetes, rheumatic heart disease, severe hypertension and moderate to severe and persistent asthma

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - held bilateral talks with Tanzanian Minister of Defence and National Service, Stergomena Lawrence Tax, in Delhi on August 26.**



- ✓ The ministers discussed a wide range of issues concerning bilateral, regional and defence industrial cooperation during the meeting
- ✓ They agreed to the formation of a task force to prepare a five-year future road map for enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ The ministers also decided to hold the next joint defence cooperation meeting in Tanzania at the earliest.
- ✓ Rajnath Singh invited Lawrence Tax to the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and DefExpo which is scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 18 to 22.
- ✓ Lawrence Tax visited the Wargaming Development Centre and Information Fusion Centre Indian Ocean Region before departing for Hyderabad to interact with the Indian defence industries
- ✓ She would also be visiting Ordnance Factory, Medak, Bharat Dynamics Ltd, and Zen Technologies Ltd in Hyderabad.

PERSONALITIES

- **Archbishop of Hyderabad Diocese Dr Poola Anthony - officially became the first dalit to be appointed a cardinal on August 27.**



- ✓ Pope Francis placed the red biretta on Anthony's head as well as the ring on his hand at St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City on the day.
- ✓ The Vatican, so far, had four cardinals of Indian origin and the elevation of Anthony and Filipe Neri Ferrao from Goa takes the total to six.
- ✓ Anthony, 60, was ordained as a priest in 1992 and was appointed bishop of Kurnool in 2008.
- ✓ In 2020, he was named archbishop of Hyderabad and was elected a cardinal by Pope Francis in May 2022.
- ✓ With Anthony's elevation, he would be among the 20 new cardinals who would eventually elect Pope Francis's successor.
- ✓ Pope Francis had previously indicated that he may retire because of his deteriorating health.
- ✓ In the event of his retirement, a conclave of all cardinals below the age of 80 would elect a new Pope.
- ✓ Anthony achieved notable recognition not only for becoming the first Dalit cardinal but also the first from the Telugu states to get the key post.

DEFENCE

- **The 10th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2022) -was inaugurated by defence secretary Ajay Kumar on August 27.**
- ✓ The two-day exercise which is conducted under the banner of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board is hosted by the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ The exercise is being attended by 24 observers from 16 friendly foreign countries.
- ✓ SAREX-22 will validate the SOP and best practices during conduct of a mass rescue operation.
- ✓ The theme of this edition of biennial exercise is "Capacity Building Towards Marine Passenger Safety"

APPOINTMENTS

- **On August 27, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit - became the 49th Chief Justice of India**

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office in the presence of the Vice President, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries.



- ✓ Justice Lalit is the second Chief Justice after Justice S M Sikri to be directly elevated as Supreme Court judge from the bar and subsequently given charge of the country's judiciary as its head.
- ✓ Justice Lalit's tenure will be only for 74-days and he will demit office on November 8 upon retirement.
- **On August 25, distinguished scientist Samir V Kamat - was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**



- ✓ Kamat, who is Director General, Naval Systems & Materials, at the DRDO will succeed G Satheesh Reddy
- ✓ Reddy has been named as scientific adviser to the defence minister
- ✓ Reddy was appointed as DRDO chief in August 2018 for two years and was given two years extension in the post in August 2020.
- ✓ Kamat has been appointed to the post till he attains the age of 60 years or until further orders
- ✓ Dr. Samir V. Kamat, a distinguished scientist, had previously assumed charge as Director General Naval Systems & Materials (NS & M) at DRDO in 2017

- ✓ Kamat joined DRDO at DMRL, Hyderabad, as Scientist 'C' in 1989 and assumed charge as NS&M Director in 2017
- ✓ For his achievements, Dr. Kamat received the Indranil Medal by the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India in 1986, the DRDO Young Scientist Award in 1998, the Binani Gold Medal (jointly) of the Indian Institute of Metals in 2006, National Metallurgists' Day Metallurgist of the Year Award by the Ministry of Steel in 2008
- ✓ Later on, he got the National Science Day Oration Silicon Medal in 2009, the DRDO Scientist of the Year award in 2012 and in 2018, he received the IIT Kharagpur Distinguished Alumni Award.

AWARDS

- **Former German chancellor Angela Merkel - has been awarded the 2022 Unesco Peace Prize for "her efforts to welcome refugees"**



- ✓ In 2015, Merkel welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea, to Germany
- ✓ In the summer of 2015, as refugees were coming into Europe, Merkel opened her country's borders and famously declared to Germans "Wir schaffen das" (We can do this)
- ✓ In 2005 national elections, Merkel became Germany's first female chancellor, and one of the leading figures of the European Union
- ✓ In October 2018, Merkel announced that she would stand down as Leader of the CDU at the party convention, and would not seek a fifth term as Chancellor in the 2021 federal election
- ✓ Additionally, the jury awarded an honorable mention to Julien Lusanz for her commitment to women victims of sexual violence.
 - ✓ She is best known for her work in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ✓ The honour, which is officially called Felix Houphouët-Boigny-Unesco Peace Prize, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast
- ✓ It has been awarded each year to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace.

- ✓ The Prize was established in 1989 by a resolution supported by 120 countries and adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session
- ✓ Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. De Klerk were the first recipients of UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize in 1992.
- **Bangladesh born illustrator and author Fahmida Azim - has been selected for the 2022 Pulitzer prize under the category of “Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.”**



- ✓ She is one among the four journalists who have been selected for the prestigious award alongwith Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Walt Hickey.
- ✓ They have been given the honour for their work on the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs for Insider Online magazine.
- ✓ Fahmida Azim was born in Bangladesh and is now settled in Seattle, US
- ✓ The work titled ‘I escaped a Chinese internment Camp’ has illustrations by Fahmida Azim
- ✓ Earlier this year Fahmida won the Golden Kite award for her work in “Samira Surfs.”
- ✓ This book has been written by Rukhsanna Guidroz and published by Penguin Random House.
- ✓ Fahmida is the second person from Bangladesh to win the Pulitzer Prize.
- ✓ The first was Mohammad Ponir Hossain who won the prize in 2018 for feature photography as part of the Reuters team of photographers for his pictures of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- ✓ ‘Insider’ is an American online media company known for running the financial news website known as ‘Insider’ which was earlier known as Business Insider
- ✓ Pulitzer Prize is an annual award that is given for achievements in newspapers, magazines, musical composition, online journalism, and literature across 21 categories
- ✓ Administered by Columbia University, the prize was established in the year 1917 by the provisions that were written in the will of Joseph Pulitzer

SPORTS

- **Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra - became the first Indian to win a Diamond League meet with an 89.08m throw in Lausanne on August 26**



- ✓ The 24-year-old launched the winning throw with his first attempt and finished comfortably ahead of second placed Jakub Valdeich (85.88m).
 - ✓ His result also helped him qualify for the 2023 World Athletics Championships.
 - ✓ Chopra picked up a groin injury while bagging silver at the World Championships in Eugene and subsequently skipped the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
 - ✓ With this, Chopra has qualified for the Diamond League finals in Zurich scheduled for September 7-8.
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty - bagged a historic bronze at the BWF World championships in Tokyo on August 27**



- ✓ In a tightly contested match, the World No. 7 pair suffered their sixth straight loss to the Malaysian duo of Aor Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the semifinals in three sets
 - ✓ The Men's doubles bronze is a first for India and the country's only second doubles medal after Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claimed a women's doubles bronze in 2011
- **Disney Star – has won the TV and digital rights to both men's and women's global cricket events for a four year period from 2024 to 2027**



- ✓ This was confirmed by the International Cricket Council on August 27 following a board meeting
- ✓ There were only four bidders for the India rights, including Viacom18, Sony Pictures Networks India and Zee Entertainment Enterprises
- ✓ Disney Star won the rights following a single-round sealed bid process
- ✓ The decision followed a robust tender, bidding and evaluation process, which started in June 2022.