

## **FIVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august** **STATES**

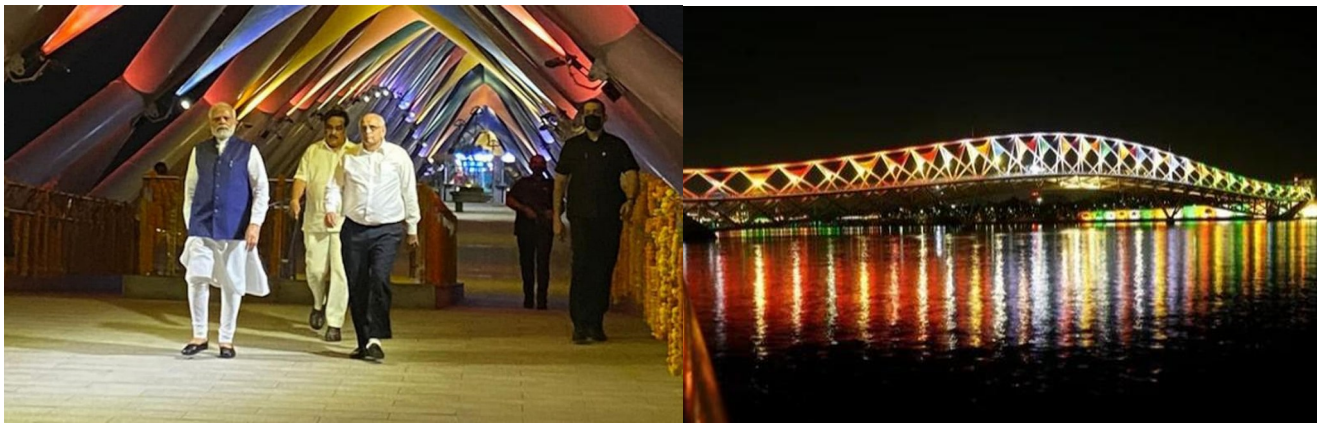
- The 50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 - kicked off at Iboyaima Shumang Leela Shanglen at Palace Compound in Imphal recently on August 24



- ✓ Manipur Governor L Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural function
- ✓ Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur in which the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists
- ✓ Originally Shumang Leela began as a comedy genre presented to kings and nobles, which evolved into the present form of courtyard drama.

## **NATIONAL**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the iconic 'Atal Bridge' over the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on August 27
- ✓ The foot overbridge will help connect the western and eastern ends of the Sabarmati river.



- ✓ The pedestrian-only Atal Bridge has been constructed between the Ellis Bridge and Sardar Bridge
- ✓ The bridge, which is nearly 300 meters long and 14 meters wide in the middle, has been built using 2,600 metric tonnes of steel pipes
- ✓ The bridge has been built by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and is named after the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✓ PM Modi embarked on his two-day visit to Gujarat on August 27 to attend multiple events in the state.
- ✓ During the first day of his visit, he addressed a gathering at the 'Khadi Utsav' programme held on the Sabarmati riverfront.
- ✓ In efforts to promote Khadi and its products, the Prime Minister also tried his hands on the charkha while attending the Khadi Utsav.



- ✓ On August 28, the PM inaugurated the 'Smriti Van' memorial built on the outskirts of Bhuj city in Kutch district of Gujarat in memory of the 2001 earthquake victims
- ✓ The memorial has been built over nearly 470 acres in dedication of 13,000 people who lost their lives during the 2001 earthquake which had its epicentre in Bhuj
- ✓ The memorial carries names of the people, who lost their lives during the earthquake.
- ✓ It also has a state-of-the-art Smriti Van Earthquake Museum, which is segregated in seven blocks on seven themes - Rebirth, Rediscover, Restore, Rebuild, Rethink, Relive and Renew
- ✓ Apart from this, the PM also inaugurated the 'Veer Balak Memorial' in Anjar town of Kutch in Gujarat dedicated to children who died in the 2001 earthquake



- ✓ During January 26, 2001 earthquake in Gujarat, 185 school children and 20 teachers were buried under the rubble of nearby buildings while attending a rally in Anjar town of Kutch.
- **The NITI Aayog - has declared holy city of Haridwar in Uttarakhand as the best aspirational district in the country**



- ✓ The district has secured first rank in basic infrastructure theme and has been entitled to receive additional allocation of Rs. 3 crore for further development on five parameters under the aspirational districts programme
- ✓ The Haridwar district has been allocated to union commerce and industries minister Piyush Goyal who has been taking active interest in making it the No. 1 aspirational district in the country.
- ✓ The aspirational district programme was launched in January 2018 to quickly and effectively transform some of most underdeveloped districts of the country.
- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - released the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries**
- ✓ The new rules, published on August 24, seek to replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.
- ✓ The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries
- ✓ The rules are based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries.
- ✓ To meet the EPR obligations, producers may engage themselves or authorise any other entity for collection, recycling or refurbishment of waste batteries.
- ✓ The rules seek to set up a centralized online portal for exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers/refurbishers to fulfil the obligations of producers.

- ✓ The rules promote setting up of new industries and entrepreneurship in collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India and Bangladesh - have finalised the text of a Memorandum of Understanding on interim sharing of the water of the Kushiara river**
- ✓ The text of the agreement was finalised at the 38th ministerial-level meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) held in Delhi on August 25 after a gap of 12 years



- ✓ The Indian delegation at the JRC was led by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, while the Bangladeshi delegation was headed by Zaheed Farooque, State Minister for Water Resources.
- ✓ Under the agreement, both sides finalised the design and location of water intake point on the Feni river in accordance with an October 2019 India-Bangladesh MoU on the subject, to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura
- ✓ The Kushiara River forms the Indo-Bangladesh border as a branch of the Barak River when it separates from the Surma, another branch of the Barak
- ✓ Manipur, Mizoram and Assam receive water through this river in India
- ✓ The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in 1972 as a bilateral mechanism to address issues of mutual interest on common rivers
- ✓ India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, of which seven - Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudhkumar and Kushiara - were identified earlier for developing a framework of water-sharing agreements on priority.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On August 29, Union Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya - addressed the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**



- ✓ During the meeting, the Minister launched two digital tools - Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0 (IPDMS 2.0) and Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App
  - ✓ IPDMS 2.0 is an integrated responsive cloud-based application developed by NPPA with technical support from Centre for Advance Computing (C-DAC).
  - ✓ It would provide a single window for submissions of various forms as mandated under Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 and facilitate the stakeholders to connect with National Pharma Pricing Regulator from across the country
  - ✓ The 2.0 version of Pharma Sahi Daam has the facility for launching complaints by consumer through the consumer complaint handling module
  - ✓ It will have updated features like speech recognition, availability in Hindi and English, share button and bookmarking medicines
  - ✓ NPPA is an independent body set up in 1997 under Department of Pharmaceuticals functioning under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
  - ✓ Its mandate is to fix/revise controlled bulk drugs prices and formulations, enforce prices and availability of medicines under DPCO, 2013.
- **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - have identified 75 tribal districts to carry out focused activities to make them TB-free.**
- ✓ This was announced in the national conclave recently held at the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in New Delhi to discuss the learnings of the 100-day Aashwasan Campaign under 'Tribal TB Initiative'.

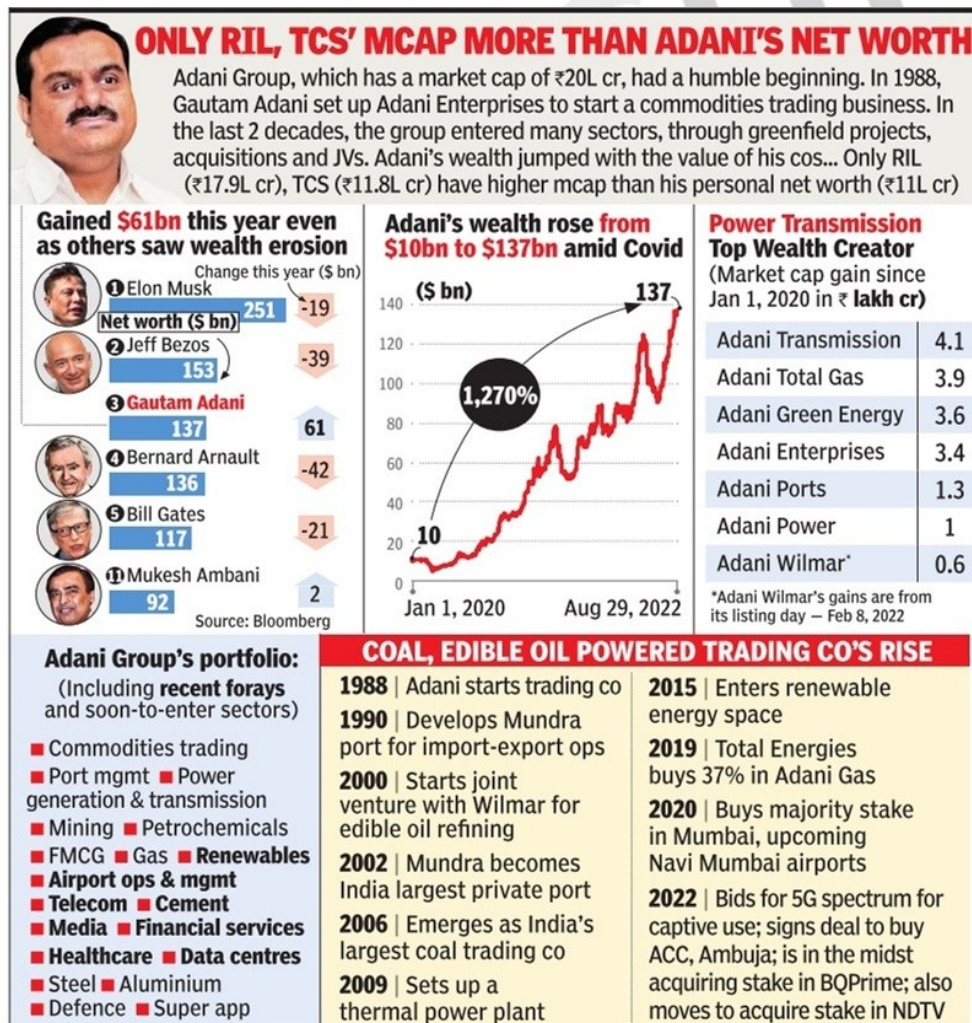




- ✓ The Aashwasan Campaign was started in January 2022 in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra to identify active cases for Tuberculosis in 174 tribal districts of India, under the ambit of the Tribal TB Initiative.
- ✓ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under its Aashwasan Campaign, screened over one crore persons in over 68,000 villages till now
- ✓ The Aashwasan Campaign was supported by USAID (United States Agency for International Development) as a technical partner and Piramal Swasthya as the implementing partner.
- ✓ India is committed to eliminate tuberculosis from the country by 2025, five years ahead of the World Health Organization's (WHO) global target i.e. 2030

## PERSONALITIES

- On August 30, Industrialist Gautam Adani - became the third richest person in the world, behind Tesla's Elon Musk and Amazon's Jeff Bezos



- ✓ Chairman of the Adani group, Adani is the first Asian to break into the top three of the Bloomberg billionaire index, which ranks the richest people on earth

- ✓ With a net worth of \$137.4 billion, Adani surpassed French businessman Bernard Arnault, cofounder of world's largest luxury brand LVMH
- ✓ Telsa CEO Elon Musk has a net worth of \$251 billion, while Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has a total worth of \$153 billion
- ✓ Gautam Adani, 60, has added \$60.9 billion to his fortune in 2022 alone, five times more than anyone else
- ✓ In July, according to the Forbes world's richest list, Gautam Adani became the world's fourth richest person, toppling Microsoft founder Bill Gates
- ✓ In April, Adani not only became the richest Asian but also went past legendary investor Warren Buffett to become the fifth richest person of the world
- ✓ In February, Adani overtook Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, according to the Bloomberg's Billionaires Index ranking
- ✓ The Adani Group has seven publicly listed companies in India, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Wilmar, Adani Ports, Adani Green Energy, Adani Transmission, Adani Total Gas and Adani Power
- ✓ The group now owns India's largest private-sector port and airport operator, city-gas distributor and coal miner.
- ✓ Earlier in June, Adani had pledged to donate \$7.7 billion to charity to mark his 60th birthday.
- ✓ India's second-richest man, Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani, is at number 11 in the world rankings, with total wealth of \$91.9 billion

## DEFENCE

- **The 13th edition of the India-US joint special forces exercise Vajra Prahar 2022 – concluded at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh recently on August 28, 2022**



- ✓ The 21-day joint training provided an opportunity for the forces from both nations to train in air borne operations, special operations and counter-terrorism operations in a joint environment under the United Nations Charter
- ✓ The exercise was conducted in two phases - the first phase involved combat conditioning and tactical level special missions training exercises and the second phase included 48 hours of validation of the training received by both contingents in the first phase



- ✓ The two contingents undertook joint training, planning and execution of a series of mock operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.
- ✓ This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States since 2010
- ✓ The 12th edition was conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Cord in Washington, USA in October 2021.

## ECONOMY

- **The government's ambitious e-commerce platform, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) - will soon open for beta-testing, with B2C transactions, in limited areas from September 2022**
- ✓ The basic purpose of ONDC was to assist small, undigitised traders, and assist them to get digitised and avail of opportunities offered by the e-commerce ecosystem.
- ✓ The plan is to create a UPI type platform, which allows consumers to select the sellers based on various parameters, instead of sellers being the e-commerce player selecting the top players.
- ✓ The government hopes to get farm inputs & products, fashion and cabs on the platform before December, while travel and financial services players expected to join by March next year
- ✓ ONDC was launched to counter proprietary e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart

### WHERE IS ONDC HEADED



- ✓ For last few months, alpha testing is under way in 59 cities with 220 sellers, around 1,100 users with nine partners.
- ✓ Groceries, food and beverages are currently live, with delivery being hyper-local for the 57,000-odd catalogue items.
- ✓ In second phase, ONDC has proposed to have at least 750 items for consumers and two restaurants in each live location.
- ✓ Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani, former Trai chairman R S Sharma and QCI head Adil Zainulbhai are recently added on the advisory panel of ONDC



- ✓ Further, the ONDC platform has started working with HUL, ITC and Coca-Cola to operationalise wholesale retailer connect apps to strengthen the distribution chain by December.

## OBITUARY

- **Acclaimed economist Abhijit Sen, one of the country's foremost experts on rural economy - passed away at 72 years on August 29.**



- ✓ In a career spanning over four decades, Sen taught economics at Sussex, Oxford, Cambridge and Essex before joining the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1985
- ✓ In 1997, the United Front government appointed him chairman of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices – the ministry of agriculture body tasked with recommending minimum support prices for a number of farm commodities.
- ✓ When his term ended in 2000, he was asked by the National Democratic Alliance government to head the High-Level Committee of Experts on Long Term Grain Policy
- ✓ Among the recommendations the committee made was to introduce a universal public distribution system (PDS) for rice and wheat for all consumers across India, and for the CACP to be made an empowered, statutory body.
- ✓ He was a member of the Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014, when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister.
- ✓ In 2014, the Narendra Modi government replaced the Planning Commission with the Niti Aayog
- ✓ In 2010, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan for public service.
- ✓ Sen had also been associated with global research and multilateral organisations such as the UNDP, Asian Development Bank, Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN, International Fund for Agricultural Development and OECD Development Centre.

## SPORTS

- **CWG 2022 bronze medal winner G Sathiyan - will lead the Indian men's challenge in the absence of A Sharath Kamal in the World Team Table**

## Tennis Championships to be held in Chengdu from September 30 to October 9.



- ✓ Sharath, who created history in 2022 Commonwealth Games by winning three gold medals, has opted out citing personal reasons.
- ✓ Apart from World No. 37 Sathiyan, Sanil Shetty, Harmeet Desai, Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar have been included in the men's team.
- ✓ Manika Batra will lead the women's team, which comprises of Sreeja Akula, Reeth Rishya, Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh
- ✓ The Indian team finished 13th in the 2018 World Team Championships in Sweden.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY/WEEK

### ➤ World Water Week – August 23 to September 1, 2022



- ✓ The World Water Week is observed annually on the last week of August and first week of September to address global water issues and related concerns on freshwater
- ✓ The week also provides an opportunity to discuss and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), which is about clean water and sanitation for all.

- ✓ The week is marked by a conference organised every year by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ✓ It brings together experts, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs from various sectors and countries with the aim of developing solutions for water-related challenges.
- ✓ The theme of this year's event is "Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water"
- ✓ The first ever World Water Week was observed in 1991
- ✓ Every year World Water Day is celebrated on March 22
- ✓ The world-famous Stockholm Water Prize is awarded during World Water Week
- ✓ In 2022, the prize was won by Wilfried Brutsaert for his work on "Effects of climate change on water resources and local rainfall".
- ✓ The other prizes distributed during the week are Stockholm Industry Water Award and Stockholm Junior Water Prize.
- ✓ On behalf of India, Asok Kumar, the Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, spoke about the Arth Ganga model during his virtual keynote address to the Stockholm World Water Week 2022 on August 24
- ✓ PM Modi first introduced the concept during the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019
- ✓ During the meeting, the PM urged for a shift from Namami Gange, the Union Government's flagship project to clean the Ganga, to the model of Arth Ganga.
- ✓ The Arth Ganga model focuses on the sustainable development of the Ganga and its surrounding areas, by focusing on economic activities related to the river.

➤ **International Day for People of African Descent – August 31**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the exceptional contributions of Africans and people of African descent around the world.
- ✓ The first International Day for People of African Descent was proclaimed and observed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last year on August 31, 2021.



- ✓ It has to be recalled that the day was first observed halfway through the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)
- ✓ The day is a significant initiative towards ending racism, launched twenty years after the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action held in 2001

