



FIVE RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-august

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - is planning to conduct a Tamil language aptitude test for awarding monthly scholarships to Class XI students for two years.**
- ✓ The objective type tests will be conducted on October 1 at Class X level to 1,500 Class XI students
- ✓ Based on the results, the state government will award a monthly scholarship of Rs.1,500 to the selected students.
- ✓ For government school students, 50% of the scholarships would be reserved.
- ✓ The remaining 50% would be given to both government and private school students.
- ✓ All Class XI students in the state including CBSE and ICSE students can apply for the exam, which would be conducted in all the district headquarters.
- **IIT Madras - has signed a MoU with National Institute of Siddha (NIS) for collaboration in research and higher education in siddha system of medicine, especially in the areas of training, research and clinical studies.**



- ✓ This move is expected to result in development of collaborative teaching programmes and research in areas of clinical research, molecular biology and invitro cell line studies and health system research

- ✓ This collaboration will focus on establishing a scientific basis explaining the efficacy of Siddha medicines.
- ✓ It will further promote the exchange of students, PhD, postdoctoral scholars and faculty for teaching/training programmes.
- **Chennai-based Indian Road Survey & Management – to use Australian data-collection vehicles to survey city roads and highway stretches constructed and maintained by Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project (TNRSP).**



- ✓ TNRSP, an entity under the state highways department, selected IRSM through a tender process two years ago to assess roads covering 40,000 km.
- ✓ The two vehicles showcased by ISRM— Network Survey vehicle (NSV) and Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) —can survey 100 km of roads a day.
- ✓ Usually, it takes 50 to 60 people to survey 8 km of road a day.
- ✓ The NSV, named HawkEye 200, is equipped with digital cameras, GPS, front laser-mounted beams, and costs Rs.3 crore.
- ✓ ISRM aims to complete data collection on various parameters on state roads before September
- ✓ It will make the data available at a portal, which can be accessed later by the government for maintenance and improvement work.

NATIONAL

- **The government - is set to ban popular codeine-based cough syrups and formulations following concerns on their misuse as narcotics and intoxicants.**
- ✓ The M S Bhatia-led expert committee set up by the health ministry has recommended around 14 products to be banned to curb their abuse.
- ✓ These could include other fixed-dose combinations, not just codeine-laced cough syrups.
- ✓ Five years ago, the cough and cold syrups marketed by MNCs Pfizer and Abbott were among the topselling brands in the pharma retail market, clocking more than Rs.200 crore each in annual sales.

- ✓ In March 2016, these formulations including cough syrups were part of the ban on “irrational” 350-odd fixed- dose combination (FDC) drugs, besides wide-selling pain-killers, anti-diabetic medicines and respiratory therapies.
 - ✓ However, this was not implemented as the companies challenged the ban, and the court stayed the government’s order.
 - ✓ Codeine is an opioid-based analgesic, mostly used to treat cough, cold and pain.
 - ✓ Codeine and its preparations are under schedule H1, which are dispensed against prescription, but most are available over the counter in India.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah - participated in the “Tiranga Utsav”, organized by the Ministry of Culture on August 2, 2022**



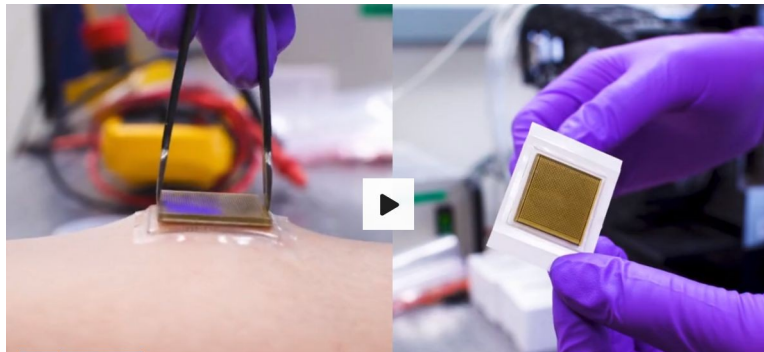
- ✓ During the event, cultural and musical performances were conducted to celebrate the contributions of designer of Indian Flag, Pingali Venkayya to the nation on the occasion of his 146th Birth Anniversary in New Delhi
- ✓ The event included the release of a commemorative Postal Stamp in honor of Pingali Venkayya for his invaluable contribution to the country
- ✓ The Tiranga Utsav also witnessed the grand launch of the “Har Ghar Tiranga” anthem and video
- ✓ The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' anthem video features, many noted personalities such as actor Amitabh Bachchan, sports legend Kapil Dev, cricketer Virat Kohli, and playback singer Asha Bhonsle.
- ✓ Further, ‘Amar Chitra Katha’ in the memory of revolutionary Tribal fighters of Indian freedom struggle was also released during the event
- ✓ Addressing on the occasion, the Union Home Minister urged citizens to change the DP of their social media accounts to Tiranga to show love and respect towards the National Flag
- ✓ Pingali Venkayya, born on August 2, 1876, was a freedom fighter and the designer of India’s National Flag
- ✓ He was a follower of Gandhian principles, and based on the request of Mahatma Gandhi, he designed the Indian National Flag with saffron, white and green colors with chakra in the middle.

- ✓ In 1916, Venkayya published a booklet titled 'A National Flag for India', which offered more than 30 designs of what could develop into the Indian flag.
- ✓ Venkayya's design for the country's flag was later approved by Mahatma Gandhi with some changes in a Congress meeting at Vijayawada in 1921
- ✓ Venkayya was a farmer, a geologist, a lecturer at the Andhra National College in Machilipatnam, and fluent in Japanese
- ✓ He was also known as Patti (Cotton) Venkayya because of his research into the Cambodia Cotton.
- ✓ In 2015, the then Urban Development Minister, M Venkaiah Naidu had renamed AIR Vijaywada after Venkayya and unveiled his statue on its premises
- ✓ Last year, his name was also proposed for the Bharat Ratna by Andhra Pradesh chief minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- ✓ On August 3, MPs and central Ministers took out a bike rally from Red Fort till Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, which was flagged off by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu
- ✓ On the occasion of Independence day, Telangana government has decided to distribute 1 crore tricolors to various states

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Scientists at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology – have recently developed the world's most durable Hydrogen fuel cell**
- ✓ The newly developed fuel cell is also cost-effective, enabling a wider application of green energy to achieve a carbon-neutral world.
- ✓ Hydrogen fuel cells are a promising clean energy option as they efficiently generate power by converting hydrogen and oxygen into electricity
- ✓ The process is accompanied with zero emission of carbon dioxide, particulate matter, and other air pollutants that may cause smog and other health problems
- ✓ Hydrogen fuel cells have yet to be widely commercialized, despite their environmental benefits and several years of development.
- ✓ The drawback with the Hydrogen fuel cells is that the power generation depends heavily on an electrocatalyst — which is largely comprised of the very expensive and rare metal platinum
- ✓ However, the alternate materials developed by replacing platinum have either proven inefficient in power generation or have suffered from poor durability.
- ✓ The newly developed fuel cell cuts down the proportion of platinum used by 80%, and also sets a record in terms of the cell's durability level.
- ✓ The new formula contains atomically dispersed platinum, iron single atoms, and platinum-iron nanoparticles
- ✓ The new mix accelerates the reaction rate and achieves a catalytic activity 3.7 times higher than the platinum itself, thereby delivering more power

- **Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – have developed a small, adhesive patch that produces ultrasound images of the body.**



- ✓ The stamp-sized device sticks to skin and can provide continuous ultrasound imaging of internal organs for 2 days.
- ✓ Ultrasound imaging currently requires bulky and specialized equipment available only in hospitals
- ✓ However, the new design makes the technology as wearable and accessible similar to buying Band-Aids at the drugstore
- ✓ The ultrasound stickers produced live, high-resolution images of major blood vessels and deeper organs such as the heart, lungs, and stomach
- ✓ However, in the current design, the stickers must be connected to ultrasound instruments that translate the reflected sound waves into images

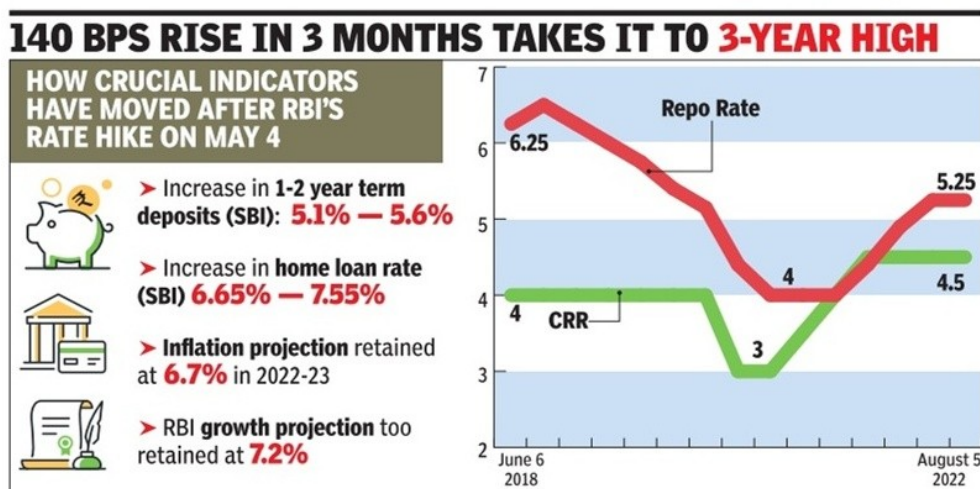
DEFENCE

- **The Army - has conducted a major pan-India exercise codenamed 'Skylight' recently**
- ✓ The exercise was launched to test the operational readiness and robustness of its hi-tech satellite communication systems in the event of an attack by an adversary.
- ✓ The Army activated all its satellite communication assets from Ladakh to Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Skylight exercise from July 25 to 29
- ✓ During the exercise, various technical and operational scenarios were rehearsed, including disruption or destruction of terrestrial connectivity in a conflict.
- ✓ Isro and various agencies responsible for space and ground segments also participated in the exercise.
- ✓ The use of cyber and electromagnetic warfare as well as communications during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war are also being studied and analysed in detail.

ECONOMY

- **On August 5, the Reserve Bank of India Monetary Policy Committee - increased the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) from 4.9% to 5.4%, the highest since 2019**

- ✓ All the six members of the rate setting panel, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, unanimously voted for the rate hike.



- ✓ With this increase, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has rolled back all the rate cuts announced during the pandemic and crossing the pre-pandemic level of 5.15%
- ✓ This is the third straight hike in the repo rate in the current fiscal
- ✓ With its latest revision, RBI has hiked the repo rate by 140 basis points since May 4 – the steepest increase in over a decade.
- ✓ The RBI increased repo rate by 90 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) in two tranches — in May by 40bps and in June by 50bps.
- ✓ Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks and is the benchmark for nearly 40% of the loans
- ✓ However, RBI retained its 2022-23 projections for both GDP growth (7.2%) and inflation (6.7%).
- ✓ The central bank in April slashed the GDP growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.2% from its earlier forecast of 7.8%
- ✓ Along with the repo rate, RBI also revised the standing deposit facility (SDF) to 5.15%.
- ✓ The SDF is a facility where banks park their surplus liquidity with the RBI.
- ✓ To boost housing demand, the RBI has doubled the home loan limits for cooperative banks.
- ✓ The RBI has also allowed rural cooperative banks to provide loans to commercial real estate for housing projects.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On August 5, the central government - gave a year extension in service to cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, a 1982-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre.**
- ✓ This is his second extension on the post.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the cabinet has approved extension in service to Gauba for a further period of one-year beyond August 30, 2022.



- ✓ Gauba, former Union home secretary, was appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years in 2019.
- ✓ He was given a one-year extension in August last year.
- ✓ Gauba is said to be the key architect of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, under which the erstwhile state of J&K was divided into two Union Territories.

SPORTS

- **Six Indian wrestlers – won medals on the opening day of the wrestling events at the Commonwealth Games 2022 on August 5**



- ✓ Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik along with Deepak Punia won Gold medals during the day
- ✓ Further, Anshu Malik won Silver medal, while Divya Kakran and Mohit Grewal won bronze medals for the country
- ✓ The 23-year-old Indian wrestler Deepak Punia (86kg) defeated 2-time gold medalist Muhammad Imam of Pakistan in the final to win his maiden Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games

- ✓ Bajrang Punia won his 3rd CWG medal and his second successive Gold medal in the men's 65kg competition, besides the silver in 2014
- ✓ Sakshi Malik won her maiden Commonwealth Games Gold in the women's 62kg category
 - ✓ This is Sakshi's third consecutive CWG medal, having earlier won silver in 2014 (58kg) and bronze in 2018 (62kg)
 - ✓ The Rio Olympics bronze medalist failed to make the Tokyo Games and was also removed from the Target Olympic Podium (TOPS) scheme.
- ✓ The 21-year old Anshu lost the gold medal to Nigeria's Odunayo Folasade Adekuoroye in the women's 57kg final
- ✓ The Nigerian won her third successive Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Divya won the bronze in the women's 68 kg category, while Mohit Grewal won bronze in the men's 125kg category
- ✓ **Indian para-athlete Sudhir won gold medal in the men's heavyweight para-powerlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2022 on August 4**
- ✓ The 27-year-old Sudhir, who has a polio-induced impairment, opened India's para sports medal account in the ongoing Games.
- ✓ Sudhir, an Asian Para Games bronze medallist, lifted 208kg in his first attempt before increasing it to 212kg in his second effort to break the Games record
- ✓ Sudhir had won a bronze in men's upto 88kg with a best lift of 214kg at the World Para Powerlifting Asia-Oceania Open Championship in South Korea in June
- ✓ He had started powerlifting in 2013 in Sonipat, Haryana, and has also qualified for the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, which have been postponed to next year.
- ✓ Sudhir was also named "Strong Man of India" at the 17th Senior and 12th Junior National Para Powerlifting Championships in 2018
- ✓ He is currently working as a Senior Coach (Weightlifting) for the Government of Haryana.
- ✓ Sudhir's is just the sixth medal for India in the history of the para CWG.
- ✓ Ranjith Kumar Jayaseelan had won the country's first-ever para CWG medal – a bronze – in the men's seated discus throw at the 2006 Melbourne CWG.
- ✓ India's only silver medallist till date has been 2004 Athens Paralympics bronze winner powerlifter, Rajinder Singh Rahelu (56kg), who finished runner-up in the men's heavyweight division (72.1kg) at the 2014 Glasgow CWG.
- ✓ The other medallists – all bronze – in para CWG for India include Prasanta Karmakar (swimming, men's 50m freestyle S9), Sakina Khatun (powerlifting, women's 61kg) and Sachin Chaudhary (powerlifting, men's heavyweight).
- ✓ **On August 5, Indian long jumper Sreeshankar created history by becoming the 1st ever Indian athlete to win a medal in Men's Long Jump event at Commonwealth Games**
- ✓ The 23-year-old national record holder cleared 8.08 m in his fifth attempt to bag silver medal behind Laquan Nairn of the Bahamas in a fiercely contested men's long jump final.

- ✓ Nairn also had a best jump of 8.08 m but his second best of 7.98 m was better than 7.84 m of Sreeshankar
 - ✓ Before this, Sreeshankar had won a bronze in the 2018 Asian U-20 Championships in Gifu, Japan.
 - ✓ The other Indian in the fray, Muhammed Anees Yahiya, ended at fifth with a best jump of 7.97 m
 - ✓ Earlier, India's Suresh Babu had won a bronze in the 1978 edition.
 - ✓ Among women, Prajusha Maliakkal won a silver in the 2010 edition in Delhi, while legendary Anju Bobby George bagged a bronze in 2002
 - ✓ On August 3, Tejaswin Shankar had won a bronze in men's high jump to open India's medal account in athletics in this CWG.
 - ✓ At the end of Day 8 of the Championships, India were placed at 5th position with 26 medals, which includes 9 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze.
- **Rupal Chaudhary – became the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the World U-20 Athletics Championships**



- ✓ On August 4, the 19-year-old Rupal won bronze in the 400m race and silver in 4X400m relay at the World U-20 Athletics Championships in Columbia, USA
- ✓ Rupal won the silver in the 4x400 mixed relay with teammates Priya Mohan, Bharath Sridhar and Kapil, behind USA which won the gold medal
- ✓ In the 400m race, Rupal clocked 51.85 seconds to finish third behind Yemi Mary John (51.50) of Great Britain and Damaris Mutunga (51.71) of Kenya
- ✓ Earlier this year, Rupal stunned pre-race favourite Priya Mohan of Karnataka to clinch the gold medal in the women's 400m at the National U-20 Federation Cup Athletics Championships
- ✓ Rupal Chaudhary is the second Indian to have won a medal in the women's 400m after Hima Das' gold in the 2018 edition in Finland.
- ✓ Javelin throw ace Neeraj Chopra was the first Indian to win a world athletics U20 title at Bydgoszcz 2016 in Poland.
- ✓ Rupal's bronze is India's ninth medal overall from the championships, which was earlier known as World Junior Championships.
- ✓ In the last edition in Nairobi in 2021, India had won three medals -- 2 silver, 1 bronze.