



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

### **TAMIL NADU**

- On August 6, Chief Minister M K Stalin – addressed the 25th anniversary celebrations of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)



- ✓ During his speech, the CM reiterated his demand for establishing a Supreme Court bench in Chennai and allowing Tamil to be practised in the Madras high court.
  - ✓ Supreme Court Judge, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul also participated in the celebrations
  - ✓ SHRC was set up in 1997 in Tamil Nadu to safeguard human rights in the state
- On August 6, DMK MLA Udhayanidhi Stalin - flagged off 50 ordinary fare buses painted in pink in the presence of Transport Minister SS Sivasankar and HR and CE minister PK Sekarbabu.
  - ✓ The pink buses will ensure easy identification by women, transgenders and differently-abled passengers, who are eligible for free travel.
  - ✓ To start with, MTC will be operating 50 pinkcoloured buses along the routes which have a number of women's colleges and girls' schools.



- ✓ In future all the ordinary fare buses, including the town buses, plying in the districts will be painted in pink in its front and rear side for easy identification
- ✓ Later, DMK youth wing secretary also flagged off 10 feeder bus services from 5 Metro Rail stations at Government Estate Metro station
- **The government – has decided to provide family health cards to every household in the state soon**
  - ✓ This was announced by the state health minister Ma Subramanian on August 6
  - ✓ The family health cards will have names of members, age, occupation, health profile and treatment undertaken
  - ✓ The scheme will be a part of 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' under which people are being tested and treated at their doorsteps, besides receiving dialysis kits, physiotherapy, and palliative care.
  - ✓ Under the scheme, the civic body has been screening people for ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer (oral, breast and cervix), mental health, pulmonary disease, TB, chronic kidney disease, leprosy, and tuberculosis.
  - ✓ Of the 5.98 crore adults in Tamil Nadu, 4.48 crore had been screened in the last one year, according to the government.
  - ✓ Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who was impressed with the programme, has invited the state to speak about the success of the scheme at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, said the Minister
- **The state government - has announced its annual 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award to the veteran Communist leader and freedom fighter R Nallakannu.**
  - ✓ The award is presented to distinguished people, who contributed significantly for the welfare of the state of Tamil Nadu and Tamils.
  - ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh and a citation explaining the awardee's role in the freedom struggle.
  - ✓ The chief minister will present the award during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15

- ✓ Centenarian CPM leader N Sankaraiah was the first recipient of this award, which was introduced by the DMK government last year



- ✓ The meeting of the selection committee, held at the Secretariat and presided over by chief minister M K Stalin, had chosen the awardee.
- ✓ Nallakannu was born on December 25, 1925, in Srivaikuntam and began his fight against British rule at a young age of 11
- ✓ He joined the Communist party in 1944 and started working for the magazine Jana Sakthi in Chennai.
- ✓ Nallakannu was instrumental in farmers of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts rising against the Adheenams and Mutts in Ambasamudram, Sivagiri, Puliyanakudi, Tenkasi and Nanguneri
- ✓ After the Communist party was banned in India in 1948, Nallakannu was arrested in December 1949 and was tortured in jail.
- ✓ He was awarded life imprisonment but was released in 1956 after undergoing seven years of imprisonment.
- ✓ Nallakannu also authored books on the historical incidents in the life of poet Subramania Bharathi, a biography of B Srinivasa Rao and books on land reformation, and temple lands

## STATES

- **Aurangabad in Maharashtra - has become the first city in the country to witness the official release of the Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google.**
- ✓ The EIE dashboard for Aurangabad was launched by Google in New Delhi recently
- ✓ The Google data will help research organizations in framing sustainable solutions for the city
- ✓ Google has developed a feature called EIE, which helps cities measure the carbon emission sources, conduct analysis and identify strategies to reduce emissions that help counter air pollution

- ✓ In India, the EIE feature is available in four cities - Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune
- ✓ Among them, Aurangabad has been chosen as the first city in the country to publish the transportation emission data 'public' in collaboration with Google

## NATIONAL

- **On August 6, National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) nominee and former West Bengal governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar - was elected as the 14th Vice President of India**



- ✓ He has defeated joint opposition candidate and former governor of Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, Margaret Alva after securing 528 votes against his rival's tally of 182.
- ✓ With this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP is holding all key constitutional posts — President, Vice-President and Lok Sabha Speaker – in the country.
- ✓ The vice president of India, which is the second-highest constitutional post in the country, is elected through an electoral college consisting of members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Of the 780 possible electoral college votes, 725 MPs, accounting for 92.94% votes, exercised their franchise.
- ✓ There were 50 absentees and 15 votes were found invalid.
- ✓ There are 543 members in Lok Sabha and 237 in Rajya Sabha, with 8 vacancies in the upper house
- ✓ The Vice President of India is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- ✓ Dhankhar, 71, swept the polls with 72. 82% of the 725 valid votes cast, while Alva, 80, accounted for a paltry 25.1% of the valid votes cast.
- ✓ Dhankhar's winning margin of 346 votes was the highest in the last six vice-presidential polls since 1997.
- ✓ However, the record of the highest margin remains with K R Narayanan who got 700 of the 701 votes cast in 1992 against independent candidate Kaka Joginder Singh alias 'Dharti Pakad'.



- ✓ Dhankhar, who is a lawyer by profession, hails from the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan
  - ✓ One of the leading lawyers in Rajasthan, Dhankhar has practiced in both the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court of India
  - ✓ He has championed issues related to Other Backward Classes, including the grant of OBC status to the Jat community in Rajasthan
  - ✓ Dhankhar started his political career with the Lok Dal and then had a stint in the Congress, before joining BJP later
  - ✓ Dhankhar was first elected as MP for Jhunjhunu in the 1989 Lok Sabha election on a Janata Dal ticket.
  - ✓ He went on to serve as minister of state for Parliamentary affairs in 1990.
  - ✓ Later, in 1993, he was elected to the Rajasthan Assembly from Kishangarh in Ajmer district.
  - ✓ He became the governor of West Bengal on July 30, 2019
  - ✓ The incumbent Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, 73, demits office on August 10, 2022
- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development - has issued Operational Guidelines regarding implementation of 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' recently**



- ✓ The scheme has been approved by the government for implementation during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.
- ✓ It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers

- ✓ As per the new guidelines, the scheme is open to all eligible beneficiaries in the age group of 14-18 years
- ✓ However, the only pre-condition is that the beneficiary has to be registered at the nearest Anganwadi centre with Aadhaar identification
- ✓ In FY 2021-22, the Centre restructured the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan into Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0
- ✓ The restructured scheme consists of 4 sub-schemes which include ICDS, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) and National Creche scheme.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The US Senate - has confirmed Indian American litigator Roopali H Desai to the US court of appeals for the ninth circuit**



- ✓ This makes her the first South Asian judge to serve on this powerful court.
- ✓ Desai was confirmed by the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 67-29 on August 4.
- ✓ The ninth circuit is by far the largest of the thirteen courts of appeals
- ✓ It covers a total of 9 states and 2 territories and with 29 active judgeships.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Sri Lanka - has blocked the proposed visit of a Chinese “spy vessel” to the Hambantota port in southern Sri Lanka**
- ✓ The Lankan foreign ministry asked the Chinese embassy in Colombo to defer the arrival of the ship “until further consultations”.
- ✓ India had earlier raised the issue with the Lankan authorities in Colombo and sought to know the purpose of the visit.
- ✓ The research vessel Yuan Wang 5 was scheduled to arrive in Hambantota, a port built by the Chinese, on August 11 and will likely to leave on August 17 after replenishment.
- ✓ The dual-use spy vessel was supposed to conduct “space tracking, satellite control and research tracking in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean region”.

- ✓ It is a third-generation tracking ship of the Yuan Wang Series, which came into service on September 29, 2007, and was designed by China's 708 Research Institute



### **BARRED BY '87 PACT**

➤ Chinese ship was scheduled to arrive in Hambantota port on Aug 11 & **conduct 'space tracking, satellite control & research tracking in northwestern part of IOR'**

➤ A 1987 pact says Lanka won't make available any of its ports for military use by a foreign country that's **prejudicial to India's interests**

- ✓ 'Yuan Wang'-class ships are used to track satellite, rocket and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches.
- ✓ China has around seven of these tracking ships that are capable of operating throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans
- ✓ The 'Yuan Wang 5' is a powerful tracking vessel whose significant aerial reach — reportedly around 750 km — means that several ports in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh could be on China's radar
- ✓ China informed Sri Lanka they are sending the ship for surveillance and navigation in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The surveillance vessel was involved in mapping the ocean floor for potential anti-submarine operations against the Indian Navy
- ✓ The joint approval by the foreign and defence ministries for the ship to dock at the Hambantota post was given days before new Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe assumed office.
- ✓ China had defended the visit, asking all "relevant parties" not to interfere with "normal and legitimate maritime activities".
- ✓ The ties between India and Sri Lanka had come under strain after Colombo gave permission to a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine Changzheng 2 to dock at the Colombo port in 2014, despite protests by India
- ✓ In 2017, Colombo leased the southern port of Hambantota to China Merchant Port Holdings, after Sri Lanka was unable to keep its loan repayment commitments
- ✓ The southern deep-sea port of Hambantota is considered strategically important for its location
- ✓ The second-largest Lankan port, Hambantota sits on the route connecting Southeast Asia with Africa and West Asia.



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **DeepMind Technologies** - announced recently that it had predicted the **three-dimensional structures of more than 200 million proteins using an artificial intelligence tool called 'AlphaFold'**
- ✓ Using the new tool, the structures of nearly all proteins, the building blocks of life, ranging from bacteria to humans were published
- ✓ The discovery is a major revolution in terms of drug development and evolutionary studies.
- ✓ If scientists can identify the shapes of proteins, they can accelerate the ability to understand diseases, create new medicines and otherwise probe the mysteries of life on Earth.
- ✓ DeepMind is an artificial intelligence research company based in London and owned by Google
- ✓ AlphaFold was developed in association with European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), an intergovernmental organization near Cambridge, UK.
- ✓ Proteins are large, complex molecules that play many critical roles in the body.
- ✓ Proteins are made up of hundreds or thousands of smaller units called amino acids, which are attached to one another in long chains.
- ✓ They do most of the work in cells and are required for the structure, function, and regulation of the body's tissues and organs.

## SPORTS

- **Vinesh Phogat, Ravi Dahiya and Naveen Kumar** - won gold medals in wrestling at the **Commonwealth Games 2022 on August 6, 2022**



- ✓ Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian female wrestler to win a hat-trick of golds at the Commonwealth Games
  - ✓ Vinesh defeated Sri Lanka's Chamodya Keshani Maduravalage Don to win the gold in women's freestyle 53kg category event



- ✓ Ravi Dahiya and Naveen, meanwhile, won their first medal at the CWG after bagging the gold medal in men's freestyle 57 kg and 74 kg category events
- ✓ Further, Pooja Sihag, Pooja Gehlot and Deepak Nehra won bronze medal in women's freestyle 76 kg, women's freestyle 50 kg and men's freestyle 97 kg category respectively
- ✓ The CWG 2022 became the best games ever for Indian wrestling in the history of the Commonwealth Games as it finished with six gold medals, breaking the five gold medal mark created at Gold Coast 2018.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Avinash Sable's historic silver medal broke the Kenyan podium monopoly in the men's 3000m steeplechase at the CWG, while breaking his own national record by setting his personal best timing of 8:11:20 seconds
- ✓ With the win, Sable became the first Non-Kenyan since 1998 to win a Steeple chase medal.
- ✓ Gopal Saini held the national record of 8:30.88s for 37 years before Sable broke it with a timing of 8:29.80s in 2018



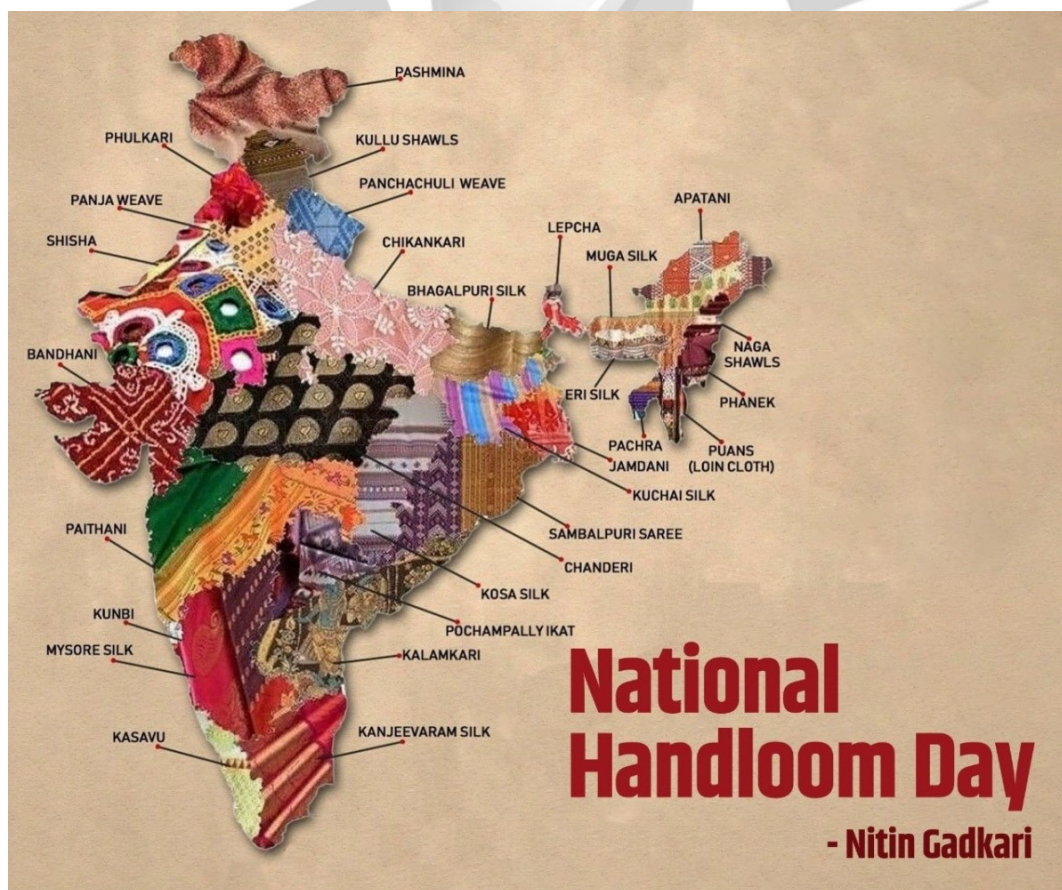
- ✓ Priyanka Goswami won silver after shattering a three-year-old national record and created history by winning the first-ever medal by an Indian woman in the 10km race walk.
- ✓ India clinched a silver medal in Lawn Bowls Men's Fours category after suffering defeat to Northern Ireland in the final match.
  - ✓ After the Women's Fours team's historic gold, this is the second medal for the country in the sport at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- ✓ Indian boxers Jaismine Lamboria, Mohammad Hussamuddin and Rohit Tokas ended their campaigns with bronze medals after losing the semi finals in women's 60 kg, men's 54-57 kg and men's 63.5-67 kg events category respectively
- ✓ **Further, Bhavina Hasmukhbhai Patel won gold women's singles classes 3-5 in the para table tennis event after defeating Nigeria's Christiana Ikpeoyi**



- ✓ India's Sonalben Manubhai Patel won bronze after defeating Sue Bailey of England in women's singles classes 3-5 in the para table tennis event.
- ✓ On Day 9 of the competition, India secured 14 medals, its highest, with 4 gold, 3 silver and 7 bronze.
- ✓ India are currently ranked at 5<sup>th</sup> place in the overall medal rankings with 40 medals, which includes 13 gold, 11 silver and 16 bronze.

## NATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Handloom Day – August 7



- ✓ The National Handloom Day is observed annually to honour the handloom-weaving community and to recognise the contribution of the handloom sector to the socio-economic development of the country
- ✓ In 2015, the first National Handloom Day was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the first handloom day in Chennai's Centenary Corridor of the College of Madras to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Swadeshi Movement
- ✓ The day is observed on August 7 to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905
- ✓ The Swadeshi movement was established in 1905 in Kolkata, then known as Calcutta, as a revolt against the British Government's division of Bengal
- ✓ It was aimed to inspire people to take up local Indian-made goods and boycott the imported goods.
- ✓ The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi started the movement by using 'khadi' with the objective of promoting self-sustainability among the rural villages
- ✓ The National Handloom Day is also aimed to empower the handloom weavers and workers financially and to instil pride in their exquisite craftsmanship.
- ✓ To promote the handloom sector, the government has launched several initiatives which include the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), and Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's famous Kanchipuram sarees, the Paithani weaves of Maharashtra, Muga Silk from Assam, and Mysore Silk from Karnataka among others are the most sought-after handloom segments in the country
- ✓ The National Centre for Heritage Textiles (NCHT), Janpath, New Delhi, will host an exhibition in honour of the 8th National Handloom Day on August 7, 2022, which is coordinated nationally by the Ministry of Textiles.
- ✓ Earlier, working president of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti KT Rama Rao announced a first-of-its-kind life insurance scheme for handloom and power loom weavers in Telangana
- ✓ The handloom sector is rural India's second-largest employer after agriculture, with more than 4.3 million individuals are either directly or indirectly involved with it.
- ✓ The handloom sector accounts for over 15% of the nation's total textile production.

➤ **Friendship Day – August 7, 2022**





- ✓ Friendship Day is celebrated every year as a special one dedicated to the friends in our life and how they form one of the most important parts of our existence
- ✓ While July 30 is designated as International Friendship Day, in India it is celebrated on the first Sunday of August.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly recognised International Friendship Day in 2011.
- ✓ The purpose of the day is to promote goodwill between nations, people, cultures, and individuals as a means of bridging cultural divides and igniting peace initiatives.
- ✓ The history of Friendship day can be traced back to the year 1930 when the founder of Hallmark cards, Joyce Hall, proposed the idea of friendship day in Paraguay on August 2
- ✓ The first ever Friendship's Day was celebrated by an international civil organization - World Friendship Crusade - in the year 1958.

