

August - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pakistan carried a successful training launch of surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile called Ghaznavi.
 - This training launch was aimed to ensure operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC).
- ❖ Every year on August 14 is observed as the World Lizard Day.
 - It is to raise awareness among people regarding the extinction of lizards.

TAMIL NADU

Agriculture Budget - Tamil Nadu

NEW KALAI GNAR PLAN FOR VILLAGES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incentive price of ₹100/quintal for procuring grade-A paddy varieties, ₹75 per quintal for common varieties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agriculture museum to be set up in Chennai
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special incentive of ₹150 per tonne of sugarcane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor millet rice to be distributed to PDS in Chennai & Coimbatore
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 small-scale Uzhavar Sandhais in 10 districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nammazhvar organic farming research centre to come up in TN agricultural university

- ❖ The first exclusive budget for agriculture (34220 crores) was presented in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 14th August 2021.
- ❖ A scheme for judicious use of water will be executed.
- ❖ It is proposed to install micro-irrigation structures in 1.5 lakh hectares.
- ❖ The government would implement a scheme called Kalaignarin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam in a span of five years.
- ❖ This scheme is to ensure overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency in all villages.
- ❖ The State government will implement the scheme to promote solar pumps to meet the increasing demand for electricity for well irrigation in Tamil Nadu.

Independence Day awards - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise to P. Shanmuga Priya, posthumously.
- ❖ The late Dr. Shanmuga Priya was a medical officer at the Annuppanadi Primary Health Centre in Madurai.
- ❖ The Chief Minister presented the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award to Dr. M. Lakshmanan, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University.
- ❖ He also presented the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award to veteran Communist leader and centenarian, N. Sankaraiah.
- ❖ K. Narayanasamy, Director, Government Corona Hospital, Guindy was conferred the Chief Minister's Best Practices Award.
- ❖ Presidency College was also conferred the award for facilitating independent learning of differently abled students.
- ❖ The Avvaiyar Award was conferred on Santhi Duraisamy.
- ❖ Best Third Gender award was conferred on Grace Banu, Thoothukudi.

Archakas of all castes get appointed



- ❖ DMK government appointed 24 trained 'archakas' of various communities as priests in shrines.
- ❖ The State already has two non-Brahmin archakas in temples run by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.
- ❖ The first priest, Marisamy, was appointed in 2018 to an Ayyappan temple in Madurai.

- ❖ Second, Thyagarajan, to a Ganesha temple in Madurai in 2020.
- ❖ Now, Suhanjana Gopinath has been appointed as 'Odhuvār' at the Dhenupureeswarar temple in Chennai.
- ❖ She became the first woman Othuvar in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu and freedom struggle

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will compile and publish a document detailing the contribution made by Tamil Nadu to the Indian Freedom struggle.
- ❖ Mr. Stalin also inaugurated a pillar at the junction of Sivananda Salai and Kamarajar Salai in Chennai.
- ❖ The pillar was built to commemorate the 75th Independence Day.
- ❖ He also announced an increase in the pension for freedom fighters from ₹17,000 to ₹18,000 and the family pension from ₹8,500 to ₹9,000.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also said that the Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai would be renovated.



NATIONAL

Honour FIRST

- ❖ The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

- ❖ This is the first Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST'.
- ❖ 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that, August 14 will be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.
- ❖ It is also called as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas'.
- ❖ This is observed in memory of people's struggles and sacrifices during the partition of the country in 1947.



GM Soybean

- ❖ The Union government has decided to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean.
- ❖ It is a major ingredient of poultry feed.
- ❖ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Note

- ❖ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

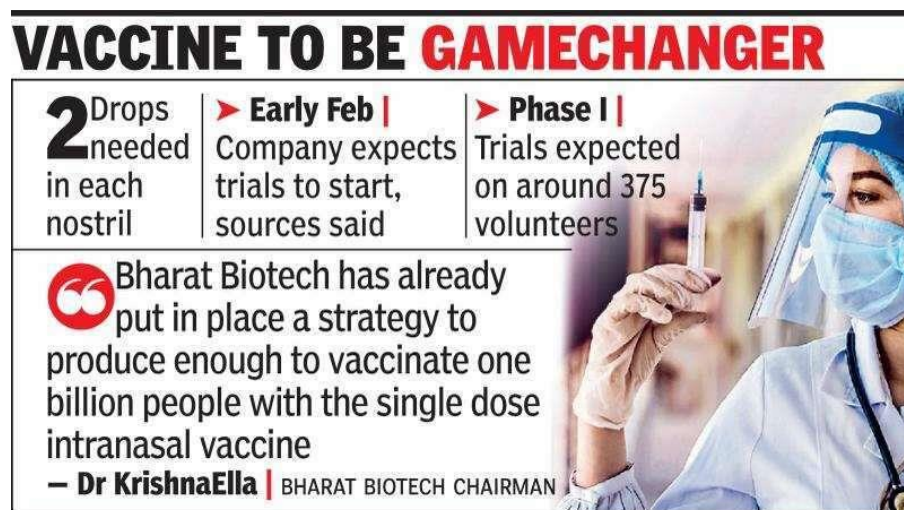
New Wetlands in Ramsar list

- ❖ Four more wetlands from India have been added to the Ramsar list.
- ❖ They have been recognized as wetlands of global importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ The four sites that have been included are,
 - Thol from Gujarat
 - Wadhvana from Gujarat,
 - Sultanpur from Haryana and
 - Bhindawas from Haryana.
- ❖ The number of Ramsar sites in India have now reached to 46.

IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting


- ❖ India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers meeting through the virtual platform.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Tourism of India G. Kishan Reddy chaired the meeting.
- ❖ The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states.

Nasal vaccine - BBV154




VACCINE TO BE GAMECHANGER

2 Drops needed in each nostril	▶ Early Feb Company expects trials to start, sources said	▶ Phase I Trials expected on around 375 volunteers
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 Bharat Biotech has already put in place a strategy to produce enough to vaccinate one billion people with the single dose intranasal vaccine

— **Dr KrishnaElla** | BHARAT BIOTECH CHAIRMAN



- ❖ India's first nasal vaccine against COVID-19 has received the nod to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical trials by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Nasal Covid Vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech.

- ❖ The nasal vaccine is the first of its kind COVID-19 vaccine that is undergoing human clinical trials in India.

Note

- ❖ Bharat Biotech has developed the first ever nasal vaccine called BBV154.
- ❖ It is a novel adenovirus vectored.
- ❖ This intranasal vaccine was developed to build immunity against COVID-19.

INTERNATIONAL

SEACAT exercise

- ❖ The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore.
- ❖ The main objective of SEACAT 2021 was to enhance the interoperability and shared maritime security concerns and preserve rules -based international order.
- ❖ This is the 20th edition of the exercise.
- ❖ SEACAT was held for the first time in 2002.



STATES

Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 was passed in the Assam State Assembly recently.
- ❖ It seeks to regulate the slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle.



- ❖ The law will prohibit a person from slaughtering cattle without obtaining the necessary certificate from a registered veterinary officer of a particular area.
- ❖ The term 'cattle' will apply to bulls, bullocks, cows, heifer, calves, male and female buffaloes and buffalo calves.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Day of mourning (Bangladesh) - August 15

- ❖ Bangladesh is observing the 46th martyrdom day of the founding President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along by some military men on the night of 15 August 1975.

