

August - 18

TAMIL NADU

Ancient Dagger Found in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ A rusted iron dagger preserved in a burial urn was discovered in Konthagai village, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Konthagai is considered as a burial site for the Keeladi civilization.
- ❖ Burial urns filled with bones, weapons and other objects were discovered there.
- ❖ This type of weapon was used by warriors during the Sangam period (3rd century BCE - 3rd century CE).
- ❖ Based on the archaeological evidence, some researchers now say the Sangam period began earlier than previously thought, around 600 B.C.E.



NATIONAL

Vande Bharat trains

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks.
- ❖ This is to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is the central government's initiative to mark 75 years of Independence from British rule.
- ❖ Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train set.

Diesel - door delivery

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel'.

BPCL

- ❖ It is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation, operating under the parent head of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ❖ Company operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai.
- ❖ It is considered as second-largest downstream oil company of India.

Sainik Schools for female students

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Sainik Schools across India will now be open for female students as well.
- ❖ Girls were first allowed in Sainik schools of Mizoram about 2.5 years ago.
- ❖ Sainik Schools are system of schools that was established and managed by Sainik Schools Society.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ Establishment of Sainik schools was led by V. K. Krishna Menon in 1961, who was the then Defence Minister of India.
- ❖ As of now, there were 33 Sainik Schools.

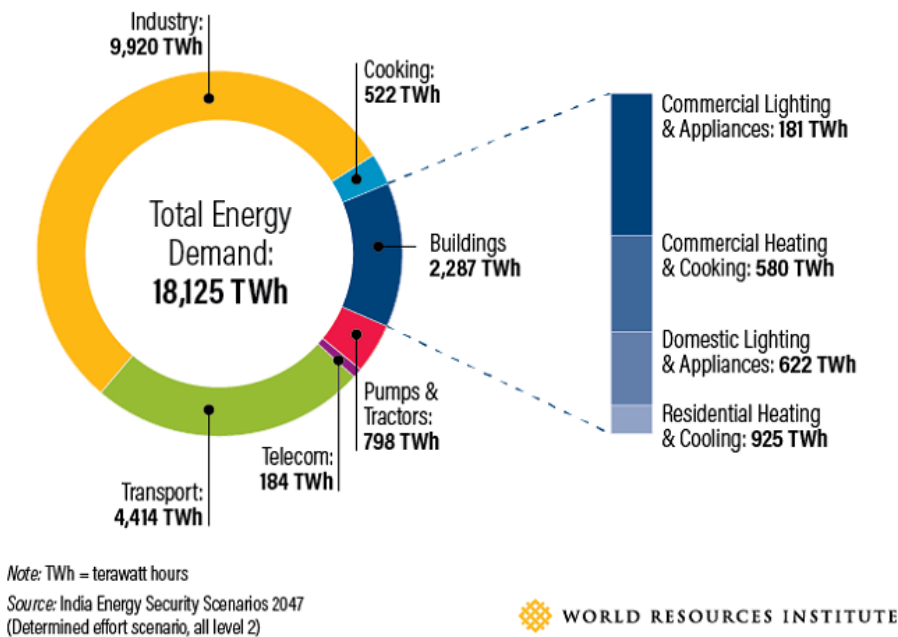


Energy independent - 2047

- ❖ India targets to become 'energy independent' by 2047.
- ❖ That is when India celebrates its 100th year of Independence.

- ❖ PM has announced a 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.
- ❖ The Roadmap for India to become energy independent include,
 - Increasing usage of natural gas in the economy,
 - Setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network throughout India and
 - Blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.

India's Projected Energy Demand by 2047



SonChiraiya

- ❖ The 'SonChiraiya' brand and logo was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for marketing urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- ❖ This initiative will prove as a step in the right direction towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Rice under all schemes to be fortified

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to provide fortified rice to poor under various schemes by 2024.

- ❖ This decision was taken in the view that, malnutrition and lack of essential nutrients among poor women and poor children is a major hurdle in their development.
- ❖ Government distributes rice under schemes covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health



➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than **45 days**, so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long

➤ According to National Family Health Survey, **78.7%** children and **75%** in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition

➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals

TAPAS

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched an online portal named TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).
- ❖ This is to provide filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.
- ❖ TAPAS is the initiative of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

IndiGau

- ❖ Dr Jitendra Singh has released India's first cattle genomic chip called 'IndiGau'.
- ❖ This is for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- ❖ The chip has been developed by scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.

- ❖ The chip will help in achieving the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

Taliban Forces in Kabul

- ❖ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani tendered his resignation, as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces.
- ❖ After this, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani fled to Tajikistan.
- ❖ Afghan military troops surrendered the capital city, Kabul to the Taliban.
- ❖ Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar is likely to be the new President of Afghanistan.



SAGO

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) has created a new advisory group.
- ❖ It is named The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO.
- ❖ The function of SAGO will be to systematically study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential, and advise the development in this regard to WHO.
- ❖ The group will also work towards finding the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

STATES

First Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center

- ❖ India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre has come up in Kerala.
- ❖ Cyberdome is a technological research and development centre of the Kerala Police Department.
- ❖ The centre will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones for the use of the police force.
- ❖ This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.

SPORTS

Harshit Raja

- ❖ Harshit Raja turned GM after he drew his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open 2021.
- ❖ Raja is India's 69th Grandmaster (GM).
- ❖ He is from Pune.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Prediabetes Day - August 14

- ❖ The World Prediabetes Day will be annually observed across the globe on 14th August starting from 2021.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about Prediabetes and to reduce the increasing rate of diabetes.
- ❖ 14th August 2021 marks the first World Prediabetes Day.

- ❖ World Prediabetes Day has been strategically chosen 90 days before World Diabetes day (14 November).
- ❖ This is because it scientifically takes 90 days to change the lifestyle to reverse Prediabetes and prevent progression to diabetes.
- ❖ Prediabetes is a health condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 (lifestyle induced) diabetes.

De Jure Transfer Day - August 16

- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry has celebrated its 60th anniversary of the “De-Jure” day this year.
- ❖ Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954.
- ❖ But the treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962.
- ❖ As far as Puducherry is concerned, De Jure Transfer Day, is the day it really got independence.

