

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 14, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced that the government will confer three Kalaimamani awards named after former chief minister J Jayalalithaa from next year**

- ✓ These awards will be conferred on three artists who have excelled in their respective fields.
- ✓ The Balasaraswathi award was given to dance stalwarts C.V. Chandrasekar, Vijayanthimala Bali, V.P. Dhananjayan and Shantha Dhananjayan



- ✓ Writer Sivasankari and Villupaatu exponent Subbu Arumugam had received the Bharathi Award among the other awardees
- ✓ Carnatic musicians C. Saroja and C. Lalitha (Bombay sisters) and T.V. Gopalakrishnan were given the M.S. Subbulakshmi award.
- ✓ Sri Krishna Gana Sabha and Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai, Goodwill Stage, Chennai and Salem Amateur Arts were the institutions which were awarded.
- ✓ Also, from next year, the Kalaimamani award will be designed in five sovereigns of gold, instead of three sovereigns, crafted like a foot (porpatham)

- ✓ The Chief Minister has also increased the monthly financial aid for the deserving senior artists from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000
- ✓ The winners list of the state government's award was announced in February, after a gap of eight years.
- ✓ The government had conferred 201 people from 78 fields for their contribution to art and literature between 2011 and 2018.

◆ **The state government – to set up procurement and processing centres (PPCs) and cold storage facilities across all districts in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ It has identified 62 places to set up such PPCs, which will be run by farmer producer organisations (FPOs)
- ✓ Instead of Koyambedu wholesale market fixing the prices, the new initiative will help traders and bulk buyers to visit the PPCs, which will fix the price, and buy quality and graded produce
- ✓ The project is implemented with the ₹482 crore aid from Nabard
- ✓ In the first phase, the state has selected 13 FPOs, through an open tender, to run 25 PPCs that have come up in Nilgiris, Dindigul and Theni among other districts
- ✓ The state government will provide the required buildings and cold storage facilities for cleaning and washing of vegetables and fruits before being stored

◆ **The renowned Palani panchamirtham - has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag**



- ✓ It is served as an 'abhishega prasadam' or devotional offering given to the pilgrims at the Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani

- ✓ The Palani panchamirtham is made by combining five natural substances – banana, cow ghee, cardamom, jaggery and honey, in a prescribed proportion – providing the name with ‘pancha’, meaning ‘five’ ingredients combining to make the delicious sweet or ‘amirtham’
- ✓ Dates and sugar candies are also added to it for extra flavours.
- ✓ It is prepared in a natural way without adding any water or preservatives or artificial ingredients and is not subjected to any chemical process
- ✓ The whole process of producing the panchamirtham is automated, to maintain the hygienic aspects
- ✓ The application for the GI tag was given by the Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukkoil, North Giriveethi, Adivaram, Palani in June 2016
- ✓ Interestingly, the geographical area for production of Palani Panchamirtham is not just the temple, but the entire Palani town in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ With the GI recognition, the total number of such products indigenous to the state having the tag increases to 29, which includes handicrafts such as Salem fabric and Kancheepuram silk, agricultural items like Virupakshi Hill banana, Erode turmeric, Madurai jasmine and the Nilgiris Tea apart from others
- ✓ The Palani panchamirtham is made under the guidance of Mysuru’s Central Food Technological Research Institute, which is a Government of India undertaking.
- ✓ It is also certified by FSSAI.
- ✓ This is the first time a temple ‘prasadam’ from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag
- ✓ Another ‘prasadam’ which has been conferred with the GI tag is the famous ‘Tirupati Laddu’

◆ **Amma Patrol Vehicles – to be launched soon in distinct ‘pink’ colour for the safety of women and children in Chennai**



- ✓ Chief Minister Edapaadi K. Palaniswami is expected to launch the vehicles soon

- ✓ Around 35 patrol vehicles will be launched during the first phase of the project
- ✓ It will be expanded to the other districts in the state in the other phases soon
- ✓ The women or children in distress can call the concerned helpline, which will be connected to the patrol vehicles, thereby reaching the relevant place in no time to take action
- ✓ The patrol vehicles are available at 1098 helpline for children and 1091 helpline for women in distress
- ✓ Similar pink colour patrol vehicles are also in place in Kerala

## NATIONAL

### ◆ **The Indian Railways - has manufactured a high speed locomotive in West Bengal's Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, achieving a top speed of 180kmph, under the Make in India initiative.**

- ✓ Earlier, country's first semi-high speed train Vande Bharat Express had hit the 180 kmph during trial
- ✓ The Vande Bharat express has been manufactured by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.
- ✓ The Railways has speeded up 261trains by up to 110 minutes, over different zones as part of its "Mission Raftaar" initiative, which was announced in 2016-17 railway budget
- ✓ It envisages a target of doubling average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in the next five years

### ◆ **Assam's Golden Butterfly tea - fetched ₹ 75,000 for a kilo at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC)**



- ✓ With this, it breaks the record for the highest price for a tea at a public auction, bettering the previous high of ₹70,501 a kg less than a fortnight ago.
- ✓ It was the third time in a fortnight that a record was set.

- ✓ Assam's Dikom Tea Estate's Golden Butterfly tea is made of tea buds plucked in the evenings, not leaves.
- ✓ It is the bud which lends the tea liquor a full-bodied, bright yellowish colour — the usual leaf-based tea from Assam which gives the brew a black colour.
- ✓ This exceptionally rare and special tea was sold through J Thomas and Company and was purchased by city-based Assam Tea Traders, one of the oldest tea shops
- ✓ In July 2019, GTAC witnessed two big records, when orthodox variety 'Maijan Golden Tips' fetched Rs 70, 501 per kg and another specialty orthodox tea variety, named 'Manohari Gold' (from Manohari Gold Estate in Dibrugarh), was sold at Rs.50,000/Kg
- ✓ Unlike Golden Butterfly, 'Maijan Golden Tips' and 'Manohari Gold' are made from buds plucked early in morning before sun alters aroma and flavour

◆ **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (independent) Hardeep Singh Puri - inaugurated the 'Swachh Nagar app'**



- ✓ The app intends to allow users to pay and have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected from their homes by their urban local bodies through the request from it
- ✓ The app had been piloted-tested in Gurugram and is already functional in Agra, Palwal and Port Blair
- ✓ He was launching the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020
- ✓ Apart from the Swachh Nagar app, SBM Water PLUS Protocol, Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit and AI-enabled mSBM App were also launched.
- ✓ The minister also released a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan 2020 will be conducted in January 2020.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- ✓ It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2 October 2019.

## COMMITTEES

### ◆ **A high-level committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CST) - has recommended the removal of the provision for imprisonment in case of violation of the spending requirement and disclosures under the CSR spendings by the Corporates**

- ✓ The panel, headed by corporate affairs secretary Injeti Srinivas, has also allowed for the tax deduction on the CSR expenditure



- ✓ Instead of imprisonment provided under two sections of the Companies Act, the panel has recommended that the penalty be increased to two-three times the default amount with a cap of ₹1 crore
- ✓ The committee proposed to treat any violation of CSR compliance as a civil offence
- ✓ The other recommendations include - allowing the carry-forward of unspent balance for a period of 3-5 years, and aligning Schedule 7 of the Companies Act (which outlines the kinds of activities that qualify as CSR) with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ The Committee has also recommended that companies having CSR-prescribed amount below ₹50 lakh may be exempted from constituting a CSR Committee
- ✓ It also recommends the registration of implementation agencies on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – carried out the crucial manoeuvre called ‘Trans Lunar Insertion’ (TLI) of Chandrayaan-2 between 3am and 4am on August 14**

- ✓ With the completion of the manoeuvre, Chandrayaan-2 is all set to move towards Moon after leaving Earth’s orbit.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is expected to reach Moon’s orbit on August 20 and land on the lunar surface near its south pole on September 7
- ✓ The Isro has so far performed five earth-bound orbit raising manoeuvres, with the last manoeuvre done on August 6
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 was launched by GSLV MkIII-M1 vehicle on July 22

## AWARDS

◆ **Rajasthan - has bagged the “best innovation and initiative leadership award” for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi**

- ✓ Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati received the award at the 14th summit organised on August 10

## SPORTS

◆ **The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games – to include Women’s T20 cricket for the first time**

- ✓ Cricket has made just one appearance at the CWG previously, with men playing in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, where South Africa finished on top of the podium.
- ✓ The games will take place from July 27 to August 7 and the cricket competition will feature eight international teams.
- ✓ The ICC will be responsible for the competition terms and the conduct of cricket
- ✓ All eight match days will be held at the Edgbaston cricket ground

