

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 27, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ Chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami - flagged off the first e-bus from the state secretariat on August 26

DIESEL VS E-BUS

The chief minister flagged off the first electric bus in the city from the Secretariat on Monday

HEAD	DIESEL BUS	ELECTRIC BUS
Seats	40	32
Cost	₹28 lakh	₹1.5 cr
CO ₂ Emissions (grams/km)	70-90	Zero
Average travel cost/day (₹)	5,000	2,000

- ✓ It will ply between Thiruvaniyur and Chennai Central Railway Station, twice each in the morning and evening.
- ✓ It will be operated on a trial basis at Deluxe rates, with a minimum fare of ₹11 and a maximum fare of ₹25.
- ✓ The air-conditioned bus, built by Ashok Leyland for Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) at ₹1.5 crore, can run up to 200km a day
- ✓ The bus works on 'swapping technology' in which drained batteries will be replaced with fully-charged ones at the end of every trip
- ✓ The battery's capacity is 40km per trip and the empty batteries will be recharged at the charging station set up at MTC's Central Depot on Pallavan Salai.
- ✓ The charge left in the battery is indicated in the driver's control panel
- ✓ Automatic doors fitted with pneumatic systems on both ends will prevent footboard travel.
- ✓ The bus runs on an automatic transition model and has a fire deduction and suppression system in case of an emergency.
- ✓ The 32-seater bus complies with the standards of the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)

◆ **Chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami - flagged off seven Amma Patrol cars from the Secretariat on August 26**



- ✓ Forty Amma Patrol cars will exclusively be used by the Police personnel to attend to crimes against women and children in the city
- ✓ The vehicles, painted in pink and white and with child, have been purchased at a budget of ₹7.5 crore
- ✓ As part of the safe city project, under the Nirbhaya Fund initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the project aims at creating a safe, secure and empowering environment for women.
- ✓ Chennai is among the eight cities selected across the country for the programme.
- ✓ It is a centrally-sponsored scheme with 60:40 cost sharing between the Centre and the State government
- ✓ The Centre has sanctioned ₹425 crore for Tamil Nadu and the pink patrol vehicles are part of this programme.
- ✓ The vehicles have been deployed at 35 all-women police stations and will patrol around public places like malls, schools and temples, where women usually gather
- ✓ The vehicles are equipped with cameras at the front and the rear from which footage can be live-streamed to the police control room
- ✓ The vehicle has an inbuilt GPRS and can be traced in real-time.
- ✓ It also has a public address system.
- ✓ The vehicle displays the child helpline number, 1098, and woman helpline number 1091
- ✓ Besides patrol vehicles, the CM also flagged off five mobile processing units aimed at helping farmers make value-added products from vegetables and fruits, including tomato at their doorsteps.

◆ **Chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami - distributed 201 'body-worn' cameras to the Traffic police personnel purchased at a cost of Rs 98 lakh on August 26**



- ✓ These cameras are expected to make police actions transparent with video evidence
- ✓ The microphone-fitted cameras, which are to be worn on an officer's chest or head, will record minute-by-minute details that can be reviewed later.
- ✓ The footage can also be used for police training exercises
- ✓ Each device has a movable camera, high-resolution LCD display, video and audio recording facilities and 32GB memory.

◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched Education TV (Kalvi Tholaikkaatchi), an exclusive 24X7 channel for school students on August 26**



- ✓ The channel will telecast various programmes, including rhymes, songs and video lessons, career guidance programmes and coaching classes for competitive exams such as NEET and JEE
- ✓ In the first phase, it will telecast programmes from 6 am to 9.30 pm on channel number 200 on Arasu Cable
- ✓ Interviews of best teachers, question and answer sessions with experts, discoveries of government school students and interaction with educationists will feature in the channel
- ✓ It was a first such initiative undertaken by any state government in the entire country

◆ **Chennai - may get the country's first offshore desalination plant, about 40 km off the Ennore coast**

IN NUTSHELL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A plant is planned to be built at about 40km off Chennai coast > Designed by National Institute of Ocean Technology, it will have 10MLD capacity > It is planned as part of ₹65000cr Deep Ocean Mission project expected to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be launched in October > The plant is expected to function on low temperature thermal desal technology > Scientists hope to operate the plant with power generated through ocean thermal energy conversion technology
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- ✓ The plant will be developed by Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), with a capacity of 10 million litres per day (MLD)
- ✓ The offshore plant will be one of the five components of the ₹65,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission of the Centre

- ✓ The plant will operate on the indigenously-developed low temperature thermal desalination (LTTD) technology, based on the temperature difference in seawater at different depths
- ✓ The need for deep sea cold water is one reason why the plant is planned around 40km off the coast
- ✓ Chennai now has two desal plants each in Nemmili and Minjur with a combined capacity of 200MLD and two more planned with a total capacity of 550MLD
- ✓ The existing plants operate on reverse osmosis technology, which deposits highly concentrated brine in the sea, harming marine life.
- ✓ NIOT had set up the first LTTD plant at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep in 2005

◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - will make a stopover in UAE on September 8 and 9, after his trip to UK and US, to invite investors to the state**

- ✓ The chief minister will be a special guest in an interactive session to be hosted by Business Leaders Forum (BLF).
- ✓ BLF is a forum by UAE ministry of economy and Indian Embassy and Consulate General in UAE to enhance trade and investments between UAE and India
- ✓ In UK, the chief minister will sign Memorandum of Understanding with three institutions in the health sector, including setting up of branches of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

NATIONAL

◆ **The government - to slash price of sanitary napkins sold from its Jan Aushadhi Kendras to just ₹ 1per piece from ₹ 2.50 presently**

- ✓ The biodegradable sanitary napkins 'Suvidha' will be available at the subsidized price at 5,500 Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country from August 27

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Pakistan and China - signed an agreement to boost the bilateral defence cooperation and capacity building of the Pakistan army.**

- ✓ The agreement was signed during the visit of a high-level Chinese delegation led by Central Military Commission (CMC) vice-chairman General Xu Qiliang to Pakistan's army headquarters in Rawalpindi.

◆ **Pakistan PM Imran Khan - has set up a 12-member committee to ensure the execution of Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 27-point action plan**

- ✓ Anti-money laundering watchdog Asia Pacific Group last week placed Pakistan in an 'Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List'
- ✓ Pakistan was found guilty of non-compliance on 32 of the 40 compliance parameters related to terror financing and money laundering
- ✓ Pakistan now has to focus on avoiding the FATF blacklist in October, when the 15-month timeline on the FATF's action plan ends

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

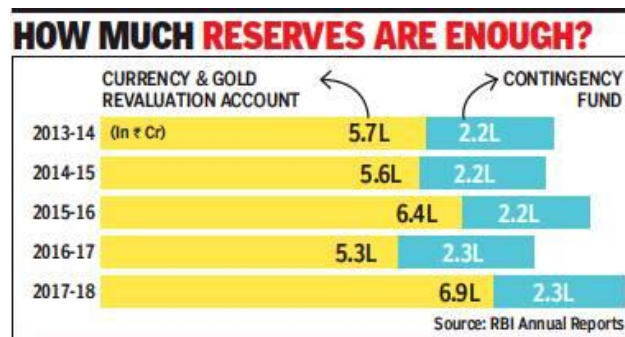
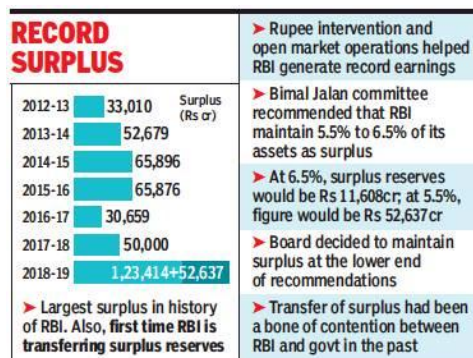
◆ **Isro - released the lunar surface images captured by the Terrain Mapping Camera 2 (TMC-2) of Chandrayaan-2 on August 23 from an altitude of 4,375km**

- ✓ One set of images show impact craters such as Jackson, Mitra, Mach and Korolev.
- ✓ Jackson (71 km diameter) is an impact crater located in the northern hemisphere of the far side of Moon
- ✓ Mitra (92 km diameter) is another impact crater found at the western outer rim of Mach crater
- ✓ It is named after Prof Sisir Kumar Mitra, who was an Indian physicist and Padma Bhushan recipient known for his pioneering work in the field of ionosphere and Radiophysics.
- ✓ Prof. Mitra (1890-1963) also lends his name to the S. K. Mitra Centre for Research in Space Environment of the University of Calcutta.
- ✓ The Korolev crater seen in the image is a 437 km crater which has several small craters of varying sizes

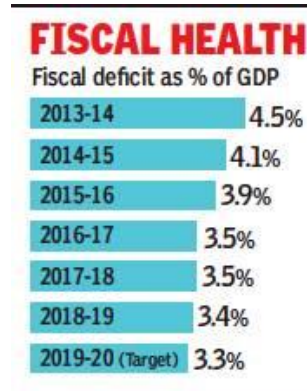
ECONOMY

◆ **The RBI board, headed by governor Shaktikanta Das - approved a transfer of ₹ 1,76,051 crore to the government**

- ✓ This includes ₹ 1,23,414 crore of surplus or dividend for 2018-19 and ₹ 52,637 crore of surplus reserves — a one-time transfer which is also a first for the central bank.



- ✓ The transfer is based on a formula recommended by the Bimal Jalan committee's revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) that was adopted by the board
- ✓ It was after Das took over in December 2018 that the Jalan panel was constituted.
- ✓ RBI had already paid an interim dividend of Rs 28,000 crore to the centre in February



- ✓ The surplus of ₹1.23 lakh crore is the largest ever for the RBI.
- ✓ The highest that RBI has transferred so far was ₹65,896 crore in 2014-15
- ✓ The transfer from the RBI is also expected to act as a stimulus for the economy, which has shown significant signs of a slowdown.

SPORTS

◆ **Former Indian Cricketer, Ramesh Powar - has been appointed as the bowling coach of India A men's team by BCCI**

- ✓ Powar was the former coach of the Indian women's team
- ✓ He was sacked after the Indian women's team loss to England in the semifinals of the World T20 last year in November in the West Indies
- ✓ Powar, a former India offspinner, played in two Tests and 31 ODIs

◆ **Tamil Nadu cricket team – to have 3 captains for three different formats this season**

- ✓ Dinesh Karthik will lead the One day team for the Vijay Hazare Trophy starting in Jaipur on September 24
- ✓ The Ranji Trophy test side is likely to be led by Vijay Shankar while Washington Sundar is the likely candidate for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 trophy
- ✓ D Vasu was recently appointed as the coach of the Tamil Nadu team
- ✓ Tamil Nadu won the Vijay Harare and Deodhar Trophies in 2016-17

