



CURRENT AFFAIRS 17th August 2022

National News

1. Today is the death anniversary of freedom fighter Madan Lal Dhingra



- Today is the death anniversary of freedom fighter Madan Lal Dhingra. He is remembered for sustaining the freedom movement from outside the motherland.
- He was influenced by Shyamji Krishna Verma and VD Savarkar. Madan Lal was deeply troubled by the treatment metted out to Indians by the British Police, and he decided to take revenge.
- He found out that William Hutt Curzon Wylie was the Head of secret police because of whom, the freedom fighters in London were targetted.
- When the elder brother of Veer Savarkar was arrested, Dhingra decided to take revenge.
- On 1st July, 1909, Dhingra shot dead the british police officer Curzon Wylie in a public gathering.
- He was immediately arrested and sentenced to death.

- The brave freedom fighter was executed at Pentonville Prison on 17 August 1909.

2. NASA rolls out its new Moon rocket to prepare it for maiden flight



- The American space agency NASA(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is rolling out its giant new Moon rocket to prepare it for a maiden flight.
- Known as the Space Launch System (SLS), the vehicle is being taken to Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for a lift-off scheduled for the 29th of August.
- It will be a crucial and long-delayed demonstration trip to the moon in NASA's Artemis program, the United States multibillion-dollar effort to return humans to the lunar surface as practice for future missions to Mars.
- The debut outing is a test with no crew aboard, but future missions will send astronauts back to the lunar surface for the first time in over 50 years.
- According to media reports, if bad launch weather or a minor technical issue triggers a delay from 29th August, NASA has backup launch dates on 2nd and 5th September.

3. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh hands over indigenously-developed equipment & systems to Indian Army



- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh handed over indigenously-developed equipment and systems to the Indian Army in New Delhi today.
- Future Infantry Soldier, new generation anti-personnel mine, upgraded sights system for tanks, high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats are among the state-of-the-art equipments.
- The equipment/systems have been jointly developed by the Indian Army in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Industry, in line with the Prime Minister's vision to modernize the Armed Forces, under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.
- Mr Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that these equipment and systems will enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Army and enhance their efficiency.
- He said it is a shining example of the country's growing self-reliance prowess, in partnership with the private sector and other institutions.

- The Defense Minister asserted that the infrastructural needs of the Armed Forces are increasing with constantly-changing times.

4. US President Joe Biden signs massive climate and healthcare legislation



- US President Joe Biden has signed a massive climate change and healthcare spending bill into law.
- The legislation aimed to bring changes in the way medicines are priced. As per reports, there will be a minimum 15 percent tax for corporations.
- As per the White House, 740 billion dollar bill is the biggest commitment to counter climate change in the history of the country.
- The federal government will invest around 375 billion dollar over the decade to fight climate change.
- The White House claimed that Biden's Inflation Reduction Act would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about one billion tons in 2030.
- The law will also cap prescription drug costs at 2,000 dollar out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients.
- The new legislation will also help around 13 million Americans in paying for their healthcare insurance.

5. Odisha government ties up with ocean institute for coastline



- The Odisha Government has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) for the protection of coastal areas from various natural calamities like flood, cyclone, soil erosion and high tide, etc.
- The Odisha coastal areas face natural calamities every year due to the effects of climate change.
- Seven districts namely Ganjam, Puri, Khordha, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Baleswar and Jagatsinghpur will get benefitted out of the initiative.
- This will help these districts to get technological knowledge and design from the NIOT, Chennai, for coastal area protection.
- The districts have already faced cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud, Titli, Amphan, Bulbul, Yash, Gulab, Jawad, etc., in the past years.

- In the first phase, work will be carried out in 199 km coastal areas of Kendrapada, Baleswar, Bhadrak Jagatsinghpur and Puri and in the next phase, Ganjam and Khordha will be included.
- The expenditure will be made by the State Government from its own resources.

6. Govt re-nominates four independent directors on central board of RBI



- Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, and Sachin Chaturvedi have all been renominated by the national government to serve as part-time, non-official directors on the RBI's central board or central board of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The RBI said on its website that Gurumurthy and Marathe have been renominated for another term of four years, until further instructions for RBI's central board.
- After the RBI's central board current terms expire on September 18, 2022, Iyer and Chaturvedi have been renominated for another four years.
- Anand Mahindra, the chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra group, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Patel, the chairman of Zydus Lifesciences, and Ravindra Dholakia, a former

member of the Monetary Policy Committee, were nominated by the government in June to serve as part-time non-official directors on the RBI's central board.

- Members of the RBI's central board offer a bigger picture for the central bank rather than getting personally involved in monetary policy decisions.

7. Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 hockey back after two years; India, Australia in fray



- Malaysia's premier men's hockey tournament, the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 will be held from November 16 to 25 in Ipoh.
- The tournament is making a return after a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- World No 1 Australia, fifth-ranked Germany, India, New Zealand, and Canada have been invited to the tournament.
- All matches will be played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in the city of Ipoh in Malaysia, which is the permanent venue of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.
- Last time the Azlan Shah tournament was held in 2019 which was won by South Korea beating India in the final, which was there 3rd title.
- Best player of the tournament was Surender Kumar.
- Most Azlan Shah tournament is won by Australia (10 times) then comes India with 5 titles. And Pakistan, South Korea with 3 titles each.

8. Researchers develop 3D printed artificial cornea



Lead researchers from L V Prasad Eye Institute, Dr Vivek Singh (4th from Left), Scientist & Dr Sayan Basu (fifth from Left), Director – Research; along with the team which developed the first 3D-Printed Human Cornea in India. First 3D-Printed Human Cornea in India has been developed by L V Prasad Eye Institute, CCMB and IIT Hyderabad.

- **Researchers in Hyderabad have successfully 3D-printed an artificial cornea (3D-printed Human Cornea) and placed it in a rabbit eye for the first time ever in India.**
- **A 3D-printed Human cornea made from human donor corneal tissue has been created by researchers from the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H), and the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).**
- **The product (3D-printed Human Cornea) was created locally with support from the government and philanthropic organisations; it is entirely natural, free of synthetic ingredients, and safe for patients to use.**

- In order to create a special biomimetic hydrogel (patent pending), the researchers from LVPEI, IITH, and CCMB employed decellularized corneal tissue matrix and stem cells generated from human eyes.
- This hydrogel served as the foundation material for the 3D-printed Human Cornea.
- The 3D-printed Human Cornea is biocompatible, natural, and free of animal byproducts because it is made of components derived from human corneal tissue.

By Sameer Singhal

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