



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 24th August 2022

### National News

#### 1. Centre issues advisory to states on Tomato Flu



- The Center has issued an advisory to states on Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD), commonly known as Tomato Flu.
- According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Tomato Flu was first identified in the Kollam district of Kerala on May 6 and as of July 26, more than 82 children younger than 5 years with the infection have been reported by the local government hospitals.
- The other affected areas of Kerala are Anchal, Aryankavu, and Neduvathur.
- This endemic viral illness triggered an alert in the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Additionally, 26 children (aged between 1-9 years) have been reported as having the disease in Odisha by the Regional Medical Research Center in Bhubaneswar.
- To date, apart from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Odisha, no other regions in India have reported the disease in their State and Union Territories by the virus.

## 2. Govt terminates three officials responsible for March's accidental firing of Brahmos missile



- The government has terminated the service of three Indian Air Force officers in the matter of accidental firing of a BrahMos missile into Pakistan.
- The incident happened in March this year.
- In a statement, Indian Air Force said, a BrahMos missile was accidentally fired on 9th March this year.
- It said, a Court of Inquiry was set up to establish the facts of the case including fixing responsibility for the incident.
- The Court of Inquiry found deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures by three officers which led to the accidental firing of the missile.
- In the Court of Inquiry, three officers have primarily been held responsible for the incident and their services have been terminated by the Central government with immediate effect.
- Indian Air Force said, termination orders have been served upon the officers today.

### 3. EAM S Jaishankar inaugurates newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion



- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion on Tuesday during his official visit to Paraguay.
- On this occasion, Dr. Jaishankar said, this is a reiteration of India-Paraguay's strong bilateral relationship and long-standing multilateral cooperation.
- External Affairs Minister's visit started with inauguration of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at a waterfront of Asuncion. He paid homage at the National Pantheon of Heroes and remembered the sacrifices of Paraguayan national heroes.
- During his visit, Dr. Jaishankar called on President of Paraguay Mario Abdo Benitez at the presidential palace.
- He also held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Paraguay Julio Cesar Arriola.
- In a statement, External Affairs Ministry said, both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in various areas including trade, commerce, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, traditional medicines and solar energy.

- They also exchanged views on regional and global affairs.
- Dr. Jaishankar addressed a business gathering at the Industrial Union of Paraguay in presence of Commerce and Industry Minister of Paraguay Luis Alberto Castiglioni.

#### 4. DRDO & Indian Navy successfully flight-test VL-SRSAM off Odisha coast



- Defense Research and Development Organization and Indian Navy successfully flight tested Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) today.
- The missile was tested from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- This missile has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.
- Defence Ministry said, the flight test was carried out from an Indian Naval ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams on the successful flight trial of missile.
- He said, the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy. DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams involved in the successful flight test.

## 5. Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim wins 2022 Pulitzer prize in Illustrated Reporting, Commentary category



- Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim working for the Insider online magazine of the United States has been selected for the 2022 Pulitzer prize under the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.
- She is among the four journalists including Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Walt Hickey of Insider being published from New York, selected for their work on the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs.
- The work 'I escaped a Chinese internment Camp' has illustrations by Fahmida Azim.
- The citation for the award said that they have been selected for the prize for using graphic reportage and the comics medium to tell a powerful yet intimate story of the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs, making the issue accessible to a wider public.
- Fahmida Azim was born in Bangladesh and now settled in the US. She is an illustrator and story teller.

- Her work centers on themes of identity, culture and autonomy.

## 6. Internaut Day being celebrated to mark invention of World Wide Web



- Internaut Day is being celebrated around the world today to mark the invention of the World Wide Web.
- An “internaut” is a person who possesses a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.
- It is hard to imagine the ease and comfort of doing anything in the present times without the internet and the access available to the amount of information on the web.
- August 23 marks the day when the World Wide Web was opened to the public back in the year 1991 for the first time by WWW inventor Tim Berners Lee as he allowed its access, CERN announced that internet would be free to everyone and there would be no fee for its use.
- Lee , an English computer scientist had invented the World Wide Web in 1989 , while working at the CERN.
- He had initially proposed an information management system on 12th of March in the year 1989 and thereafter was able to implement the first successful world wide web communication through the Internet around November in the same year.

- He also devised and implemented the first Web browser and Web server and helped foster the Web's subsequent rapid development.

## 7. HPCL launches cow dung-to-compressed biogas project



- **HPCL Compressed Biogas Project:** HPCL's first of its kind Waste-to-Energy portfolio, uses 100 tonnes of dung per day to make biogas, which may be used as vehicle fuel.
- In a year, the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project project is expected to be put into operation.
- The GOBAR-Dhan plan, announced by the Indian government in April 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission's (Grameen) Biodegradable Waste Management component, is the framework under which the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project initiative is being developed.
- The HPCL Compressed Biogas Project project is being developed under the GOBAR-Dhan scheme, which was introduced by the Indian government in April 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission's (Grameen) Biodegradable Waste Management component.
- The HPCL Compressed Biogas Project scheme aims to improve cleanliness and produce wealth and energy from organic waste and livestock.

- At Shree Godham Mahatirth Pathmeda Lok Punyarth Nyas, Village Pathmeda, Tehsil Sanchore District Jalore in Rajasthan, the project's groundbreaking ceremony was held.
- Senior HPCL officials including ED Biofuel & Renewables Shuvendu Gupta were present at the occasion.

#### 8. IAS officer Rajesh Verma appointed as Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu



- Odisha cadre 1987-batch IAS officer, Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu.
- He replaces the incumbent Kapil Dev Tripathi, a 1980-batch IAS officer.
- He is currently serving as Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs & has also served as principal secretary to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.
- In the past, Verma has also served as the Principal Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Principal Secretary of Energy Department, Government of Odisha.
- Droupadi Murmu became the 15th President of India after Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana administered the oath of office last month.
- With this, she became the second woman President of the country, and the first-ever tribal woman to hold the highest

**Constitutional office and also happens to be the first President to be born in independent India.**

- **Murmu received around 64 per cent of the valid votes of MPs and MLAs comprising the Electoral College.**
- **Murmu received 6,76,803 votes whereas Sinha secured 3,80,177 votes**

**By Sameer Singhal**

PLUTUS ACADEMY