



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 25th August 2022

### National News

#### 1. Government to launch E-Passport in next 6 months



- **Electronic-Passports will be rolled out by the end of this year or early next year. Secretary External Affairs, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed informed the media in Hyderabad.**
- **He said an e-chip and a few more features will be added to the passport book which will provide security upgradation of the Indian passport and enable machine reading.**
- **A team of officials led by the secretary is visiting Hyderabad as part of Videsh Sampark Outreach program and held a series of meetings with Telangana government.**
- **Stating that the interests of diaspora are important, the secretary said several steps are being taken to facilitate Indian citizens who are migrating to work in other countries and providing legal support.**
- **He said 87 billion dollars have been remitted to India by diaspora last year, compared to the 83 billion dollars in the previous year.**

- Dr. Sayeed also said efforts are being made to make immigration process easy through legal processes and increase training levels of those migrants.
- He said all agents operating illegally will be eliminated.
- dr Sayeed said maximum number of Immigration clearances are being given in Telangana.

## 2. VVS Laxman named Team India's interim head coach for Asia Cup 2022



- VVS Laxman has been named Team India's interim head coach for the 2022 Asia Cup.
- Laxman, the chief of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), has joined Team India as its interim head coach in Dubai for the 2022 Asia Cup.
- The move comes a day after the BCCI confirmed that Rahul Dravid, India's head coach, did not travel with the team after testing positive for COVID-19.
- India will take on Pakistan in their first game of the 2022 Asia Cup on Sunday.
- India will enter the 2022 Asia Cup as defending champions. Under the leadership of Rohit, the Men in Blue won the tournament in 2018. They also won the 2016 Asia Cup under MS Dhoni.

## 3. Godrej Agrovet signs MoU with Assam, Manipur & Tripura for palm oil cultivation



- **Godrej Agrovet, a diversified agribusiness conglomerate, announced that it has signed an MoU with the governments of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to advance and promote oil palm growth in the area under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm initiative.**
- **The partnership between Godrej Agrovet and the state governments will create new chances for expansion of oil palm plants in these states as well as support for farmers.**
- **The Agreements are in keeping with Godrej Agrovet's long-term goal to be the driving force behind India's oil mission by doubling farmer income and promoting sustainable expansion of oil palm production.**
- **In the entire nation, Godrej Agrovet has planted palm oil on over 65,000 acres.**
- **In the upcoming years, Godrej Agrovet intends to raise this to 100,000 ha.**
- **Godrej Agrovet's six oil palm mills, which are dispersed around the nation, manufacture a variety of goods, including crude palm oil, crude palm kernel oil, and palm kernel cake.**
- **The government had established the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil in August 2021.**

#### **4. Composite Indoor Shooting Range opened at INS Karna**



- A first-of-its-kind, Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta at INS Karna.
- The CISR is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25 m, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Navy.
- With advanced target systems and associated control software, this range would enable personnel to hone their firing skills, enabling them to challenge and take on adversaries in demanding scenarios.
- INS Karna is the first in the Navy & the only military unit in the country to set up and use a facility of this kind.
- The range has been set up to contemporary international standards by an Indian firm and is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The entire facility was set up in a record time of 120 days from the award of the contract to the firm.

## 5. CBDC, the 'digital rupee' that RBI could introduce this year, and how it will help



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will very likely introduce its digital rupee, the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), in this fiscal year itself.
- Talks of a digital rupee in the country have been swirling since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced it during her Budget 2022 speech back in February.
- At the time, she had said that the digital rupee would be launched in 2022-2023.
- The digital rupee blockchain, being developed by the Reserve Bank, would be able to trace all transactions, unlike the current system of mobile wallet offered by private companies.
- Earlier, news agency PTI reported that the digital currency issued by the RBI would be numbered in units, just like every fiat currency has an unique number on it.
- CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrency that have mushroomed over the last decade.
- Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer.
- The government has already said that private cryptocurrencies will never be a legal tender.
- The RBI has been strongly opposing private cryptocurrencies as they could have implications on national security and financial stability.

## 6. Liberty Medal to Be Awarded to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy



- The Liberty Medal 2022 will be awarded this fall to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

- The National Constitution Center has announced that Zelenskyy will be honoured in a ceremony in October for what it called “his heroic defence of liberty in the face of Russian tyranny.”
- President Zelenskyy has bravely led the Ukrainian people in their defence of freedom against Russian tyranny, and his courage has inspired people around the world to defend liberal democracy and the rule of law.
- Zelenskyy, who has served as the nation’s president since May 2019, has also been the recipient of awards such as the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award as well as honours from the governments of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia.
- The Liberty Medal, established in 1988 to mark the U.S. Constitution’s bicentennial, is presented to individuals who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for people around the globe.
- Recent recipients have included Supreme Court justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Anthony Kennedy, Sen. John McCain, Rep. John Lewis and Malala Yousafzai.

## 7. India preps for G20 presidency from 1 Dec, greenlights setting up a secretariat



- The Union cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and related structures that will implement

policy decisions and be responsible for arrangements for India's forthcoming presidency of the group in 2023.

- India will hold the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India next year.
- The G20 Secretariat will handle work related to knowledge, content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's presidency of the inter-governmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- Each year the G20 president invites several guest countries to participate in G20 events and contribute to the agenda.
- G20 members engage with guest countries and other non-member countries to ensure the G20 reflects a broad range of international opinion.
- In 2015 Turkey welcomed Spain as a permanent invitee.

**By Sameer Singhal**