



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

03 AUGUST, 2022

## NATIONAL

### 1. 100% quota for locals in government jobs

**Why in news** - The Supreme Court quashed the Jharkhand government's 2016 decision to grant 100% reservation to locals of 13 scheduled areas in public jobs.

#### Key Points –

- It was declared unconstitutional and ultra vires Articles 14, 16(2), 16(3) and 35(ai) of the Constitution of India.
- Under Article 16(3), it is the Parliament alone, which is authorized to make any law regarding employment to an office in a State or UT.

### 2. Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data

**Why in news** – Aurangabad became the first smart city in India to receive data from Google's EIE.

#### Key Points –

- It is in line with "race to zero" and "race to resilience" UN programs that will contribute to the sustainability of the environment.

### 3. Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat

**Why in news** - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched the “Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat” to promote Indian language technology.

#### Key Points –

- Aim - To build open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- It was inaugurated at the IIT Madras campus by Nandan Nilekani.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Ayman al-Zawahiri killed

**Why in news** - The United States killed Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri (\$25 million bounty on his head) in a strike in Kabul, Afghanistan on July 31, 2022.

#### Key Points –

- Missile used - Hellfire R9X missile (Ninja Missile).
- He helped coordinate the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.
- Zawahiri succeeded Osama bin Laden as Al Qaeda leader after his death.

### 2. Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan

**Why in news** - The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, landed in Taiwan on August 2 ignoring Chinese threats.

#### Key Points –

- She is the highest-ranking US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years.
- In 1997, then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich of the Republican party visited Taiwan.
- In the China-US Joint Communiqué (1979), the USA recognized Taiwan as a part of China.
- In 2007, Pelosi presented Dalai Lama with the Congressional Gold Medal - a tribute to his leadership in the fight for freedom.

#### About Taiwan –

- The United Nations does not recognise Taiwan as a separate country.
- Only 13 countries around the world recognise Taiwan.

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### 3. Ibrahim Solih visit to India

**Why in news** - Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih arrived on an official four-day visit to India (August 1-4).

**Key Points** –

- India extended an additional \$100 million line of credit to the Maldives.
- Both signed 6 pacts to facilitate cooperation in capacity building, cyber security, housing, disaster management and infrastructure.

## SECURITY

### 1. Hellfire R9X missile

**Why in news** - The US military used its “secret weapon” — the Hellfire R9X missile – to kill Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

**Key Points** –

**About Hellfire missile** –

- Full form - Heliborne, Laser, Fire and Forget missile.
- It is also known as the “Ninja Missile”.
- It does not carry a warhead. It deploys razor-sharp blades to cut down the target causing minimum collateral damage.
- It was developed by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.
- Other variants - Longbow and Romeo.

### 2. Pacific Dragon drill

**Why in news** - South Korea, the US and Japan will start a combined ballistic missile defence exercise in waters off Hawaii from August 14.

**Key Points** –

- Australia and Canada will join the exercise.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### 1. Distinguished Indologist award

**Why in news** - Canadian scholar Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded with the Distinguished Indologist award for the year 2021.

**Key Points** –

- It was given by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Mr Armstrong becomes the seventh recipient of this award.
- First recipient (2015)- Heinrich Fresher Von Stietencron (Germany).
- The award was instituted in 2015 during the first World Indology Conference.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. Muslim women rights day

**Why in news** – It is observed on August 1 across India.

**Key Points** –

- It marks the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq which came into effect on August 1, 2019.
- In 2021, it was celebrated for the first time.
- On August 22, 2017, the Supreme Court set aside the practice of Talaq-e-Biddat as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

### 2. World lung cancer day

**Why in news** – It is observed on August 1 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### 1. Lockdown Lyrics

**Why in news** – Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled Lockdown Lyrics.

**Key Points** –

- It is a collection of poems written by Sanjukta Dash.
- It is a narration of the author's experiences during the pandemic.

## APPOINTMENTS

### 1. Satyendra Prakash

**Why in news** – Satyendra Prakash has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

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## 2. Auguste Tano Kouame

**Why in news** –The World Bank has appointed Auguste Tano Kouame as country director for India.

**Key Points** –

- He replaced Junaid Kamal Ahmad.
- Auguste recently served as the World Bank's country director for Turkey.

## SPORTS

### 1. India House

**Why in news** – Reliance and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have partnered to set up the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024.

**Key Points** –

- India will host the 140th IOC Session in June 2023 at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.
- In May 2022, India's first 'Olympic Values Education Programme' (OVEP) was launched in Odisha.

## FESTIVALS

### 1. Minjar Fair

**Why in news** – It has been given the status of international status by the Himachal Pradesh government.

**Key Points** –

- The fair was organized in Chamba (HP) from July 24 to July 31, 2022.

## BIHAR

### 1. GST collection of Bihar

**Why in news** – Ministry of Finance has released state wise GST figures.

**Key Points** –

- Among the big states, Bihar is the only state where the GST collection has decreased instead of increasing compared to last year.
- Bihar GST collection – 1264 crores (July 2022), 1281 crores (July 2021).
- Bihar suffered a loss of 17 crores or 1%.
- Top 3 states (Rs in crores) – Maharashtra (22129) > Gujarat (9183) > W. Bengal (4441).

### 2. Garland trench

**Why in news** – 40 garland trench to be built in plateau and hilly areas of South Bihar.

**Key Points** –

- Small Water Resources department has identified about 100 schemes for this.
- Fund allocated - Rs 32.54 crores.
- Garland Trench–
  - A. Water is prevented from being wasted by making trenches around the place of water coming out of the hilly area.
  - B. It is the most effective way of maintaining the ground water level along with water harvesting in the hilly area.

### 3. Retail inflation

**Why in news** – Discussion on inflation dominated the Parliament for two days.

**Key Points** –

- Bihar's retail inflation rate was the lowest at 4.68% in June, 2022.
- High inflation (June) states - Telangana (10.05%), Andhra Pradesh (8.63%), Maharashtra (7.97%).
- India's retail inflation rate was 7.04% (RBI limit – 6%) in the month of May.



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# PERFECTION IAS

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- Who has been given the prestigious Shiromani award recently – **Michelle Poonawalla.**
- The first ship, since the war began, carrying 26,000 tons of Ukrainian grain leaves Odesa port for which country – **Lebanon.**
- The Election Commission of India has allowed citizens above which age to enroll in the voter list - **17 years.**
- Who is the author of the book “The Light We Carry” - **Michelle Obama.**
- Which state has issued a notice to remove all floating houses and fishing-related structures from the Loktak Lake – **Manipur.**
- The Centre formed a task force in August 2022 to monitor which disease in the nation – **Monkeypox.**
- Who has been given Ayurveda Ratna award by UK Parliament recently – **Tanuja Nesari**
- Recently, which company has been given Microsoft Partner of the Year awards 2022 – **HCL Technology.**
- Where has PM Modi recently inaugurated Akshaya Patra's mid-day meal kitchen – **Varanasi.**
- Which state has tied up with Singapore-based M/s IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd to set up a semiconductor park – **Tamil Nadu.**

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