

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**July 2023**

**Date: 16.07.23 - 23.07.23**



### National News

#### India and UAE have entered into two MoUs to enhance transactions.

- India and the United Arab Emirates on July 15 signed two MoUs for trade cooperation, to further develop their payment and messaging systems and use their local currencies for cross-border transactions.
- The agreement envisages the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions, including all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions between the two countries.

#### The Union Home Minister inaugurated the National Grand Conference on FPO in the Cooperative Sector.

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Grand National Conference** on "Farmers Producer Organization and FPO in Cooperative Sector" in **New Delhi** on **July 14**.
- In our largest country where about 65 crore people are involved in agriculture, this conference is organized with the objective of reviving the cooperative movement, modernizing technology and reaching new heights with transparency. It is significant that at this conference he launched a major initiative to create 1,100 new FPOs.

#### Central government has approved Rs 180 crore for flood affected Himachal Pradesh.

- The central government has approved a resolution to release Rs 180 crore to the state under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) to provide relief to the people who have suffered due to severe floods in Himachal Pradesh.
- It is notable that the approval of this relief fund has been given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Two more MI-17V5 helicopters have been deployed to evacuate flood-affected people.

#### India and France have entered into an MoU to manufacture warships in India.

- Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) of India and France have signed MoUs for the joint production of submarines and warships and their components in Kolkata and Mumbai respectively for export to the rest of the world.
- These MoUs are said to further strengthen Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" initiative. It has also been announced that Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders will work with the French Naval Group to manufacture "Scorpene-class submarines".

#### "Bhoomi Samman 2023" will be launched by the President of India in New Delhi.

- "Bhoomi Samman 2023" will be launched by the President of India **Draupadi Murmu** in New Delhi on **July 18**, comprising **Nine State Secretaries** and **68 District Collectors** who have excelled in completing key components of the project to modernize digital India land records.
- The President said that this "**Bhoomi Samman**" project is a good example of central-state cooperative federalism based on trust and partnership and this project has been undertaken with the aim of improving the quality of life of the people through this project.

#### An MoU has been signed between Tezpur University and IITM Pune for research on carbon.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Tezpur and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, to **assess and re-examine** the net ecosystem transfer of **carbon dioxide in Assam's famous Kaziranga National Park**.
- The Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between Tezpur University and IITM to collaborate and develop various research areas related to "**Greenhouse Gases**".



and Biosphere - Atmosphere Exchange of Energy".

**The central government has formed a new committee to review all NSO data.**

- Reorganizing the **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** set up in late **2019**, the central government has set up a study group in **July 2023** to review and revise official data from employment and consumption expenditure surveys.
- In a recently issued order, the **Ministry of Statistics** has mentioned that the SCES, which was tasked with analyzing only the economic indicators of the surveys conducted under the National Statistical Office (NSO), will now be replaced by the **Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS)**.

**Tamil Nadu tops Export Preparedness Index 2022 - Niti Aayog latest report**

- According to Niti Aayog's **Export Preparedness Index 2022** published in July 2023, Tamil Nadu has topped the "**Coastal States Category**", overtaking Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- The index is developed based on operational efficiency and export capacity of states to assess their preparedness and it is notable that the report of the Niti Aayog was released by its Chief Executive Officer **B. V. R. Subrahmanyam**. Following Tamil Nadu(80.89) in this ranking are Maharashtra(78.20), Karnataka(76.36), Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

**The Union Home Minister launched the "CRCS-Sahara Refund" website of Sahara Group.**

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the "CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal" on July 18 in New Delhi. This portal has been developed with the aim of getting more than **10 crore**

shareholders of **Sahara Group** their money back.

- The Union Home Minister said that in the first phase, 4 crore shareholders are eligible to receive up to Rs 10,000 and once this initiative is successful, further decisions will be taken to address the demands of the shareholders who are stuck with a lot of money in the cooperative societies of the group.

**The IEA has published its medium-term market supply report "Oil 2023".**

- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** in collaboration with the **Petroleum Planning and Analysis Organization (PPAC)** has released a medium-term market sales report titled "**Oil 2023**" under the **MoP** and **NG**.
- "India's energy demand is growing much faster than other major economies" and the same trend is expected to continue. **IEA Institute Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain** said that growth in all sectors will be driven by favorable demographics supported by **industrialization** and **urbanization**.

**The Indian Army and Ashok Leyland have signed contracts worth Rs.800 crore.**

- The Indian Army has on July 17 entered into several contracts with commercial vehicle manufacturer **Ashok Leyland** for procurement of **Field Artillery Tractor (FAT 4×4)** and **Gun Towing Vehicle (GTV 6×6)**.
- The deal, worth **Rs 800 crore**, sees the FAT 4×4 and GTV 6×6 as the mainstays. These are "**Special Vehicles**" used to tow light and medium guns, the agency said.

**The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the new terminal complex of Port Blair Airport.**

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the **new integrated terminal complex** of **Veer**



**Savarkar International Airport** in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar on July 18.

- Prime Minister Modi said at the inauguration that the new complex is designed to "Enhance ease of travel, improve ease of doing business and improve connectivity".

**PNB Bank has launched a scheme "PNB PALAASH" for environmental sustainability management.**

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** on July 17 launched a flagship initiative "**PNB Palash**" as its environmental initiative for **sustainable management of environment**.
- The process is expected to take about **Eight months**. The campaign will lead to cost, savings and operational efficiencies for environmental protection through measures such as energy and waste management, resource conservation, paper reduction, streamlined digital processes, PNB said in its statement.

**The US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership Ministerial Conference begins in New Delhi.**

- A ministerial conference on the **US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)** began in **New Delhi** on **July 18** between Natural Gas and Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** and US Energy Secretary **Jennifer Granholm**.
- While ensuring healthy growth rates between the two countries, the summit aims to represent a comprehensive vision for zero carbon in the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.

**The Indian Army has started an All Women Tri-Army Motorcycle Rally from New Delhi to Dras.**

- To commemorate **24 years** of victory over Pakistan in **1999** Kargil war in Ladakh and to express their indomitable spirit by prioritizing women, the **Indian Army** has launched the tri-army "**Nari Sashaktikaran Women**

**Motorcycle Rally"** at the "**National War Memorial**" in New Delhi.

- It is significant that the **Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pandey** flagged off this grand rally on July 18, 2023.

**India-led ASEAN Conference on Traditional Medicines has begun in New Delhi.**

- The **ASEAN Conference on Traditional Medicines** begins in New Delhi on **July 20** under the leadership of **India**.
- The conference aims to share best practices between India and ASEAN member countries and to develop a roadmap for their future cooperation in the field of traditional medicine.

**President of India Murmu is scheduled to inaugurate the two-day Library Festival 2023 in New Delhi.**

- The Union Government has announced that the President of India **Draupadi Murmu** will inaugurate the **two-day Library Festival 2023** at **Pragati Maidan** in New Delhi on August 5.
- The event aims to introduce a unique ranking system for libraries across India and promote excellence and innovation in the library sector.

**The Ministry of Culture plans to revive "The country's ancient stitched shipbuilding Tankai method".**

- The **Union Ministry of Culture** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to revive and preserve the **2000-year-old** ancient technology of shipbuilding known as stitching(**Tankai method**).
- The agreement was executed on **July 18, 2023**. It is also said that India has a strong maritime heritage and its strong use has played an important role in **trade, exploration and cultural exchange** and the country's heritage and economy will progress by restoring India.



**Universal Postal Union (UPU) Regional Office opened in New Delhi on July 19.**

- The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** Regional Office was inaugurated in New Delhi on **19th July 2023** by the Chief Executive Officer of the Universal Postal Union (DG UPU) **Mr. Masahiko Metoki** and Union Minister of Communications **Shri Devusinh Chauhan**.
- It is significant that this specialized center has been opened with the objective of speeding up the technical assistance activities of the UPU in the South Asian region.

**The 3rd meeting of the Indo-Russian Commission on Military Cooperation has been held in New Delhi.**

- The 3rd General Meeting of the "**Working Group on Military Co-Operation**" for the year 2023 of the Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Related Technical Cooperation of India and Russia has been held.
- It is notable that the conference was held from **July 18 to 19** at the **Maneksha Center** in New Delhi. The conference was held with the aim of expanding the security engagements between the two sides and further strengthening new initiatives under the bilateral security cooperation mechanism.

**The Union Minister will inaugurate the two-day "National Conference of Rural WASH Partners".**

- Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** is scheduled to inaugurate the **two-day National Conference of "Rural WASH Partners"** forum on **July 21** at **Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi.
- Under the theme "**Accelerating and Enhancing Progress towards Swachh Sujal Bharat**", the conference aims to enable its participants to share their experiences and identify and develop new avenues of collaboration across the WASH sector.

**A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between India and Japan to develop a semiconductor distribution system.**

- The Government of India signed an MoU on **July 20** with the Government of Japan to **develop a semiconductor supply chain**.
- **Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav** said at the MoU in New Delhi that the MoU aims to enhance bilateral cooperation in **equipment research, manufacturing, semiconductor design, capacity building** and their **delivery services**.

**The National Geoscience Awards - 2022 will be presented by the President of India in New Delhi.**

- **Draupadi Murmu (President of India)** is scheduled to present the prestigious National Geoscience Awards for the year 2022 at the **cultural center** of Rashtrapati Bhavan in **New Delhi on July 24**.
- It is notable that the "**Union Ministry of Mines**" presents these National Geoscience Awards in **three categories** every year. **Established in 1966**, the award is a prestigious award given to individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding innovation and commitment to the field of geosciences.

**The Central Government has introduced the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha.**

- **Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** introduced the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha on **July 20**.
- This bill is designed to prevent the problems of **piracy in the film industry** and to strengthen the film industry by providing some important measures to the film artists and the Union Minister said that this Bill will be an opportunity to further amend the **Cinematograph Act of 1952**.



### India's HAL and Argentina's Ministry of Defense have signed a contract for helicopters.

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed a cooperation agreement with Argentina's Ministry of Defense on **July 20**, to manufacture and procure light and medium utility helicopters for **Argentina's Central Armed Forces**.
- The deal marks the **Second South American country** to have expressed interest in purchasing helicopters manufactured by HAL. It is notable that **Ecuador Country** has previously purchased seven Advanced Light Helicopters (Dhruv) from HAL.

### PFC has entered into MoUs with 20 companies worth over ₹2.37 trillion.

- **Power Finance Corp Ltd (PFC)**, a central energy transition company, has signed various MoUs worth **₹2.37 trillion** with nearly **20 private and public sector companies**, the company said in a statement on **July 21**.
- These MoUs are intended to further enhance **PFC's power transmission division** and provide **guidelines** that can further strengthen the objectives of the country's energy transition goals.

### India and Sri Lanka have entered into five MoUs for the development of major economic cooperation.

- Prime Minister **Modi** of India and Sri Lankan President **Ranil Wickremesinghe** signed **five agreements** covering major areas of economic cooperation on **July 21** during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan President to India.
- Various MoUs have been signed in Sri Lanka's **Trincomalee district** for economic development projects and renewable energy development in the country. The President of Sri Lanka said that these agreements will be a milestone in **strengthening the good relations** between the two countries.

### The 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI) meeting begins under the chairmanship of the Union Minister.

- The **14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation Public Meeting** began on **21st July 2023** in Goa under the chairmanship

of Union Minister for Renewable Energy and Power **Shri RK Singh**.

- The conference is organized with the aim of discussing the possible ways to overcome the burdens and obstacles in the way of energy transmission of the country and how to overcome the problems in them. Also in this conference, the Union Minister stated that by **2030, 50%** of the country's energy needs will be met from **Non-fossil sources and natural factors**.

### DGR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IBM for the development of ex-servicemen.

- The **Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IBM** to improve the quality of life of **ex-servicemen** by providing them with a **second job** and facilitating their seamless integration into the **civilian workforce**.
- It is reported that the **quality of life of ex-servicemen** who have served and retired from the army will improve through this recently concluded agreement.

### SJVN has signed an agreement with REC to get Rs 50,000 crore in funding.

- According to an **SJVN company** report released on **July 21**, an agreement has been entered into with **REC** to **provide financial assistance** to the project for setting up **new power plants** based on **renewable energy sources**.
- Through this agreement, REC has agreed to finance major development projects of SJVN and its subsidiaries to the tune of **Rs 50,000 crore**.
  - It is notable that the deal is aimed at acquiring nearly **25 GW** of generating capacity by the end of the current decade.

### The Union government has launched technology advancement schemes in crop insurance to empower farmers.

- To **empower farmers** and further strengthen operations, the **Ministry of Agriculture Welfare** has on **July 21** launched several new



**High-technological advancement** schemes under the **Pradhan Mantri Fazal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.

- **Union Minister Tomar** said that these projects have been developed with the aim of reaching full benefit to the small farmer in every village by using technology through these initiative projects.

### International news

**India plans to set up an office in Paris for DRDO to develop light fighter jet engines.**

- India's DRDO plans to set up a regional office in the French capital of Paris to jointly develop a light combat aircraft between India and France after the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on July 14.
- The Prime Minister of India said that a blueprint for this initiative will be prepared between Safran, a French defense company, and India's DRDO.

**A state of emergency has been declared to curb food inflation in Nigeria.**

- **President Bola Tinubu** declared a state of emergency on **July 14, 2023** to control inflation in Nigeria.
- President Tinubu has passed a resolution in the country's parliament with the main objectives of **improving agriculture, reducing the cost of food and creating jobs**. Nearly 25 million Nigerians are at high risk of food insecurity this year (by 2023), according to a January report by the **United Nations**.

**IIT-Delhi plans to set up its new campus in UAE.**

- The two countries signed an MoU on **July 15** in the presence of Prime Minister Modi for the Delhi branch of the Indian Institute of Technology to set up its "**First Global Regional Campus**" in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.

- The Prime Minister of India has mentioned that through this agreement, India's technological capabilities will be taken to a global perspective. It also said that Post Graduate (PG) courses will start from **January next year** and Undergraduate (UG) courses from **September 2024**.

**India and the UAE have signed an MoU to link India's "integrated payment interface" with the UAE's instant payment platform.**

- India and UAE have signed some MoUs for cross-border transactions in **local currencies** (Indian rupee and UAE Dirham) and **interconnection of their payment systems**.
- The agreement will not only give a big boost to trade between the two countries but will pave the way for enhanced economic cooperation and will facilitate international financial relations, said **RBI Governor Das**.

**The joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2023' between the Indian and Mongolian army has begun.**

- The **15th edition** of India-Mongolia joint military exercise "**Nomadic Elephant 2023**" began on **July 17** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. The joint military exercise is scheduled to take place from **July 17 to 31**.
- Joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant" is an **annual joint exercise** between India and Mongolia. It is notable that the last edition was held in **October 2019** at the Special Forces Training School, **Bakloh**.

**Singapore's passport has emerged as the world's most powerful passport.**

- **Japan**, which has held this position for many years, has been relegated to **third place** this year and **Singapore's passport** has emerged as the most powerful passport.
- This means that all citizens of Singapore can travel **visa-free** to **193 out of 227 destinations**



around the world. It is notable that **Henley & Partners**, a global citizenship and residence consultancy based in London, produces this index annually.

#### **India introduces the UPI system in Sri Lanka.**

- The **National Payments Regulatory Authority of India** has on **July 21** entered into an agreement with **Sri Lanka's Lanka Pay** to introduce the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system in **Sri Lanka**.
- It is also reported that this agreement has been made with the aim of increasing **Fintech connectivity** and further development of trade between the two countries.

#### **The European Union (EU) has announced 7.6 million euros in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.**

- The **European Union** has approved a resolution to provide **7.6 million euros** in humanitarian aid to **Afghanistan**.
- The European Union has announced that this grant has been announced to help the people of the country who are stuck in dangerous situations such as **economic crisis, food insecurity and lack of political stability** to overcome the situation and restore **irrigation facilities** and non-agricultural land in six provinces across the country.

#### **State news**

#### **New Center for AYUSH Health Services and Research opened in Goa.**

- The **Union Ministry of AYUSH** has launched a new center for health and AYUSH research services at **Ribandar** in Goa in July 2023.
- The Ministry of AYUSH said that the Center has been launched with the aim of providing high-quality health services at affordable cost to the public in the state and promoting research in traditional medicine. A library, a museum and a

laboratory to study marine medicines have also been started.

#### **Largest "Kalaingar nootraandu Noolakam" opened in Madurai.**

- On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, a grand "Kalaingar nootraandu Noolakam" has been opened for the benefit of the students with modern facilities and an area of 2,22,815 square feet on 2.61 acres of land owned by the Public Works Department on Pudunantham Road in Madurai.
- It is notable that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated this library on July 15 at 5 pm.

#### **The Chief Minister inaugurated the PM MITRA Campus in Amravati, Maharashtra.**

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** on **July 16** inaugurated a mega integrated textile estates and apparel park named "**PM Mitra Park**" in **Amravati**, Maharashtra in the presence of Union Textiles Minister **Piyush Goyal** and others.
- Also in this opening ceremony, some MoUs about PM-MITRA Park and some MoUs with some investors have been signed between the **Central Government** and the **Maharashtra Government**. It is notable that in **March** this year, the central government announced the locations of setting up Mitra Parks across the country for the development of the textile industry.

#### **Tripura state has started free ferry service for "school students".**

- The Department of School Education, Tripura has launched a "**Free School Boat**" service in **July 2023** to transport poor students living in **Dumbur Lake Islands** in **Gumati District**, Tripura to their schools.





- The chief minister said the move was taken in view of the fact that poor children living in Dumbur Lake and the many small islands around it often find it difficult to go to school as they cannot afford the "boat fare". It is noteworthy that Dumbur Lake, surrounded by **48 islands**, is **120 km** from the state capital.

### **The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Summit is taking place in Gandhinagar.**

- The third G20 "**Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs)**" Summit began on **July 17** in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat.
- Reserve Bank Governor Dr Shaktikanta Das and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are jointly presiding over the conference. The conference aims to address global challenges such as **food and energy insecurity** and **climate change** and ensure enhanced economic cooperation.

### **The Defense Minister has laid foundation stones for several development projects in Lucknow.**

- Union Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** on July 17 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh laid the foundation stone for several development projects, including the "**Madiaon-IIM Crossing flyover**", part of the National Highways Project and two national highway projects worth **Rs 3300 crore**.
- It is significant that through these projects, the economic development of the people will be further strengthened and he also inaugurated the newly constructed "**Alamnagar Railway Station**" on this occasion to enable the passengers of the "**western part**" of the city including Alamnagar and Rajajipuram to board and alight the trains without crowding to the capital of New Delhi.

### **Himachal Chief Minister has launched a website (PORTAL) to help the natives affected by the calamity in the state.**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Sukhu** launched a website "**Aapda Rahat Kosh - 2023**"(PORTAL) on **July 16** with an aim to help the disaster affected people of Himachal Pradesh state.
- The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh said that the magnitude of the calamity is very large and the state has never seen such a huge impact.

### **Uttarakhand's Harela festival has begun.**

- The Shravan Harela festival is celebrated to mark the beginning of the rainy season (monsoon) which is celebrated in the month of Shravan in the Hindu calendar. Harela means "**Green day**".
- Also during this festival farmers start the traditional sowing cycle in their fields. It is celebrated on **16th and 17th July** every year.

### **Union Minister inaugurates "Global Maritime India Summit 2023" in Mumbai.**

- Ports and Shipping Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** is set to inaugurate the **third edition** of the prestigious "**Global India Maritime Summit**" in **2023**, the Union government said.
- The conference is scheduled to be held from **October 17 to 19**. The conference is aimed at creating new investment opportunities, promoting ease-of-doing business and enhancing trade between countries through cooperation in knowledge and technology.

### **An all women meter testing lab has been inaugurated in Odisha.**

- To empower **Odisha's** local women in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) field, Tata Power Southern Odisha Distributing Company (TPSODL) has set up a state-of-the-art all-women meter test in the state.



- The company said that the meter testing operations at this laboratory in Odisha's **Berhampur** will be manned by women and will test **35,000-45,000** meters annually. It is also significant that TPSODL is a joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha State Government.

#### **Chachin Grazing festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm by local pastoralists in Arunachal state.**

- **Chachin grazing festival** is celebrated with great enthusiasm by the local herdsmen in **Tawang**, a region near the **Pumla Pass** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The **two-day festival** was enthusiastically attended by pastoralists from all over Tawang and surrounding areas. This festival is very well celebrated by bringing the culture of the state to the people all over the country.

#### **Employment Working Group-EWG meeting begins in Indore.**

- Under India's G-20 leadership, the fourth and final Employment Working Group-EWG meeting of this segment began on July 19 in **Indore** in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**. The summit is slated to conclude with a meeting of all G-20 labor and employment ministers from **July 19 to July 21**.
- The meeting is aimed at finalizing and updating the Ministerial Declaration and outcome documents. **Bhupender Yadav** (Union Minister of Labor and Employment) is presiding over this public meeting.

#### **Union Health Minister launches Global Food Regulatory Summit 2023**

- Union Health Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the Global Food Regulation Summit 2023 in New Delhi on July 20.

- The conference is scheduled to be a **two-day summit**. The conference aims to create a global platform for regulators to improve regulatory frameworks through collaboration.

#### **Gujarat to launch country's first 'satellite network website'**

- **OneWeb** and the **Gujarat state government** have entered into an MoU to establish a "**satellite network Portal**" near Mehsana in its capital Gandhinagar on July 19.
- Gujarat becomes India's first state to get "**satellite network Potal**" through this project. This project is developed under Digital India with an aim to provide secure and high-speed Internet access to local bodies, villages, district panchayats and government departments across the country.

#### **The G20's "Science 20" summit has begun at the prestigious Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore.**

- The Science 20 Summit under the leadership of G-20 by India began on **July 20** at the prestigious **Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore**.
- A 2-day conference will be held from **20th and 21st July**. The conference aims to discuss topics such as **green energy, holistic health and how to connect science with the general public**.

#### **Odisha State Cabinet approves Khadag River Basin Project.**

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** on **July 20** approved the **Khadag River Basin Project**, which will benefit the economy and quality of **life of 20,000 people**.
- The scheme is designed to benefit all the general public in the surrounding areas of three districts namely Kandhamal - Baliguda block, Boudh district block and Gudvela block of Balangir district.
  - It is notable that **Rs.126 crore** has been allocated for this project.



The Poonch district administration is going to start a two-day "Passport Mela".

- The Poonch district administration of **Jammu and Kashmir**, in collaboration with the "Union Ministry of External Affairs", has launched a **Passport Mela** on **July 22**.
- The **two-day program** is aimed at clearing the passport issues and doubts and ensuring the stability of the central government to the people there.

The Union Finance Minister inaugurated "GST BHAWAN" in Agartala.

- Union Minister for Corporate and Financial Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the "GST Bhavan" project of CX, CGST and Customs Office of **Guwahati Regional Zone** under CBIC in **Tripura's capital Agartala** on **July 21**.
- Built on an area of **0.71 acres at a cost of Rs 28 crore**, the project complex is designed with an aim to enhance cash-based engagements around the region.

### Political news

The opposition parties have formed an alliance called **I.N.D.I.A.** to face the **Lok Sabha elections** against the **NDA**.

- **26 opposition parties** have come together to form the "**Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance**" (**I.N.D.I.A**) on **18th July 2023** to contest the **2024 Lok Sabha elections** against the **NDA**.
- **Mallikarjuna Kharge**, the current national president of the Congress party, announced the alliance after a meeting of opposition parties in **Bengaluru**. It is also reported that **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** has chosen the name of this alliance.

### Awards

**NTPC has won the ET HR World Future Skills Award 2023.**

- The country's PSU **NTPC** has bagged the prestigious **Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Award** for 2023 for "**Best Advancement in Developing a Comprehensive Enterprise Learning Program**" and "**Best Use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Development**".
- **Sri Dillip Kumar Patel** received the award on behalf of **NTPC** at a function held at **Gurugram, Haryana** on **13 July 2023**.

The prestigious "**Eni Award**" has been announced to **Professor D Pradeep** of **IIT Chennai**.

- One of the global awards for science and discovery research, the prestigious "**Eni Award**" has been announced to **T Pradeep**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai.
- It is expected that the President of Italy will give this prestigious award as soon as possible. Notably, he has been selected for the Italian Energy Department's "**Eni Award**" for his research work on **nanoscale materials** and for providing environmentally friendly and clean water using affordable, improved materials to remove toxic pollutants from water.

**Ami Bera** is the first Indian American Congresswoman to receive the "**Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award**".

- **Ami Bera**, a physician in the US, has recently become the first Indian-American Congressman to receive the "**Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award**" from the Healthcare Leadership Council.
- The Health Leadership Council said the award was given to him for **his support for high-quality, affordable health care in the country**.



**"Most Promising Technology Leader of 2023" Award given to Krishna Jadhav.**

- **Krishna Jadhav**, Chief Technology Officer at Cloud and Global Cloud Business Consultant, has won the **"Most Promising Technology Leader of the Year"** award at the Golden Glory Awards 2023 held recently in Mumbai.
- Companies that are on a path to critical success with extraordinary achievements and the award is given every year to honor the remarkable work of individuals.

**G Square Company has received the "Best Integrated Prestigious REISA Award".**

- **G Square Company**, South India's largest real estate promoter, has received the prestigious '**G Square Company**' Award for '**Best Integrated Township Chennai and ROTN**' at the **Real Estate Infrastructure Summit (REISA)**.
- Notably, G Square City is Coimbatore's first and only integrated giant smart megacity.

**Primero Skills has been awarded India's Best Social Impact Agency of the Year.**

- **Primero Skills** has been awarded **THSC's Best Social Impact Company** for the **third time** in a row in the last 4 years in July 2023.
- **The Tourism and Hospitality Skills Council (THSC)** has announced the award for its initiative to train 14,000 youth with 60% women for 282,000 hours.

**Vinay Kumar Chaubey has been awarded the "Surya Bhushan Award" for the year 2023.**

- Commissioner of Police, **Pimpri-Chinchwad**, Maharashtra, **Vinay Kumar Choubey** has been honored with the **"Surya Bhushan National Award 2023"** for the year 2023 for his outstanding work in public service.
- It is notable that this prestigious award has been given earlier to eminent personalities like former scientist **Dr K Sivan**, President **Ram Nath**

**Kovind and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.**

**A 7-year-old Indian-origin girl has won the UK Prime Minister's "Points of Light" award.**

- Seven-year-old Indian-origin girl **Moksha Roy** of London has been awarded the UK Prime Minister's **"Points of Light"** award for her UN General Assembly sustainability efforts against **"Microplastic Pollution"** at the age of three.
- It is notable that he received this prestigious award from British Deputy Prime Minister **Oliver Dowden** last week as **"The World's Youngest Sustainability Lawyer"**.

**Union Ministry of Coal has won the National Award for "Best Engagement".**

- The **Union Ministry of Coal** has recently been awarded by the **Ministry of Commerce** for its achievements in e-procurement through GeM in the category of **"Best Engagement"**.
- The reason for the awards is that coal public sector undertakings (PSUs) have shown unwavering confidence in GeM by issuing various tenders worth nearly **Rs 21,500 crore** in the **financial year 2023-24**.
  - It is notable that the **Coal India Corporation (CIL)** which operates under it has been awarded the **"Rising Star"** and **NLC India** in the **"Timely Payments"** categories.

**A Sikh youth who tried to save an 8-year-old girl has been awarded America's highest award.**

- **Manjit Singh**, a young Sikh who tried to save an **eight-year-old girl** who was drowning in a river in the United States without knowing how to swim, has been awarded the prestigious and **highest award of North America**, **"Carnegie Hero Award"** recently.
- A **Fresno resident** took her own life on **August 5, 2020** while trying to save a girl, identified as **Samantha Cruz**, from the **Kings River** in

**Reedley..** It is notable that he has been awarded this prestigious award for this act of heroism.

The Union Minister presents the 55th Youth Parliamentary Competition Awards for the year 2023.

- Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs **Arjun Ram Maghwal** presented the awards of the 55th Youth Parliamentary Competition for 2023 to **Delhi schools on July 21**.
- "Running Parliamentary Shield" and **Winning Trophy** awarded to "School of Excellence", **Kalkaji, Delhi** for topping this competition. Another 10 schools have received **Appreciation Merit Trophies** for "Effective Performance".

### Appointments

**Indian-origin Shamina Singh** has been appointed to the **Export Council of America**.

- US President Joe Biden has appointed Indo-US business leader **Shamina Singh** as a member of the **President's Export Council**, the premier national advisory body on international trade.
- Notably, Shamina currently serves as **Executive Vice President** of Sustainability at **MasterCard** and has held senior positions in the White House and the US House of Representatives.



**Legendary cricketer Shane Watson** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador of Wolf777**.

- The company has roped in legendary cricketer **Shane Watson** as its **brand ambassador**, aiming to enhance the sports platform's collaboration between Wolf



777 and Watson and further its commitment to providing the best content to the company's users.

- **Wolf 777** is a top ranked **sports website** and with this appointment, it is reported that the company will advance to the next level by increasing the **value of the company's shares**.



**IPS officer Manoj Yadava** has been appointed as the **Chief of Railway Protection Force in July 2023**.

- Senior IPS officer **Manoj Yadava** was appointed as the **Director General** of the Central Railway Protection Force (RPF) on July 19, 2023 by the **Ministry of Personnel of India**.
- A 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Haryana, he will succeed **Sanjay Chander**, who retires on July 31, and will hold the post till **July 31, 2025**.



**Bimaljit Singh Sandhu** has been appointed as a board member of the **Virginia Commonwealth University Health Commission**.

- **Dr Bimaljit Singh Sandhu** was appointed as a board member of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Commission by **Governor Glenn Young** on July 18, 2023.
- With this appointment, the board of directors will oversee the entire operations of the Health System, School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing and School of Medicine.

**Nivruti Rai** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Invest India**.

- **Nivruti Rai** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** and



Managing Director of **Invest India** on July 12, 2023, the Central Government has mentioned in its notification.

- It is to be noted that he has taken over from **Ms. Manmeet K Nanda**, Joint Secretary, **DPIIT**, who assumed the interim additional charge of MD & CEO in **March 2023**. Ms. Rai is a recipient of the prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskar Award** for some significant contribution and service in the field of technology.

**DG Pal has been appointed as the New Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.**

- **DG Rakesh Pal** has been appointed as the New and **25th Director General** of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on **July 19, 2023**.
- He was awarded the **Tatrakshak Medal** in 2013 and the **President Tatrakshak Medal** in 2018 for his outstanding work and service.



**The Union government has appointed Sat Bhanoo as the managing director of the life insurance company(LIC).**

- The Union Government has appointed **Sat Pal Bhanoo** as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) of India on **July 19, 2023**.
- He succeeds **Siddhartha Mohanty**, who was appointed as the chairman of LIC in April. It is reported that he will hold this post till **December 31, 2025**.



**AP Pradhan has been appointed as the new HR Director of HAL.**

- **AP Pradhan**, with 35 years of experience in HR functions in the private and public sectors, took charge as **Director (Human Resources)** of

**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL)** on July 19.

- It is to be noted that prior to this appointment, he was **Special Duty Officer** at HAL Corporate Office and **General Manager (HR)** at Bangalore Branch Campus.



**Shah Rukh Khan appointed as ICC World Cup's brand ambassador for 2023**

- Renowned actor **Shah Rukh Khan** has been appointed as the **ICC World Cup 2023 Brand Ambassador** on July 19, 2023.
- It is Notable that India will host the **ODI World Cup** between **October 5** and **November 19 in 2023**, with ten teams participating in the prestigious tournament.



**Lokesh has been appointed as the CEO of Noida Authority.**

- After four years, the Uttar Pradesh state government has appointed Kanpur Divisional Commissioner **M Lokesh** to replace **Ritu Maheshwari** as the **CEO of Noida Authority**.
- With this appointment, it is reported that he will bring about economic progress in the surrounding areas of Noida through his excellent activities.



**M. Amit Gupta** has been appointed as Kanpur Commissioner, where Lokesh was already posted.

**Mardell was appointed as Jaguar Land Rover CEO.**

- **Adrian Mardell** was appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** of **Jaguar Land Rover**



(JLR), a subsidiary of India's renowned automaker **Tata Motors**, on July 20.

- Mardell, who became **Chief Financial Officer in 2019**, has now been named CEO. The company said that with this appointment, he will improve the company through his outstanding activities and he will hold this position for a **period of three years**.



**Sundaram Ramesh appointed as CFO of Jet Airways.**

- Jet Airways has appointed **Sundaram Ramesh** as **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**, **Gautam Acharya** as **director** and **Rajesh Prasad** as **non-executive director**, it said in its announcement.
- The appointments have been approved by the airline's "**Monitoring and Nominating Committee**" with effect from **July 20**. The company expressed its hope that through this appointment, he will address the many deficiencies in the company and ensure their improvement.

**Sri Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as the New Ambassador of India to Indonesia.**

- **Sandeep Chakravorty**, a 1996-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer currently serving as Joint Secretary in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, was appointed as **India's Ambassador to Indonesia on July 21**.
- Also, India is the **Second largest buyer** of crude palm oil and coal from Indonesia and it is reported that he will do a good job in taking this relationship to the next level.



**Admiral Lisa Franchetti has become the first woman to head the US Navy.**

- Admiral **Lisa Franchetti**, who has been serving as the **US Vice Chief of Naval Affairs**, has now

been appointed by the **US Army as its Chief**. The appointment was made in a notification issued by the **US Army on July 21**.

- With this appointment, she became the **First woman in US history** to serve as both the Chief of Naval Affairs and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or Commanders-in-Chief.
  - She also became the **Second woman to hold the rank of "Four-Star" admiral in the US Navy**.



**Arun Roy appointed as Special Officer of the World Investor Conference.**

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has taken some important steps and released a number of nomination notices in **July 2023**. Accordingly, **Arun Roy** has been appointed as the **Special Officer of the World Investors Conference**.
- Also, **Devraj Dev** has been appointed as the **Vice-Chairman of Science City Planning** and **Akash** as the **Chief Executive Officer of CHIPKAT Administration**. Through these appointments, they have been informed that they will improve the field through their outstanding efforts in the fields allotted to them.



**Science and Technology**

**ISRO wins the test of Gaganyaan Spacecraft's "Service Module Propulsion System".**

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully tested the "**Service Module Propulsion System**" at ISRO Complex (IPRC) in **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.
- The test used **16 Reactive Control System (RCS) thrusters** with a **thrust of 100 N** and **five Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engines** with a **thrust of 440 N**, ISRO said in its notification.



- (Project **Gaganyaan**— India's star project to send humans into space)

### Book publication

A book titled "As the wheel turns" has been published by the former Vice President of India.

- Former Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled "As the wheel turns" on **July 20**.
- Speaking at the book launch event, Naidu said, "This book will be very useful for the young generation to learn about the uniqueness of the great people of India."

### Archaeological discovery

**Dosa Kal(Dosa Pan) made of flint was found in Vembakottai excavations.**

- A '**Dosa kal**' made of flint was found on **July 17** (Monday) during the second phase of excavation at **Vembakottai** in Virudhunagar district.
- While the first phase of excavation work has been completed in the Uchimedu area along the banks of **Vijayakaraisalkulam** in Vembakottai area, **3,254 objects** have been found from there. Also, the second phase of excavation work in the same area was started on April 6 and 8 pits were dug. So far more than 2 thousand objects have been found from these.

**A 125-million-year-old dinosaur fossil has been discovered in China.**

- Fossilized remains of a different species of large mammal and dinosaur have been found fossilized in a fight in **China's Liaoning Province**.
- Researchers say the fossil is **125 million years old** and a "**Once-in-a-Lifetime**" find. The fossil contains the remains of a mammal called **Repenomamus robustus** and a rare plant-eating dinosaur called **Psittacosaurus**.

### Sports news

**An Indian player won a bronze medal in the ISSF World Cup Shotgun event held in Italy.**

- Indian shooter **Prithviraj Tondaiman** won the bronze medal in the ISSF World Cup Pistol 2023 - Men's event at **Lonato, Italy** on **July 16**.
- It is notable that Prithvi's bronze was India's only medal in Lonato shooting. In this final, England's **Nathan Hales (first)** won the gold medal with 49 points and **Qi Ying (second)** of the Republic of China won the silver medal with 48 points.

**Indian shooters have won gold at the ISSF World Junior Championships.**

- Shooters **Shubham Bisla** and **Sainyam** won gold medals for India in the **10m air pistol** men's and women's categories at the **2023 ISSF World Youth Championships** on **July 16**.
- The ISSF Junior World Championships are held in "**Changwon**", Republic of Korea. It is also notable that **India tops the medal list** with two gold medals.

**Alcaraz defeated Djokovic to win his first Wimbledon title.**

- **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz** won his **first Wimbledon title** on **July 16**, defeating seven-time champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia and a record **24th Grand Slam title**.
- World No. 1 Alcaraz won 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 after **four hours and 42 minutes**. The win was the 20-year-old **Spaniard's second major**, following his **US Open** title last year.

**The Korea Open Badminton Championship series begins in Yeosu, South Korea.**

- The world famous "**Korea Open Badminton 2023**" started on **July 18** in **Yeosu, South Korea**.
- The first round of men's doubles is scheduled to take place today. India's star players **HS**





**Prannoy, PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth, Malvika Bansod and Akarshi Kashyap** will play in the first round matches tomorrow, according to the head of the Indian Sports Organization.

#### **Men's javelin throw gold for India at the Para Athletics Championships held in Paris.**

- Indian athlete **Ajeet Singh** won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw final at the 2023 Para Athletics Championships in Paris.
- He saved this victory by clearing **65.41m**. It is also notable that he broke the championship record of **China's Chunliang Guo** by throwing **61.89** in this competition.

#### **Tamil Nadu NCC has secured second place in "National Shooting Competition".**

- **Tamil Nadu NCC** bagged the runner-up trophy at the All India Inter-Directorate Shooting Competition (IDSSC) held at **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** from **July 3 to 16**.
- It is notable that **Arun Sharma**, participant of RR College, and **Preethi V**, participant of Sri GVG College, Udumalaipet, won 2 gold medals and played an important role for the Tamil Nadu team to qualify for 2nd position.

#### **Aruna Tanwar, a student of Chandigarh University, has won three gold medals in the Taekwondo Championship.**

- Paralympian and student of Chandigarh University, **Aruna Tanwar** has won **three gold medals** for India at the **three-day Taekwondo Championship in Australia**.
- It is notable that he is currently ranked **4th in the world** and has won three gold medals in the President's Cup Para Taekwondo Championship and Australia Open Para Taekwondo Championship and Oceania Para Taekwondo Championship held in Australia in July 2023.

#### **Team India has won the bronze medal in the 2023 Asian Surfing Championship.**

- India's surfing team won the **Bronze medal** at the 18-nations Asian Surfing Championship 2023 held at **Thulisdhoo Island** in the **Maldives**.
- The Surfing Federation of India fielded a team of nearly 4 senior surfers in the men's category and 2 surfers in the under-18 category for the championships and the **best thing about this is that 5 out of 6 surfers** are from Tamil Nadu.

#### **Silver medal for India in mixed team skeet in ISSF World Junior Championships.**

- Team India finished 2nd in the medal table after winning a **silver medal** in the Shooting event on Day 4 of the ISSF Youth World Championships in **Changwon, Korea** on July 19.
- The Indian pair of **Sanjana Sood** and **Harmehar Singh Lally** won the silver medal in the mixed team skeet category with a score of **26-24** for India.

#### **India won the silver medal at the ISSF World Junior Championships.**

- India's trio of **Rajkanwar Singh, Sameer** and **Mahesh Anandakumar** won the **silver medal** in the **men's 25m rapid fire pistol event** at the **International Shooting Sports (ISSF) World Youth Championship in Changwon, South Korea**.
- It is notable that on the sixth day of these championships, the Indian team scored a total of **1730 points** and the Chinese team maintained their presence in the table with **1747 points**.

#### **Economic News**

#### **Bank of Baroda has launched the "Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme".**

- **Bank of Baroda**, India's **Second largest public sector bank**, has launched the **"Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme"**, a micro savings scheme for women and Childrens" in July 2023.



- It is notable that this scheme has been introduced by the **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in the financial year 2023-24 (in the **Union Budget**) for the future of women and children. Significantly, this is the **Third financial institution** to introduce this facility after Canara Bank, Bank of India and Post Office.

#### **HDFC Bank has emerged as the 2nd most valuable company in the country.**

- **HDFC Bank** on **July 20** overtook **IT - Tata Consultancy Services** to emerge as the country's second most valuable company by "**Market Capitalisation**".
- It is notable that **HDFC Bank's** market capitalization (Rs. 12,72,718.60) has overtaken the BSE value (Rs. 12,66,891.65) of the most reputed company, **TCS**.

#### **Obituary**

#### **Former Chief Minister of Kerala Oommen Chandy passed away.**

- Former Kerala Chief Minister **Oommen Chandy (79)** passed away on the morning of **July 18** at a private hospital in Bengaluru due to ill health.
- Oommen Chandy has served as the Chief Minister of Kerala for two terms in **2004-06** and **2011-16**. It is also notable that he received the United Nations Public Service Award for 2013 for the category "Preventing and Combating Corruption in Public Service" from the region classified as Asia-Pacific.

#### **Tony Bennett, the legendary American singer and songwriter who won 19 Grammy Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award, has died.**

- World-renowned Famous American singer and Lyricist **Tony Bennett** has died of old age at the **age of 96**.
- He had no major cause of death but was diagnosed with **Alzheimer's disease** in **2016**. It is also notable that he has received the **Lifetime**

**Achievement Award in 2001** and **19 Grammy Awards** for many important and diverse songs.

#### **Important day**

#### **World Day for International Justice 2023**

- World International Day of Justice is observed every year on **17th July** to recognize and honor the significant role played by the **International Criminal Court** and other organizations in providing justice to victims of multiple crimes.
- "**Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice**" is the theme for this year.

#### **International Nelson Mandela Day**

- International Nelson Mandela Day is observed on **18 July** every year to honor the life of **Nelson Mandela** and his public welfare involvement.
- The UN said that this day is an opportunity for people to reflect on Mandela's values and principles, to bring his social ideas to the general public, and to make a positive impact on their own communities. "**The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food, and Solidarity**" is the theme for this year.

#### **Tamil Nadu Day**

- After the independence of India "**Madras Presidency**" became **Madras Province**. Then on **1st November 1956** "Madras State" came into existence. Finally on **18th July 1967** Madras State was officially named '**Tamil Nadu**'. To highlight this, the Tamil Nadu Government observes "Tamil Nadu Day" every year.
- This day was declared on **October 9, 2021** in the Legislative Assembly. It is also significant that the Madras Province was changed to "Tamil Nadu" on **July 18, 1967** by **Peraringar Anna**.



### International Chess Day 2023

- International Chess Day is observed every year on **20th July** to mark the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in **Paris in 1924**.
- There is no theme for this day and its goal is to make every person understand the comprehensive benefits of chess, according to the International Chess Federation.

### International Moon Day

- International Moon Day (IMD) is celebrated every year on **July 20** to commemorate the first human landing on the moon.
- The manned landing on the moon is still proud to be one of the greatest achievements in human history. Notably, American astronauts **Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin** and **Neil Armstrong** were the first humans to set foot on the moon during the **Apollo 11 mission in July 1969**.

### National Mango Day 2023

- **National Mango Day** is celebrated every year on **22nd July** to celebrate not only the taste of mangoes, but also a deep cultural significance and their nobility, especially in **Indian history and traditions**.
- It is notable that this festival has been celebrated by mango enthusiasts across India since the declaration of the Indian "**National Horticultural Board**" in **1987**. **There is no theme for this day** & It is notable that the national fruit of India is **mango**.

### Pi Approximation Day 2023

- The  $\pi$  symbol was devised by the British mathematician **William Jones** in **1706**. **Pi Approximation Day** is observed on **July 22 (22/7 in fractions)** to honor this scientific discovery.

- It is also notable that **March 14** (the decimal value of **pi ( $\pi$ ) is 3.14**) is observed as **Pi Day** all over the world.

### National Parents Day 2023

- Every year **23rd July** is observed as **National Parents Day** to celebrate our valued parents and thank them for all they have done for us.
- **Every fourth Sunday of July is celebrated as National Parents Day**. The theme for this year is "**The Power of Parents: Raising Happy, Healthy and Confident Children**."