

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**July 2023**

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### National News

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between the Bureau of Water Efficiency and the Indian Plumbing Association to strengthen water management.

- The **Bureau of Water Utilization Efficiency (BWUE)** has signed an MoU with the **Indian Plumbing Association (IPA)** on **July 7** to further strengthen water positivity and water management.
- The MoU is designed to focus on awareness and development of **rainwater harvesting structures, gray and black water treatment, low-flow devices and sanitary products** and water audit of the built environment.

The Defense Minister has launched "Single Window NCC Integrated Software" for Army Cadets.

- Union Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched "NCC Integrated Software" for Army Cadets on **July 07** to promote **digitization** and enhance its growth through **Digital India programme**.
- It is notable that this NCC integrated software is developed by **Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG)**.

The Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit has been launched in Gandhinagar.

- The Urban 20 Mayors Summit was inaugurated on **July 7** by Gujarat Chief Minister **Shri Bhupendra Patel** and Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs **Shri Kaushal Kishore** in the state capital **GandhiNagar**.
- The conference aims to address the growing challenges of **urbanization** and **climate resilience** and to build **sustainable - climate cities**.

An MoU has been signed between L&T and Navantia for the Navy's P75 submarine development project.

- India's renowned **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** and Spain's renowned **Navantia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development and technical assistance program for the Indian Navy's **P75 (India) class submarines**.

- It is significant that this is **India's largest defense acquisition project** and as per the contract, Navantia will design **P75(I) submarines** based on its **S80 class submarines** and supply them to the Indian Navy and the project is expected to be valued at over **4.8 billion Euros**.

National Law University of Delhi has launched a program called Eklavya.

- The National Law University (NLU) in India's capital New Delhi has recently launched a pioneering **research and education initiative** called 'Eklavya'.
- The initiative aims to further strengthen Delhi's commitment to collaboration and to gain diverse perspectives through the expertise and skills of individuals without traditional law degrees.

Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh starts in "rupees".

- It has been announced that the bilateral trade between **India** and **Bangladesh** will be denominated in **Rupees** at an international trade event organized by the Bangladesh Bank and the Indian High Commission on **July 11** in **Dhaka**, the capital of Bangladesh.
- **Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia** and with this decision, the bilateral relationship is expected to reach a new peak, said the Governor General of the Central Bank of Bangladesh, **Abdur Rouf Talukder**.

International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has signed an MoU with IIML -EIC.

- The **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)** signed the MoU on **July 11** at the **IIM Institutional Insurance Center (EIC)** at the **Noida** campus in Uttar Pradesh.
- This MoU aims to create a framework for cooperation and understanding to support and strengthen **FinTech** and **TechFin** companies.

India and Maldives have signed MoUs for various development projects.

- A number of agreements and MoUs were signed during a delegation-level meeting between Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Maldives Prime Minister **Abdulla Shahid** at the Hyderabad House in **New Delhi** on **July 11**.



- It is notable that MoUs have been signed between the two countries for various cooperation projects such as development of sports grounds, setting up of a mental ward hospital, school digitization project, preservation of hospitals and culture and improvement of schools.

#### **The Union Minister launched the 'Green BHEL' initiative for sustainable growth and development.**

- The 'Green BHEL' initiative was launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries, **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey** at the Corporate Office of **Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL)** in **New Delhi**.
- Further strengthening the company's commitment to environmental sustainability and enhancing its commitment to shift towards cutting-edge technologies and this initiative is also aimed at reducing its **Carbon Usages**.

#### **The Center has approved a draft to provide Rs 7,532 crore to states for disaster relief.**

- The Department of Expenditure of the Finance Ministry on **July 12** announced Rs. **7,532 crore** for their respective **State Disaster Relief Funds (SDRF)** after approving the draft list of relief that can be provided to 22 state governments.
- It is to be noted that this list has been released on the recommendation of the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**. A separate State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is set up in each state under Section 48 (1) (a) of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

#### **An MoU has been entered into between MoD & FSSAI to ensure safe and nutritious food among the armed forces.**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Ministry of Defense (MoD)** and the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** in a significant step to ensure availability of **safe and nutritious food** and promote healthy eating habits among the country's **armed forces**.
- A book titled '**Healthy Recipes for Defence**' was also released on the occasion. Developed by

FSSAI, this book covers **millet-based** and highly **nutritious foods**.

#### **A unique global navigation satellite system called 'SAGAR SAMPARK' has been inaugurated to strengthen the maritime sector.**

- The **Ministry of Ports & Shipping** has inaugurated '**SAGAR SAMPARK**', a **Domestic-Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS)** to innovate, build better infrastructure and strengthen the Indian Maritime Sector (Navy).
- The structure was inaugurated by **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** on **12th July**. It is designed to provide accurate positioning information and correct errors and faults in the **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)**.

#### **A new campaign called BHARAT has been launched for the development of banks in the country.**

- **Shri Manoj Ahuja**, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on **July 12** launched a new initiative campaign for banks under the Agricultural Finance Framework **BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)**.
- This is a **month-long** country promotion campaign (July 15, 2023 to August 15, 2023). **Shri Manoj Ahuja** said that this initiative has been taken with the objective of making the banks in rural areas carry out agriculture and agriculture related activities with their own discretion.

#### **India is planning to host the "ASEAN Conference on Traditional Medicine" in 2023.**

- The Union **AYUSH Ministry** with the support of the **ASEAN Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs** and **Embassy of India** plans to organize a "**Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries**" on **July 20, 2023**, the ASEAN organization said.
- The conference aims to strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN countries, share their best practices and **create a roadmap for future cooperation** in the field of traditional medicine.



**A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between IFSCA and BITS Pilani to enhance collaboration in FinTech .**

- **International Financial Services Centers Commission (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani** have entered into an MoU to create a new framework to support FinTech and TechFin companies and facilitate their collaboration.
- The MoU was executed on July 13 at the **BITS Pilani PIEDS Fin Xcelerator Center** in Pilani Campus, **Rajasthan**. The agreement also forms part of the promotion of the IFSCA (FinTech Incentive) Scheme 2022, BITS Pilani Institute of Education and Research said.

**The Union Home Minister will inaugurate a one-day conference on “Strengthening PACS through FPOs” in New Delhi.**

- Union Home Minister **Mr. Amit Shah** will inaugurate a one-day conference on **“Strengthening Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)”** in New Delhi on **July 14**.
- It is significant that the **Union Ministry of Cooperatives and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** have jointly organized this grand conference. The conference also aims to discuss how to promote agricultural credit societies in the country.

**The Union Fisheries Minister inaugurated an exhibition on fish cooperatives and fisheries startups.**

- On the occasion of **National Fisherman's Day**, Union Fisheries Minister **Parshotham Rupala** inaugurated a grand exhibition on fish cooperatives and fishing startups at Mahabalipuram near **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.
- The Union Minister said that the two-day program will evaluate the initiatives of the Indian Agricultural Research Organization and discuss **progress with fisheries departments of various states**.

**The CDS inaugurated the LRMR Hangar & Dispersal at the Naval Air Base, Port Blair.**

- **CDS Anil Chauhan** on July 10 inaugurated the LRMR Hangar & Dispersal Hall at the Naval

Air Base **INS Utkrosh** in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar.

- With this new system, the twin hangar is spread over **6,000 square** meters and can accommodate a mix of **P8I aircraft** along with Tornier and advanced light helicopters, the CDS said during the inauguration ceremony.

**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".

### **International news**

#### **Justice Mussarat Hilali has become the second woman judge in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.**

- **Justice Mussarat Hilali** took oath of office on **July 07** and was sworn in as a female judge in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, making her the **second woman to be sworn in as a judge in the country's Supreme Court.**
- This is the first time in history that the Supreme Court of Pakistan will have **two women judges** and she has previously served as the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

#### **Union Minister unveils bust of Swami Vivekananda in Tanzania**

- Union External Affairs Minister (EAM) **Dr S Jaishankar** on July 06 unveiled a **bust of India's renaissance sculptor Swami Vivekananda** at the India Cultural Center in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**
- The statue must surely be a testimony to his timeless teachings and it truly transcends the boundaries of his faith in humanity, said the Union External Affairs Minister.

#### **SpaceX plans to launch "Satellite Internet service" in Mongolia.**

- The Mongolian government has signed an agreement with **Elon Musk's SpaceX** to grant **two licenses**, subject to certain conditions, to provide internet services using low-orbit satellites.
- This will enable millions of **internet users** in Mongolia to access high-speed connectivity via

"**Starlink**", a satellite communications internet service operated by SpaceX, the Mongolian government said in a statement.

#### **Turkey accepts Sweden's concession agreement to join NATO.**

- **Turkey** on **July 10** ended its months-long opposition to Sweden's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), allowing Sweden to join the organization without opposition.
- **Finland** became the latest country to join the alliance on **4 April 2023**, after **30 countries** were already members of the organization. If Sweden joins with this approval, the number of NATO member states will increase to **32** and this will be a huge **setback for Russia**, according to world security experts.

#### **India's HAL office in Malaysia has been opened to facilitate defense industry cooperation.**

- Defense Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the regional office of Hindustan Aeronautics Company (HAL) in **Kuala Lumpur**, the capital city of Malaysia on **11th July 2023** to boost defense exports, one of the main pillars of sustainable development of Indian defense Department and to facilitate defense industrial cooperation between the two countries.
- It will serve as a **Special hub** for **HAL's engagement** with the wider South and South East Asian region and a key security hub for other Indian defense PSUs, the Union Defense Minister said.

#### **China has achieved the status of being the country that successfully launched the world's first liquid methane rocket.**

- China's private space agency **Landspace** successfully launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen rocket, the **Zhuque-2 carrier**, on July 12.
- With this, China has achieved the status of being the country that has successfully launched the **world's first liquid methane rocket.** And it is



notable that this is **LandSpace's second attempt** after a failed launch in December.

### **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.

### **The European Parliament (EU) has adopted new rules to increase energy savings.**

- As part of the **European Green Deal**, the European Parliament approved plans to increase energy savings in **July 2023** in order to set new energy savings targets for **2030**. Members of Parliament passed the bill by a **vote of 471 to 147**.
- According to this, the project has been carried out with the aim of ensuring that its member countries reduce energy consumption by at least **11.7 percent by 2030** and ensure that member countries save energy by an **average of 1.5 percent**.

### **Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, has launched his artificial intelligence company xAI.**

- Elon Musk, the leading billionaire, launched a **new artificial intelligence (AI) company and website** called **xAI** on July 12 with cutting-edge technologies and a team of **former engineers** from **Alphabet, Google, Microsoft and OpenAI**.
- It has been reported that Elon Musk will be the **director** of the company and **Jared Birchall** will be the **executive secretary**. Global industry experts say it aims to leverage the capabilities of other AI companies and platforms and achieve commercial growth.

### **The 7th Deputy - NSA level meeting of Colombo Security Conference was held in Maldives.**

- The 7th Deputy - national consultative level meeting of the Colombo Security Conference (CSC) was held in **Maldives** on **12th July 2023**.
- The meeting was attended by top security officials from member countries India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius. Deputy National Security Adviser "**Vikram Misri**" chaired the Indian delegation at the meeting.
  - The meeting discussed regional cooperation, countering cross-border extremism and new proposals for action in 2023-2024.

### **India has decided to set up a new embassy of India and a statue of Thiruvalluvar in Marseille, France.**

- Prime Minister Modi announced on **July 14** that the Center has decided to set up a **New Embassy of India in Marseille, France**.
- Also, Prime Minister Modi mentioned in the announcement that a **Statue of Thiruvalluvar** will be erected in this **New embassy**. At the same time, India and France have agreed to use a common **UPI payment mechanism**.

### **The US Senate passed a resolution recognizing Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.**

- The **US Parliament** on **July 13** passed a resolution recognizing **Arunachal Pradesh** as an **internal and integral part of India**.
- This resolution reaffirms the United States Senate's recognition of the "**McMahon Lines**" as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The decision comes in contrast to China's long-standing claim that a large part of Arunachal Pradesh is its territory.

### **IMF approves Pakistan's three billion dollar loan**

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved a major **US \$3 billion** loan program to bail out Pakistan from its severe financial burden.
- According to the agreement, Pakistan will receive about **\$1.2 billion** now and the rest will be disbursed over the next nine months. Notably, last week Pakistan received loans from **Saudi**



**Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** while the official annual inflation rate is now nearly **30 percent**.

**Rikkie Valerie Kollé, has become the first transgender to win the title of Miss Netherlands.**

- **Rikkie Valerie Kollé** has become the **first transgender** to win the Miss Netherlands title. It is also notable that this is the **first time** in the history of the national and world pageant that a person of the third gender has won the crown.
- According to the country's beauty pageant organization, she is preparing to represent the Netherlands at the 72nd edition of Miss Universe (Miss Universe 2023) to be held in **El Salvador** after 22-year-old Ona Moody.

**The Minister of State has inaugurated the Indian Mango Festival 'Aamrus' in Russia.**

- Indian Mango Festival '**Aamrus**' was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Minister **Dinesh Pratap Singh** and Ambassador of India to Russia **Pavan Kapoor** on 8th July in Moscow, the capital of Russia.
- Ambassador of India to Russia Pavan Kapoor said that this initiative has been taken with the aim of sharing their entire culture with each other through this event.

**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.

### State news

**Prime Minister Modi has launched various development projects worth Rs 6000 crore in Telangana.**

- On the morning of July 08, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for various infrastructure development projects worth **Rs 6000 crore** in **Warangal, Telangana**.
- He is also launching various development projects to help the people of the region, starting with a **railway manufacturing facility** with an investment of Rs 500 crore and **176 km long national highway projects** worth Rs 5,550 crore.

**Prime Minister Modi has launched various development projects worth Rs 12,100 crore in Varanasi.**

- Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stones of 29 development projects worth a total of nearly Rs 12,110 crore in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** on July 7.
- It is mentioned that these include **redevelopment of Manikarnika and Harishchandra Ghats, 3 double rail over bridges (ROB), construction and renovation of 15 PWD roads**. Prime Minister Modi has said that this project has been carried out in a very useful way for the people through these projects.

**The Uttar Pradesh Government has approved two 800 MW thermal power projects.**

- The **Uttar Pradesh state cabinet** on **July 11** approved a plan to build two thermal power projects of nearly **800 MW** each in **Sonbhadra district** at a cost of **₹18,000 crore**.
- The state government said this is part of its efforts to provide affordable and uninterrupted electricity to all the people in the state.



**Mobile-Dost-App has been launched in Jammu and Kashmir.**

- A path-breaking **Mobile-Dost-App** has been launched in **sync** with the integrated vision of **Apka-Mobile-Hamara-Daftar** as a pioneering initiative for mobile-based delivery and sharing of citizen-centric services in Jammu, one of the Union Territories of India. and Kashmir.
- The app has been launched with the aim of empowering the people of Jammu & Kashmir by providing them with a **comprehensive platform to access citizen services (G2C)** directly from their mobile devices, the central government said.

**A memorandum of understanding has been entered into between the governments of Haryana and Tanzania.**

- **Haryana's Foreign Cooperation Department (FCD)** and **Tanzania Government's Investment Center (TIC)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **July 11** to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.
- The agreement is aimed at **facilitating and strengthening investment opportunities between bilateral companies**, ensuring sustainable economic growth and development.

**DGCA approves Tamil Nadu's first flight training facility**

- **The Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has on July 11 approved the establishment of a special flight training center in TamilNadu for the **EKVI flight training institute** operating at the Salem airport.
- This approval makes the Center the **36th DGCA approved Flying Training Center in India** and the **First Flying Training Center (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.**

**The Prime Minister has launched various developmental projects worth Rs 24,300 crore in Bikaner.**

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects worth Rs 24,300 crore on the evening of **July 08** in **Bikaner, Rajasthan.**

- Also, the six-lane green expressway project of **Amritsar-Jamnagar** Economic Corridor, built at a cost of Rs 11,125 crore, is seen as important as it will improve the economy of the villages and people in the areas along which the road passes.

**The Rehabilitation Scheme in Manipur was launched on July 07.**

- "**Chief Minister's College Students Rehabilitation Scheme 2023**" was launched on July 07 2023 to provide necessary educational and service facilities to **undergraduates** and other students who have been displaced by the situation due to the prevailing disturbances in the state of Manipur.
- It is said that this will be a **foundation** for the students of government and government aided colleges to continue their education without hindrance. This program has been launched by the state education minister **D. Basanta Kumar** in the state capital **Imphal.**

**1000 rupees per month entitlement scheme for women heads of households will be provided from September.**

- It has been announced in the state budget session that the scheme of providing **1000 rupees per month** as entitlement to the heads of families in Tamil Nadu will be started from **September.**
- The Tamil Nadu government has announced that the scheme has been named "**kalaigarn magalir uthavi thittam**". Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu government has announced that the project will be launched from "**September 15**".

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the famous software company Microsoft.**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been entered into between the **Education Department of Tamil Nadu** and renowned software company **Microsoft** with the aim of implementing the **Technology Education and Learning Support (TEALS) program** to provide an opportunity to small and rural students to learn the **latest technologies and tools.**





- The agreement was signed in the presence of State school education minister **Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi** and is an important part of the State Government's efforts to promote **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education** among government school students, said the School Education Minister.

#### **A product design center and MeitY supported e-quality detection system have been set up.**

- **Shri Bhuvanesh Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has inaugurated a product **design center** for **system designing, prototyping** and MeitY supported e-quality detection system at Advanced Computer Development Center (C-DAC) in **Kolkata**, West Bengal.
- **Shri Bhuvanesh Kumar**, Additional Secretary, said that the facility has been launched to be of great benefit to **entrepreneurs, startups** and **MSMEs** in the North and North-Eastern regions of the country.

#### **The Union Minister inaugurated CBC's Multimedia Exhibition in Srinagar.**

- Science & Technology; Union Minister of State for PMO, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the "**Multimedia Exhibition of Central Bureau of Communications (CBC)**" on July 10 in **Srinagar**, the capital of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The **5-day exhibition** will be held till July 14, 2023 and is organized with the aim of highlighting to the general public the methods for nine years of **Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan** (prevention of accumulation of wealth).

#### **Medical scientists from Tamil Nadu and Japan have discovered a treatment method to control muscular dystrophy.**

- **Muscular dystrophy** is a very rare genetic disorder that can affect children. As a result, the movement of the muscles becomes paralyzed and it becomes completely immobilized.
- In order to prevent this condition in which the protein '**Dystrophin**' of children suffering from

this disease decreases, it has been revealed in a medical study that the food product '**Beta Glucose**' increases the level of Dystrophin protein in the blood by **32 percent** through some medicinal food products. Accordingly, research has shown that consumption of this **beta-glucose** produces some changes in immunity and increases muscle strength within **45-50 days**.

#### **The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 871 crore in Kadapa.**

- Various development projects worth **₹871.72 crore**, including a **₹567.72 crore** drinking water project from the **Brahmam Sagar reservoir** in **Kadapa** district of Andhra Pradesh, to Kadapa Central City, have been approved by **Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** laid the foundation stone on **July 10**.
- The chief minister said that through this project, the people and farmers in the surrounding areas will get maximum benefit and the supply of drinking water to the municipal workers will be strengthened.

#### **The Chief Minister of Gujarat laid the foundation stone for the IAAD campus in Gandhinagar.**

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** laid the foundation stone for **IAAD's (Indian Audit and Accounts Department)** campus and security complex in its capital **Gandhinagar** on July 12.
- The complex was also inaugurated in the presence of the Auditor General of India **GC Murmu**. While Gujarat is leading the country in financial management, the center has been opened for the importance of further strengthening the state's economy, the state chief minister said.

#### **The Government of Assam has announced that all government employees of the state should work in "Durgam areas" for a certain number of years.**

- **The Assam state government on July 12** approved a scheme to make all civil servants of the state work for three to five years in the **Durgam regions**, recognized as a **geographically difficult region**.



- The state cabinet has given in-principle approval to the flagship initiative '**Sugam to Durgam** (comfort to difficulty)' for better citizen-centric governance and service delivery. Accordingly, the agreement states that all government employees in the state, irrespective of caste and religion, should serve **3-5 years** during their service in Durgam areas.

**Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has laid the foundation stone for 3 national highway projects worth Rs.2,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh.**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Mr. Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone for 3 national highway projects worth a total of **Rs.2,900 crore** in **Tirupati**, one of the major cities of Andhra State.
- In particular, the 35 km long NH-71 (up to Naidupate - Turpu Kanupur section) will be constructed with an investment of **₹ 1,399 crore** and following this almost 2 projects will be very useful for the people, the Union Minister said. And its total length is mentioned as **87 kilometers**.

**Chhattisgarh State Cabinet has approved the Investment Incentive Scheme for Industrial Development.**

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** on July 12 approved a scheme to provide special investment incentives to closed and lean industries and entrepreneurs in the state to promote and strengthen industrial activities in the state.
- The state's industry in Chhattisgarh has been further strengthened by the cabinet's approval of the proposed amendments related to exemption from electricity charges, stamp duty, 'mandi' charges, transport subsidy and finance, the Chief Minister announced.

**Kannada channel Power TV has introduced South India's first AI news anchor.**

- **Karnataka's** Kannada channel "**Power TV**" has recently launched **India's 2nd and South India's first AI news anchor**.
- The TV company has named this AI news anchor as "**Soundarya**". Recently, OTV, an

**Odia television channel**, introduced the state's "**first AI news anchor Lisa**".

**Nita Ambani Cultural Center has launched 'NMACC Bachpan'.**

- **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Center (NMACC)** has launched '**NMACC Bachpan**' (for Multifaceted Arts) a special initiative for **children aged 2-14 years** within the "Jio World Campus" in Maharashtra capital **Mumbai**.
- This initiative is an engaging and diverse platform for children through theatrical performances, interactive workshops to nurture and preserve art and culture for **future generations**.

**Delhi Airport has introduced the country's first double elevated taxiway.**

- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** on July 14 inaugurated the **country's first elevated taxiway** at the **Indira Gandhi International Airport** in the Indian capital, **New Delhi**.
- The **2.1 km long "Eastern Cross Taxiways (ECT)"** is said to further enhance time management at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's largest airport, which handles more than 1,500 flights daily.

**The Telangana High Court has recently ruled that the Telangana Eunuchs Act 1329 is unconstitutional.**

- **The Telangana High Court** has recently ruled that the **Telangana Eunuchs Act 1329** is **unconstitutional** and violative of the Constitution of India and violates the fundamental human rights of the transgender community.
- Recently, the judges hearing the matter, Chief Justice **Ujjal Bhuyan** and Justice **C.V Bhaskar Reddy** observed that the law is intrusive into the private affairs of the third gender community and an attack on their dignity.

**The 3rd G20 Cultural Working Group meeting has started in Hampi.**

- The third G20 Cultural Working Group meeting has begun in the World Heritage Site of Karnataka State's **Hampi** in the presence of Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Prahlad Joshi**.



- The purpose of this conference is to discuss four themes proposed under the President of India and it is a **two-day conference**.

**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.

**Science and Technology**

**Odisha TV has introduced India's first AI news anchor.**

- **Odisha Television Corporation (OTV)** launched **Lisa**, the **Country's first artificial intelligence (AI) based news anchor**, in the state capital **Bhubaneswar** on July 09.
- It is reported that this AI Lisa, powered by AI and machine learning, will now deliver messages in **Odia and English**. It is also notable that two months ago, **Kuwait News Agency** also launched their own AI new anchor, '**Fedha**'.

**Chandrayaan 3 successfully launched.**

- Chandrayaan 3, the country's **third lunar mission**, was successfully launched from the **second launch pad of the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota on **July 14 at 2.35 pm**.
- **LVM-3 rocket** is used for this launch. The Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft is intended to achieve lunar orbit, perform a soft landing on the lunar surface using a lander, and thoroughly explore the lunar surface.

Missions	Project Directors	YEARS
Chandrayaan 1	Mylswamy Annadurai	2008
Chandrayaan 2	Muthayya Vanitha	2019
Chandrayaan 3	Veera Muthuvel	2013

**ISRO plans to fully privatize SSLV.**

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) plans to soon transfer its **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** to private or private space-acquired installations, after conducting two development flight tests of the rocket, which aims to deliver on-demand services to **500 kg satellites**, the agency said.
- A senior official has said that the Indian Space Agency has decided to opt for the auction route to **commercialize** this small-scale rocket and not only manufacture the SSLV, but completely privatize it.

**Awards**

**India's Prime Minister Modi is to be conferred the Lokmanya Tilak Award for the year 2023.**

- It has been announced that Indian Prime Minister Modi will be conferred with this year's prestigious **Lokmanya Tilak Award** on **August 1**, the anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, at the hands of **Dr. Deepak Tilak**, President of the **Tilak Smarak Foundation**.
- The official announcement was made by **Dr. Deepak Tilak** and **Rohit Tilak**, Chairman of Tilak Smarak Foundation on July 10 in Pune, Maharashtra.

**Prime Minister Modi has been awarded France's highest award "Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour".**

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the **"Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor"** by French President **Emmanuel Macron** on 13 July 2023. Notably, it is the highest French honor for a **civilian** or **military** command.
- With this, Prime Minister Modi has become the **First Indian Prime Minister to receive this award**. Also, it is seen as significant that the Prime Minister of India has been honored with the **Order of the Nile of Egypt** in June 2023, the **Companion of the Order of Fiji** and the **Companion of the Order of Logohu by Papua New Guinea** in May 2023, and the **Ebaki Award of the Republic of Palau**.



**Fomento has won the Inspiring Business House of the Year Award.**

- At the **Vibrant Goa Inspiration Awards 2023** held on July 09, the prestigious business house, **Fomento Resources**, has conferred the prestigious "**Inspiring Business House Award**" for the year.
- **Joe Lewis**, Media Director, received the prestigious award on behalf of the company. And the Vibrant Goa Inspiration Awards are presented to honor exceptional personalities, professionals and business organizations across various categories.

**Appointments**

**Russian oil major Rosneft has appointed GK Satish, the first Indian to its board.**

- Russian oil giant **Rosneft** has announced the appointment of former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director **Govind Kottieth (GK) Satish** as a member of its **chief professional Head team** in July 2023.
- With this appointment, Govind Kottieth became the **first Indian to be appointed to the board of directors of a Russian oil company**. Economists have said that this appointment is aimed at further strengthening trade relations with India.



**Preeti Aghalayam has been appointed as the first woman director of IIT.**

- She will be in charge of the expansion chapter of **IIT Madras in Zanzibar, Tanzania**, the central government announced.



- With this appointment, **Dr. Preethi Agalayam** becomes the **First woman director to lead an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT's) campus**. With this appointment, it is said that he will lead well through his excellent handling.

**Devesh Uttam has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Lithuania.**

- **Devesh Uttam**, a 2003-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the **new Ambassador of India to Lithuania**, the Ministry of External Affairs said on July 11.
- Earlier in May, he had taken over after the termination of the Lithuanian ambassador to India, **Diana Mikkevicien**. The Ministry of External Affairs said that this appointment will further strengthen the good relations between **India and Lithuania**.



**Justice Alexander Thomas assumed charge as Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.**

- **Justice Alexander Thomas** assumed charge as the **Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court** on the morning of **July 14, 2023**.
- He has been appointed to the post following the elevation of former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, **Justice S V Bhatti** as **Supreme Court judge**.



**N. Gopalakrishnan was appointed as Secretary of Tamil Nadu Organ Transplantation Commission.**

- **Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan**, MD, Director of Nephrology Department, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai, has been appointed as the **New Member Secretary**



of the Tamil Nadu Organ Transplant Commission.

- In this regard, in the order issued by Tamil Nadu Health Department Secretary **Gagandeep Singh Bedi**, it has been mentioned that this appointment has been made after **Dr. Gandhimathi**, who was the Member Secretary of Tamil Nadu Organ Transplantation Commission, was recently released from the charge.



### Sports news

#### **Gold for India at World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS) World Cup.**

- India's **Rudransh Khandelwal** and **Nihal Singh** won gold and silver respectively in the P4 mixed 50m shooting SHI category at the World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS) World Cup on July 10.
- The 16-year-old Rudransh scored **231.1** points in the final to break the world record of 2020 Tokyo Paralympic gold medalist and Khel Ratna awardee **Manish Narwal**. At the same time, Nihal Singh has secured the second position with **222.2** points.

#### **Taarini Suri won the Under-17 Girls' Singles title at the GMBA Championship.**

- Taarini Suri won the Under-17 girls' singles and doubles titles at the **Greater Mumbai Badminton Association (GMBA) Championship**.
- It is notable that Taarini won the final match with **Nishika Gokhe** of Nagpur by **21-11, 21-23, 21-17** points.

#### **Gold for India in recurve category at Junior World Championships.**

- India's **Parth Salunkhe** has won **gold** in the recurve category at the 2023 World Junior Championships.

- With this, he became the **First male archer to win gold in the recurve category** at the Junior World Championships. India finished the last game of the championship with a maximum of 11 medals. Notably, Salunkhe defeated seventh seed **Song Injun** 7-3 in this tough five-round match.

#### **India won three gold medals at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships that began in Noida.**

- India bagged 3 gold medals on the opening day (July 12) of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held at **Gautam Budh University**, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is notable that athletes **Jyotsna Sabar** won the gold medal in the 40 kg youth category, **Asmita** in the 45 kg youth & junior category and **Komal Kohar** in the 45 kg senior category respectively.

#### **A silver medal for India at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships.**

- India's **Nishad Kumar** has won a **silver medal** in the **High jump T47** category at the ongoing 2023 World Para Athletics Championships.
- With this extraordinary effort, Nishad became the **second athlete to win a medal in this event**. The Para Athletics Committee for India has said that India's pride has been shown to the world through this victory.

#### **Gold for India at 2023 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships.**

- India's **Gyaneshwari Yadav** won gold in the **women's 49 kg category** at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in **Noida**, Uttar Pradesh on July 12.
- Gyaneshwari from Chhattisgarh lifted a weight of **176 kg** (78 kg+98 kg) and stood on the platform. It is notable that in this competition, Jilly won the silver medal by lifting **169 kg** (75 kg + 94 kg) by finishing second consecutively.

#### **Bronze medal for India in the 10000 m race at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships.**

- India's **Abhishek Paul** has won a bronze medal in the **10000 m race** at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships in **Bangkok**, Thailand on July 12.



- He won the bronze medal in this event with a time of **29:33.26**. And it is noteworthy that his personal best was set by Abhishek Paul in Gujarat last year in **28:54.98 seconds**.

#### **TNPL - The Coimbatore Kings team has won the title of champion after defeating nellai in cricket.**

- Tamil Nadu's most famous **7th TNPL** In the cricket series, defending champions **Coimbatore Kings** and **Nellai Royal Kings** clashed in the final match at Nellie on **12th July** night.
- It is significant that the Coimbatore team won the trophy by **104 runs** in this final match. This is the **2nd time** that Coimbatore Kings have won this trophy.
  - **Coimbatore Kings** already shared the trophy with **Chepak Super Gillies** in last year's rain-affected final.

#### **Jyothi Yarraji won India's first gold medal at the 25th Asian Athletics Championships.**

- India's "**Jyothi Yarraji**" won the gold medal in the **women's 100m hurdles** final at the 25th Asian Athletics Championships in **Bangkok**, Thailand on July 13.
- The 23-year-old finished the race in just **13.09 seconds**, securing India's first gold medal at this year's Asian Athletics Championships.

#### **Indian shot-putter wins gold medal in Asian Athletics Championship**

- India's 28-year-old shot-putter **Tajinderpal Singh Toor** won his second **gold medal** in the men's shot-put category at the **Asian Athletics Championships** on July 14.
- He won first place by throwing a distance of **20.23 meters** in this competition. It is also notable that he has won the **gold medal** in the **2019 Asian Athletics Championship** and the **silver medal** in the **2017 Championship**.

#### **Lyudmyla of Ukraine has won the mixed doubles title at Wimbledon.**

- Ukraine's **Lyudmyla Kichenok** and Croatia's **Mate Pavic** have won the mixed doubles title at **Wimbledon**.

- Seventh-seeded and 30-year-old **Kichenok** and **Pavic** clinched the win with a 6-4 6-7(9) 6-3 win over **China's Xu Yifan** and **Belgium's Joran Vliegen**.

#### **An Indian player has won the Canada Open Badminton Championships.**

- India's **Lakshya Sen** won the **men's singles title** of Canada Open Badminton 2023 at **Calgary**, Canada on July 09 night.
- He defeated China's **Li Shi Feng** by 21-18, 22-20 points to win the championship. And this is Commonwealth champion Lakshya Sen's first **BWF World Tour title** after nearly a year.

#### **Archaeological discovery**

#### **183 rare items including gold jewelry and eyeliner sticks have been found at the bottom.**

- On July 08, the Department of Archeology informed that in the **9th phase of excavation** at Keezhadi in **Sivagangai** district, gold ornaments, copper rod for applying eyelash, cosmetic stick etc. have recently been found.
- Also, **183 items** have been found so far, according to **Sivanandam Aiya**, Commissioner of Archaeology. It is notable that the 9th phase of excavation work at Keezhadi was started by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin on **6th April last**.

#### **About 324 artifacts have been found in Thirukkolor excavations.**

- **Adichanallur** in Tuticorin district and its surrounding areas have been excavated due to the presence of ancestors or old people and till now nearly **324 artifacts** such as **medieval coins, bronze ring, bronze bangle, glass beads, flint statues, flint beads, fragments of glass bangle, Chinese pottery** have been found.
- It is also notable that **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had announced that a world-class museum will be set up for the objects found in Adichanallur in the last Union Budget Session of 2020.



### Economic News

**ONGC has become the first PSU in the country to receive the Anti-Bribery Management System certification.**

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has become the country's **first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** to receive **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) certification** from InterCert USA, an international certification body.
- It is also notable that earlier in **2005**, the company was the **first organization** to adopt the **Integrity Pact (IP) through "Transparency International"**.

**Agreement between AWS and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for supply of affordable and innovative medicines.**

- **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** on July 10 **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories**, it chose the company and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for business development was signed between the two companies.
- The deal is aimed at improving its digital platform and helping healthcare providers better monitor services to help deliver faster services to more than **1.5 billion** patients worldwide by **2030**.

**Dell Technologies and Intel are planning to join forces to launch an AI-capable lab in India.**

- **Dell Technologies** and renowned chipmaker **Intel** signed an agreement on **July 10** to launch an **artificial intelligence (AI)** capable development lab in India.
- Through this joint collaboration, the agreement aims to make college and school students **industry ready** and bridge their digital skills gap.

**Reduction of 18% levied on food items in theaters to 5%.**

- Recently, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** body, headed by the Union Finance Minister and comprising representatives from all states and Union Territories, has decided to reduce the service tax levied on food and beverages in theaters from **18% to 5%**.

- This tax evasion is said to further strengthen the growth of the cinema exhibition sector, where food and beverages in theaters have been a major revenue earner, earning up to **35% of revenue**.

**Razorpay has launched its "First International Payment Gateway System".**

- **Fintech giant Razorpay** announced on **July 12** that it will launch its **"First international payment gateway"** for the Malaysian market in partnership with payments company **Curlec**.
- The new Curlec payment gateway aims to serve **5,000 businesses** with a target of RM10 billion annual gross transaction value (GTV) by **2025** and further expand its reach into international markets, according to the company's chairman.

**SRM Group has signed an agreement with a Japanese firm to manage AI technology in employment.**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into on **July 12** between **Cagney India**, a subsidiary of **Japan's Forum Technology, Cresco** and **SRM Global Consulting** to launch the **Cagney website** in India.
- Accordingly, this **job portal** has been developed by over **30 Indian AI professionals** using AI Skill Linkage technology. Through this, it is reported that AI technology will find jobs that match their **education and skills**.

**India to become world's second largest economy - Goldman Sachs Report**

- **By 2075**, India's economy will overtake not only Japan and Germany but also the US to become the world's **second-largest economy**, **Goldman Sachs**, an American multinational investment bank and financial services firm, said in its report.
- At present, **India is the fifth largest economy in the world** after Germany, Japan, China and USA in economic terms. And the report is based on factors such as India's continued progress in innovation and technology, high capital investment and increasing labor & productivity, the agency said.



### 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.

### Obituary

#### The only Spaniard to win the Ballon d'Or has passed away.

- **Luis Suárez Miramontes**, known as the "**Golden Galician**" and the only Spaniard to win soccer's most prestigious individual award, the **Ballon d'Or**, has died at the **age of 88**.
- Notably, he won the European Cup and three Italian league titles in **1964, 1965**, and won the **Ballon d'Or**, world football's most prestigious individual award, in **1960**.

### Important day

#### World Paper Bag Day 2023

- **World Paper Bag Day** is observed every year on **12th July** to raise awareness about the pollution and impact of **plastic** and encourage the use of environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Since it uses paper bags that are easily recyclable, the day has been observed over the years with an aim to reduce biodegradable plastic waste and reduce environmental pollution. "**If you're 'fantastic', do something 'dramatic' to cut 'plastic' and use 'paper bags'**" is the theme for this year.

#### National France Day

- National France Day is celebrated on 14th July every year to commemorate the fall of the **Bastille on 14th July 1789** and the recognition of France's independence.

- It is also known as **Bastille Day**. And the central government has announced that Indian Prime Minister Modi will be the guest of honor at Bastille Day, which will be held in **Paris**, the capital of France, on **July 13-14**.

#### World Youth Skills Day 2023

- **The United Nations General Assembly** has declared **July 15** as "**World Youth Skills Day**" (WYSD) with the aim of conveying the strategic importance of skills for decent and relevant work and entrepreneurship to the world's youth.
- The United Nations General Assembly made this **declaration in 2014**. The theme for this year is "**Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future**".

#### Educational Development Day

- The 121st birth anniversary of Tamil Nadu's famous former Chief Minister **K. Kamaraj** is being celebrated on **15th July 2023**.
- The Tamil Nadu government celebrates the birth anniversary of **Kamaraj** on **July 15** as '**Kalvi Naal**' or '**Education Development Day**'. It is also significant that this day has been observed as Education Development Day since **2006**.

#### World Population Day 2023

- Every year World Population Day is observed on 11th July to raise **awareness** of the problems caused by overpopulation on earth and to give ideas on how to deal with it.
- The theme for this year is "**Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities**".



