

## **Weekly Current Affairs PDF July 23 to July 29, 2023**

### **Current Affairs PDF- July 29, 2023**

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **India to home South Asia's first-ever Center for Species Survival**

- With a vision to create a just world that values and conserves nature, IUCN Species Survival Commission has partnered with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to set up the first-ever Center for Species Survival in South Asia.
- In this regard, an MoU has been signed between Prof. Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair— IUCN SSC and Vivek Menon, Executive Director, Wildlife Trust of India to set up the first-ever regional Center for Species Survival (CSS) in India. This will be the 10th Centre for Species Survival in the world and the first of its kind in South Asia.
- The Center hopes to provide a platform for conservation practitioners to network and share best practices. It will also contribute to species status assessments using the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and amplify the impact of species recovery efforts across the country. The Centre will further act as a bridge between the national and international efforts to save species.

##### **India's first online gaming academy set up in MP**

- Madhya Pradesh is set to launch its first online gaming industry named "MP State Esports Academy" to provide the young esports player an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level.
- The academy focuses on training aspiring gaming and esports professionals. An esports tournament will be held, selecting the top players for admission. 80% of the seats are reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh, while the remaining seats are open to gamers from all over the country. Anyone can participate in the tournament to compete for a spot at the academy.
- The state-wide MP Junior Esports Championship is scheduled to take place between July 27 and August 7, specifically focusing on esports enthusiasts aged between 12 and 17 years. The sports department will be responsible for organizing the 10-day tournament, providing a platform for young participants to engage and showcase their skills in the games.

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

##### **World's largest private communications satellite 'Jupiter 3' launched**

- SpaceX, Elon Musk's space exploration company, launched the world's largest commercial communications satellite from LC-39A, Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA. The Falcon Heavy rocket was used for the launch, carrying Maxar Technologies' biggest satellite to date, named Jupiter 3.
- About: JUPITER 3 - Also referred to as 'EcoStar XXIV', is a satellite of Hughes, an EchoStar company. As the next-generation Ultra High Density Satellite (UHDS), it is

designed to provide gigabytes of connectivity to customers across North and South America.

- EchoStar Corporation, an American company, serves as a global provider of satellite communication and Internet services through its business segments, namely Hughes Network Systems and EchoStar Satellite Services.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Cambodian PM Hun Sen to step down after four decades; hands over power to son

- Hun Sen has run kingdom since 1985, eliminating all opposition to his power, with parties banned, challengers forced to flee and freedom of expression stifled.
- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, said on July 26, 2023 he will resign and hand power to his son, after almost four decades of hardline rule.
- The former Khmer Rouge cadre has run the kingdom since 1985, eliminating all opposition to his power, with opposition parties banned, challengers forced to flee and freedom of expression stifled.
- His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won a landslide victory in an election on Sunday with no meaningful opposition, taking 82 percent of the vote, paving the way for a dynastic succession to his eldest son that some critics have compared to North Korea.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Tiger Day

- International Tiger Day is observed globally on July 29 every year, International Tiger Day is celebrated to raise awareness about one of the most majestic and endangered creatures on our planet: the tiger. This day provides a platform for people all around the world to emphasise the value of tiger conservation and the immediate need to save these majestic big cats from extinction.
- Since they represent strength, elegance, and beauty, tigers have attracted the attention of people for millennia. They have a particular place in our hearts and ecosystems and are revered in many cultures and mythology. However, a number of reasons seriously jeopardise their continued survival. The occasion of International Tiger Day offers us a chance to unite as a global society and consider the importance of protecting these iconic animals and their natural habitats.
- History - Global Tiger Day, commonly referred to as International Tiger Day, was first established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit by nations that are home to tigers. The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI), a grouping of nations, international organisations, and conservation organisations committed to tiger conservation, organised the summit, which took place in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Tiger Range Countries (TRCs), or nations with wild tiger populations, gathered during this summit to discuss the worrying global drop in tiger numbers. The 29th of July was chosen as International Tiger Day because it represents the halfway point between the first and last days of the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit and the ongoing international campaign to rescue tigers.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### **TMS the Germany-based leading naval company has signed a MoU with Indian defence PSU MDL to modernize INS Shankush**

- Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TMS), the Germany-based leading naval company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian defence PSU Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) for the overhaul and modernisation of submarine INS Shankush to extend its operational capability.
- The Indian Navy is seeking extension of its seven submarines to fill the void in its required strength which once was close to 22. The Ministry of Defence had signed a ₹2,725-crore contract with Mumbai-based MDL for the Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of INS Shankush, a HDW-class submarine, to extend its life. The first submarine in this class is undergoing MRLC and is likely to be back on sail by August.
- Over the next three years, INS Shankush will be modernised in close partnership with the state-owned shipyard MDL, Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems said in a statement on Thursday. While Thyssenkrupp will be responsible for supplying material packages of selected systems, equipment and components as well as for on-site technical support and pressure hull inspection, MDL will act as general contractor up till on-time delivery of the submarine, the German naval company stated.

#### **Tata Technologies signs MoA with Chhattisgarh worth Rs 1,188 crore**

- The Chhattisgarh government has signed an agreement worth Rs 1,188.36 crore with Tata Technologies for transforming 36 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into an Industry 4.0 Technology Hub.
- Under the agreement, Tata Technologies will offer six new trades and 23 new short-term courses in the 36 ITIs, with state-of-the-art technical workshops and trainer arrangements, a state government spokesperson said. The company will also provide two trainers.
- The project aims to train over 10,000 youth annually in advanced skills, fostering better employment opportunities and will also provide employment opportunities to the skilled youth.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Awanish Sharan, the director of skill development, technical education and employment department, and Pawan Bhageria, president of Tata Technologies Limited, in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

#### **PM inaugurates Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi today 29 July. It coincides with the 3rd anniversary of National Education Policy 2020. He also released the first installment of funds under the PM SHRI Scheme. 6207 schools received the first installment with a total amounting to 630 crore Rupees. He also released education and skill curriculum books translated into 12 Indian languages. The Prime Minister also took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion.

- Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister underlined the primacy of education among the factors that can change the destiny of the nation. "Our education system has a huge role in achieving the goals with which 21st century India is moving", he said. Emphasizing the importance of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam, the Prime Minister said that discussion and dialogue are important for education. The Prime Minister mentioned the coincidence of the last Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam taking place in the newly constructed Rudraksha convention center of Varanasi and this year's Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam taking place in the brand new Bharat Mandapam. This is the first event at the Mandapam after its formal inauguration.

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### NATIONAL

#### Tech capital Bengaluru becomes 1st Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum

- Bengaluru has joined the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), on Thursday, July 27, and becomes the first Indian city to achieve the feat. Founded by the office of the Mayor of London in 2021, WCCF is a global network of nearly 40 cities, which provides a way for policy makers in these cities to share research and intelligence, and explore the vital role of culture for their future prosperity.
- CCF has said that the Bengaluru city leaders will work alongside counterparts from other places, including Buenos Aires, London, New York and Tokyo for the city's growth and investment. WCCF will also work closely with Unboxing BLR Foundation, a not-for-profit initiative which aspires to make Bengaluru a vibrant, inclusive and global city. According to its website, Unboxing BLR is an initiative "to curate, facilitate and catalyze activities that will enable the citizens and communities of Bangalore to engage better with their city," and was founded in April 2022.

### SPORTS

#### Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster

- Indian chess moved ahead on the board, so to speak, as Aditya S Samant became the nation's 83rd chess Grandmaster,
- An International Master (IM), the 17-year-old became a GM when he commenced his ninth round game against compatriot Aryan Chopra at the BielChess MTO 2023 tournament in Switzerland
- Samant had drawn his eighth round game against Bu Xiangzhi. He only had to play the ninth round, no matter the result, to get the GM nor
- To become a GM, a player has to get three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points. The Maharashtra youngster had already crossed the 2500 Elo mark in the live ratings and had secured two GM norms.

### OBITUARY

#### Renowned Marathi Writer Shirish Kanekar Passes Away

- Shirish Kanekar, Veteran Marathi writer and columnist passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 80. He was born on June 6, 1943 in Pune, Maharashtra. He



worked at Marathi and English language publications like Loksatta, Indian Express, Samana, and Free Press Journal. He was popular for his newspaper columns on Cinema, Cricket and Politics. Pune, Maharashtra.

- His notable works include: Humorous articles like 'Kanevari', 'Fillambaji', and 'Shirishasan'; Bollywood movies such as "Nut Bolt Bolpat," "Kanevari," and "Cricket Vedh"; Books such as Irsalaki; Surparambya. His collection of stories titled 'Lagaon Batti,' was recognised and honoured with the Maharashtra Literary Parishad Award for Best Comedy- Joshi Award.
- Shirish completed LLB from Mumbai University. After that, he worked as a journalist with English news publications like Indian Express, Daily, Free Press Journal, and Syndicated Press News Agency. He has written columns for newspapers like Loksatta, Maharashtra Times, Lokmat, Saamna, Pudaari, Weekly Manohar, and Weekly Lokprabha. His collection of stories, Lagav Batti was awarded the Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad. He also received the Joshi Award.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### World Hepatitis Day

- Every year on July 28th, the world observes World Hepatitis Day to raise global awareness about hepatitis. The main objective of this awareness drive is to address the concerning statistics, which indicate that someone dies from hepatitis or related conditions every 30 seconds worldwide. Therefore, it is crucial to have precise information about the disease and take necessary actions. The campaigns and activities conducted on World Hepatitis Day 2023 aim to educate people about the disease and its various aspects.
- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to raise awareness on viral hepatitis, and this year's theme is 'one life, one liver'. Each year, this day focuses on a specific theme to increase knowledge about the current situation of hepatitis worldwide and bring about positive changes. Various events such as campaigns, seminars, and lectures are organized, inviting people from all over the world to participate and learn more about the disease.
- About: Hepatitis - Hepatitis virus has five commonly known strains: Type A, B, C, D and E. All of them affect the liver but there are some key differences in origin, transmission and severity of the disease. Hepatitis can be preventable with immunization and manageable, but there is no cure at present.

#### World Conservation Day / World Nature Conservation Day

- World Conservation Day or World Nature Conservation Day is observed globally on 28 July every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of conserving nature and biodiversity. It emphasizes that a healthy environment is important for a stable and healthy society.
- World Nature Conservation Day promotes the idea that a healthy environment is the foundation of a prosperous mankind. The day serves as an opportunity to create positive opinions and attitudes towards climate change.

- The theme for World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet." This theme highlights the vital role of forests in supporting both human livelihoods and the overall well-being of the planet.
- **History** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established in 1948 to address environmental concerns caused by industrialization and human activities. During the 1960s and 1970s, the IUCN shifted its focus to species and habitat conservation in response to the destruction of ecosystems.
- The IUCN Red List for Threatened Species was created to assess the conservation status of various species, indicating their vulnerability to extinction.
- In 2000, the IUCN introduced nature-based solutions, which use ecosystems and biodiversity to address climate change, food security and poverty alleviation.
- World Nature Conservation Day is observed annually on 28 July to raise awareness about the importance of nature conservation and sustainable practices.

#### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

##### India AI And Meta Sign MoU To Collaborate On AI Technologies,

- 'India AI' and Meta entered into a collaboration aimed at advancing research and development in AI & Emerging Technologies, as per a press release from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on July 26, 2023. The partnership will use Meta's AI research models such as LLaMA, Massively Multilingual Speech, and No Language Left Behind to create datasets in Indian Languages to enable translation and large language models. Special attention will be given to low-resource languages (languages with fewer available resources to support their development and inclusion in AI systems).
- About: India AI - India AI is the national AI portal of India established by the IT Ministry, National eGovernance Division and NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), under the Digital India Corporation. On its website, India AI describes itself as a "knowledge portal, research organisation and an ecosystem building initiative" that promotes "collaborations with various entities in India's AI ecosystem."

##### PM Modi inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today, July 28. He also address the gathering on the occasion. The three-day conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to showcase India's semiconductor strategy and development in the field of Semiconductors.
- The theme of the Conference is 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav, and Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, will be present at the inaugural ceremony. More from our correspondent:-

### **G-20 Conference on Green & Sustainable Growth Agenda for Global Economy to begin in New Delhi**

- NITI Aayog will convene a two-day G20 conference on the Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy in New Delhi today, July 28. The aim of this conference is to examine prospects and challenges for green and sustainable growth globally.
- NITI Aayog CEO, BVR Subrahmanyam will give opening remarks of the conference, while the goals and process of the workshop will be elaborated upon by G20 India Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Suman K. Bery.
- The Aayog in a statement highlighted that the first day of the workshop will focus on themes related to energy, climate, technology, policy, and reshaping global finance for sustainable growth. The second day will discuss several themes related to multilateralism as well as adjustment, resilience, and inclusion in an uncertain world. The Aayog further said that around 40 leading thinkers will attend this conference.

### **India, Lao People's Democratic Republic signs MoUs for implementation of five Quick Impact Projects in different fields**

- India and Lao People's Democratic Republic signed five Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for the implementation of five Quick Impact Projects in the fields of education, health, water facility and IT were also signed. The MoUs were signed during the 3rd round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two countries today in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Indian side was led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Saurabh Kumar and Deputy Foreign Minister of Lao PDR Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune led his side.
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, relations between the two countries are historical and cordial. During the consultation, both sides comprehensively reviewed the spectrum of bilateral relations and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in development partnership, economic and trade ties, agriculture, health, education, defence, and heritage conservation. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, as well as cooperation in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, ASEAN, and Mekong Ganga Cooperation.

### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

#### **Byculla railway station gets UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award**

- The prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award was received by Byculla Railway Station located in Mumbai, this award was declared in November 2022, highlighting the station's significant contribution to cultural heritage conservation. The recognition came after the station underwent extensive restoration work, bringing it back to its original glory.
- An NGO of BJP politician, namely 'I Love Mumbai' and spoke person Shaina NC took up the restoration work of the Byculla railway station, with the help of heritage conservation architect Abha Lamba and Minal Bajaj Trust, which partnered in the conservation work.

- About: Byculla Railway Station - Byculla is railway station on the Central line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway. It is located in the neighbourhood of Byculla. The station is a Grade-I heritage structure, It is considered to be one of the oldest railway station that is still in operation. With a history dating back 169 years, the station stands as a testament to the rich heritage of India's railway system.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **India and ADB sign \$295 million loan to upgrade state highways in Bihar**

- The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have joined hands once again to enhance infrastructure in Bihar. Through a \$295-million loan, the project aims to upgrade approximately 265 km of state highways in Bihar, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient designs and road safety measures.
- The initiative aligns with the Bihar government's vision to improve all state highways to standard two-lane widths and prioritize road safety. Additionally, the upgraded roads are expected to boost connectivity in impoverished rural regions, improving access to essential services like health, education, and markets, ultimately enhancing the well-being of the people.

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### **NATIONAL**

#### **World Design Organisation inks MoU with BBMP to develop the infrastructure of Bengaluru**

- As part of the 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative, spearheaded by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds charge of the city, on Monday the State government signed an agreement with Canada-based World Design Organization (WDO) for suggestions for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to build the city.
- Shivakumar said that 200 engineers from the WDO will be in the city to study and give suggestions on the city infrastructure including roads, flyovers, footpaths, junctions, and other infrastructure.
- Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar had launched a 'Brand Bengaluru' campaign and also an online portal to invite suggestions on the city's development by the public.

#### **PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation various development projects in Sikar, Rajasthan**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects in Sikar, Rajasthan today.
- The projects include dedicating to the nation more than 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs), launching Urea Gold - a new variety of Urea coated with Sulphur, onboarding 1600 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), releasing 14th installment amount of about Rs 17,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to 8.5 crore beneficiaries, inaugurating 5 new medical colleges at Chittorgarh, Dholpur, Sirohi, Sikar.



- Sri Ganganagar, laying the foundation stone for 7 medical colleges at Baran, Bundi, Karauli, Jhunjhunu, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer and Tonk, and inaugurating 6 Eklavya Model Residential Schools located in districts of Udaipur, Banswara, Partapgarh and Dungarpur and Kendriya Vidyalaya Tivri, Jodhpur.

#### **PM Modi to inaugurate Gujarat's first Greenfield International Airport**

- Prime minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Hirasar Greenfield International Airport, Gujarat's first Greenfield Airport to the nation on Thursday during his two-day visit to Rajasthan and Gujarat from July 27-28
- Along with the airport, PM Modi will dedicate a number of key projects worth over ₹860 crore including packages 8 and 9 of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana.
- According to the press statement by the prime minister's office (PMO), the new airport, spanning across 2,500 acres, is envisioned to be a transportation hub for people traveling abroad from the state.
- Salient features of the Rajkot International Airport:
- The Hirasar Greenfield Airport, located at around 30 km from Rajkot, spans over 2500 acres and has been developed at a cost of ₹1,405 crore.
- The airport boasts a well-designed 3040 m (3.04 km) long and 45-meter-wide runway, capable of accommodating 14 planes simultaneously.

#### **Amit Shah to launch cultural initiative 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar in New Delhi**

- Union home minister and minister of cooperation Amit Shah will launch 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 27 July,
- It is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping. Shah will officially launch the virtual platform during a grand projection mapping show at the Qutub Minar. The virtual platform <https://mgmd.gov.in> will connect people with villages of India.

#### **Ladakh's Kargil gets first women police station**

- The first-ever women police station has started functioning here in the Union Territory of Ladakh, it a significant step towards empowering women and ensuring their safety.
- Additional Director General of Police, Ladakh, S D Singh Jamwal inaugurated the police station, which will specifically deal with crimes against women,
- The station will operate round the clock to ensure immediate assistance and support for women in need. Additionally, it will act as a resource centre, providing guidance and counselling services for women facing challenging situations,
- After inaugurating the police station, Jamwal emphasised the importance of women's empowerment and their active participation in the law enforcement.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### World's largest private satellite Jupiter-3 set to launch

- Elon Musk-led SpaceX will launch the world's largest private satellite to space on Thursday. The satellite will lift-off aboard the company's Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A in Florida.
- This marks the seventh launch for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, Falcon Heavy, which first made headlines with its debut in 2018.
- The launch is scheduled for 8:34â€¦am IST on July 27. In a departure from usual practice, SpaceX will expend its core booster in the Atlantic Ocean following the first-stage separation, rather than attempting a drone-ship landing at sea.

### SPORTS

#### India finish 2nd on medals tally at ISSF World Junior Championship in South Korea

- India finished 2nd on the medals tally at the recently concluded ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023 in Changwon, South Korea. Indian shooters bagged 17 medals, which include 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze.
- The championships saw 90 Indian shooters vie for medals in pistol, rifle, and shotgun competitions in the under-21 age category. The majority of the medalists were Khelo India athletes. Seven Indians managed to bag more than one medal. Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet won two golds each. Sainyam won three medals — gold in the 10m air pistol women, and a bronze each in the 10m air pistol mixed team and women's team events.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Bihar government appoints Ashwamedh Devi as Chairperson of State Women Commission

- Bihar government has appointed Ashwamedh Devi as the Chairperson of the State Women Commission. She is a former JD(U) MP from Samastipur parliamentary constituency. The state government has also appointed new members to the State Women Commission. Academician Professor Geeta Yadav, Prabhavathi Manjhi, Dr. Sujata Sumbrui, Rabia Khatoon, Sunita Kushwaha, Shweta Biswas & Sulochana Devi has been also appointed to the panel. The reconstitution of the State Women Commission was pending for a long time.

#### Tata Steel reappoints TV Narendran as MD and CEO for 5 years

- T V Narendran has been reappointed as the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Tata Steel for a term of five years, starting from September 19, 2023, which will last until September 18, 2028. This decision was made based on the recommendation of the 'Nomination and Remuneration Committee'.
- As the CEO and MD of Tata Steel, Narendran is responsible for overseeing the company's both organic and inorganic growth. With a remarkable experience spanning 34 years in the Mining and Metals industry, he has held various significant positions, including being on the Board of Tata Steel Limited, serving as Chairman of Tata Steel Europe and Tata Steel Long Products Ltd., and acting as Chairman of the Board of Governors of XLRI Jamshedpur.

- Narendran also holds the positions of Chairman at Tata Steel Europe, the Supervisory Board of Tata Steel Nederland BV, Tata Steel Long Products Limited, and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

##### Shankari Chandran wins Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023

- Ten years ago, Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer Shankari Chandran faced difficulty in getting her debut book published. The reason: publishers thought her novel wasn't "Australian" enough to be successful in their local market. And now, Chandran has been announced as the winner of the 2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens'.
- Chandran's award-winning novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens' is a story about family, memories, community, race. It is an intergenerational epic that highlights Australia's difficult and complex equation with multiculturalism and the traumas of post-colonialism. It also highlights how our stories shape the people that we are today. This is Chandran's third novel.
- **About: Miles Franklin Literary Award** - The Miles Franklin Literary Award is an annual prize given to "a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases". This year's judges for the award included: Richard Neville- State Library of NSW Mitchell librarian and Chair; author Bernadette Brennan; translator Mridula Nath Chakraborty; critic James Ley; and poet Elfie Shiosaki.

#### BANKING AND ECONOMY

##### Union Bank of India partners with IBM for holistic digital transformation

- In a groundbreaking move towards a customer-centric banking experience, Union Bank of India has joined forces with IBM India Pvt Ltd to embark on a comprehensive digital transformation. This strategic partnership signifies a significant milestone in the evolution of the bank and promises to revolutionize the way customers interact with their financial services.
- The primary objective of this collaboration is to establish a state-of-the-art Digital Business Platform that caters to the ever-evolving needs of modern-day banking. By embracing the power of cutting-edge technology, Union Bank of India aims to provide its customers with seamless and efficient banking experiences. This forward-thinking approach focuses on three key elements: omni-channel experiences, data-driven hyper-personalization, and a comprehensive financial services superstore.

## Current Affairs PDF- July 26, 2023

#### NATIONAL

##### International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicate to the nation the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today, July 26. The Prime Minister's vision of having a world class infrastructure for hosting

meetings, conferences, and exhibitions in the country has led to the conceptualization of the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre.

- The project, which revamped the old and outdated facilities at Pragati Maidan, was developed as a national project at a cost of about 2,700 crore rupees. With a campus area of approximately 123 acres, the IECC complex has been developed as India's largest MICE – Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions – destination. The Complex finds its place among the top exhibition and convention complexes in the world, in terms of the covered space available for events.
- It comprises of multiple state-of-the-art facilities including a convention centre, exhibition halls, and amphitheatres.
- The Convention Centre is developed as the centerpiece of the Pragati Maidan complex. Its majestic multi-purpose hall and plenary hall have a combined capacity of seven thousand people, which is larger than the seating capacity of the famous Sydney Opera House in Australia. Its magnificent Amphitheater is equipped with a seating capacity of three thousand persons.

#### OBITUARY

##### **Veteran journalist Shirish Kanekar passes away in Mumbai**

- Veteran journalist-author-columnist Shirish Kanekar passed away in Mumbai due to a heart attack. He was 80 years old.
- Kanekar worked at Marathi and English language publications like Loksatta, Indian Express, Samana, and Free Press Journal. His collection of stories 'Lagoon Batti' was awarded the Maharashtra Literary Parishad Award for Best Comedy.
- He was known for his books on cricket, Bollywood movies such as 'Nut Bolt Bolpat', 'Kanekari', 'Cricket Vedh', among others. He is survived by wife and two children. Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed their condolences on the death of the Veteran author.

#### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

##### **China appoints Pan Gongsheng to lead central bank, succeeding Yi Gang**

- Pan Gongsheng was named China's central bank governor in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling Communist Party's once-a-decade change of power.
- Pan, a deputy central bank governor and veteran of China's state-owned banking industry, succeeds Yi Gang, an American-trained economist who held the post for five years. The endorsement of Pan's promotion by the ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress, follows other Cabinet-level appointments announced in March.
- The governor of the People's Bank of China is the most prominent Chinese figure in finance circles but the post's powers are limited. The bank is controlled by the ruling Communist Party.

##### **Wang Yi has been appointed as Foreign Minister of china**

- China's foreign minister Qin Gang has been removed from his post and replaced by his predecessor Wang Yi, the country's legislature said on , In a sudden move that's



likely to bring the focus back on the ruling Communist Party of China's (CPC) opaque politics.

- Qin, 57, has been replaced by Wang, who was China's foreign minister for a decade until December, 2022. Wang was promoted to the CPC's elite politburo last October when President Xi Jinping retained the general secretary's post for a norm-breaking third time. Wang was also appointed director of the CPC's foreign affairs commission.

### **UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi elected as chair of WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference**

- UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi has been elected as the chair of the World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference that will be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. The announcement was made during the WTO General Council in Geneva, where Dr Al Zeyoudi met with the WTO director general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.
- The conference will be attended by representatives from the 164 countries and customs blocs that make up the WTO. It will review the performance of the trading system, make decisions on future work and set up the road map for the next conference, an official statement said on 24th July 2023.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **Kargil Vijay Diwas**

- Kargil Vijay Divas or Kargil Diwas is observed every year on 26 July to honour India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War in 1999. As part of "Operation Vijay," the Indian Army drove out intruders from Pakistan during this conflict and reclaimed Tiger Hill and other outposts. At Kargil in Ladakh, the conflict lasted for more than 60 days.
- Kargil Vijay Divas is commemorated annually in honour of the many Indian troops who lost their lives in battle. Every year, on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas, the Prime Minister of India pays tribute to the brave soldiers who lost their precious lives in the Kargil war, at Amar Jawan located near the India Gate, New Delhi.

#### **International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem**

- The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed annually on July 26th. Its purpose is to increase global understanding of the significance of mangrove ecosystems as distinct, precious, and delicate environments. The day also seeks to advocate for sustainable practices in managing, safeguarding, and utilizing these ecosystems. The General Conference of UNESCO officially adopted this International Day in 2015.
- The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed on July 26th, was established by UNESCO during their General Conference in 2015 to create awareness about the critical value of mangrove ecosystems. The main objective of this day is to promote the preservation and sustainable development of mangrove forests.

- Mangrove forests hold significant ecological importance as their intricate root systems serve as protective nurseries for various organisms, shielding them from predators, extreme heat, and powerful tides. Additionally, these coastal forests are highly effective in removing five times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere compared to terrestrial forests.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### **Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurates National Conference on Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions**

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated a national conference on "Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions, here today. Justice Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC was also present on the occasion. The objective of the conference is to discuss the challenges in the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and deliberate on the way forward on resolution of mental health issues.
- Highlighting the importance of addressing the challenges of mental health and the Mental Healthcare Act 2017, Dr Pawar stated that "the Union govt is promoting the availability of and access to cost-effective treatment of common mental disorders". She informed that mental health has been included in the flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Union Govt. She also stated that "since the launch of the National Tele-Mental Health service, 42 Tele-Manas cells have been established that has already recorded over 2 lakh calls".

#### **4<sup>th</sup> ECSWG & Environment & Climate Ministers' meeting begins in Chennai**

- The 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting began in Chennai today, July 26.
- The three-day meeting brings together around 300 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and several International Organisations, with a focus on finalising the Ministerial Outcome and the Presidency Documents.
- The 4th ECSWG & Minister's Meeting will focus on three key areas - land restoration, circular economy, and blue economy. These topics will take centre stage during the meeting to address environmental and sustainability challenges. On the first day of the event, there will be two parallel sessions -: the Environment Track and the Climate Track. These sessions will delve into different aspects related to environmental and climate issues, with a focus on in-depth discussions about land degradation, biodiversity, and climate change.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### **IMF raises India's 2023 GDP growth forecast to 6.1%**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.1% for 2023, up from 5.9% projected by the financial institution earlier this year as a result of stronger domestic investment.
- However, the IMF kept the growth forecast for 2024 at 6.3%, the growth rate it had predicted in April. IMF is not the only international financial agency to review the growth forecast for India.

- Earlier in June, Fitch Ratings raised its FY24 (2023-24) growth forecast for the Indian economy to 6.3%, from 6% predicted earlier, citing strong growth in the April-June quarter so far and sustained near-term momentum.

## Current Affairs PDF- July 25, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### Rajasthan introduces India's first GIG workers bill 2023

- The Rajasthan assembly passed a bill extending social security to gig workers in the state, a first of its kind in the country, without any debate as the House witnessed unruly scenes leading to expulsion of sacked minister Rajendra Gudha and BJP legislator Madan Dilawar for the remainder of the ongoing session.
- The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 seeks to register all gig workers and aggregators in the state, facilitate guarantee of social security to gig workers, and give them an opportunity to air any grievances.
- A vital component of the bill is setting up a welfare board, titled The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board, which will have two members each from gig workers and aggregators to be nominated by the state government besides two civil servants. The board will ensure registration of gig workers and aggregators operating in the state and establish a social security and welfare fund for gig workers. The bill states that the state government will maintain a database of the gig workers and generate a unique ID for every one of them.

#### Bombay HC directs Goa govt to notify Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as tiger reserve

- The Bombay high court at Goa on Monday directed the state government to notify the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and other areas as a tiger reserve under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 within three months and pulled up the government for continuing "to steadfastly avoid notifying the tiger reserve".
- In its ruling on a petition seeking directions to the state government to notify the sanctuary as a tiger reserve, the high court said that "we cannot allow the tiger, which is a national animal, to fall into a death trap" and ruled that the National Tiger Conservation Authority's repeated recommendations to set up a tiger reserve were not merely recommendations but also directives that would need to be mandatorily complied with.

#### Arvind Kejriwal inaugurates Delhi's first RO water ATM

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal unveiled Delhi's first 'water ATM' aiming to offer water access in regions without piped supply and reducing reliance on water tankers. These water ATM machines will grant underprivileged sections of the city the same quality of RO(Reverse Osmosis) water that has traditionally been available to more affluent segments of society.
- The Delhi government aims to address the issue of inadequate piped water supply by installing 500 Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants with integrated "water ATM machines" in

affected areas. This initiative, led by the Delhi Jal Board, seeks to provide free and safe access to clean drinking water for residents in such regions.

- The placement of these 500 RO plants, each with a capacity of 30,000 liters, will be determined based on the availability of tubewells. The plants will be operated by appointed personnel on government-provided land, while the cost of ₹10 lakh per plant will be covered by the Delhi Jal Board.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### India to launch 7 Singapore satellites from ISRO's spaceport on July 30

- India would launch PSLV-C56 carrying DS-SAR satellite from Singapore, along with six co-passengers, from the first launchpad of the ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport at 6.30 am on July 30.
- The DS-SAR satellite is developed under a partnership between Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering.
- Once deployed and operational, it will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore. ST Engineering will use it for multi-modal and higher responsiveness imagery and geospatial services for their commercial customers.
- DS-SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). This allows the DS-SAR to provide for all-weather day and night coverage, and capable of imaging at one metre resolution at full polarimetry.

### SPORTS

#### Sumit Nagal Wins Tampere Open 2023, His Fourth ATP Challenger Title

- Sumit Nagal clinched ATP Challenger men's singles title after winning the final of Tampere Open 2023 in Finland,. It was the Indian tennis player's fourth ATP Challenger Tour title. Sumit Nagal, 25, won his second ATP Challenger event of the year, defeating Czech Republic's Dalibor Svrčina 6-4, 7-5 in the final.
- Sumit Nagal won the Garden Open in Rome in April, ending a four-year title drought. The Indian tennis player's other two ATP Challenger wins include the Buenos Aires and Bengaluru Challengers in 2019 and 2017, respectively.
- Following April's win at Rome and Sunday's triumph in Tampere, Sumit Nagal also became the first Indian tennis player to win two ATP Challenger titles on European soil.
- Sumit Nagal, who is India's top-ranked men's singles player at world No. 231, made a slow start to the match and was trailing world No. 193 Svrčina 4-1 in the first game. The Indian, however, rallied to turn things around to take the first set.

#### Shubhankar Sharma records best finish by an Indian in The 2023 Open golf Championship

- Shubhankar Sharma achieved a remarkable feat, securing the best result ever by an Indian golfer at the Open At the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, England. He finished in a tied-eighth position alongside Cameron Young from USA. Sharma displayed his skill and determination, carding an impressive 68-71-70-70 to finish just five strokes behind the leaders.



- Shubhankar Sharma's impressive Top-8 performance at the 151st Open marked just the third instance of an Indian golfer securing a top-10 finish in a major tournament. Prior to this, Anirban Lahiri achieved a Top-5 result in 2015, and Jeev Milkha Singh attained a T-9 position at the 2008 PGA Championship in Michigan, USA.
- Jyoti Randhawa previously held the record for the best finish by an Indian golfer at the Open, securing a tied-27th position at Royal Troon in 2004. Anirban Lahiri's tied fifth-place finish at the PGA Championship in Wisconsin, USA in 2015 stands as the finest performance by an Indian in a men's major tournament.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Shah Rukh Khan appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023

- The Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan launched the World Cup 2023 campaign 'It takes one day' in his iconic voiceover.
- The World Cup 2023 will be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. India will start their world cup campaign against Australia on October 8 and the Rohit Sharma led side will take on Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.
- The schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023 Schedule has been released by ICC. The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. The upcoming World Cup will feature a total of 10 teams.
- India, as the host nation, has secured direct qualification, along with Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa. These teams earned their spots through their performance in the 2020-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League. The remaining two teams will be determined through the ongoing World Cup Qualifiers taking place in Zimbabwe.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Drowning Prevention Day

- Swimming is a great low-impact exercise that builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness. But it's more than just a sport—it is a vital life saving skill,
- World Drowning Prevention Day is marked each year on July 25 with the objective of increasing awareness about the devastating and enduring consequences of drowning on families and communities, as well as educating people about crucial methods to prevent such incidents.
- Approximately 236,000 individuals lose their lives to drowning annually, with children between the ages of five and 14 being more susceptible to this tragedy. Research indicates that youngsters and teenagers living in rural areas are at a higher risk of drowning compared to their urban counterparts.
- History - World Drowning Prevention Day was established through the U.N. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/273 in April 2021, aiming to address global drowning prevention. Drowning, a form of suffocation resulting from the mouth and nose being submerged in water, often occurs in isolation or situations where others are unaware or unable to assist the victim.

## Current Affairs PDF- July 24, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### Shri Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh through video conferencing. the grand statue of Lord Shri Ram to be built at a cost of more than Rs 500 crore.
- This project is spread over an area of 10 acres in Mantralayam village situated on the banks of Tungabhadra river and would be completed in two and a half years.
- Mantralayam village is very famous for the temple of Raghavendra Swamy. This place has historical significance. The great Vijayanagara Empire was originated on the banks of the Tungabhadra river, it restored Swadesh and Swadharma by driving out the invaders from the entire South.
- He said that this 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram to be installed in Mantralayam will give the message of our Sanatan Dharma to the entire world for many ages and will strengthen the Vaishnava tradition in the country and the world. Shri Shah said that 108 is a very sacred number in our Hindu culture.

#### Jammu to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Jammu is going to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project.
- 'Cannabis Research Project' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu is a first of its kind in India initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Private Public Partnership with a Canadian firm, which has a great potential to put substance of abuse for the good of mankind especially for patients suffering from neuropathies, cancer and epilepsy.
- CSIR-IIIM - Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–Indian Institute Of Integrative Medicine (CSIR–IIIM), The Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine is a premier institute located in Jammu under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India and dedicated to the research of drug discovery

#### Lavasa, India's first private hill station, sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure

- India's first private hill station Lavasa was sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for Rs 1.8 thousand crore after the approval of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- The resolution plan of Darwin Platform Infrastructure has been accepted by the NCLT and includes payment of Rs 1,814 crore. This payment includes Rs 929 crore to be paid to lenders and Rs 438 crore allocated to provide fully constructed houses to 837 approved home owners.
- The primary objective of Darwin Platform Infrastructure's resolution plan is to address claims of home buyers and ensure delivery of completed homes within five

years, subject to obtaining environment clearance, with a total claim amount of Rs 6,642 crore.

- The resolution plan for Lavasa aims to reduce the concerns and uncertainties that have arisen among various stakeholders associated with the Lavasa project.
- As per the approved resolution plan, home buyers will be required to bear the actual future construction cost payable to Darwin Platform Infrastructure, while ensuring transparency and accountability in the process of receiving fully constructed properties.

### **Odisha cabinet approves Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana**

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana, a scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter.
- This initiative grants affordable access to two-wheelers for Mission Shakti Federation Leaders and CSS (Community Support Staff). It will empower them to fulfill their responsibilities more efficiently, thus increasing their effectiveness and extending their outreach within the community.
- This scheme is expected to benefit roughly 75,000 community support staff members of SHGs (Self Help Groups) and approximately 1,25,000 federation leaders associated with SHGs.

### **SPORTS**

#### **Max Verstappen won the Hungarian GP**

- Max Verstappen won the Hungarian GP at the Hungaroring, by a comfortable 33.731 secs margin over McLaren's Lando Norris. Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings grows to an even more gargantuan 110 points, and the Dutchman seems firmly on course to pick up a second world championship in a row. Teammate Perez also furthered his advantage over third place man Fernando Alonso, who finished a disappointing ninth in Hungary

### **OBITURY**

#### **RSS ideologue Madan Das Devi passes away**

- Veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Madan Das Devi who had served as the joint secretary of the outfit, passed away ,
- Hailing from Maharashtra, the 81-year old Hindutva ideologue died at the Rashtrottan Hospital after a prolonged illness, an RSS functionary told PTI. He said Devi's mortal remains will be kept at the RSS local headquarters, Keshava Kripa from 1.30 pm to 4 pm before being flown to Pune for the last rites on Tuesday
- The RSS ideologue was instrumental in developing leadership skills among top-rung BJP and RSS leaders. A full-time Pracharak (campaigner), Devi was staying in Bengaluru for treatment of his old age-related ailment.
- Devi had served as the RSS joint general secretary and organisation secretary of the RSS' student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). He was responsible for developing leadership skills among the national level top rung BJP leaders

### Former Australia wicketkeeper Brian Taber passes away at the aged of 83

- Former Australia and New South Wales wicketkeeper Brian Taber has passed away at the age of 83. Taber, who played 16 Test matches for Australia between 1966 and 1970. He made his Test debut against South Africa in Johannesburg where he claimed seven catches and a stumping. He would go on to also face England, India and West Indies during his career. His highest Test score of 48 came against West Indies at Sydney in 1969 in a match Australia won by 382 runs.
- In his domestic career, he played more than 100 games for New South Wales and is a member of the state's Hall of Fame. After finishing playing, he held various roles within the game, including NSW coach and selector and manager of the Australian Under-19 men's team. He was elected to the Cricket NSW Hall of Fame in 2021, and had a reputation as one of the nice guys of Australian cricket. A book about Taber's life was published in 2014, in which former Test captain Brian Booth called him a "wonderful team man".

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Income Tax Day

- The Income Tax department observes July 24 every year as Income Tax Day or 'Aaykar Diwas', to commemorate the introduction of provision of income tax in the country. On the same day in the year 1860, Income tax was originally introduced in India by Sir James Wilson, to compensate for the losses incurred during the first war of independence. This is the 163rd anniversary of Income Tax Day.
- On Income Tax Day, the CBDT organizes various events and activities to raise awareness about income tax and its importance. These events include seminars, workshops, and outreach programs. The CBDT also releases a commemorative postage stamp on Income Tax Day. Income Tax Day is an important day for the Indian government and for taxpayers. It is a day to celebrate the importance of income tax and to reaffirm our commitment to paying our taxes honestly and on time.
- This year, the Income Tax department surpassed its previous year milestone target of filing 3 crore ITRs, days before the deadline. This year, the target in income tax return (ITR) filing reached 7 days earlier in the year.
- On the occasion of 164th Income Tax Day celebrations, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will join the celebration at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

### Current Affairs PDF- July 23, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### Mega plantation drive starts in Uttar Pradesh

- The mega plantation drive in Uttar Pradesh started today with a target of the plantation of overall 35 crore saplings out of which 30 crore saplings will be planted today. Another part of the drive will be on Independence Day when five crore saplings will be planted by the 15th of August. The State has set a target of plantation of 35 crore saplings this year.



- Aakashwani correspondent reports that, the theme of this year's plantation drive is 'Ped Lagao Ped Bachao' which means 'plant trees, save trees'. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the campaign by planting saplings in Vidur Kuti Ashram in Bijnaur. In his tweet message Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to every citizen of the State to take part in this campaign and plant at least one sapling around their place.
- Governor Anandiben Patel is in Mathura to take part in this drive and other Ministers are also taking part in this mega plantation drive at different districts. The State has divided this year's plantation drive into two parts beginning today when a total of 30 crore saplings will be planted. Another five crore saplings will be planted on the 15th of August. Different Ministries have been given targets for this plantation drive and the whole State machinery will work in tandem to achieve the goal of plantation of 30 crore saplings. Last year, the State achieved a record of planting 35 crore saplings and this year the same target has been fixed.

#### **DPIIT and Govt. of Gujarat jointly launch 'One District One Product' Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan**

- One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched its first collaboration with the Government of Gujarat in New Delhi to promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the State. Smt. Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, and Smt. Arti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner and Secretary (Economic Affairs) Finance Department, Government of Gujarat jointly inaugurated the ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan.
- Gujarat, with its 33 districts, exemplifies the vast geographic coverage and potential for diverse products across the state. ODOP-Gujarat features a rich collection of 68 unique products, ranging from traditional crafts like Gamthi Block print and Mata-ni-Pachedi to agricultural goods such as groundnuts and cumin
- In a significant collaboration, ODOP has partnered with the Government of Gujarat to implement product tagging and story cards, enhancing the promotion and recognition of Gujarat's unique products. This collaboration aims to drive consumers towards emporia, boosting sales and increasing the visibility of Gujarat's products at the national level. Garvi Gujarat Bhawan has integrated ODOP products into its interiors to better showcase Gujarat handicrafts.

#### **Kerala gets India's first Construction Innovation Hub**

- Kerala got the country's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH) that seeks to promote affordable and sustainable building facilities so as to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge-sharing among the stakeholders.
- Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) will be responsible for the CIH's overall programme management, including the identification and recruitment of the nascent companies as well as providing them housing-related technical mentorship and connections, besides program design and facilitation.
- Set up in association with Habitat for Humanity India (HFHI), which is an American non-profit organisation building homes and providing housing-related services to low-income families, the CIH is set to be based in Kochi.

### SPORTS

#### Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty win Korea Open 2023 men's doubles title in Yeosu Korea

- Asian Champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated world no. 1 Indonesian duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in a thrilling 3-game men's doubles final 17-21, 21-13, 21-14 to clinch the Korea Open 2023 title in Yeosu, Korea on 23rd July 2023.
- The duo entered the summit clash after a thrilling straight-game win over the world number two Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. The world number three Indian pair notched up a 21-15, 24-22 win over the second-seeded Chinese in a 40-minute duel at the Jinnam stadium in Yeosu. It was Satwik and Chirag's first win over the Chinese pair following two earlier defeats. Satwik and Chirag, who has won the Indonesia Super 1000 and Swiss Open Super 500 titles this year will look to add another feather to their already decorated cap with a win in the Korea Open.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Admiral Lisa Franchetti becomes first woman to lead US Navy

- The nomination of Admiral Lisa Franchetti served as significant milestone in the history of US Navy, becomes first woman to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and member of Joint Chiefs of Staffs.
- Franchetti, who is currently serving as the vice chief of naval operations, was commissioned in 1985 and has served as the commander of US Naval Forces Korea. She is the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the United States Navy. In a statement on Friday, US President Joe Biden said Lisa Franchetti will bring dedicated service to the nation as a commissioned officer, including her current role of Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
- Franchetti studied at the North-western University's Medill School of Journalism in Evanston, Illinois. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and earning developmental honors in history. She joined the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Programme and was commissioned in 1985. She furthered her education at the Naval War College and obtained a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Parents' Day

- Parent Day or National Parents' Day, is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of July, to pay tribute to parents and their selfless sacrifices. This year, we'll celebrate and honor parents on July 23.
- History - The roots of National Parents' Day can be traced back to 1994 when President Bill Clinton officially established it by signing a Congressional resolution. This special day is observed on the fourth Sunday of July each year and is dedicated to celebrating parents and their crucial role in our lives. Over the years, the annual festivities have grown to include parades, speeches, awards ceremonies, and various

special events, all aimed at honoring and cherishing the indispensable contributions parents make to our well-being and development.

- The National Parents' Day is of great significance as it is an annual celebration dedicated to honouring and appreciating parents for their selfless love, sacrifices and guidance in shaping the lives of their children.

### **SUMMIT'S & MOU's**

#### **5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit**

- The 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit will be held on the 25th of July 2023 at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. The event will be jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Summit will be inaugurated by Chief Minister, of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The objective of the Summit includes enhancing the scope of the UDAN scheme in remote and hilly terrains. The event's theme is "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft".

#### **India Chamber of Business and Commerce signs MoA with ICMR to build future of Indian healthcare**

- India Chamber of Business and Commerce and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the presence of the Minister of MSME Narayan Rane to promote India as global hub in healthcare manufacturing and delivery and for creating a global stakeholders platform for building robust healthcare ecosystem promoting future of health capabilities in India and promoting investment creation in the field of healthcare.
- The MoA is in line with creating institutional arrangement for India Health Dialogue- A national flagship initiative driven by India Chamber of Business and Commerce in partnership with ICMR, IMA and Ministry of MSME to build profound business ecosystem for transforming health and healthcare for the future and building India led global supply chain networks.
- This partnership will also help in promoting international collaborations in innovation and technology, building healthcare delivery standards, academia and industry partnerships, capacity building and promoting new innovations in the field of health.